

The Courier

The Newsletter of St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Downtown Syracuse, New York

April 2025



Just some of the hard working crew who are building the new closet in the Hansen Dining Room.

L to R: Robert Becera, Tom Cantwell, Jim Doyle, Robert Wagner, Nolan Palsma and Tim Schmidt.

*No Matter Who You Are, Or Where You Have Been,
There Is A Place For You At St. Paul's*

www.stpaulsyr.org

How Do We Know When and Where God is Working?

by Fr. Philip

Who has seen the wind?

Neither you nor I:

But when the trees bow down their heads

The wind is passing by.

Christina Rosetti



Some people seem to easily and frequently point to specific events as part of God's work in the world. They might tell me, "This happened because God wanted it to happen." I'm not so confident in our ability to identify God's actions.

In one of the most beautiful poems found in scripture, Isaiah 55, we read "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord." God's ideas and ways of doing things are transcendent: they are above our intelligence. It isn't easy for us to know and understand God's way of doing things or the way God is working in the world.

Yet Jesus promises the disciples that the Holy Spirit will remain with them, working alongside them. We sometimes catch little glimpses of activities that seem like they might be a sign God's Spirit is working alongside us. I had the impression that I was witnessing some work of the Holy Spirit a few weeks ago, during a Zoom video meeting. That was a surprise!



St. Paul's Bicentennial Steering Committee held their second meeting a few weeks ago. Eight members of the Steering Committee are leading one of the eight task forces. Each task force has a specific assignment, a list of tasks to be accomplished.

In many cases, this is how the work gets done at St. Paul's. We organize teams of members to work on specific tasks, and the work of each team is coordinated with the work of other teams through an 'umbrella group', like the Bicentennial Steering Committee, or the Worship Ministry Team. These efforts are overseen by your Vestry, because St. Paul's Vestry is your elected board, chosen by you to make final decisions about financial matters and most other activities in the church.

This has proved to be a creative, effective process for us at St. Paul's, as we encourage the leadership and ideas of many different people. But let's also notice that all of this is about us, putting our ideas into practice. Where does God fit into this process?



I noticed several things happening during the March meeting of the Bicentennial Steering Committee that made the hour long meeting feel like a holy time, or a sacred space:

- People were making space for others to speak; they were not speaking over or interrupting one another.
- People were listening attentively as individuals with different backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives were sharing their ideas.
- Individual leaders articulated new possibilities, ideas that had not been considered before and were not part of any of our task lists.

The presence of all three of these gave me the distinct impression that God's spirit was somehow doing her work among us.

As we work together through many challenges and possibilities in the coming months, we strive to be doing God's work, working alongside God's spirit. We start by remembering Paul's words to the Corinthians: "Let everything you do be done in love."

Phyllis +

HOLY WEEK SERVICES AT ST. PAUL'S SYRACUSE



- **Palm Sunday, April 13, 10 a.m.**
Single service
- **Wednesday Noonday Prayer, April 16, 12:00 p.m.**
Enter through the Chapel Door
- **Maundy Thursday, April 17, 5:30 p.m.**
Enter through the Chapel Door
- **Good Friday, April 18, 5:30 p.m.**
Enter through the Chapel Door
- **Easter Vigil, April 19, 7:00 p.m.**
Begins with 40 minutes of candlelight with incense
- **Easter Sunday, April 20, 10:00 a.m.**
Single service

Honoring the Safety and Dignity of Everyone at St. Paul's

Reflections by your Wardens, Joe Moorman and Ieva Doyle

At St. Paul's, we strive to follow the example of our Savior Jesus Christ in welcoming all people who enter our big red doors for worship on any given Sunday. Here, we endeavor to love God and neighbor by offering a safe space for everyone to feel cherished, valued, and loved.



To ensure that everyone feels safe, a group of about 25 leaders of St. Paul's participated in an all-day Safe Church Training led by the Rev. Pat Kinney, rector of St. John's in Speedsville and St. Mark's in Candor, in the Brewster Room on Saturday, March 8. Participants included Father Philip, St. Paul's staff members, ministry team leaders, Vestry members, Wardens, and members of the Executive Ministry Team.

