



Welcome!



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Sunday Schedule

Worship

7:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist

9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
(*ASL Interpreted*)

11:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist
(*Livestreamed*)

Formation for All Ages

10 to 11 a.m. Church School

Preschool, Pre-K, & Kindergarten: Godly Play (North Classroom)

Grades 1-3: Godly Play (Evans Room)

Grades 4-6: Workshop Adventures (O'Hear Room)

Grades 7-8: Rite 13 Room (3rd Floor Youth Rooms)

Grades 9-12: J2A (3rd Floor Youth Rooms)

10 to 11 a.m. Adult Forum

Nursery Care

Babies and toddlers are important members of our worshiping community, too. Should little ones (or their parents) need a break, we offer nursery care from 9 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. every Sunday.

Young children are cared for in the nursery and toddler rooms by paid and trained staff. You are welcome to take your little one to childcare at any point during the service.

A NOTE FROM OUR RECTOR

Welcome to St. Paul's!



Hello and welcome,

We're so glad you are considering our community as your new church home. We are a dynamic, diverse, and open community of people who come together to seek and know God; care for and enjoy one another; and serve others locally and around the world. Through worship, pastoral care, formation, outreach, and fellowship, we strive to live lives of faith with and for one another.

Whether you are a life-long Episcopalian, coming from another faith background, or newly exploring your spirituality, you are most welcome here! Take a look at our ministries described in the following pages. Please be sure to fill out our Welcome Card and reach out with questions. We look forward to getting to know you!

Jeanne +

The Rev. Jeanne Leinbach

Fill out our Welcome Card!
Or go to:
stpauls-church.org/welcome



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**St. Paul's
Episcopal Church**
2747 Fairmount Boulevard
Cleveland Heights, OH 44106

(216) 932-5815
www.stpauls-church.org
info@stpauls-church.org

Pastoral Care Line:
(216) 238-4001



BILL WELSH
St. Paul's Parish Member

Worship

Contact the Rev. Brandon Ashcraft for more information: bashcraft@stpauls-church.org

Altar Guild

Responsible for preparing the altars and the altar areas for all services, including baptisms, weddings, funerals, and feast days.

Chalice Ministers

Administer the chalice (wine) at all services and assist in the leadership of the service.

Eucharistic Visitors

A trained lay person authorized to take the consecrated elements (bread and wine) to members of the congregation who are hospitalized, homebound, or otherwise unable to attend church.

Lectors and Intercessors

Read the lessons from Scripture (“lector”) and lead the Prayers of the People (“intercessor”) during worship services.

Ushers

Greet and welcome the congregation and visitors to our worship services, assist with seating, distributing the worship bulletins, collecting the offering, and tidying the space for the next service.

We believe that...

All are welcome at Christ's table

Because this is the table not of the church but of God,

And it is made ready for those who love God and those who want to love God more.

So come,

Those of you who have much faith and those of you who have little,

Those of you who have been here often and those of you who have not been here at all,

Those of you who have tried to follow and those of you who have failed.

Come.

For it is God who invites you and who longs to meet you here.

Seeking. Serving. Loving. *Together.*



Adults

Fellowship

Contact the Rev. Jessie Gutgsell Dodson for more information: jdodson@stpauls-church.org

Newcomer Council: Coordinates regular events to welcome our newest members to St. Paul's.

Parish Fellowship Committee: Plans events and gatherings for the whole congregation.

Women's Council: Open to all women, this group meets monthly for fellowship.

Men's Council: Open to all men, this group combines fellowship and service. Meets monthly.

Young Adult Group: Fellowship and service for adults in their 20s and 30s. Meets monthly.

SAGES: Fellowship and formation for active retired people. Meets quarterly.

Lay Weeders: Plans and cares for our extensive gardens, and hosts an annual Herb Sale.

Eliza Backus Guild: A women's group that meets monthly for programs, service projects, and fellowship.

Christian Formation

Contact the Rev. John Kennedy for more information: jkennedy@stpauls-church.org

Adult Formation Committee: Plans the weekly Adult Forum and other formation programming, including an annual film series each winter, various guest speakers, and seasonal small group offerings.

