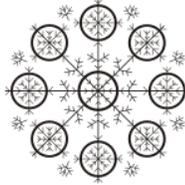


Slow down...its Advent!



The Advent Newsletter of St. Paul's Episcopal Church



"O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant..."

Come celebrate the coming of Christ with your Church Family!

Advent Worship -

December 2, 9, 16 & 23

The Holy Eucharist Sundays @ 8:30am & 10:30am

Join us as we await once more the coming of the Christ child. Advent is the season of preparation for remembering Christ's incarnation at Christmas. It is a time to slow down and reflect in this busy season as we prepare for Christ to come in our hearts and in our world.

Advent Cookie Walk

December 9

The Order of the Daughters of the King present a Holiday Cookie Walk Sunday December 9, 2007 from **8:00am - 1:00pm**. Bring a friend and stop by for homemade holiday cookies. Cookies are great holiday presents for the sweet lover in your life.

Advent Holiday Boutique

December 9, 16, & 23 - 8:00am - 1:00pm

Not sure what to get that special someone who seems to have everything? Stop by St. Paul's Holiday Boutique of hand made items. Items range from hand made ornaments, one of a kind jewelry, knitted mittens and much, much more. Used books will also be available, so be sure to stop by for something to read during those quiet moments during the holiday rush.

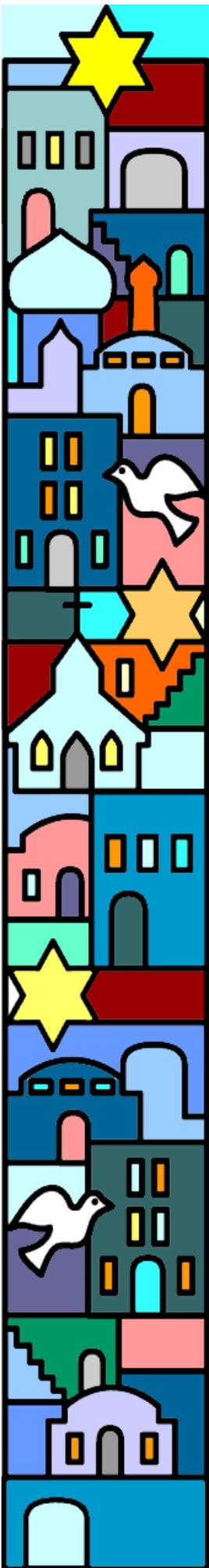
Lessons & Carols by Candlelight

December 16 @ 7:00pm

Join the choir of St. Paul's as they present a traditional Anglican service of Scripture and Advent Carols. This time honored service will be done by candle light and is an ideal time to slow down during the busy holiday season. Bring a friend and enjoy the songs of expectation and joy. (No sermon or Communion).

December 16 Heifer Sunday

You may send a flock of chickens in cousin Fred's name to a farmer in Guatemala or choose a cuddly sheep to honor Aunt Tillie. You gift help families around the world.





Christmas at St. Paul's Joy to the world...

Greening of the Church

December 23, 2007 @ 12:00pm

Join your church family as we decorate the church in preparation for the celebration of the Nativity of Christ. On that Sunday everyone is invited to bring an ornament to decorate the parish Christmas Tree. Ornaments can be dropped off in advance.



Christmas Eve

December 24, 2007 – Family Christmas Mass 5:00pm

The Holy Eucharist with Christmas Pageant: This service is suggested for families with small children and youth. This year we will be joined by special musical guests. All kids are invited to participate in the Christmas Pageant and join the Rector at the Altar during the Eucharistic Celebration.

December 24, 2007 – Festive Holiday Music 10:30pm

Join the Choir in singing traditional hymns and carols for Christmas before the celebration of “Midnight Mass”

December 24, 2007 – Midnight Mass 11:00pm

Come celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ with a festive celebration of the Holy Eucharist. This service includes traditional Christmas carols, candlelight singing and the tradition of ringing the Church bell to welcome Christmas. Please note that incense may be used at this service.

December 25, 2007 – The Holy Eucharist 10:00am

Celebrate Christ's birth in simplicity and beauty. This service is a simple celebration of the Holy Eucharist with the congregation gathering around the Altar as part of the service.

****** Please note that the Parish Offices are closed December 24 – January 2, 2008 ******

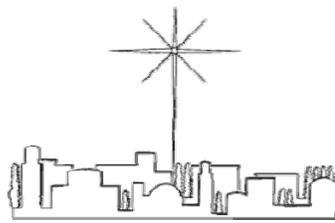
December 30, 2007 – The Holy Eucharist 8:30am & 10:30am

Our regular worship services resume on the First Sunday after Christmas. The 10:30am service will feature a hymn sing of traditional Christmas hymns. Come sing your way towards the new year.

