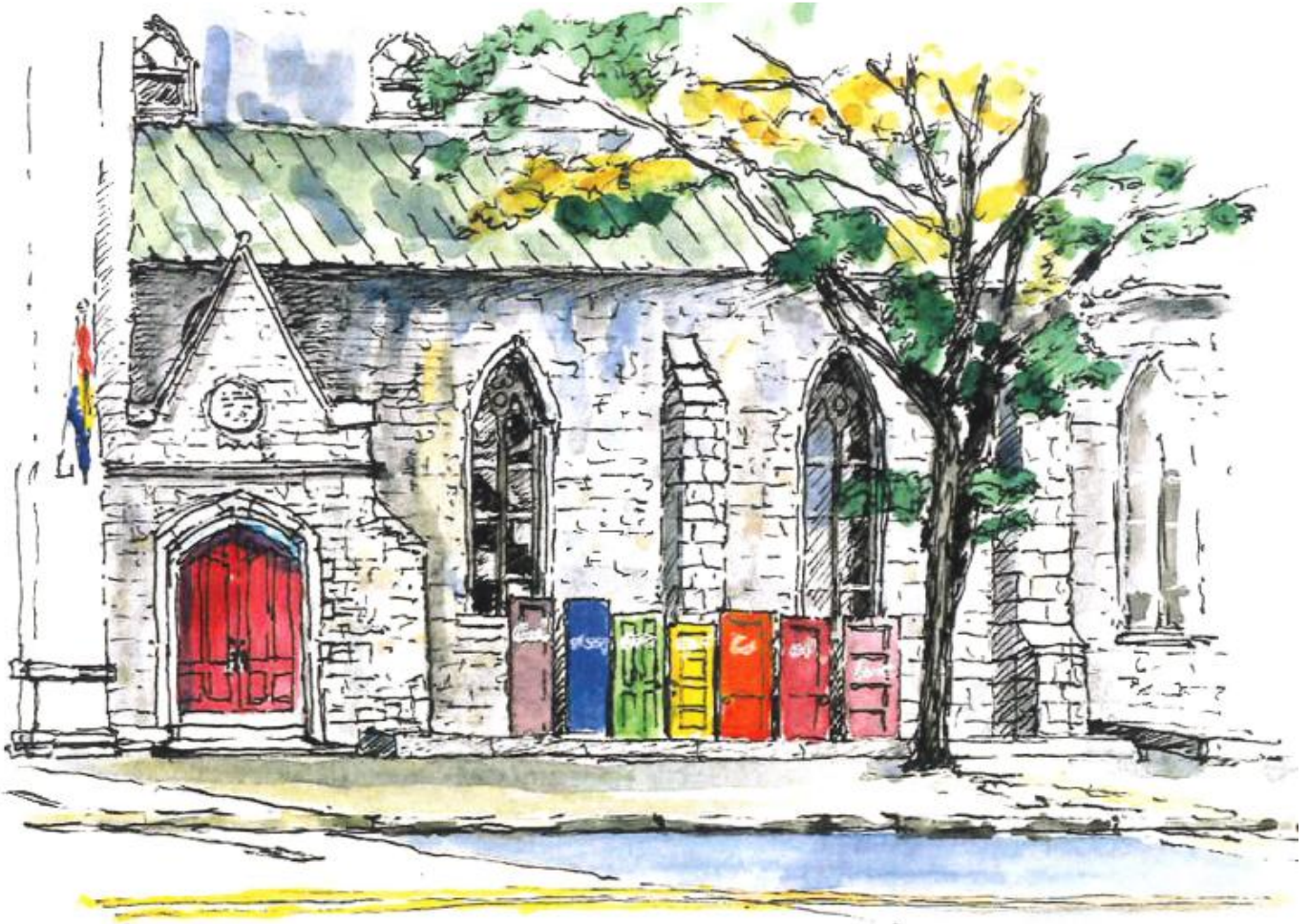




St. Paul's  
Syracuse

The Downtown  
Episcopal Church



"GOD'S DOORS ARE OPEN TO ALL. LOVE

W. ELLINS

MARCH 16, 2025  
10:00 AM  
THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