Adult Forum: St. Paul's offers programming for adults on Sundays during the 10 o'clock hour that examines current issues within seasonal themes, looking to connect our beliefs with our experiences.

Contemplative Prayer: A parishioner-led group that meets each Friday for meditation, prayer, and discussion.

Education for Ministry (EFM): A four-year program of theological education covering Old Testament, New Testament, church history, and contemporary theology, led by trained mentors.

Men's Spirituality: A weekly gathering of men of all ages to share their spiritual journeys.

Women's Spirituality: A semi-monthly meeting of women of all ages to share their spiritual journeys.



Pastoral Care

Contact the Rev. Jessie Gutgsell Dodson for more information: jdodson@stpauls-church.org

Parish Prayer List

Members can add themselves or their loved ones to our parish-wide prayer list. Prayer lists are printed each week in our Sunday bulletin. Contact the parish office for more information: (216) 932-5815.

Parish Visitor Program

Trained lay (non-ordained) volunteers are paired with homebound parishioners to offer companionship, support, and connection to the church.

Meal Ministry

A team of parishioners volunteer to prepare homecooked dinner for parishioners experiencing a temporary need for meals due to a major life event.

Rides Ministry

A team of parishioners offers rides to fellow parishioners in need of transportation to church events, doctor's visits, and other appointments.

Knitting Circle

This care group knits prayer shawls to be given to people in times of need, and baby gifts for our newest arrivals. Knitters of all ages and skill levels are welcome to join this group.

Grief Support

Parishioners experiencing a death in the family receive a series of books throughout the following year, providing spiritual support in a season of grief. In addition, an annual Service of Remembrance is held each fall to honor those who have died over the past year.

All members are welcome to meet with any member of the clergy at any time to discuss pastoral concerns. Typical concerns might include health challenges, relational disruptions, life transitions, and crises of faith. In cases of emergency and after regular business hours, we encourage you to use our pastoral care phone line (216-238-4001) which is forwarded directly to the cell phone of a clergy member.



Music and Art

Contact Kevin Jones for more information:
kjones@stpauls-church.org

Choirs

St. Paul's offers choirs for all ages with the central belief that participation in worship through music has the capacity to form us as Christians.

For adults, college age and up, the **Senior Choir** leads the music at the 11:15 a.m. service during the program year. Director of Music Kevin Jones is the director of this choir. Contact Mr. Jones if you are interested in joining or if you would like more information.

Also for adults, the **Handbell Choir** rehearses weekly and plays at both 9 and 11:15 a.m. services monthly. Contact Lois Bell, Handbell Choir Director, for more information: loismusic@hotmail.com

We believe that every child can sing, and we believe in supporting the budding artist within. From the youngest ages, our chorister program helps discover and develop healthy vocal production, musical and liturgical understanding, team spirit and collaboration, and the sense of what it is to lead the worship of God.

- For choristers in grades 1-2, the **St. Catherine Choir** meets on Thursdays from 4:30 to 5 p.m.
- For choristers in grades 3-6, the **St. Cecilia and St. David Choirs** meet on Thursdays from 5 to 6:30 p.m.
- For choristers in grades 7-12, the **Youth Choir** rehearses on Sundays from 11am to Noon.

All choristers sing on a varying schedule at the 9 a.m. service during the program year. Kelsey Ferguson, Director of Children and Youth Choirs, directs and instructs these choirs. Contact Ms. Ferguson if you are interested in enrolling your children or if you would like more information: kferguson@stpauls-church.org



Nicholson B. White Gallery

Over the past 25 years, the gallery has shown the works of numerous local artists in a variety of media. A gallery committee selects and installs three shows each year. Opening receptions are held for the public to meet the artists. Learn more about the gallery on our website: www.stpauls-church.org/gallery.



Outreach

Contact the Rev. Brandon Ashcraft for more information: bashcraft@stpauls-church.org

ACT II Resale Shop

St. Paul's resale shop sells donations of clean, quality merchandise including men's and women's clothing and small housewares. Proceeds fund outreach ministries of St. Paul's as well as facility renovations and improvements, music programs, and more. Shoppers and volunteers are always welcome. The shop is open on Thursday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

EDWINS Committee

Works in partnership with EDWINS Leadership & Restaurant Institute to provide a support network to formerly incarcerated adults who are enrolled in the EDWINS hospitality education program.

