

### Today's Stewardship Pearl



Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble.

Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.

For, "Whoever would love life and see good days must keep their tongue from evil and their lips from deceitful speech.

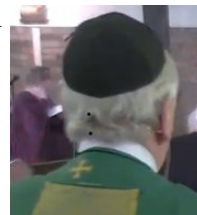
They must turn from evil and do good; they must seek peace and pursue it.

-1 Peter 3: 8 – 11

**The Zucchetto** - People have asked, "Fr. Gary, why do you wear that black thing on your head?"

Here's the answer: it keeps my bald spot warm!

It's called a zucchetto and is worn by some Roman Catholic and Anglican/Episcopal clergy.



It is similar in appearance, but not identical, to the yarmulke, which Jewish men are required to wear during any sacred ceremony or in a sacred place.

Its original use was purely practical. Clerics who were tonsured (had a ring of hair removed from the top of their head) used it to cover the tonsure. This was done to retain body heat which was an absolute necessity in the unheated churches and monasteries of the past.

From this practical use it acquired the role of identifying ecclesiastical rank by the color of the zucchetto. Popes wear white, cardinals wear scarlet, bishops wear violet, and priests wear black.

When Bishop Rob Price comes for a visit, you will see him wearing a violet zucchetto.

### **COVER ART**

The 12th-century "Temptation of Christ" mosaic in St. Mark's Basilica, Venice features gold-ground, Byzantine-style, tesserae work. It depicts three scenes: stones to bread, the Temple pinnacle, and the mountain kingdom, featuring a recurring, small-winged, dark-hued devil.

**Mount of Temptation**, is a mountain over the city of Jericho in the West Bank, Palestine; ancient Christian tradition identifies it as the location of the temptation of Jesus described in the New Testament Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke, in which it is said that, from "a high place", the Devil offered Jesus rule over all the kingdoms of the world.

### **Pray for the Church and the Body of Christ**

The Daughters of the King are dedicated to supporting the prayer needs of St. Paul's. They are available in the west corner of sanctuary every Sunday after the 10:30 a.m. worship service for private prayer. You can also submit intentions in the prayer box in the narthex.

To add names to the prayer list, please contact the church office.

Names will remain on the prayer list for one month unless otherwise renewed.

**Please pray for: *Rest of the soul of Ed Smith (Karen's father-in-law)*  
*Ginny Sanderson, Jane Dews, Veronica Lopez, Linda Massey***

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### **ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS**

#### **2026 40 Days of Gratitude & Reciprocity with United Thank Offering (UTO)**

**Week 1:** We are starting our Lenten journey with UTO by focusing on our homes, many people have said that home is where the heart is, so we're going to give thanks and think about ways we can give back to our homes. We are passing out UTO Blue Boxes, donation envelopes, and brochures that explain the work of UTO. Palm Sunday, March 29, we will collect boxes and envelopes as a part of our UTO celebration. You can also join a 5 session Lenten Book Group (beginning Tues. Feb. 24 at 12:00 Noon) with UTO at: <https://unitedthankoffering.com/lent/>, also view Weekly E-pistle for links.



UTO was founded in the late 1800s to encourage Episcopalians to practice gratitude and make a thank offering to support innovative mission and ministry around the globe. 100% of all donations given to UTO are given away the following year.

#### **Journey of Lent: February 22 - March 22**

**Feb. 22: We begin our journey**

**March 1: We reflect on God's promises and strengthen our faith**

**March 8: We focus on turning away from sin and returning to God**

**March 15: We are reminded of God's mercy**

**March 22: We renew our commitment to prayer, fasting and service**

#### **Holy Week**

- ◆ Palm Sunday, **March 29**
- ◆ Tenebrae, **Wednesday, April 1**
- ◆ Maundy **Thursday, April 2**
- ◆ Good Friday, **April 3**
- ◆ Easter, **April 5**



#### **"Looking for Lectors"**

**Would you like to be one of our readers on Sunday mornings?** We would love to welcome you into our Worship Ministry to take an active part in our weekly services by reading the weekly scriptures and Prayers of the People. If wearing vestments and reading from the high altar does not appeal to you, you may choose to read from the floor podium if you prefer —whichever feels most comfortable for you.

