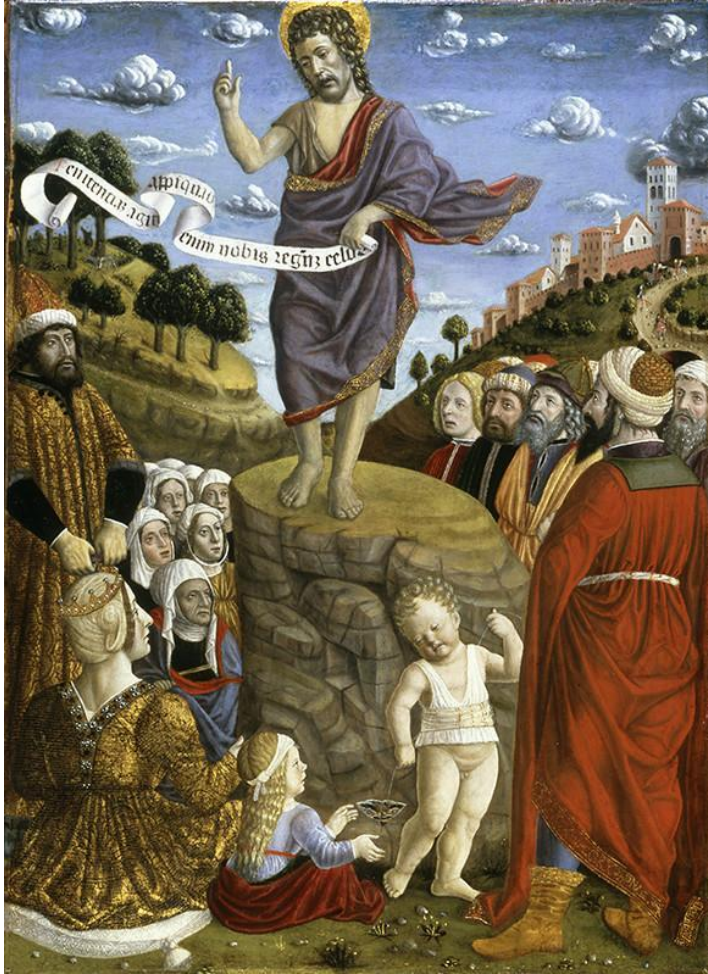


THE HOLY EUCHARIST AT ST. PAUL'S  
The Second Sunday of Advent  
Sunday, December 7, 2025



*St. John the Baptist Preaching, oil on tempera, ca. 1470-1475, attr. to Niccolo da Varallo*

## ***Welcome to St. Paul's!***

*Whether you come from far or near, we greet you in the name of Jesus Christ! We invite people of all denominations and none to join in our worship together.*

***Worshipping With Us:*** *Our worship follows the Book of Common Prayer in the pew racks (BCP) and authorized supplements, The People's responses are in **bold**. Our music comes from The Hymnal unless noted. "**H-**" is the Hymnal, and "**L-**" is the black-and-red Lift Every Voice and Sing. Links to the online Book of Common Prayer are in **blue**. Explanations of each section are marked with ¶.*

*Restrooms are located downstairs; please ask for directions.*

*Please ensure devices are off or set to vibrate. Thank you.*

### ***The Holy Eucharist***

#### ***The Word of God***

Prelude

Instrumental

The Opening Hymn

*Prepare the Way, O Zion*

H-65

*Refrain:*

*O blest is Christ who came  
in God's most holy name.*

*1 Prepare the way, O Zion,  
your Christ is drawing near!  
Let every hill and valley  
a level way appear.  
Greet One who comes in glory,  
foretold in sacred story.  
[Refrain]*

*2 He brings God's rule, O Zion;  
he comes from heaven above.  
His rule is peace and freedom,  
and justice, truth, and love.  
Lift high your praise resounding,  
for grace and joy abounding. [Refrain]*

*3 Fling wide your gates, O Zion;  
your Savior's rule embrace,  
and tidings of salvation  
proclaim in every place.  
All lands will bow rejoicing,  
their adoration voicing. [Refrain]*

The Advent Acclamation:

*Presider* Blessed are you, holy and living One.

*People* **You come to your people and set them free.**

The Prayer for Purity

BCP p. 355

*The Advent Candle is lit by a member of the congregation, while all sing:*

Song of Petition (*sung by all*)

*Lord Have Mercy*

*S-90*

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer -

cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us.

Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Music: John Merbecke (1510?-1585?); adapt. *Hymnal* 1982; acc. Thomas Foster (b. 1938). Melody: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

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*The Collect is the prayer appointed for each Sunday that “collects” or captures the theme of the day or season of the Church year. It summarizes the attributes of God as revealed in the scriptures for the day.*

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*Presider:* Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## The First Reading

*Isaiah 11.1-10*

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

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*This 1<sup>st</sup> Reading is from the Jewish Scriptures, (what we call the Old Testament,) which is the Bible that Jesus and the first disciples knew and read from.*

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He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide by what his ears hear;  
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.  
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze,  
their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the  
ox.

The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

They will not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain;  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD  
as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall  
inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks  
be to God.**

The Response *Deus, judicium*  
(Prayed by all, alternating by half verse.)

*Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19*

Give the King your justice, O God, \*  
**and your righteousness to the King's Son;**

That he may rule your people righteously \*  
**and the poor with justice;**

That the mountains may bring prosperity to the  
people, \*  
**and the little hills bring righteousness.**

He shall defend the needy among the people; \*  
**he shall rescue the poor and crush the  
oppressor.**

He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, \*  
**from one generation to another.**

He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, \*  
**like showers that water the earth.**

In his time shall the righteous flourish; \*  
**there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.**

Blessed be the Lord GOD, the God of Israel, \*  
**who alone does wondrous deeds!**

And blessed be his glorious Name for ever! \*  
**and may all the earth be filled with his glory.  
Amen. Amen.**

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*The Psalms and Canticles are songs  
from the Hebrew Scriptures that  
Jesus used and cover every mood of  
humanity's relationship with God  
and one another. Anglicans pray the  
Psalms daily at Morning and  
Evening Prayer and at nearly all  
public services.*

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Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,  
and sing praises to your name";

and again he says,

"Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people";  
and again,

"Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,  
and let all the peoples praise him";  
and again Isaiah says,

"The root of Jesse shall come,  
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;  
in him the Gentiles shall hope."

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

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*This reading, taken from the New Testament, is typically from a letter (epistle) to the early Church, the Acts of the Apostles, or the Revelation to John.*

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*1 Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding,  
"Christ is nigh," it seems to say;  
"Cast away the works of darkness,  
O ye children of the day."*

*2 Wakened by the solemn warning,  
from earth's bondage let us rise;  
Christ, our sun, all sloth dispelling,  
shines upon the morning skies.*

*3 Lo! the Lamb, so long expected,  
comes with pardon down from heaven;  
let us haste, with tears of sorrow,  
one and all to be forgiven;*

The Gospel

*Matthew 24:36-44*

*Acclamation before the Gospel:*

**Glory to you, Lord Christ**

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
'Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.'"

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

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*This reading, the most important of the three, is always from one of the four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John), which depict the life, teachings, death, resurrection, and ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

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But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these

stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” The Gospel of the Lord.

*Response after the Gospel*

**Praise to you, Lord Christ**

*4 so when next he comes with glory,  
and the world is wrapped in fear,  
may he with his mercy shield us,  
and with words of love draw near.*

*5 Honor, glory, might, and blessing  
to the Father and the Son,  
with the everlasting Spirit,  
while unending ages run.*

Sermon

Fr. Bob

The Nicene Creed

[BCP. p. 326](#)

Prayers of the People

As Announced

This Week's Intercessions: (*all say the names in **bold***):

In our parish, we pray for **Sue** Ferguson, **Heather** Durdil, **Jeanne** Burgess, **Sandy** Chance, **Laura** Booker Caviello, **Dave** Frederick, **Zach** Mitchell, **Michele** Johnston, **Smith** Solon, **Bob White**, and those others whom we now name, aloud or in our hearts....

We pray for all who have died, especially by gun violence and natural disaster, and those we call out now in our hearts or aloud....

We pray for a just ending to war and unrest throughout the world, and especially in Ukraine, Gaza, and in our own nation as well.

We pray in thanksgiving for all your blessings that you have given us, and especially those we name, aloud or in our hearts....

We pray for all the residents and visitors of these Lake Erie Islands, and those we name now, aloud or in our hearts....

We pray for **all the members and guests of this parish**, for **Bob** our rector, for **Joey**, **preparing for Baptism**, and for our sister churches of **St. Michael's Kelleys Island**, **St Paul's Duluth**, **St. Paul's Elkins Park**, **Our Lady Star of the Sea Pelee Island**, **Mother of Sorrows Put-in-Bay**, and **Zion Methodist Kelleys Island**.