# ORDER OF SERVICE

**ORGAN VOLUNTARY** • *Wer nur den lieben Gott Lässt walten* Georg Boehm (1661-1733)  
(If thou but trust God to guide thee – Hymn 635)

*The people are invited to stand*

**HYMN 401** “The God of Abraham praise” (v.1-4)

*Leoni*

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

*Celebrant* † Blessed be the God of salvation:  
*People* **Who bears our burdens and forgives our sins.**

**CANTICLE** • “Sing praises, all you peoples” (*Sung three times*) Jacques Berthier (1923-1994)

Lau - da - te om - nes gen - tes, lau - da - te Do - mi - num. Lau -  
Sing prais - es, all you peo - ples, sing prais - es to the Lord. Sing

da - te om - nes gen - tes, lau - da - te Do - mi - num! Lau -  
Sing prais - es, all you peo - ples, sing prais - es to the Lord! Sing

### COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Living Mystery, whose way is not ours, whose name cannot be bought or sold: lead us from justice without compassion, and power without truthfulness, to a love which nurtures and a grace without price; through Jesus Christ, the true Bread.

*All* **Amen.**

*Please be seated*

**LESSON** • Genesis 15:1-12,17-18

*Lector* A reading from the Book of Genesis.

The word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir."

But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Then he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates."

Lector  
People

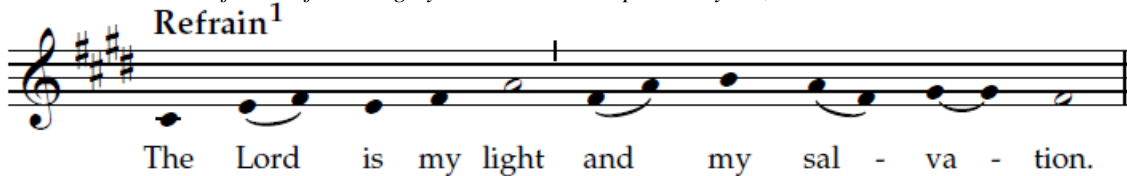
Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## THE RESPONSE

Psalm 27 *Dominus illuminatio*

Mode 2

*The Refrain is first sung by the Choir and repeated by All, and then as indicated.*



The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom then shall I be afraid? When evildoers came upon me to eat up my flesh, it was they, my foes and my adversaries, who stumbled and fell. **Refrain**

Though an army should encamp against me, yet my heart shall not be afraid; And though war should rise up against me, yet will I put my trust in him. **Refrain**

One thing have I asked of the LORD one thing I seek; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life; To behold the fair beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple. **Refrain**

For in the day of trouble he shall keep me safe in his shelter; he shall hide me in the secrecy of his dwelling and set me high upon a rock. Even now he lifts up my head above my enemies round about me. **Refrain**

Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an oblation with sounds of great gladness; I will sing and make music to the LORD. Harken to my voice, O LORD, when I call; have mercy on me and answer me. **Refrain**

You speak in my heart and say, "Seek my face." Your face, LORD, will I seek. Hide not your face from me, nor turn away your servant in displeasure. **Refrain**

You have been my helper; cast me not away; do not forsake me, O God of my salvation. Though my father and my mother forsake me, the LORD will sustain me. **Refrain**

Show me your way, O LORD; lead me on a level path, because of my enemies. Deliver me not into the hand of my adversaries, for false witnesses have risen up against me, and also those who speak malice.

**Refrain**

What if I had not believed that I should see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living! O tarry and await the LORD's pleasure; be strong, and he shall comfort your heart; \*  
wait patiently for the LORD. **Refrain**

**EPISTLE • Philippians 3:17-4:1**

*Lector*

A reading from Paul's letter to the Philippians.

Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

*Lector*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*People*

**Thanks be to God.**

*The people are invited to stand*

**GRADUAL HYMN 635** "If thou but trust God to guide thee"

*Wer nur den lieben*

*Please remain standing*

**HOLY GOSPEL • Luke 13:31-35**

*Celebrant*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke.

