



St. Paul's Syracuse

The Courier

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

April 2026



There have been many changes to the chancel area of St. Paul's since this painting was completed in the early 20th century. This painting is located in the back of the nave, next to the Sargent Foyer.



St. Paul's
Syracuse

The Downtown
Episcopal Church 

www.stpaulsyr.org

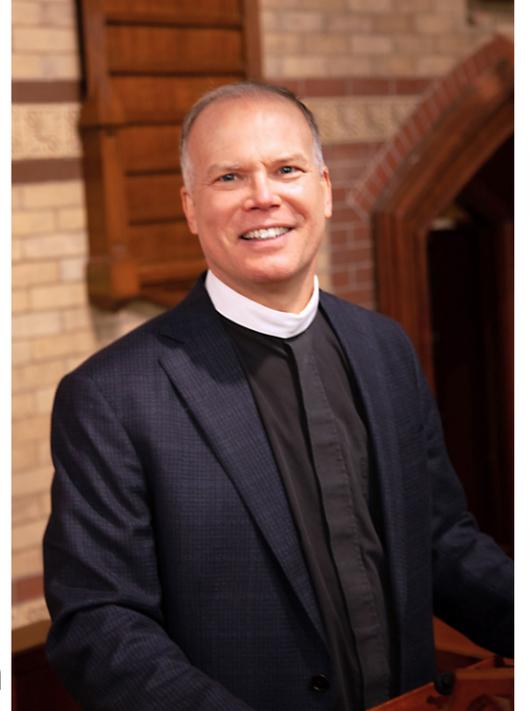
*No Matter Who You Are,
Or Where You Have Been,
There Is A Place For You At St. Paul's*



Holy Week

By Fr. Philip

Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday, March 29th. Holy Week is a time when we move closer to the God who sustains us and guides us at all times, through the commemoration of the events in the days leading up to the day of the resurrection. Here is an overview of our Holy Week services:



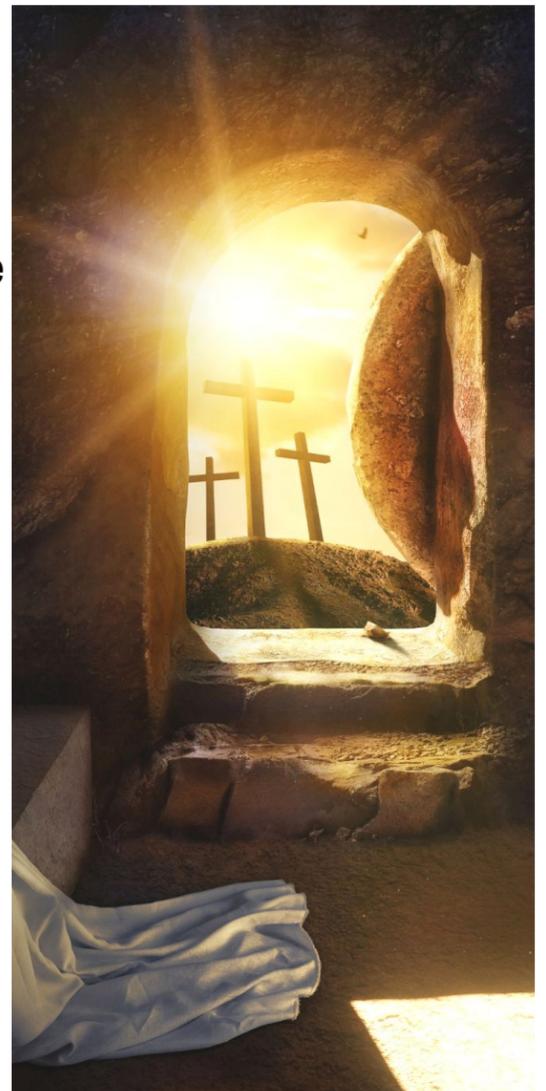
Palm Sunday ~ March 29th at 10 a.m. As our children distribute palms among us, we commemorate the joy of the people greeting Jesus for his triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Our members take roles in reading the Passion Gospel of John. This is the most somber Sunday worship service of the year; we remember Jesus' betrayal by one of his closest disciples, his arrest, trial, crucifixion, and death.