Our training began with theological background, based on 1 Corinthians 12:12, 26-27.

"For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it."

As a community of Christ, we are stewards of each other's well-being. In the words of retired presiding Bishop Michael Curry, living in a beloved community is about creating a holy place where all are loved, not just within the physical boundaries of a church, but in the wider world and among the whole human family.

Covering subjects such as Healthy Boundaries, Inclusion, Power and Relationships, and Abuse and Neglect, the presenter helped St. Paul's leaders explore how together with God, we can further a culture of safety and inclusion for all people (and not just for those who bravely enter our doors).

The Healthy Boundaries section of our training covered the importance of maintaining physical, emotional and behavioral boundaries. Bishop Curry's introduction to the Inclusion component highlighted our Baptismal Covenant, in which we promise, with God's help, to seek to serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbor as ourselves, and to respect the dignity of every human being.

Because power and authority come from God, we were encouraged to use our power and authority to build up the body of Christ in the module on Power and Relationships. As followers of Jesus, we must use our authority for humble service and use our power, as Jesus did, by sharing it with the wider world. While the Abuse and Neglect portion of Safe Church Training was the most difficult, it outlined four actions to take if we suspect abuse and neglect: interrupt, ensure safety, notify, and report.

Keeping our Safe Church Training in mind, Father Philip is working with St. Paul's Executive Ministry Team, Wardens and Vestry to develop policies and procedures that help ensure the safety of everyone who not only enters our big red doors, but also those who visit our Open Pantry and otherwise interact with us.

If you're involved with a St. Paul's Ministry Team, ask your team leader how you can help further our goal of being a safe place where God's vision for beloved community becomes a reality. Additional information also is available from Father Philip, Ieva, Joe or any Vestry member listed on the back page of Sunday's service leaflet.

Holy Week

By Father Philip

Holy Week is a time when we strive to move closer to, and gain understanding of, the God who sustains us and guides us at all times, including during our most difficult times. Here is a brief overview:

- Palm Sunday ~ April 13th at 10 a.m. We commemorate the joy of the crowd of people greeting Jesus for his triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Our members take roles in reading the Passion Gospel of Luke. This is the most somber Sunday of the year as we remember Jesus' betrayal, his arrest, trial, crucifixion, and death.
- Maundy Thursday ~ April 17th at 5:30 p.m. This is a liturgy about the most important, most basic question: what is the meaning of love? We gather in the Nave, sing hymns, hear the story of the Last Supper from the Gospel of John, participate in a ritual of humility and service, and celebrate communion. Then we engage in a ritual of symbolic emptying, as all of the sacramental elements are removed from the altar. The service ends in silence as we carry the consecrated bread and wine out of the Nave and place them in a special cupboard in the Chapel.
- Good Friday ~ April 18th at 5:30 p.m. The Nave and the Chancel feel empty and desolate. This is the only day of the church year when there is no celebration of communion. Through the Good Friday liturgy we hold in a sacred space the losses, betrayals and griefs of our own lives as we hear again the story of Jesus' betrayal, crucifixion and death. We listen to scripture readings, pray the solemn collects, and sing "Were you there when they crucified my Lord?"
- Easter Vigil ~ April 19th at 7 p.m. The service begins in darkness. In the darkness, a fire is kindled, and the Paschal Candle is lit. The deacon or priest processes through the nave, carrying the candle, and members of the congregation light their handheld candles from the fire of the Paschal Candle. The priest sings an ancient hymn of resurrection. In the darkness, we listen to five readings from the Hebrew Scriptures, the foundation of the story of our salvation. We respond to each reading with a song and a prayer. After the reading of the Hebrew Scriptures, the priest proclaims "Alleluia, Christ is risen" and the lights are lit. We celebrate the first Eucharist of the Easter Season. Easter Vigil is about 90 minutes long and is followed by a festive reception. The Easter Vigil is the only service at St. Paul's where incense is used.
- Easter Sunday ~ April 20th at 10 a.m. In the brightness of the new day we come face to face with the great mystery: God's love is stronger than death, stronger than our mistakes, grief, and sadness.



