

From The Zucchetto



Last Monday on the way back to Dallas, Nancy said, "I can't remember a time when I couldn't wait to go to church and when I was sorry it was over."

That's exactly how I feel about the saints of St. Paul's. What God has produced here, and what he will continue to give rise to, thrills my heart and soul. God is here at St. Paul's. Do you feel it? Do you sense it? What you and I sense and feel is God showering us with his love, and grace, mercy and forgiveness. One can hardly get enough of it. Yet God wants to give us even "more". And the "more" comes as we do some spiritual work on ourselves. Things like self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word, the Bible.

I begin this spiritual work every morning by reading the Bible slowly, at lay readers speed. As I read, I stop and listen to what God is saying. Remember, the Bible is the Word of God. What God says, the Bible says; and what the Bible says, God says. I don't always like what he has to say. When that happens, I stop and talk to God about it. That's what prayer is, just talking to God. Is he calling me to repent? In all likelihood! And I need to do a lot of that. And by the grace of God, I can do it. As I experience his forgiveness, my love for him grows as does my love for others including the most obstreperous saints among us.

Are there obstreperous saints at St. Paul's? From time to time everyone of us falls into that category. The test of love is this: will we give each other space, will we just back off, bite our tongue and be as gracious with each other as Jesus always is with us? If Jesus was physically present to us today, would he ever scold us or embarrass us alone or, worse yet, in front of others? Jesus said, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you. That you also love one another. By this all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:35-35) With this commandment Jesus establishes love as the defining trait of his Church, his saints.

And that's what Nancy and I have found so exciting among the saints of God at St. Paul's. And it's that love, the very love of God, that will soon fill the pews with people who love to sing his praise and live according to his will.

Lord Jesus, teach us all to act firmly and wisely without embittering or embarrassing others. Teach us to love and care for each other as you love and care for each of us. Amen.



Today's Stewardship Pearl

This week's Pearl reminds people that stewardship is much more than just financial; work is often a ministry in itself.

"God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them."
Hebrews 6 : 10

More Than Enough — Donate Digitally!

Open your phone's camera and aim it at this QR code. This will take you directly to our donation page at www.stpaulstx.org/giving where you can donate to our Giving Program.

Thank you for your support!



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nicodemus_Visiting_Christ

Pray for the Church and the Body of Christ

The Daughters of the King are dedicated to supporting the prayer needs of St. Paul's. They are available in the west corner of sanctuary every Sunday after the 10:30 a.m. worship service for private prayer. You can also submit intentions in the prayer box in the narthex. To add names to the prayer list, please contact the church office. Names will remain on the prayer list for one month unless otherwise renewed.

**Please pray for: Repose of the soul of Ginny Sanderson and Ed Smith
Healing Prayer: David Gish, Michelle Key and her mother Rhoda,
Jesus Lopez, Veronica Lopez, Louis and Leonor Rodriguez,
Jane Dews, Linda Massey**

ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

2026 40 Days of Gratitude & Reciprocity with United Thank Offering (UTO)

United Thank Offering

Every day

Week 2: This week we are continuing our Lenten journey with UTO by focusing on our family, either the one we were born into or the ones we call family. In the narthex are UTO Blue Boxes, donation envelopes, and brochures that explain the work of UTO. Palm Sunday, March 29, we will collect boxes and envelopes as a part of our UTO celebration. You can also join a 5 session Lenten Book Group (beginning Tues. Feb. 24 at 12:00 Noon) with UTO at: <https://unitedthankoffering.com/lent/>, also view Weekly E-pistle for links.

UTO was founded in the late 1800s to encourage Episcopalians to practice gratitude and make a thank offering to support innovative mission and ministry around the globe. 100% of all donations given to UTO are given away the following year. To find out more about the work of UTO or to see a list of grants UTO has awarded use the QR Code to the right.