Maundy Thursday ~ April 2 at 5:30 p.m. We gather for a communal meal in the Nave, sing hymns, read scripture, participate in the Footwashing liturgy, and share the Lord's Supper. Then we engage in a ritual of symbolic emptying, where the priest and the altar guild remove all of the sacramental elements from the altar area, while members of our choir chant Psalm 22, a song of emptiness and desolation. The Maundy Thursday service ends in silence as the priest and the congregation carry the consecrated bread and wine, the Body of Christ, out of the Nave and place them in the cupboard reserved for the sacraments in the Chapel.

Good Friday ~ April 3 at 5:30 p.m. The Nave and the Chancel are empty and desolate, having been stripped of the symbols of resurrection and the equipment needed for the celebration of the Eucharist. In normal times the priest and members bow as they approach the altar in a sign of reverence for the consecrated bread and wine kept near the altar. On Good Friday, the altar is empty. There is solemnity, but no bowing. This is the only day of the church year when there is no celebration of communion.

Easter Vigil ~ April 4 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 our foundational story, five readings from the Hebrew Scriptures. 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 in the nave are lit. We sing the Easter Hymn and listen to the readings of the resurrection from Romans and Matthew. We celebrate the first Eucharist of the Easter Season. The Easter Vigil is the only service at St. Paul's where incense is used.

Easter Sunday ~ April 5th at 10 a.m. We celebrate Christ's triumph over death and the resurrecting power of God's love in our lives. There will be special music and joyous singing from our choir and congregation. Easter is the traditional day for baptisms; this year we will baptize one of our children on Easter Sunday.



Philip +



Please Join Us for Two Bicentennial Kickoff Events in May

By Ieva Doyle, Senior Warden

Plans are well under way to kick off St. Paul's bicentennial year with two events that will be held just a week apart in May. You, your family, friends and guests are invited, and we hope you'll join us as we joyfully celebrate St. Paul's at both!

The first event is a **Bicentennial Celebration** that will be held on **Saturday, May 16, 2026**, beginning at 3 p.m. at St. Paul's. The Celebratory Worship will be led by Father Philip and the Right Reverend Dr. DeDe Duncan Probe, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Central New York. Grand, festive music is planned, along with commemorations and a reception. This event is free and open to the public.

The second event is a **Bicentennial Dinner** that will be held at St. Paul's on **Friday, May 22, 2026**, to celebrate the very day 200 years ago when leaders of the emerging congregation signed incorporation documents with the State of New York. This event will begin with Father Philip leading a worship service, and continue with fellowship time, dinner and a program. Dinner tickets, priced at \$25 each, will be available after worship starting on April 12 and also by contacting me at (315) 278-5807 or at ieva.doyle@gmail.com.

Additional information regarding these events is available from Anita Wagner and Derina Samuel, co-chairs, Bicentennial Steering Committee.

New Member's Class

Please consider joining Fr. Philip for New Member Classes in April. Participating in New Member Classes is one way to become a member of St. Paul's. These three classes cover almost everything you might want to know about the ways we do things at St. Paul's.

-  Session 1: How We Arrived at this Place; A Brief History of the Episcopal Church
-  Session 2: What We Believe; Episcopal Approaches to Scripture and Theology and Approaches to Scripture
-  Session 3: The Way Things Work; The Organization of St. Paul's

What: A series of three 60 minute classes.

Where: The Hadley Chapel

When: Sundays at 11:45 a.m., April 19 & 26, May 3

Who: New or experienced, everyone is invited



A New Communion Railing and Stage

By Fr. Philip

In the back of the Nave you can see a painting of the chancel area (front of the church) as it appeared about 100 years ago. (The cover of this month's *Courier* is a photo of the painting.) When we compare the painting to our chancel today, we realize that almost all of the furnishings have changed in the past 100 years. Most of the current furnishings in the chancel date from the 1950s and 1960s.