Why St. Paul's? A Tiny Home for Good

By Amy Mangram

a tiny home
for good.

Not all of us, but many of us came to St Paul's after a search that included visiting many other churches. We know the routine. We go to a service, we are welcomed by parishioners at the service, we go to the coffee hour after. We get the vibe, we meet some people, and we ask some questions. By the time I came to St. Paul's I had the routine down. I knew what I was looking for and asked the same pointed questions I asked of all churches I visited. I was fortunate enough to be seated next to Philip when I asked how the church was living out its faith in the city of Syracuse. I was pleasantly surprised at the answers I received and the dialogue that followed. Philip quickly listed three tangible outreach missions, and my ears perked up when A Tiny Home for Good was mentioned.



My husband and I have supported a Tiny Home for Good for years. We had witnessed the thoughtful, humble and loving way Andrew started and grew his mission to restore dignity and security to those facing housing insecurity in our community. The partnership is unique; we couldn't find a single church in the country that has decided to utilize its space to support a nonprofit seeking to end homelessness. This should make us all proud. We are following Jesus' directive to love our neighbor as ourselves.

As a member of the A Tiny Home for Good task force, I am happy to answer any questions you may have. There will be many updates on the partnership to come, regarding both the construction of the apartments and the welcoming of the tenants in 2026. It is a blessing that the tenants will be welcomed in the same year we celebrate our Bicentennial, celebrating 200 years of caring for the people of the City of Syracuse.

I ended my search for a new church at St Paul's thinking the same thoughts Carolyn Grieb had spoken a few years before me "I can't believe you people have been here all this time, and I didn't know about it" (From Fr. Philip sermon 2/9). I hope this article allows us to step back from the day to day work of Open Doors and A Tiny Home for Good and appreciate the community we have here, and the magnificence of what we are about to accomplish.

A Special Email We Received

Hello My name is Kasey.

I do not attend your church but walked past it recently and wanted to share that I love the open pantry you offer!



It is one of the most beautiful, meaningful things I have seen in Syracuse after living here my whole life and I wish more places in the community offered something like that.

My children and I were very excited to pick items and I stocked it this morning. It was empty again shortly after. My family plans to make this a regular place to drop items. Thank you for having this available.

Construction Update, More Good News

by Betsy Elkins

We are starting to see increased construction activity again around St. Paul's. The permit for our new fire and security alarm systems was granted by the City of Syracuse in February and by the time you read this report the rough work (lots of wires) for these systems should be completed. The final installation work will be completed once all the walls are in and painted.

With the return of warmer weather, we will see work on the new west entrance to the parking lot including the construction of a small portico; roofing over the parish house can be completed. The areas around the elevator will be finished, bathrooms finished, and new flooring installed in the Sargent foyer and the Montgomery Street lobby and in the bathrooms and kitchen. A new window will be installed in the kitchen to bring in more light. A group of St. Paul's painters will paint the kitchen walls before the new floor is installed.

Father Philip's closet construction crew will continue its weekly work on building a new closet at the end of the Hansen Dining Room that will provide much needed storage space (tables, chairs, church archives, etc.)

It will be a busy spring construction wise as we work to wrap up this project this summer. (Keep your fingers crossed and pray a bit about this.) The Construction Management Task Force will be working on plans for "putting things back together." You will be hearing more about ways you can help with various tasks including rehangng artwork and washing kitchen items that are currently in the dining room and covered with construction dust!

As this work continues, we will resume our update videos to show you what is happening. Stay tuned, stay patient and stay grateful that we will soon have a completed project to enhance our ministry together.



Twelfth Construction Update Video is Online



The twelfth video in our series of ongoing progress reports of the Open Doors project is on our website and a link is featured below.

Father Philip shows the progress on the Montgomery St. entrance, including the elevator, the new stairs and new fire protection system.