Global Mission Action Group

Oversees St. Paul's relationships with mission partners around the globe from Honduras, to El Salvador, to Tanzania. The ministries of our partners support education and promote medical services, clean water, community development, and mental and spiritual health.

Greater Cleveland Congregations

St. Paul's is a member of Greater Cleveland Congregations (GCC), a non-partisan coalition of faith communities and partner organizations in Cuyahoga County working together to build power for social justice.

Greater Cleveland Habitat for Humanity

St. Paul's supports Habitat's mission to put God's love into action by bringing people together to build homes, communities, and hope. Parishioners participate with members of other local faith communities in Habitat's annual 'Faith Build' project.

Homeless Stand Down

Each spring, St. Paul's members provide several hundred personal care kits for this event, which serves more than 1,500 individuals in our community confronting homelessness.

Loaves & Fishes

This ministry of hospitality serves monthly meals at two local homeless shelters. There are many ways for parishioners to participate, from preparing food in advance to serving meals on-site.

Reading Camp Cleveland

Parishioners support the flourishing of students entering the 4th and 5th grades by helping to advance their reading and social skills. Volunteer opportunities are available through two programs: an overnight camp at diocesan retreat center Bellwether Farms, and a day camp in partnership with Open Doors Academy.

Tutoring Program

Volunteers offer educational support to students at a local elementary school.



Children

*Contact Lauren Dockery, Director of Children and Youth Ministries, for more information:
ldockery@stpauls-church.org*

Formation

Godly Play is a Montessori-based approach to spiritual formation that respects the innate spirituality of children and encourages curiosity and imagination in experiencing the mystery and joy of God. Each week we share sacred stories, enjoy self-directed creative activities, and grow as a faith community. St. Paul's offers Godly Play classes for Preschool through Kindergarten-aged children, and for children in grades 1 - 3.

Workshop Adventures (grades 4 - 6) is a thematic and story-based curriculum designed by our St. Paul's team to build community and encourage authentic engagement with the language of faith. In each session, we connect with each other and explore biblical stories through projects that challenge our minds, hearts, and imaginations. We study scripture, make videos, practice sign language, build cities, take field trips, play games, and experience God.

Fellowship

The Village is a fellowship group for families with young children. We gather for minor holidays like Halloween and Valentine's Day for casual parties. Crafts and activities are provided to entertain the children, giving parents a chance to catch up. This is a great way to get to know other church families in a casual setting.

TotalChaosInTheNameOfTheLordAmen! (or "Total Chaos" for short) is our fellowship-focused youth group for grades 4-6. Total Chaos meets several times a year for fun activities like bowling, sledding, laser tag and more. This fun pre-youth group provides opportunities to make new friends and develop a more profound sense of community outside the church building.



Youth

Contact Lauren Dockery, Director of Children and Youth Ministries, for more information: ldockery@stpauls-church.org

Formation

Rite 13 (grades 7 - 8) focuses on communal and individual identity-building, creativity, and growing independence. **Journey to Adulthood (J2A)** (grades 9 - 12) emphasizes building skills for adulthood, understanding the importance of Christian community, and serving the world's needs. Both curricula celebrate the gifts each participant brings as a young leader in the community. They encourage the youth to step into greater responsibilities in our church, such as Acolyte Captains, Head Choristers, Youth Vestry representatives, and participants in any number of St. Paul's committees.

Youth Confirmation Classes (grades 8 - 9) is a two-year course meeting monthly throughout the school year. It is based on the Apostles' Creed, the ancient statement of faith professed by confirmants in the rite of Confirmation. This class is intended to accompany and equip confirmants for a journey of discernment as to whether they feel called to make a mature, public affirmation of faith in Jesus.

Harlan Mission Trips: For more than twenty years, St. Paul's youth have spent a week each summer working on the construction or repair of homes in Harlan County, Kentucky, working with a local ministry, Christian Outreach with Appalachian People (COAP).

Fellowship

Christian Action through Student Theatre (CAST) is where youth produce, direct, act, serve as tech and stage crew, and sometimes write for annual productions of Winter One-Acts and a spring musical. Adults serve as coordinators, music directors, and tech advisors to support these efforts.