When the church is vibrant and healthy our buildings change to adapt to our changing activities and priorities. Thirteen years ago, a new, musician-led, cooperative orchestra, called *Symphoria*, was formed in Syracuse. In order to support the new orchestra, St. Paul's removed pews from the front of the nave to make space for *Symphoria* to perform. This began a thirteen-year partnership that continues today with the recently renamed *Syracuse Orchestra*.

Like a good friendship, our partnership with *The Syracuse Orchestra* is built on trust, shared interests and shared values. We are in partnership with *The Syracuse Orchestra* not because it's good business for us, but because, according to the values we hold, it seems like the right thing to do. St. Paul's has a similar, values-based partnership with *A Tiny Home for Good* (see p. 8). Healthy partnerships like these make us stronger, more vibrant, more deeply engaged with the community God has given us.

Through most of the past thirteen years the Orchestra has brought in staging, large platforms that serve as a stage for the musicians. This has always seemed to be a temporary solution. Bringing in staging is expensive for the Orchestra. The temporary staging interferes with our normal worship, is not attractive and creates hazards that are unacceptable for a long-term relationship. Bringing staging in and out of the building also leads to significant heat-loss and occasional damage to the building.

Several months ago, I began conversations with the Vestry and with leaders of the Orchestra to create a long-term solution that would meet the needs of both parties. The Orchestra leadership has been extremely helpful and responsive; they love having concerts at St. Paul's and there is lots of trust and mutual respect between us. Our Vestry has been similarly engaged, and worked to come up with a solution that creates new opportunities for St. Paul's in our worship.

In response to a bid from a contractor trained in historical preservation, St. Paul's Vestry and the Orchestra leadership came to an agreement to build a permanent stage and communion rail that will meet the long-term needs of both organizations. The stage and communion rail will conform in all respects to the appearance of the chancel and enhance the beauty of the church, while eliminating the hazards and obstacles associated with temporary staging.

Our agreement includes the following elements:

- * Onsite work will be completed in August of 2026.
- * The stage will be built with minimal alteration to the existing structure.
- * The materials and design elements are the same as those found in the existing chancel woodwork.
- * The main portion of the stage will be 11 and 1/2 inches above the floor of the nave, 38 feet wide and 12 feet deep.



St. Paul's Syracuse

- * There will be a single step in front of the stage for access, similar to the two steps that are currently used to access the floor of the chancel.
- * A new communion railing, nearly identical to the existing communion railing near the altar, will be built at the perimeter of the stage, with an opening at the front step.
- * The portions of the communion railing closest to the pews will be removable.
- * The stage will provide at least 60% of the staging that is needed by the Orchestra for their concerts.
- * The Orchestra will store several sections of temporary staging in the nave for concerts where they are needed.
- * Temporary staging will not be in place during Sunday morning worship services.
- * A grant from *The Syracuse Symphony Foundation* is providing 60% of the funding for the project.

For St. Paul's, the most important result of this project is that our congregation will be able to gather for communion together, at the new communion railing. Over the years we've become accustomed to our current practice at the distribution of communion. For me, people taking turns to receive communion or a blessing is a little bit like people going through the drive-through window at Wendy's. From what we read in Holy Scripture, it would be better for us to be gathered together, standing or kneeling at a communion railing. This will be closer to the shared meal Jesus and his disciples experienced at the Last Supper.



Please speak with me or with one of our wardens, Ieva Doyle or Joe Russo, if you have any questions or concerns about these plans. I look forward to the Sunday at the beginning of September, when our congregation is able to gather for communion, together, in the center of our worship space.





National Fund for Sacred Places Site Visit

By Cathy Wolff

On Thursday, March 12th, Rosie Laughran, Program Associate for the National Fund for Sacred Places, came in person to meet with Philip Major, Betsy Elkins, Doug Mouncey, and me and to see the final outcome of the Open Doors project. Also attending the meeting virtually were five representatives of the National Fund, which is a partnership of Partners for Sacred Places and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

The National Fund for Sacred Places has been with us from the very beginning as the first funder of Open Doors. This site visit was the last step to closing out a grant that was awarded in 2019. We will receive the final payment of \$125,000 in 4-6 weeks.