On the front page of our website, you'll see a link to our Open Doors Project Videos.

www.stpaulsyr.org



St. Paul's Announcement from 1928

Senior Warden, Joe Moorman has been going through some of our old leaflets from about 100 years ago. Some of them are quite interesting. Here is a sample:

To Pewholders:

Pews will be held for pewholders until after the Processional Hymn, at which time all seats in the Church will be free. Pews will be reserved for those pewholders who find if they are compelled to be late, if they will notify the Parish Office.

Those renting sittings, whenever they expect to be absent, will assist in extending the hospitality of the church if they will notify the Parish Office by telephone previous to 10:45 a.m. on Sunday, so that the ushers may use the seats before the Processional Hymn.

Ushers will gladly seat visitors and strangers as promptly as possible. All seats are free at 5 o'clock Evensong.



Have you ever noticed the pew numbers in the Nave?

New Member's Class

What: A series of three 60-minute sessions

Where: In the Brewster Room

When: Sundays at 11:30 a.m.

Who: Everyone is invited

Dates: April 27, May 4 and May 11



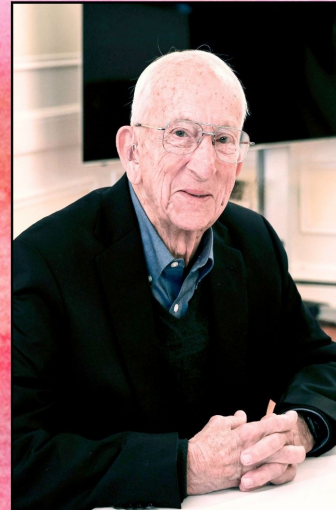
Confirmations & Receptions with Bishop DeDe Duncan-Probe

St. Paul's will host a regional confirmation service
Wednesday, April 9th, at 7 p.m.

Several of our members will be received or confirmed by the Bishop at this service.

You are invited to attend!

Luncheon at the Century Club



February 22



YMCA Ministry—February Social

by Debbie Bogan, Parish Liaison for YMCA Ministry

It was a feel-good kind of day

On February 19, St. Paul's hosted a coffee and sweet treats social for the senior residents of the Downtown YMCA. It was overcast and cold when we walked down to the Y. Resident Frank waved and smiled as we approached. Senior residents and YMCA residence office staff Cheryl, Eric and Everett greeted us with kind smiles. It was a warm welcome on this wintry day.



We enhanced our social with the gift of music. Tim Schmidt played guitar and was accompanied by Larry Almeida on vocals. Tim had a terrific idea in leading a sing along. We sang songs from The Great American Songbook. Tim provided us with copies of the lyrics. A great time was had by all.



Many thanks to Tim and Georgette Schmidt, Larry and Susan Almeida, Harry Brown, Ruth Brown, Betsy Elkins, Jimmy Doyle, DJ Igelsrud, Joan Sammons and Chet W for making it a great day for the YMCA senior residents. Kira Dirghalli joined us in spirit and in prayer from sunny Florida.

Many thanks to Betsy Elkins for making delicious coffee cakes.

A special thank you to DJ Igelsrud for taking memorable photos of the social.

A big thanks to Katie, Housekeeper at the Y for mopping the floors and keeping us safe underfoot after coffee was spilled and snow was tracked in.



A huge thanks to my dear friend Kathy Cunningham, a new friend of St. Paul's YMCA seniors ministry for sponsoring this social. Kathy appreciates the good work that St. Paul's does.

We look forward to another heart warming day with the senior residents and staff at the Downtown YMCA.

Please get in touch with Debbie Bogan if you would like to join in the fun with the Y Team.

Our next event at the Y will be Easter plants delivery and a pizza social on April 16.