*People*

**Glorify to you, Lord Christ.**

*Celebrant*

Some Pharisees came and said to Jesus, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

*Celebrant*

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus.

*People*

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

**SERMON**

The Rev. Philip Major

*A brief silence follows the sermon.*

*The people are invited to stand.*

**NICENE CREED**

*The word "creed" comes from the Latin credo, translated here as "we believe." Credo is not simply belief in accurate propositions, but more deeply a sense of relationship or trust—an alternate translation might be "we give our heart," "we trust," "we rely upon." Developed in the fourth century as a means of unifying a divided church, the Nicene Creed has been used by Christians in worship for almost two*

*thousand years, and connects us to our ancient ancestors in the Communion of Saints. The Creed is used in worship not because it comprises a list of doctrinal statements one must affirm in order to be considered a Christian, but rather as a song of praise and confidence in the Holy Trinity: God in three persons who creates, redeems and sanctifies a holy people.*

*All*

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.  
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the Prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*Please remain standing.*

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

We call on the name of the Lord to save us and deliver us from temptation and sin.

*Silence is kept.*

God of Compassion: **Have mercy on us.**

We pray for the Church and all who confess your Name. We pray especially for Sean, our Presiding Bishop; DeDe, our Bishop, and Philip, our Rector.

*Silence is kept.*

God of Compassion: **Have mercy on us.**

We pray for the people of this land and all the nations that peace may prevail and our divisions cease. We pray especially for the leaders of the world that they may show mercy to those who live in fear, with disease, or in want of basic needs.

*Silence is kept.*

God of Compassion: **Have mercy on us.**

We pray for a fruitful harvest from the earth. May we use your resources rightly for the benefit of all.

*Silence is kept.*

God of Compassion: **Have mercy on us.**

We pray for our families and friends, for all who are close to us. May we serve Christ in them and love one another as He loves us.

*Silence is kept.*

God of Compassion: **Have mercy on us.**

We pray for all who suffer in body, mind or spirit. Give them courage and hope in their troubles and bring them the joy of your salvation. We pray especially for *n.* and those we name silently or aloud.

*The people add their own petitions, silently or aloud.*

God of Compassion: **Have mercy on us.**

We pray for those who have died and those who mourn their passing. May they share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom. We pray especially for *n.* and those we name silently or aloud.

*The people add their own petitions, silently or aloud.*

God of Compassion: **Have mercy on us.**

*The Celebrant adds a concluding prayer.*

## CONFESSION

*The people are invited to sit / kneel.*

*Officiant* Let us confess our sins to God.

*All* **God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.**

## ABSOLUTION

*Officiant* Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

*All* **Amen.**

*The people are invited to stand*

## THE PEACE

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

# LITURGY OF THE TABLE

## OFFERTORY

*At the Offertory, we return thanks for God's blessings in our lives and invite you to place your contribution in the offering plate in the main aisle or give by texting 73256 entering **stpaulsyr** (all lower case) and the amount you want to give.*

*The people are invited to stand as the offering is brought forward*

*Celebrant* All things come of Thee, O Lord.

*People* **And of thine own have we given thee.**

*Please be seated.*

## AN ANTHEM:

Henry Purcell (c.1659-1695)

*Thou knowest, Lord, the secrets of our hearts; shut not, shut not thy merciful ears unto our prayers; but spare us, Lord, spare us, Lord most holy, O God, O God most mighty, O holy and most merciful Saviour, Thou most worthy Judge eternal, Suffer us not, suffer us not at our last hour for any pains of death, for any pains of death to fall, to fall from Thee. Amen.*



earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san-na in the high - est.

*Celebrant*

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

*All*

**We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.**

*Celebrant*

Lord God of our Fathers and Mothers: God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God of Sarah, Ruth and Mary, God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

*All*

**Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.**

*Celebrant*

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation.