In our Diocese of Ohio, we pray for: **Anne** our **Bishop**, and for **Clergy in Non-Parochial Ministries**.



And in the Anglican Communion Cycle of Prayer, we pray for: **Sarah, the Archbishop of Canterbury-elect**, and for the people and clergy of: **The Church of Bangladesh; the Diocese of Ruwenzori** (Uganda); **the Diocese of East Ruwenzori** (Uganda); **the Diocese of South Ruwenzori** (Uganda); **the Diocese of Saba** (Southeast Asia); **the Diocese of Sabongidda-Ora** (Nigeria); and **the Diocese of The Sacred Circle** (Canada).

For who else and what else shall we pray today?

The Greeting:

*Presider.* The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

*All may greet those close to them with a sign of Christ's peace.*

Announcements, Birthdays, Anniversaries, and Blessings

### ***The Holy Communion***

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*Having listened to the Word of God, affirmed our faith, prayed for the Church and the world, and shared in the peace, we are prepared for the sacrifice and miracle of the Holy Communion. At the offering, we gratefully offer back to God some of what God has given us, in the money we give, and symbolically in the bread and wine.*

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At the Offering

Instrumental

*It requires nearly \$330 a day to keep our church and food pantry open every day. Please support the ministry of St. Paul's with your tithes and offerings. To give securely online, scan this QR code:*



At the Presentation *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow*

H-380, vs 3

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below  
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost*

The Communion Prayer

Prayer B

[BCP p. 367](#)

The Angelic Hymn

*Holy Holy Holy*

S-113

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of Hosts:

Heaven and earth are full of thy glo - ry. Glo - ry be

to thee, O Lord Most High. Bless - ed is he that com - eth

in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

Music: John Merbecke (1510?-1585?); adapt. *Hymnal* 1982; acc. Thomas Foster (b. 1938). Melody: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

The Lord's Prayer (*traditional*)

BCP p. 364

At The Breaking of the Bread:

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

**Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

### Reception of Communion

*All who are baptized and permitted to receive Communion in their own traditions are welcome at the Lord's Supper. Come up to the Altar Rail and stand or kneel. Receive the Bread or gluten-free Host in your hand, and either consume it and drink from the Chalice, or dip the Host into the Chalice when it comes to you. (Ask the Presider if you require gluten-free.) If you wish to receive a blessing instead of Communion, please simply cross your hands over your chest.*

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***For those who cannot receive the Sacrament today,***  
*you may wish to pray this prayer while Communion is being distributed:*

*In union, O Lord, with the faithful at every altar of your Church where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. I present to you my soul and body with the earnest wish that I may always be united to you. And since I cannot now receive you with my own faith community, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. Strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you live in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.*

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Communion Hymn

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

H-68

*1 Rejoice! rejoice, believers,  
and let your lights appear!  
The evening is advancing,  
and darker night is near.  
The Bridegroom is arising,  
and soon he will draw nigh;  
up, watch with expectation!  
at the midnight comes the cry.*

*2 See that your lamps are burning,  
replenish them with oil;  
look now for your salvation,  
the end of sin and toil.  
The marriage-feast is waiting,  
the gates wide open stand;  
rise up, ye heirs of glory,  
the Bridegroom is at hand!*

*3 Our hope and expectation,  
O Jesus, now appear;  
arise, thou Sun so longed for,  
above this darkened sphere!  
With hearts and hands uplifted,  
we plead, O Lord, to see  
the day of earth's redemption,  
and ever be with thee!*

Prayer after Communion

[BCP p.365](#)

The Blessing

3 O come, O come, great Lord of might,  
 who to your tribes on Sinai's height  
 in ancient times did give the law  
 in cloud and majesty and awe. Refrain

4 O come, O Branch of Jesse's stem,  
 unto your own and rescue them!  
 From depths of hell your people save,  
 and give them victory o'er the grave. Refrain.

*Refrain:*

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel  
 shall come to you, O Israel.*

Dismissal

*All respond:*

**Thanks be to God!**



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### **About Advent: The twofold coming of Christ**

*From the Instructions to Catechumens by St Cyril of Jerusalem*

We do not preach only one coming of Christ, but a second as well, much more glorious than the first. The first coming was marked by patience; the second will bring the crown of a divine kingdom.

In general, whatever relates to our Lord Jesus Christ has two aspects. There is a birth from God before the ages, and a birth from a virgin at the fullness of time. There is a hidden coming, like that of rain on fleece, and a coming before all eyes, still in the future.