Season of Lent



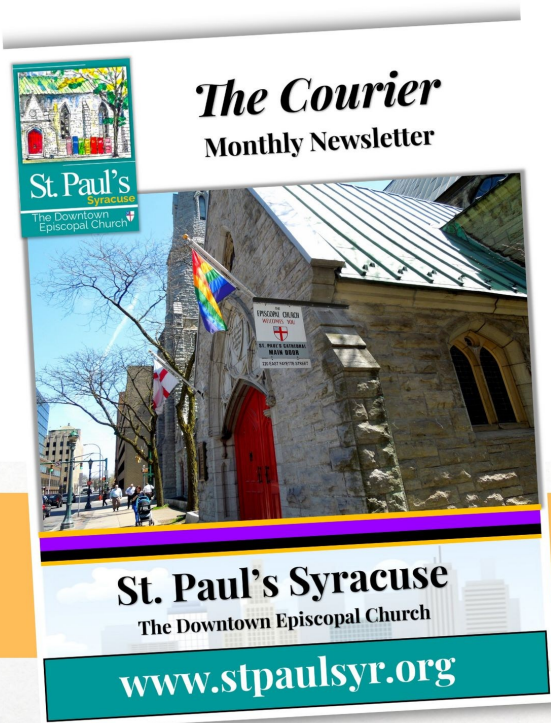
Wednesday Noon Services During Lent

by David Webb

All are invited to Wednesday Noon Services at St. Paul's Church during Lent, beginning March 12 and continuing through Holy Week. The services will begin at 12:10 pm to allow people to gather for prayer. Father Philip, Joe Russo and David Webb have organized these services, which draw from the Book of Common Prayer, including the Daily Office Lectionary and the Prayers of the People. Those attending will be able to contribute their own petitions.

Please use the Chapel Door to enter and sit in the choir stalls in our main sanctuary. The service is expected to be live streamed on our YouTube channel as well.

For this worship service, space in the parking lot is restricted to the spaces along the fence. If those spaces are taken, please find street parking.



The deadline for the May Courier will be Monday, April 21st

Newsletter

Children's Ministry-Godly Play and Nursery in the Chapel

By Jeanne Avery

Our babies are all heading towards their next birthday- three will be two years old and one will be four very soon. They are walking, talking and claiming the Chapel as their own. The first one entering the room hands Barbara Bell a book- fortunately it is not always the same book. The children do not feel obligated to sit and listen to the book but they need to feel that Barbara is ready and waiting.

The older children, ages 5-8, circle the brown table and generally sit down.

Joe Moorman, one of our wardens, stops in most Sundays to say "hello". This is very nice. Recently he was asked if he knew how to make an airplane. Of course he did, he was almost late for choir – it was a beauty- the older children including Kira Lane duplicated it and we had a fleet of planes. It was determined they were flying to Jerusalem. Finally, the planes arrived at the airport and landed safely on the bookcase and class began!!!

As we work our way through Lent, we have beautiful new tiles representing the "Mystery of Lent" as presented by Godly Play. These were a gift from Fr. Philip. Please stop in the Chapel to see them on the shelving unit. They are breathtaking.

I am claiming my mistake and canceling the children sitting in the first pew in the church on Sunday mornings. They now will be sitting with their families, having communion but not returning to the Chapel. If a child should want to sit in the front row it is important to bring a bulletin with you so you can guide them along. A child unaccompanied by his own family should not be in the soft space.



Thank you for your understanding.



Join us for **Common Threads**

St. Paul's Common Threads will be meeting at 7:00 on **Monday, April 14th** at the home of Tim & Georgette Schmidt

(309 Scottholm Boulevard, Syracuse) All are invited to attend this time of fellowship, sewing, knitting, crocheting, cross stitch, mending, etc. For more information, please contact Georgette at gschmidt@twcny.rr.com.

Help Wanted!



**Samaritan
Center**

Are you looking for some meaningful work these days?

Have you ever thought of helping at the Samaritan Center?