The meeting included discussion of all that we have been through during the entire course of the project, its impact on our congregation and the broader community, what lessons we have learned, and what impact the grant had on St. Paul's. From the beginning and through every challenge we encountered the National Fund has been our friend and supporter. Open Doors is a success thanks to their financial investment and, more importantly, what we learned through our association with the National Fund.



Following the meeting, we gave Rosie and her virtual colleagues a tour inside and out to show them all that has been accomplished, thanks in part to their grant. Thank you, National Fund for Sacred Places!

Birthday Party for Vivian

Vivian is turning 3!!!!
Everyone is invited to celebrate with us on Saturday, April 11th from 2-5 pm in the Hansen Dining Room!

Please text Tiffany Miner at 607-221-9551 if you plan on attending!





The Church Rummage Sale is Back!

By Doug Mouncey

Perhaps you've read that the Antiques Road Show is returning to Central New York this summer. It's NOT taking place at St. Paul's.

In response to the overwhelming public demand, St. Paul's GREAT RUMMAGE SALE is returning for the first time in several years. The initial curtailment due to the COVID pandemic needed to be extended during our Open Doors construction.

The Rummage Sale is scheduled during the Syracuse Arts & Crafts Festival when thousands of shoppers pass our doors. This year the Festival is scheduled for the weekend of July 24 – 26.

Parishioners are invited to do two things.

- First, let Doug Mouncey know if you can serve as a volunteer. There will be lots of things to do ahead of time, during the sale, and afterwards. To be successful, we're going to need lots of helpers, and it will be a fun way to build a sense of community.
- Secondly, please start to save items to be donated for our sale. We'll share details later in April about what we can accept and not accept, and when we can start to bring them to the church. For now, a quick guideline is that everything should be clean, that they work, that any needed repairs are done and that any necessary literature or accessories are included.

As in the past, we will also need volunteers to welcome visitors into the church during the Festival weekend. Details about that will also be shared later in April.

Doug may be contacted for more information via email at assistant@stpaulsyr.org



One of our past rummage sales



Good News from A Tiny Home For Good

By Betsy Elkins

We are excited to share that, thanks to a very generous anonymous donor, A Tiny Home for Good has the funding they need to build 10 small apartments on the second floor of our parish house. We have been talking about this partnership between St Paul's and A Tiny Home for Good for over four years now and it will become a reality before too long.



The task force of SPC and ATHFG folks has resumed meetings to review the partnership and specific plans for the apartments. St. Paul's is represented in this group by Fr. Philip, Doug Mouncey, David Morgan, Amy Mangram and Betsy Elkins.

We will be sharing more in the coming months as the plans are finalized, permits secured, demolition and construction begins. While we all have some construction fatigue, this is an exciting next step for us. We look forward to having new neighbors in our building! Our building was never meant to be empty and sharing with ATHFG helps our community neighbors.

We will continue to have events at St. Paul's with our partners from ATHFG such as the Thanksgiving dinner in November and the Chili lunch on March 27. Some residents and staff of ATHFG have attended our soup lunches during Lent.