December 31, 2007 – The Holy Eucharist 5:00pm

Traditional “Nightwatch” in preparation for the way to begin the festivities of the New Year.

coming year. This simple service is a great



The Episcopalian Handbook

This indispensable guide to all things Episcopalian, by the Rev. W. Terry Miller, offers helpful, informative and sometime humorous articles on topics ranging from solid Christian teaching to the outright hilarious and everything in between.

THE ADVENT SEASON, the four weeks leading up to Christmas, are perhaps the busiest, most hectic times of the year. In the breathless rush to make the most of the season, it is easy to forget that this sacred season is less about “holiday cheer” and more about a “holy child.” Advent is our opportunity – a gift from God in itself – to re-orient ourselves to receive the gift of Jesus. Here, in descending order, are the Top 10 things not to do during Advent.

10. Do not forget your rituals:

Be careful not to treat Advent as just another busy time of the year. When we enter the Advent season, life is supposed to be different. Rituals in your personal and/or family life, can help you slow down and prayerfully ponder the gift of the Incarnation, the Son of God made flesh. Take time daily to relax, meditate or pray.

9. Do not add to the frenzy:

If you are a parent, try not to add to the craziness of this season by being frantic yourself about last minute shopping, entertaining or decorating.

8. Do not forget your Bibles:

What Bible passages point to Advent themes of preparation, promise, hope, expectancy, God’s enduring faithfulness, the time when God’s kingdom will be fulfilled? Advent is an excellent time of the year to familiarize yourself again with the Bible’s stories that lead up to the birth of Jesus.

7. Do not try to be perfect for the Holidays:

Believe it or not, it’s not the end of the world if the Christmas tree has a bare spot on one side, if a bulb in one of the window candles is burnt out, or if you cannot find just the perfect gift for Uncle Bob. The holiday season can be stressful enough without allowing the drive for perfection to overwhelm you.

6. Do not over do your schedule:

Learn to say “no” to some of the demands or events that may beg for your presence, however enjoyable or good they may be. Know your limits. As the saying goes, “Too much of a good thing is still too much.”

5. Do not overdo gifts:

I recently heard of a study that indicates children on average receive 60% more for Christmas than they expect. Very good news for parents right? But it also indicates that while parents need to be very clear with their children about expectations, ever more important is that they themselves need to be consistent with these expectations in their own gift giving. Remember, the focus is Jesus, God’s supreme gift to us, not our gifts to others.

4. Do not go into additional debt:

Perhaps this is easier said than done. However, it is important to remember that the gift-giving of Christmas is supposed to spring from and be a sign of our gratitude to God for his gift-giving of Jesus. Rather than large grandiose, expensive gifts, consider giving smaller, more thoughtful items.

3. Do not expect the culture to follow your lead:

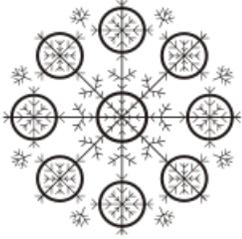
A truly Christian approach to the month of December will inevitably be counter-cultural. If you embrace much of this list, have faith in what you are doing. Christmas is not about Martha Stewart-quality centerpiece, the gourmet Christmas feast, or getting the “hot toy of the year.” Our spiritual health depends on our resisting the cultural message that we need to get out and “shop till we drop.” Jesus came into the world to die for a different reason.

2. Do not forget the less fortunate:

Remember that the real Christmas story is not set in a warm and cozy house, tastefully decorated and filled with more gifts than can fit under the tree, however wonderful that all may be. The real Christmas story is set amidst those who know enduring poverty and danger. What more loving witness could you offer than to seek out some holiday opportunity to identify with the poor and downtrodden as God does?

1. Do not wait until Christmas Eve to come to Church!

Avoid the holiday rush and join us for worship in the weeks leading up to Christmas. Worship in the church is absolutely beautiful this time of year, with beautiful and powerful Advent hymns. Join us for Advent worship and allow it to bring you back to a sense of expectancy and alertness for the coming of God into our world, into your very life.



The Rector, Staff & Vestry of St. Paul's Church wish you a holy and joy-filled Advent Season. And may you be blessed at Christmas and in the New Year to Come.



Joy comes at Christmas...



AFTER the WISE MEN LEFT, THERE CAME the THREE POLITICALLY CORRECT GUYS