If this ministry speaks to your heart, please reach out to Debbie Shaffer at 210-725-8892 or [debshaffer\\_tx@yahoo.com](mailto:debshaffer_tx@yahoo.com). We would be delighted to have you join us in this rich and meaningful ministry.

# St. Paul's Episcopal Church



**St. Paul's Episcopal Church**  
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Jesus Christ, *Head of the Church*  
The Rt. Rev. Robert P. Price, *Bishop*  
The Rev. Gary D. Hill, *Priest In Charge*  
The Rev. Gordon Miltenberger, *Assisting Priest*  
David Gish, *Music Director*  
Cathy Hargrave, *Organist*

*First Sunday of Lent*  
*February 22, 2026*

## Service Times at St. Paul's Episcopal Church

### **SUNDAY**

10:30 am. . . . . HOLY EUCHARIST  
11:45 am. . . . . FELLOWSHIP, CLARDY HALL

### **MONDAY**

9:00 am. . . . . CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

### **WEDNESDAY**

10:30 am. . . . . MORNING PRAYER II  
6:00 pm. . . . . **Will Resume After Easter** . . . . . BIBLE STUDY

### **THURSDAY**

8:00 p.m. . . . . COMPLINE SERVICE (access St. Paul's Facebook Page)

#### Next Sunday, February 22nd

**Lector/LEM:** Jim Pence  
**Acolyte** Karen Smith  
**Thurifer** Matt Wolff  
**Vestry Person of the Day:** Frank McKee, Debbie Shaffer  
**Intercessory Prayer:** Suzanne Taylor  
**Tech Team:** Director-Jeff Faunce; Titles-Jennifer Faunce;  
Audio-Brad Mathis; Cameras-Nick Stone  
Social Media-Georgianna Harrison  
**Altar Guild:** Laurel Pence, Nancy Wyant,  
Georgianna Harrison

#### Next Sunday, March 1st

**Lector/LEM:** Debbie Shaffer  
**Acolyte** Jim Pence  
**Thurifer** Laurel Pence  
**Vestry Person of the Day:** Matt Wolff, Nancy Wyant  
**Intercessory Prayer:** Suzanne Taylor  
**Tech Team:** Director-Jeff Faunce; Titles-Jennifer Faunce;  
Audio-Brad Mathis; Cameras-Nick Stone  
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**All baptized Christians are welcome to receive the Holy Eucharist.**

BCP = Book of Common Prayer  
H = Hymnbook (red)  
A3 = Alleluia III (yellow)

#### **More Than Enough — Donate Digitally!**

Open your phone's camera and aim it at this QR code. This will take you directly to our donation page at [www.stpaulstx.org/giving](http://www.stpaulstx.org/giving) where you can donate to our Giving Program.

**Thank you for your support!**



## Holy Eucharist

### Hymns and Songs for the Day

Procession	I Want to Walk as a Child	H #436
Gospel	Christ for the World to Sing	H #537
Offertory	In His Time	A3 #86
	Jesus Name Above all Name	A3 #89
Doxology	Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow	H #647
Communion	Just a Closer Walk	A3 #104
	Let Us Break Bread	A3 #107
Procession to the World	Lord of All Hopefulness	H #482

### Collect

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you. *People:* And also with you.

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations; and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

### Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

*Lector:* A reading from Genesis.

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die." Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves. *Lector:* The Word of the Lord. *People:* Thanks be to God.

### Psalm 32 (Read responsively by whole verse.)

- 1 Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!
- 2 *Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, and in whose spirit there is no guile!*
- 3 While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, because of my groaning all day long.
- 4 *For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.*
- 5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt.
- 6 *I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.*
- 7 Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.
- 8 *You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.*
- 9 "I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; I will guide you with my eye.

### Psalm 32 continued

10 *Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."*

11 Great are the tribulations of the wicked; but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.

12 *Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord; shout for joy, all who are true of heart.*

*All:* Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

### Romans 5:12-19

*Lector:* A reading from Romans.

As sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned-- sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come. But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ. Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. *Lector:* The Word of the Lord. *People:* Thanks be to God.

*Please stand for the Gospel Hymn which will be announced.*

### Matthew 4:1-11

*Celebrant:* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

*People:* Glory to you, Lord. Christ.

Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" "Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you, 'and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

*Celebrant:* The Gospel of the Lord. *People:* Praise to you, Lord Christ.