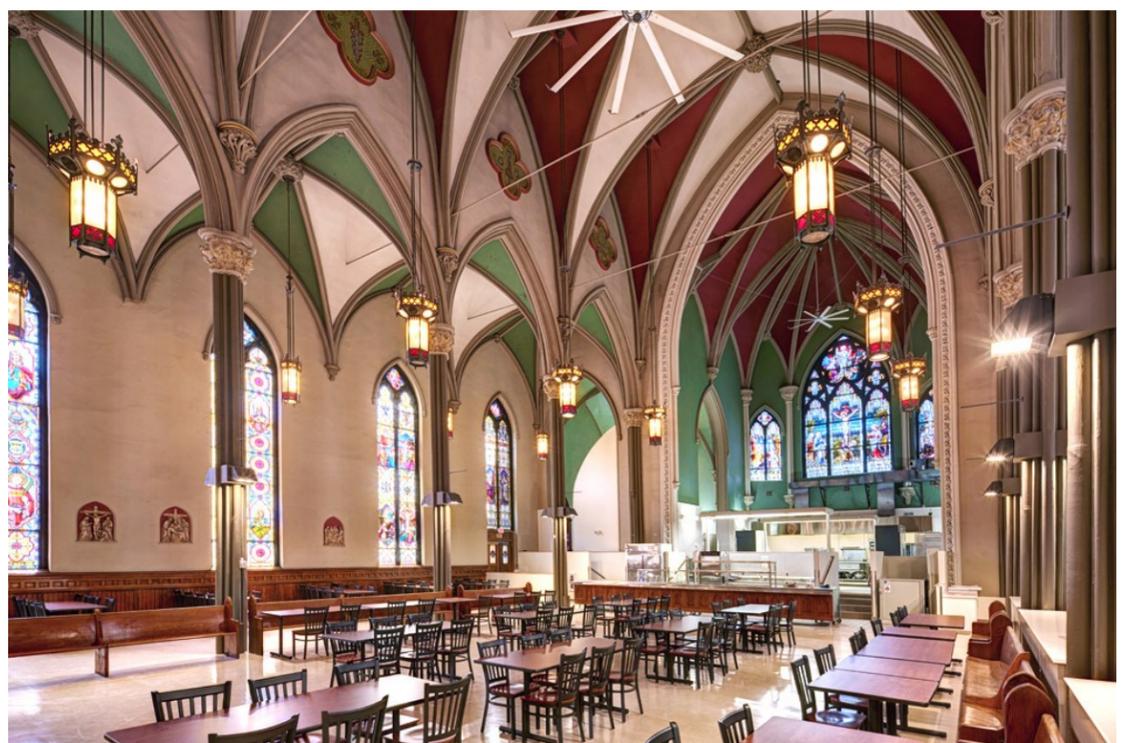
Volunteers Needed for Serving at the Samaritan Center

By Davida Hyland

Volunteers are needed.

St. Paul's has committed to serving at the Samaritan Center on N. State Street on the following Saturdays in 2026: June 6, September 26 and November 14. The shifts are from 12:30 to 3 p.m. and at least 15 people are needed per shift to serve and clean up!

Please contact Davida Hyland via text: 201-898-3478 or send an email: djhyland4@gmail.com if you can help on one of these dates.



If you have never volunteered at the Samaritan Center, consider doing so now. Your work will be much appreciated by the guests and staff



Using the Doorbell and Fobs

By Fr. Philip

It's been three years since St. Paul's has had a doorbell! The doorbell and fob reader at the new Parking Lot Door are working. The doorbell and fob reader are located side by side, between the two doors. Here's how to use them.

The **Fob Reader** is on the left. To unlock the door with your fob follow these steps:

1. Look for the device with the red light at the top. This indicates the door is locked.
2. Don't hold your fob on the red light, that won't work!
3. Hold your fob at the bottom of the device, near the word 'Brivo'.
4. You'll hear a click and the red light will turn green for a moment.
5. Use the door on the right to enter the church.



The **Doorbell** works like a 'Ring' doorbell camera, and is on the right. To ring the doorbell:

1. Look for the tiny red light at the bottom of the unit labelled 'AIPHONE'.
2. Underneath the light there is a light colored, rectangular button. Press the button once.
3. You will hear the doorbell ring.
4. Wait a minute, since staff members may need to come from another office to get to the doorbell screen.
5. Office staff can see you through the camera at the top of the doorbell. They will greet you through the intercom and unlock the door.

Oriental Rug Available!

Would you like a large oriental rug in your home? Take a look at this one on display in the Hansen dining room. Give us your bid and it could be yours. Bidding starts at \$1000 and we will accept bids through the end of March. Place your bid in an envelope and send to the office.