*All*

**Amen.**



## THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Celebrant*

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

*All*

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.**

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

*The breaking of the bread symbolizes the activity whereby God emptied Godself of divine power for purpose of reconciling Godself with us. We have no words to accurately describe this divine activity, thus a period of 10-15 seconds of silence is kept following the breaking of the bread and before saying the Fraction Anthem.*

## FRACTION ANTHEM

### Hymnal S-161

*from New Plainsong, David Hurd (b. 1950)*

*The letter 'S' before a music selection indicates it will be found in the front section of the hymnal, known as the Service Music.*

*The people are invited to be seated.*

*You are invited to consume the consecrated bread immediately after you receive it. If you choose to receive the wine, drink directly from the cup. Gluten-free wafers are available. Please ask the communion minister. The sacrament of communion is complete if the bread or wine is received; it is not necessary to receive both.*

## COMMUNION HYMN 458 "My song is love unknown"

*Love Unknown*

*The People are invited to stand.*

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

*Officiant*

Let us pray.

*All*

**God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

## BLESSING

### HYMN 439 "What wondrous love is this"

*Wondrous Love*

## DISMISSAL

*People:*

**Thanks be to God.**

## ORGAN VOLUNTARY: "Antiphon V"

Marcel Dupré (1886-1971)

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*Please Keep These People in Your Prayers:*

Destany W., Fred K. Daniela B. and Anne D.

*For those who have died:* Jason Pilgrim

*Our thanks today for the...*

Altar Guild: DJ Igelsrud & Ruth Brown

Lay Reader: Terri Tuttle / Kira Lane

Ushers: Greg Tuttle / Georgette & Tim Schmidt

*Any music reprinted in bulletin and streamed is under ©OneLicense A-72637  
Prayers of the People were written by St. Paul's prayer leaders.  
The Collect of the Day is taken from "Prayers for an Inclusive Church, 2009."*

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## Announcements

\* Next Sunday, March 23rd is 'Mocha Sunday'! It's the day of the *Syracuse Half-Marathon* road race, which provides a few extra challenges for many of us as we make our way to St. Paul's. In response to the challenge, this year we are trying something a little bit different, and quite unexpected for Lent. We'll be serving coffee, donuts, and chocolate beginning at 7:45 (for the 8 a.m. service) and 9:45 (for the 10 a.m. service). So use the insert with directions for driving to St. Paul's to plan your trip, and leave a few minutes early for your journey to St. Paul's. Then enjoy a little bit of conversation and refreshments as we gather for worship.

\* During the season of Lent, Joe Russo and David Webb are leading Noonday Prayer services on Wednesdays, with the service beginning at 12:10. Please enter through the Chapel Door and join us in the front of the Nave for a medium-length worship service (about twenty minutes). Our Lenten Noonday Prayer services will also be broadcast on the LiveStream.

\* Articles for the April edition of *The Courier* are due Wednesday, March 19th. Please send the final draft of your article using Word or another commonly used format to Judy at [offices@stpaulsyr.org](mailto:offices@stpaulsyr.org).

\* *The Samaritan Center* will hold its annual fundraising dinner Friday, April 11th at The Lodge in Skaneateles. Please purchase your ticket by March 22nd. While St. Paul's is not buying a table for this fundraiser, you are encouraged to attend and support *The Samaritan Center*. Ask to be seated with other members of St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

\* Members of St. Paul's have donated \$750 worth of gift cards to the *Center for New Americans at InterFaith Works*. You can support immigrants and refugees in our community by purchasing a gift card from Tops or Walmart and leaving it in the big envelope in the offering plate.

## Understanding Episcopal Liturgy

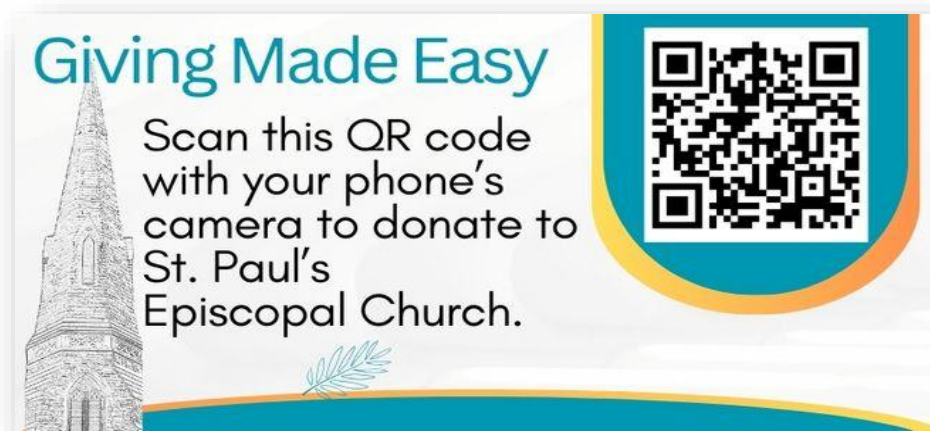
#27. What is the reason the priest wears a purple stole and the altar is covered with a purple cloth during Lent?