Youth Group: (grades 7 - 12) Our youth group meets every Sunday evening during the program year for fellowship and fun. The teens play games, prepare and share a meal, sing songs, and more. Youth Group is a safe space to spend time with church friends and relax after a long week of school and extracurriculars.

Worship

Acolytes participate in the procession and assist at the altar for worship services. Acolyte roles include torchbearers, Gospel book bearers, crucifers, and more.



Giving to St. Paul's

Contact Pam O'Halloran, Director of Operations, for more information: pohalloran@stpauls-church.org

Members share responsibility for all aspects of the church, including ensuring its financial health. We call this "Stewardship." Seventy-seven percent of St. Paul's budget is supported through annual gifts from current parishioners. The primary vehicle by which these funds are raised is through the annual giving campaign in the fall, where members are invited to make a pledge for the coming year. Even though the campaign is in the fall, new members are invited and encouraged to pledge at any point during the year.

What is a pledge?

A pledge is the sharing of our gift intentions, what we hope to offer to the church during the year.

Why do we pledge?

We pledge for two reasons: first, our pledges enable our parish leaders to create responsible, informed budgets. Second, and more importantly, pledging for the coming year provides the giver the opportunity to offer to God from their "first fruits" — not from what is leftover.

How much do we pledge?

We suggest proportional giving. Decide on a percentage of your annual income to give and set a goal to increase as you are able.

How can we give to St. Paul's?

Gifts can be made by putting an offering in the plate each week (personal envelopes can be provided), setting up an auto-debit with our controller, making a credit card gift online, or through gifts of stock, an IRA distribution, or donor-advised fund.

Where do our gifts go?

Gifts support all operations of the church including the clergy, outreach activities, education programs, and facility maintenance. A portion is also given to support the diocese and the national church.

What are the other sources of income?

St. Paul's receives approximately 23% of its annual revenue from endowment and trust income and space use fees. The balance comes from our current members.

Newcomer F.A.Q.

Contact the Rev. Jessie Gutgsell Dodson for more information: jdodson@stpauls-church.org

How do I join the parish?

There are several ways to join the Episcopal Church. One is Baptism, a sacrament performed by a priest or a deacon. When you are baptized in an Episcopal Church, you become part of the Body of Christ and a baptized member of that parish.

We do not re-baptize people in the Episcopal Church. We recognize all baptisms done with water “in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” If you are unsure whether you were baptized, you can be baptized with a “conditional baptism” — there’s a separate prayer for that as well.

Another way to join is through Confirmation, a sacrament that is an “adult” statement of faith, a renewal of your baptismal covenant. Only a bishop can lay hands on someone for confirmation in our tradition. When you are confirmed at St. Paul’s, you become a confirmed member of the parish. Our diocesan bishop, or one of our retired assisting bishops, visits us every year. When we know the bishop’s visitation date, a confirmation class (“Episcopal 101”) is announced for interested parishioners. Youth confirmation is offered as well (see our Youth page for more). Confirmation is required for many leadership positions, including Vestry members, those who assist in worship as lay readers, chalice bearers, and lay eucharistic visitors.

After you decide to join, please complete our Newcomer Form (use the link at the bottom of the next page) to help us get to know you. Please also consider making a financial pledge to the church as a sign of your commitment to the community.

What if I was confirmed in another denomination?

If someone comes to the Episcopal church from the Roman Catholic Church and has been confirmed, they can be “received” into the Episcopal Church by the bishop (in the same service as confirmation). We recognize their confirmation, having been done by a bishop in Apostolic Succession, as is done in our tradition. If someone was confirmed in a tradition without Apostolic Succession, we do not recognize that confirmation as a sacrament so they would be confirmed in our tradition, by our bishop, who is in Apostolic Succession.

How do I join St. Paul’s if I’ve been a member of another Episcopal church?

You should notify your previous parish that you wish a “letter of transfer” from them. This applies only to Episcopal parishes. If you need assistance with a transfer, call our church office: (216) 932-5815.

How is the Episcopal Church governed?