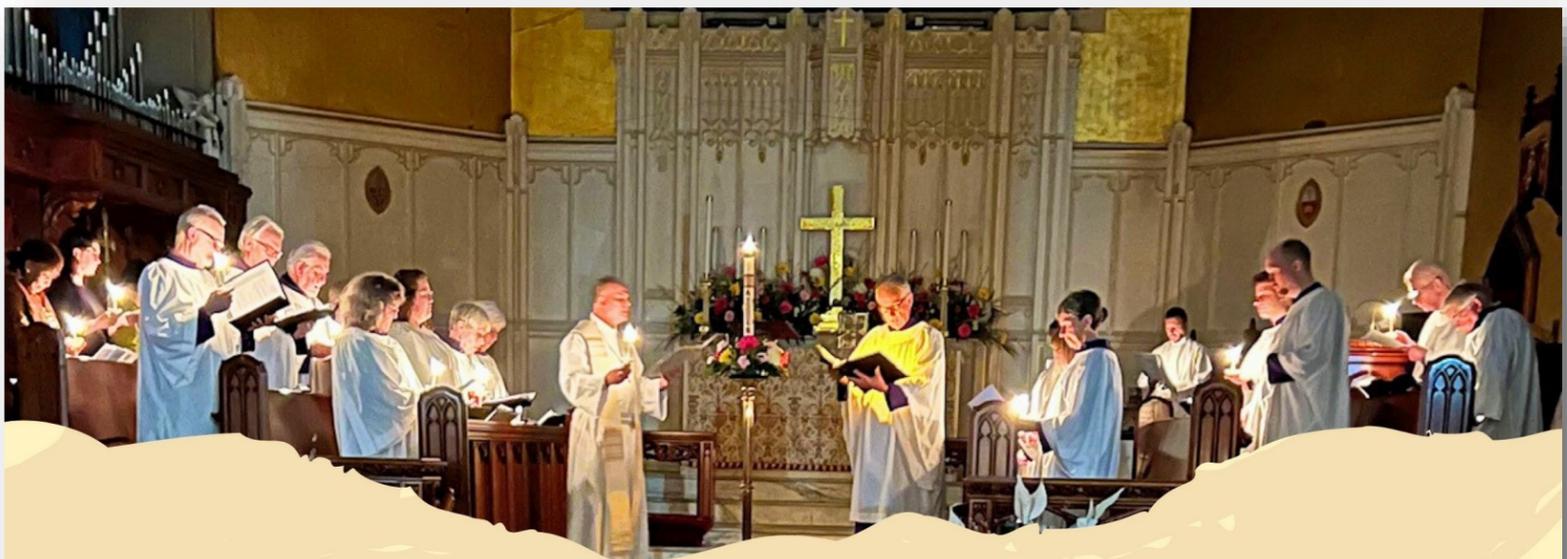
Good Samaritan Event

By Betsy Elkins



St. Paul's has a long-standing relationship with The Samaritan Center, a soup kitchen which serves meals to our hungry neighbors 7 days a week. The center's main fund-raising event, *An Evening of Hope and Resiliency*, will be held on Thursday April 17 at The Skaneateles Lodge. Details for this event may be found on the Samaritan Center's website: www.samcenter.org.

St. Paul's will not be purchasing a table for this event this year, but we encourage our members to support this event with their attendance and/or a donation.



St. Paul's Holy Week Services

All services will be live streamed
except Wednesday's Lenten Prayers



www.stpaulsyr.org

-  **Palm Sunday, Sunday, March 29, 10 a.m.**
-  **Lenten Prayers Wednesday, April 1, 12:10 p.m.**
-  **Maundy Thursday, April 2, 5:30 p.m.**
-  **Good Friday, April 3, 5:30 p.m.**
-  **Easter Vigil, Saturday, April 4, 7:00 p.m.**
Begins with 40 minutes of candlelight with incense
-  **Easter Sunday, April 5, 10:00 a.m.**

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
220 East Fayette Street Downtown Syracuse





Adult Formation: Everything You Need to Know as You Age!

By Jeanne Avery

Our Final Session for the Spring of 2026 is April 12 at 11:45-12:45 p.m. A new member of St. Paul's Senegal Mabry will be discussing the testing, evaluation and diagnosis of the different mental conditions from dementia on.



This will be our concluding presentation for this program year. We will be resuming the programs in September.

Many thanks to Erin Boswell and her co-worker Cindy. They did an excellent presentation on Nascentia Health Care.

These photos are from the presentation on Nascentia Health Care



Children's Formation

By Jeanne Avery

The older children will be taking a more active role in the worship this spring and continuing in the Fall. They are very anxious to have a part.