*Many people think purple is a penitential color. Let's notice our tendency to our focus on ourselves and on our mistakes, rather than on God's grace, creativity, and power in our lives.*

*In ancient times, purple cloth was extremely expensive, because the dye used to make purple was expensive. So in ancient times, the only people who wore purple cloth were extremely wealthy people and members of the royal family. In the church we use purple cloth during Lent because our attention is focused on Jesus, the one we call the 'king of love'. We use purple colors during Lent because we are preparing for Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and the most important day of the year, Easter, the day of the resurrection.*

*If you have a question about something in our liturgy, I will be happy to answer it. Please ask in person, or send an email to me at [revmajor@stpaulsyr.org](mailto:revmajor@stpaulsyr.org).*

*Fr. Philip +*



**Giving Made Easy**

Scan this QR code with your phone's camera to donate to St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

The image shows a promotional graphic for online donations. It features a line drawing of a church steeple on the left, a QR code in a blue and orange frame on the right, and a blue and orange wave at the bottom. The text is in a clean, sans-serif font.

## Important Information About

# Parking in Our Lot



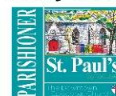
Evenings (after 5:00 p.m.) and Sundays, you may park anywhere in the lot.



Monday-Friday until 5:00 p.m. our lot is basically full. Downtown workers have paid to park in our lot. Due to the snow, many of the spots along the fence are normally full.



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.



## Officers

Senior Warden: Joe Moorman  
Junior Warden: Ieva Doyle  
Treasurer: Doug Mouncey  
Assistant Treasurer: Sandi Yingling  
Clerk of the Vestry: Anita Wagner

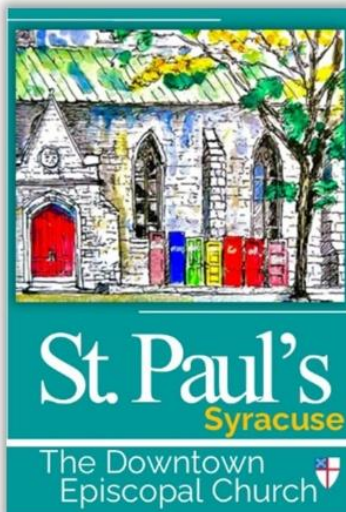
2025

## Vestry & Team Leaders

2025: Matthieu van der Meer, Harry Lambright, Barbara Bell  
2026: Jeanne Chu, Tim Cassavaw, DJ Igelsrud  
2027: Willson Cummer, Joe Russo, Tim Simmons  
Finance Committee Chairperson: David Ridings  
Children's Ministry Leader: Jeanne Avery  
Worship Ministry Team Convener: Laurie Sanderson  
Formation Ministry Team Convener: Jeanne Avery  
Mission & Service Team Convener: Betsy Elkins  
Community Fellowship Min. Convener: Elizabeth Belden-Handler  
Pastoral Care Leader: Kira Dirghalli  
Buildings & Grounds Chair: Bill Pitcher  
Office Volunteers: Liz Handler, Kira Dirghalli, Betsy Elkins, Sandi Yingling

## Staff

The Right Reverend Dr. DeDe Duncan Probe, Bishop of Central New York  
The Reverend Philip Major, Rector of St. Paul's  
James L. Potts, Organist and Choirmaster  
Judy McAdoo-Pelton, Operations Manager  
Doug Mouncey, Parish Assistant (Volunteer)  
Mark King, Technology Assistant  
Derek Lane, Sunday Security



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