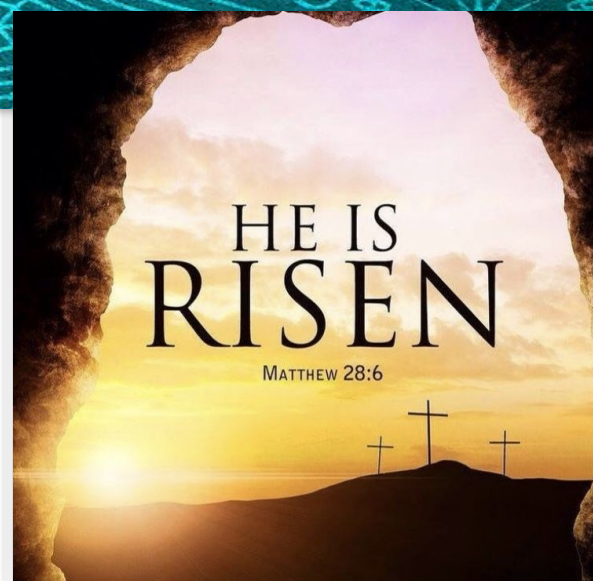
This soup kitchen, which began over 40 years ago in the basement of ST. Paul's, needs more volunteers.

Talk with one of the regular volunteers from St. Paul's (Betsy, Doug, Anita, Kira, Davida) to learn more or contact volunteer@samcenter.org

If you want to help with others from St. Paul's, mark your calendar for **Saturday June 7** when we are signed up to help serve lunch (12:30 to 1 p.m.).

April Calendar

Tuesday, April 1, 5:00 pm, Bicentennial Steering Comm.—Montgomery Zoom
Wednesday, April 2, 12:10 pm, Wednesday Noon Lent Service —In the Sanctuary
Wednesday, April 2, 1:00 pm, Closet Work Party
Wednesday, April 2, 4:30 pm, Contemplative Prayer—Private Zoom Channel
Thursday, April 3, 7:00 pm, Choir Rehearsal —Chase Music Room
Saturday, April 5, 2-4 pm Private Event in Brewster Room



Sunday, April 6, 8:00 am, Worship – In Person
Sunday, April 6, 9:50 am, Godly Play Sunday School & Nursery in the Hadley Chapel
Sunday, April 6, 10:00 am, Worship– Live Stream & In Person
Sunday, April 6, 11:30 am—Rainbow Door Painting Party
Monday, April 7, 12:00 pm, Bible Study--Brewster Room
Monday, April 7, 3:30 pm, Finance Meeting —Montgomery Zoom
Monday, April 7, 5:00 pm, SPC Readers Group—Fayette Zoom
Tuesday, April 8, 5:00 pm, Vestry Meeting—Brewster Room
Wednesday, April 2, 12:10 pm, Wednesday Noon Lent Service —In the Sanctuary
Wednesday, April 9, 1:00 pm, Closet Work Party
Wednesday, April 9, 4:30 pm, Contemplative Prayer—Private Zoom Channel
Wednesday, April 9, 7:00 pm, Regional Confirmation with Bishop DeDe Duncan Probe
Thursday, April 10, 7:00 pm, Choir Rehearsal —Chase Music Room

PALM SUNDAY

Sunday, April 13, 9:50 am, Godly Play Sunday School & Nursery in the Hadley Chapel
Sunday, April 13, 10:00 am, Single Worship Service – Live Stream & In Person
Sunday, April 13, 11:30 am, Spring Clean Up around the church
Monday, April 14, 12:00 pm, Bible Study--Brewster Room
Monday, April 14, 7:00 pm, Common Threads at Georgette Schmidt's home
Wednesday, April 16, 10:30 am, YMCA Social
Wednesday, April 16, 12:10 pm, Wednesday Noon Lent Service —In the Sanctuary
Wednesday, April 16, 4:30 pm, Contemplative Prayer—Private Zoom Channel
Wednesday, April 16, 7:30 pm, Feminist Theology—Montgomery Zoom
Thursday, April 17, 5:30 pm, Maundy Thursday Service
Friday, April 18, 5:30 pm, Good Friday Service
Saturday, April 19, 10:00 am, Open Pantry Drop Off—Fayette St. Door
Saturday, April 19, 7:00 pm, Easter Vigil Service