We look forward to Macie Boswell's baptism on Easter

On a humorous note: Vivian's daddy came into the nursery today looking for his daughter. I announced that she learned to cut with scissors today. He looked in a state of panic- he did not pass out though!



St. Paul's Syracuse

Please Join Us!

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION 1826-2026

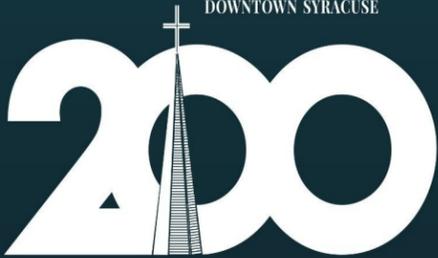


SATURDAY
MAY 16TH 3:00 p.m.

- ◆ CELEBRATORY WORSHIP
- ◆ COMMEMORATIONS
- ◆ RECEPTION

Free and Open to the Public

ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
DOWNTOWN SYRACUSE



WHERE LOVE GROWS
1826 - 2026

220 EAST FAYETTE STREET DOWNTOWN SYRACUSE



STPAULSYR.ORG



St. Paul's Syracuse



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ST. PAUL'S CELEBRATES 200 YEARS

Bicentennial DINNER

Worship • Fellowship • Dinner & Program

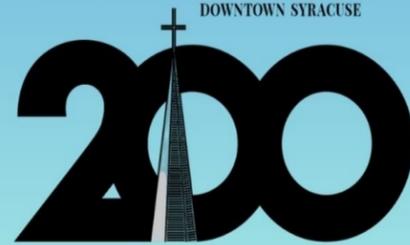
Please join us for a Bicentennial Dinner celebrating the very day, 200 years ago, when leaders of our emerging congregation signed incorporation documents.

FRIDAY MAY 22
5:00 P.M.

\$25 per person

Tickets available during Sunday
coffee hour beginning
April 12 from Ieva Doyle.
Contact Ieva at 315 278-5807
Email: ieva.doyle@gmail.com
Get your tickets by May 10!

ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
DOWNTOWN SYRACUSE



WHERE LOVE GROWS
1826 - 2026

220 East Fayette St. Downtown Syracuse



April Calendar

Wednesday, April 1, 12:10 pm, Lenten Prayer Service —Sanctuary
Wednesday, April 1, NO SOUP THIS WEEK
Wednesday, April 1, 3:00 pm, May 22 Dinner Team Meeting-Zoom
Wednesday, April 1, 4:30 pm, Contemplative Prayer—Private Zoom Channel
Thursday, April 2, 5:30 pm, Maundy Thursday Dinner and Service
Thursday, April 2, 7:00 pm, Choir Rehearsal
Friday, April 3, 5:30 pm, Good Friday Service
Saturday, April 4, 7:00 pm, Easter Vigil



Sunday, April 5, 9:50 am, Godly Play Sunday School & Nursery in the Hadley Chapel
Sunday, April 5, 10:00 am, Worship— Easter Sunday Service and Baptism of Macie Boswell
Monday, April 6, 12:00 pm, Bible Study—Brewster Room
Tuesday, April 7, 5:00 pm—Bicentennial Steering Committee—Zoom
Wednesday, April 8, 3:00 pm, May 22 Dinner Team Meeting-Zoom
Wednesday, April 8, 4:30 pm, Contemplative Prayer—Private Zoom Channel
Thursday, April 9, 7:00 pm, Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, April 11, 2:00 pm, Vivian's Birthday Party—RSVP with Tiffany Miner

Sunday, April 12, 9:50 am, Godly Play Sunday School & Nursery in the Hadley Chapel
Sunday, April 12, 10:00 am, Worship— Live Stream & In Person
Sunday, April 12, 11:45 am, Adult Formation Program on Aging-Brewster Room
Monday, April 13, 12:00 pm, Bible Study—Brewster Room
Monday, April 13, 3:30 pm, Finance Meeting—Zoom
Monday, April 13, 7:00 pm, Common Threads—at Georgette Schmidt's home
Tuesday, April 14, Deadline for May Courier
Wednesday, April 15, 3:00 pm, May 22 Dinner Team Meeting-Zoom
Wednesday, April 15, 4:30 pm, Contemplative Prayer—Private Zoom Channel
Wednesday, April 15, 7:30 pm, Feminist Theology—Montgomery Zoom
Thursday, April 16, 7:00 pm, Choir Rehearsal
Friday, April 17, All Day Rehearsal Syracuse Orchestra
Saturday, April 18, All Day Rehearsal Syracuse Orchestra
Saturday, April 18, 10:00-12:00 noon, Open Pantry Drop Off