At the first coming he was wrapped in swaddling clothes in a manger. At his second coming he will be clothed in light as in a garment. In the first coming he endured the cross, despising the shame; in the second coming he will be in glory, escorted by an army of angels.

We look then beyond the first coming and await the second. At the first coming we said: *Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord*. At the second we shall say it again; we shall go out with the angels to meet the Lord and cry out in adoration: *Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord*.

The Saviour will not come to be judged again, but to judge those by whom he was judged. At his own judgement he was silent; then he will address those who committed the outrages against him when they crucified him and will remind them: *You did these things, and I was silent*.

His first coming was to fulfil his plan of love, to teach men by gentle persuasion. This time, whether men like it or not, they will be subjects of his kingdom by necessity.

The prophet Malachi speaks of the two comings. *And the Lord whom you seek will come suddenly to his temple*: that is one coming.

Again he says of another coming: *Look, the Lord almighty will come, and who will endure the day of his entry, or who will stand in his sight? Because he comes like a refiner's fire, a fuller's herb, and he will sit refining and cleansing*.

These two comings are also referred to by Paul in writing to Titus: *The grace of God the Saviour has appeared to all men, instructing us to put aside impiety and worldly desires and live temperately, uprightly, and religiously in this present age, waiting for the joyful hope, the appearance of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ*. Notice how he speaks of a first coming for which he gives thanks, and a second, the one we still await.

That is why the faith we profess has been handed on to you in these words: *He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end*.

Our Lord Jesus Christ will therefore come from heaven. He will come at the end of the world, in glory, at the last day. For there will be an end to this world, and the created world will be made new.

## **News and Announcements**

- Sue Ferguson's address: c/o Countryside Manor, 1865 Countryside Drive, Fremont Ohio, 43420.
- Please contact Fr. Bob if you are not receiving the weekly email and would like to. We'll need an email address or a mobile number, or both.
- To make a memorial request for Christmas poinsettias, please contact Fr. Bob or use the form enclosed in this bulletin.
- All are invited to Fr. Bob's Christmas Open House on Sunday, Dec. 28 from 3-5 PM.



## **The Twelve Days of Christmas at St. Paul's:**

**Wednesday Dec. 24: Christmas Eve at 8 PM**

**Thursday Dec. 25: Christmas Day at 12 noon**

Friday-Sat. Dec 26-27: Feasts of SS Stephen, and John, at 12 noon

**Sunday Dec. 28: The First Sunday after Christmas at 10.30 AM.**

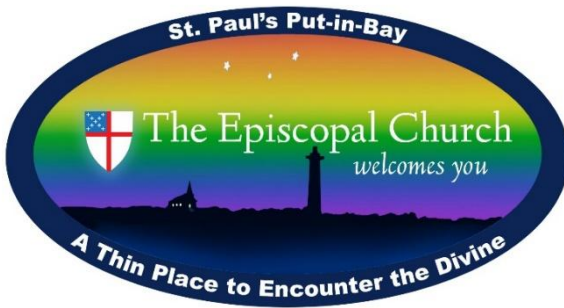
Monday Dec. 29: Feast of the Holy Innocents, at 12 noon

Thursday January 1: The Holy Name of Jesus at 12 noon

**Sunday January 4: Christmas Lessons and Carols at 10.30 AM**

**Tuesday, January 6: The Epiphany at 6 PM, with the Very Last Christmas Party to follow.**





## ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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The Rev. Bob Solon, Rector

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Fr. Bob: 419-285-6809

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### This Week at St. Paul's

*The Church remains open daily for prayer and meditation.*

#### *Worship:*

Sunday 9 AM: Christian Formation in the Parish Hall

Sunday 10:30 AM: Holy Eucharist with hymns

Wednesday 12 noon: Prayers for the Nation and World, with Holy Communion

*Winter Office Hours:* By appt. – call Fr Bob to arrange a time.

*12-Step Groups, in the Parish Hall:* Monday 8 AM – AA, Tuesday 7:30 PM – Al-Anon

Thursday 7 PM – AA; Saturday 8 AM – AA

#### **Service Schedule**

Altar Guild

Accompanist

Reader

Intercessor

Eucharistic Minister

#### **This Sunday Dec. 7**

Melinda McCann

Paula Hubner

Bob White

Bob White

#### **Next Sunday Dec. 14**

Melinda McCann

Mary Steunenberg

*Contact Val Chornyak or Fr Bob if interested in a service ministry*