The Episcopal Church is governed democratically and functions at three main levels of organization: national, diocesan (regional), and local. The national church is governed by our presiding bishop, the Most Rev. Michael Curry. The diocesan level is governed by our bishop, the Rt. Rev. Mark Hollingsworth, Jr. The local level is then divided into individual parishes. Our rector, the Rev. Jeanne Leinbach, leads our congregation.

What is the Vestry?

The Vestry is our governing body of the parish. Made up of members representing the congregation, their responsibilities include managing resources and finances, ensuring effective organization and planning, stewardship of corporate property, and selecting the rector.

What is the EpiscoPAL Program?

This program pairs newcomers to St. Paul's with current members to help ease the transition into a new church home. Matches happen on a rolling basis and include a 12-month commitment. Pals are invited to attend church events together, sit together for worship, and help introduce the newcomer into the community.

Is there a newcomer class?

Each winter, newcomers are invited to a 4-week series (called St. Paul's 101) to get to know the ministries and operations of the church. Each week includes opportunities to engage with a different area of ministry while getting to know the staff, clergy, and fellow newcomers of the parish.

Fill out our Welcome Card!

Or go to:

stpauls-church.org/welcome



More Resources

Books

Your Faith Your Life: An Invitation to the Episcopal Church by Jenifer Gamber with Bill Lewellis — A comprehensive and accessible introduction to all things Episcopalian.

Walk in Love: Episcopal Beliefs and Practices by Scott Gunn and Melody Wilson Shobe — Walks through the liturgical year, the sacraments of the church, habits of daily prayer, and the teachings of Anglican Christianity.

Inwardly Digest: The Prayer Book as Guide to a Spiritual Life by Derek Olsen — *The Book of Common Prayer* is more than a service book; it is a map to a deeper relationship with God, a framework for developing a more intentional and rewarding life of faith.

The Ultimate Quest: A Geek's Guide to (The Episcopal) Church by Jordan Haynie Ware — This tongue-in-cheek introduction uses an “it’s geek to me” approach to translate Episcopal concepts and rich traditions into geek language, accompanied by comics that help maneuver through the liturgical and theological workings of our tradition.

Apps

BCP: Daily Office Readings — Lists the day’s readings so you can use them during your prayer times. It’s also a great way to keep reading the Bible!

Venite App — Resource to help you pray the daily prayers from the Book of Common Prayer

Websites

MissionStClare.com — A website that features daily prayer options, including music, readings, and prayers, based on the Episcopal calendar of readings.

How2Charist.com — A free 60-minute video that guides the viewer through a typical Episcopal service of Communion, explaining why we do what we do.

Ways to Get Connected

Contact the Rev. Jessie Gutgsell Dodson (jdodson@stpauls-church.org) or Nathaniel Powell, Director of Communications (npowell@stpauls-church.org), for more information.

Welcome Card

All visitors are encouraged to complete our welcome card. This signs you up to receive our weekly e-newsletter to know more about our congregation. A member of the clergy will reach out soon after you submit your card to learn more about you and welcome you to our community.

Member Form

Those wishing to join the parish are asked to fill out a member form to complete their profile.

St. Paul's Weekly

Our weekly e-newsletter offers helpful information on upcoming worship and programming events in the community. Be sure to sign up on our website!

Parish Notes

Our monthly newsletter includes news on upcoming events, clergy reflections, profiles of newcomers and parishioners, and a variety of articles reflecting on past and future opportunities in the parish. It is printed and available for pick-up around the church, emailed on the first of the month, and may be found on our website: www.stpauls-church.org/parishnotes

Sunday Notes

Our weekly bulletin insert includes the parish prayer list, scripture readings for the day, and important announcements on upcoming events in the parish.

Website

Stay up to date on our events, staff, and worship services by visiting our website: stpauls-church.org.

Realm

Realm is our online member portal and communication hub. By logging in to Realm, you can easily connect with church staff and fellow parishioners, especially those in your ministry groups. You can review and edit your personal information and privacy settings, find and RSVP to events, check your giving history, donate online, post photos, and more. For those looking for deeper involvement or connection, you can find and sign up for volunteer opportunities or learn about and join parish groups.

Follow Us on Social Media!



@stpaulscl



ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

SUNDAY SERVICES
7:45AM - 9:00 AM - 11:15 AM