Sunday, April 19, 9:50 am, Godly Play Sunday School & Nursery in the Hadley Chapel
Sunday, April 19, 10:00 am, Worship— Live Stream & In Person
Sunday, April 19, 11:45 am, New Members Class—Rector's Office
Sunday, April 19, 3:00 pm, Syracuse Orchestra Concert—Ticket Required
Monday, April 20, 12:00 pm, Bible Study—Brewster Room
Monday, April 20, 4:00 pm, Worship Ministry Team—Brewster Room
Tuesday, April 21, 5:30 pm, Vestry Meeting—Brewster Room
Wednesday, April 22, 3:00 pm, May 22 Dinner Team Meeting-Zoom
Wednesday, April 22, 4:30 pm, Donor Wall Reception
Wednesday, April 22, 4:30 pm, Contemplative Prayer—Private Zoom Channel
Thursday, April 23, 7:00 pm, Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, April 25, Time TBA, Society For New Music Rehearsal



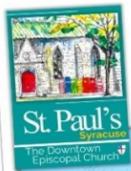
St. Paul's Syracuse

Sunday, April 26, 9:50 am, Godly Play Sunday School & Nursery in the Hadley Chapel
 Sunday, April 26, 10:00 am, Worship— Live Stream & In Person
 Sunday, April 26, 11:45 am, New Members Class—Rector's Office
 Sunday, April 26, 4:00 pm, Society for New Music Concert—Ticket Required
 Monday, April 27, 12:00 pm, Bible Study—Brewster Room
 Monday, April 27, 1:15 pm, Bicentennial History Team—Brewster Room
 Tuesday, April 28, 5:00 pm, Buildings and Grounds Meeting—Zoom
 Wednesday, April 29, 3:00 pm, May 22 Dinner Team Meeting-Zoom
 Wednesday, April 29, 4:30 pm, Contemplative Prayer—Private Zoom Channel
 Thursday, April 30, 7:00 pm, Choir Rehearsal

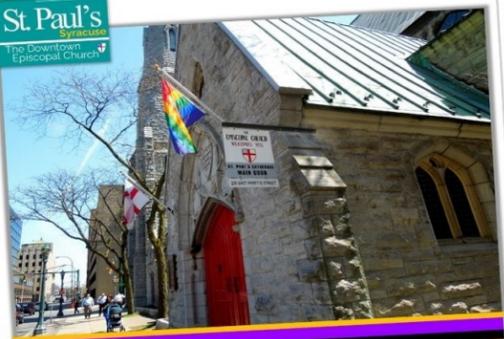


April Birthdays

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
JIM POTTS 4/26
JOSEPH VON SOUDER 4/27
RUTH BROWN 4/29



The Courier
 Monthly Newsletter



St. Paul's Syracuse
 The Downtown Episcopal Church

www.stpaulsyr.org

The deadline for the May Courier is Tuesday, April 14



Send only the final article. Please do not copy
 Judy on articles sent to everyone for edits.

Please send articles as an attachment using Word or Google Docs or another common word processing program and send any photos as JPG files.
 A reminder: Please do not put in formatting such as **indents or bullets**.
 We will add those during editing.



A Concert for Haiti



TO SUPPORT AN ANNUAL MEDICAL CLINIC IN PAULETTE, HAITI

SUNDAY APRIL 12, 2026
3:00 P.M.

PEBBLE HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
5299 JAMESVILLE RD, SYRACUSE

Musicians Performing:
Rob Bridge - Marimba
Kevin Moore - Piano
David Rudari - Vocals
Timothy Schmidt - Guitar
Jessica King - Bassoon

There will be a basket for donations and a reception after the concert sponsored by the Haiti Education Mission