EASTER DAY

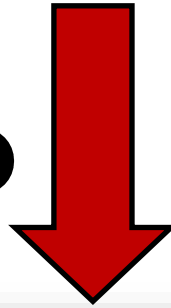
Sunday, April 20, 9:50 am, Godly Play Sunday School & Nursery in the Hadley Chapel
Sunday, April 20, 10:00 am, Single Worship Service – Live Stream & In Person
Monday, April 21, 12:00 pm, Bible Study--Brewster Room
Monday, April 21, 1:15 pm, Donor Wall Task Force—Brewster Room
Monday, April 21, Deadline for May Courier
Tuesday, April 22, 5:00 pm, Buildings and Grounds —Montgomery Zoom
Wednesday, April 23, 1:00 pm, Closet Work Party
Wednesday, April 23, 11, 4:30 pm, Contemplative Prayer—Private Zoom Channel
Thursday, April 24, 7:00 pm, Choir Rehearsal —Chase Music Room

Sunday, April 27, 8:00 am, Worship – In Person
Sunday, April 27, 9:50 am, Godly Play Sunday School & Nursery in the Hadley Chapel
Sunday, April 27, 10:00 am, Worship – Live Stream & In Person
Sunday, April 27, 11:30 am, New Members Class—Brewster Room
Monday, April 28, 12:00 pm, Bible Study--Brewster Room
Tuesday, April 29, 4:00 pm, Worship Ministry Team—Brewster Room
Wednesday, April 30, 1:00 pm, Closet Work Party
Wednesday, April 30, 4:30 pm, Contemplative Prayer—Private Zoom Channel



NOLAN PALSMA 4/1
PERRY MOUNCEY 4/6
VIVIAN MINER-SIMMONS 4/9
CHRISTOPHER JOHNSON 4/11
LYNN FALLON 4/20
JOAN SAMMONS 4/25
PETER EARLE 4/25
JIM POTTS 4/26
JOSEPH VON SOUDER 4/27
RUTH BROWN 4/29
HARRY LEWIS 4/30

PLEASE READ



Updated **Important Information About**

Parking in Our Lot



Evenings (after 5:00 p.m.) and Sundays, you may park anywhere in the lot.



Monday-Saturday: Do not park in the numbered spots until after 5:00 p.m. Downtown workers have paid to park in our lot. We have signed a contract with them that they are guaranteed their parking place Monday through Saturday.



The construction workers who park around the dumpster, usually leave about 4:00 p.m. You can park there after 4:00 p.m. but your car may be blocked in.

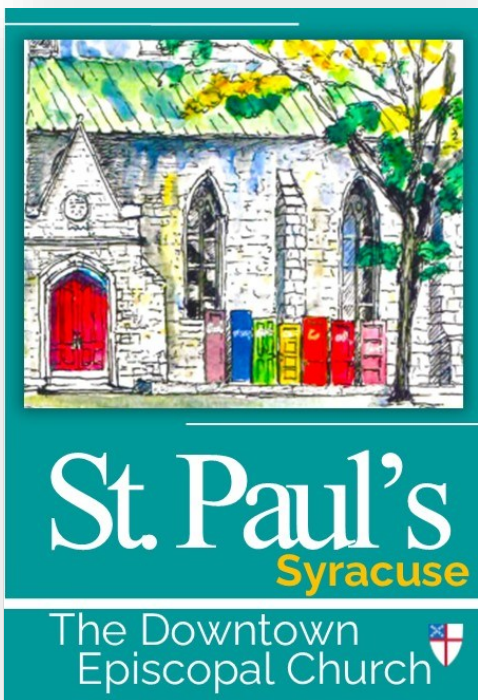
Easter Flower Memorials

If you would like to make an offering to St. Paul's for Easter flowers in memory of, or in honor of a loved one, you are invited to send a donation to the parish office along with:

Your Name: _____
In Memory of: _____
In Honor of: _____
Donation Amount: _____

Send to our mailing address: 310 Montgomery St. Syracuse 13202. You may also put the information and your check in the offering plate. Names will be included in the Easter leaflet.

All names must be received by Sunday, April 6th.



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