"Looking for Lectors"

Would you like to be one of our readers on Sunday mornings? We would love to welcome you into our Worship Ministry to take an active part in our weekly services by reading the weekly scriptures and Prayers of the People. If wearing vestments and reading from the high altar does not appeal to you, you may choose to read from the floor podium if you prefer —whichever feels most comfortable for you.

If this ministry speaks to your heart, please reach out to Debbie Shaffer at [210-725-8892](tel:210-725-8892) or debshaffer_tx@yahoo.com. We would be delighted to have you join us in this rich and meaningful ministry.

COVER ART

Nicodemus by Henry Ossawa Tanner; 1899 (33 11/16 x 39.5) Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, Philadelphia. Painted during the artist's second visit to the Holy Land, and inspired by the Gospel of John is an example of his nocturnal light paintings. Tanner was the first African-American artist to achieve international prominence. Nicodemus was an important story to Tanner's father, a bishop in the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church



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Jesus Christ, *Head of the Church*

The Rt. Rev. Robert P. Price, *Bishop*

The Rev. Gary D. Hill, *Priest In Charge*

The Rev. Gordon Miltenberger, *Assisting Priest*

David Gish, *Music Director*

Cathy Hargrave, *Organist*

Second Sunday of Lent

March 1, 2026

Service Times at St. Paul's Episcopal Church

SUNDAY

10:30 am. HOLY EUCHARIST
11:45 am. FELLOWSHIP, CLARDY HALL

MONDAY

9:00 am. CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

WEDNESDAY

10:30 am. MORNING PRAYER II
6:00 pm. **Will Resume After Easter** BIBLE STUDY

THURSDAY

8:00 p.m. COMPLINE SERVICE (access St. Paul's Facebook Page)

Next Sunday, March 1st

LEM/ Lay Readers Debbie Shaffer

Lector

Acolyte Jim Pence

Thurifer Laurel Pence

Vestry Person of the Day: Matt Wolff, Nancy Wyant

Intercessory Prayer: Elizabeth Porter

Tech Team: Director-Jeff Faunce; Titles-Jennifer Faunce;
Audio-Brad Mathis; Cameras-Nick Stone
Social Media-Georgianna Harrison

Altar Guild: Laurel Pence, Nancy Wyant,
Georgianna Harrison

Next Sunday, March 8th

LEM/ Lay Readers Matt Wolff

Lector

Acolyte Karen Smith

Thurifer Josh Klaus

Vestry Person of the Day: Elizabeth Porter, Frank McKee

Intercessory Prayer: Suzanne Taylor

Tech Team: Director-Jeff Faunce; Titles-Jennifer Faunce;
Audio-Brad Mathis; Cameras-Nick Stone
Social Media-Georgianna Harrison

Altar Guild: Laurel Pence, Nancy Wyant,
Georgianna Harrison

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive the Holy Eucharist.

Hymns and Songs for the Day

<i>Processional</i>	<i>Come Thou Almighty King</i>	H #365
<i>Gospel</i>	O Bless the Lord	H #411
<i>Offertory</i>	Just As I Am	H #693
<i>Doxology</i>	Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow	H #647
<i>Communion</i>	In the Garden	A3 #95
	I Love You Lord	A3 #77
<i>Procession to the World</i>	I Sing a Song	A3 #80

Holy Eucharist

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive the Holy Eucharist.

Collect

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Old Testament- Genesis 12:1-4a

Lector: A reading from Genesis

The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him.

Psalm - Psalm 121

Lector: We will read Psalm 121 responsively by whole verse.

1 I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?

2 My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.

3 He will not let your foot be moved and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.

4 Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep;

5 The Lord himself watches over you; the Lord is your shade at your right hand,

6 So that the sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

7 The Lord shall preserve you from all evil; it is he who shall keep you safe.

8 The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth for evermore.

All: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

The Epistle - Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

Lector: A reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations")—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

Please stand for the Gospel Hymn which will be announced.

The Gospel - John 3:1-17

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?"

"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