

# St Paul's Nantucket

The Weekly Epistle: The Third Sunday of Advent



## Happening Soon

### COOKIE OUTREACH

The Outreach Committee is collecting cookies to give to Island First Responders who work on Christmas Day. You are invited to bring a dozen of your favorite homemade Christmas cookies marked "1st Responders" and place them in the Gardner Hall refrigerator by Christmas Eve. A collage of cookies will then be taken to our Fire Department, Police Department, and Hospital workers following Christmas morning worship.



### Blue Christmas – A Service of Hope and Healing - December 14th at 7:00pm

On Wednesday, December 14th at 7:00 pm, there will be a holiday service at St. Paul's designed for those who aren't feeling so merry during the holidays: anyone who has suffered the loss of a loved one, a job or a place to live; who might be troubled by seasonal depression or the ghosts of Christmases past. There is space for feelings of grief, anxiety and frustration as this service moves us out of sadness into hope, out of darkness into light. Through music and prayer, worship and healing, we can find release and peace. Come for yourself, or bring someone who needs to find blessing and perspective in this season of hope. There will be a time of fellowship at the Rectory immediately following the service.

### Christmas Pageant Rehearsal

Saturday December 17th at 11:00 in the church.  
Please join us!

Contact Sister Susanna Margaret at 508-332-9823 with any questions.

### Pastoral Care is Here and Near

Do you or does someone you know need a visit, a call, a card, a meal, flowers, prayers, a caring presence, spiritual guidance, a helping hand, a ride to the doctor, dentist or Stop and Shop or other assistance? St. Paul's has a pastoral care team of individuals who may be able to help.

Please call or e-mail with your request:

The Church Office: (508) 228-0916; [office@stpaulschurchnantucket.org](mailto:office@stpaulschurchnantucket.org)



## Centering Prayer Group

Saturdays, 9:00 am -10:00 am

St. Paul's Parish House

Led by Sister Susanna Margaret

This weekly group includes an opening prayer or meditation, a 20-minute practice of Centering Prayer (silent sitting), a scripture reading, and a time for discussion.

## Sunday Morning Forum Schedule

**Jan. 8th**, Wardens Lou Gennaro and Stacey Stuart will discuss what the role of the Vestry is, after the 9:30am service in the Chapel.

## Reminders:

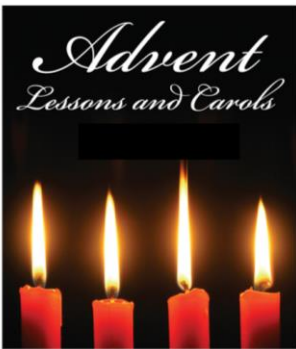
1. If you have not completely fulfilled your pledge to St. Paul's, and have a question about the remaining amount for which you are committed, for 2016, please contact StP's bookkeeper Craig Hunter to ascertain the exact amount you have contributed to date. [finance@stpaulschurchnantucket.org](mailto:finance@stpaulschurchnantucket.org) or 508-228-0916 x16.
2. For most individual taxpayers, December 31 will be the last day you may have an envelope post-marked and have the enclosed payment considered for federal income tax purposes to have been made, and thus deductible, in 2016. This year December 31 is a Saturday, so it would be prudent to mail your envelope a day or two before the end of the year to insure a timely postmark.
3. As with contributions in respect of a 2016 pledge, so too must a prepayment of 2017 pledges be post-marked on or before December 31, 2016 for the prepayment to be deductible in 2016.

## Gingerbread House Workshop Potluck December 16th at 5:30pm

Everyone loves the colorful and creative gingerbread houses! There is a signup sheet in the back of the church. We have 20 houses so please indicate the number of gingerbread houses you wish to decorate. Also, please mark which type of dish you will bring to the potluck. The suggested donation is \$10 per gingerbread house. Candy donations are also needed to help keep costs down.

## Advent Lessons & Carols

### December 18th at 10:00am service



On December 18th, the Fourth Sunday in Advent, the 10:00 service will be Advent Lessons & Carols and the Holy Eucharist. The short lessons tell stories from the fall of humanity through the promise of the Messiah and the birth of Jesus, followed by carols and anthems. Join us as we continue to prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of Christmas.

## Christian Education Opportunities

### Tuesday Lectionary Study

Everyone is invited to join John in the Parish House on Tuesdays at 5:00 pm. We will discuss the upcoming week's lessons. Join us!

### Thursday Afternoon Book Group

Thursdays, 11:30 am -12:30 pm

St. Paul's Parish House

We start our annual six-week Advent program. Beautiful scripture, and accompanying paintings by John August Swanson will provide a feast of the senses as we make our way through the story of Jesus' birth. For more information, please contact Lucy Bixby [bixbyphoto@gmail.com](mailto:bixbyphoto@gmail.com)



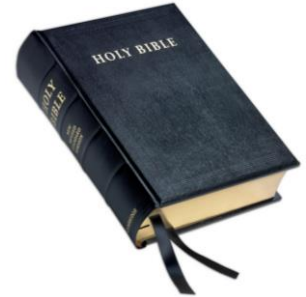
## THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE READING

[Isaiah 35:1-10](#)

[James 5:7-10](#)

[Matthew 11:2-11](#)

[Psalm 146:4-9](#)



**We pray for:** Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael our Presiding Bishop; Alan, our Bishop; Gayle, our Suffragan Bishop; Bud and Barbara, our retired Suffragans; and John, our Rector.

**We pray for:** Reggie, Marianne, Marshall, Barbara, Jay, Anna, June, Andrew, Susan, Elizabeth, Jack, Nora, John, Vi, Frances, Pat.

**We give thanks for the birth of:** Leonardo Bennett Sanseverino, son of Jessica Goodenough Sanseverino.

**The Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** Bishop elect of Kericho.

**The Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:** Parishes of the Alewife Deanery; Christ Church, Cambridge; St. Bartholomew's Church, Cambridge; St. James' Church, Cambridge; St. Peter's Church, Cambridge; Diocesan Disciplinary Board.

**We pray for:** The men and women serving in our Armed Forces; easing of racial tensions in our country; those with mental illness and their families; healing and peace among peoples and nations throughout the world; the President of the United States, the United States Congress, the Supreme Court and all in authority; our brothers and sisters from other faiths; our local Food Pantry, the Rental Assistance Program; and the God's Child Project in Guatemala.