

Jan
2024



Wherever you are in your journey of faith you are always welcome at St Paul's.



**Mother Monica
Burkert-Brist,
Priest**

revmbb.saint413paul@gmail.com

Cell phone 608-215-9232

*Office Hours
Wed 1—2:30 p.m.*



**Bill Dunlop,
Deacon**

revbill.saint413paul@gmail.com

Cell phone 217-649-1236

*Office Hours at Literatus
Thurs 9—10 a.m.*



**Meredith Harmon,
Deacon**

mereoncemoore@gmail.com

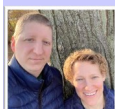
Cell phone 608-516-2156



**Jen Devers,
Parish Admin**

saint413paul@gmail.com

Cell phone 920-220-9143



**David & Sara
Dow,**

Church Musicians

davdow@gmail.com

Cell phone 706-987-0504

Choir Practice

Thursdays 6:30 p.m.

Sundays 9:00 a.m.

*If you are interested in joining
the choir, please speak with
David Dow.*

All voices are welcome!

2024
HAPPY NEW YEAR
Events Calendar

Date & Time	Event	Location	Contact
Jan 9, 12n	Clergy Roundtable	Church	Mother Monica / Dcn Bill
Jan 14, 9:50a	Youth Formation	Church	Vicki Wright / Jean Kalivoda
Jan 14	Youth Shopping for Mary's Room	after Church	Vicki Wright
Jan 14	Vestry Budget Meeting	after Church	Mother Monica
Jan 22, 5:30 p	Men's Gathering	Rosati's	Dcn Bill
Jan 23, 7 p	A Case for Love movie	Sun Prairie	Jen Devers
Jan 24, 3:30p	Mary's Room Meeting	Church	Ellen Klaus
Jan 28	Annual Meeting	Church	Mother Monica

Loose Plate Offerings & Designated Funds

In January it will go for Bread & Roses Community Dinners.

**ANNUAL
MEETING**

Be Connected. Be Heard. Be Informed.

Sunday, January 28th is our yearly St. Paul's Annual General Meeting. It will be immediately following the church service. Please plan to attend. It is important to attend to get updates on the state of church affairs, elect officers for the next year and discuss important changes to our bylaws and governing policies.

Please bring a dish to share. A sign-up is in the Guild Hall. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak with Mother Monica.

Building Use: Yoga Classes with Nancy Bauer 920-988-7016
Mondays: 5:30—6:30 p.m. Fridays: 9:30—10:30 a.m.

413 S 2nd Street, Watertown, WI 53094
www.saintpaulswt.org (920) 261-1150 saint413paul@gmail.com



Mother Monica's Message

When does Christmas **REALLY** End?

Our secular world around us has already taken down the trees-- in fact, before Christmas Eve the local stores had Valentine's Day candy fighting for shelf space with the candy canes and stocking stuffers. The elevator Christmas music in the stores is turned off at midnight on Christmas Day and the rest of the world returns to 'normal'.. til next Halloween when the stores trot it all out again.

How far we have fallen from what our Christmas Season is supposed to be. In the Christian tradition, we observe a Twelve Day Christmas season from Dec 25 up through Jan 5. On January 6, our focus turns to the Season of Epiphany, when we celebrate the arrival of the three Kings or wise men to visit Jesus. See, *Deacon Bill's message*.

The Christmas Season is famously celebrated in the Twelve Days of Christmas Carol. For an interesting explanation of the history and symbolism of the carol, see the following link below:

<https://www.dynamiccatholic.com/advent/twelve-days-of-christmas>

Would you like to celebrate Christmas even LONGER? Leave the tree and decorations up through January? Some Christians, especially in parts of England and Europe, continue the Christmas season until the Feast of Candlemas, on February 2. Candlemas, also known as the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus Christ, is a Christian holiday commemorating the presentation of Jesus at the Temple. It is based upon the account of the presentation of Jesus in Luke 2:22-40. On this feast day Christians often bring candles to church for blessing and use in their homes throughout the year.

Whichever end date you choose--the take home message is this: Christmas is not a single night, nor 24 hour feasting and gift giving extravaganza. It is a holy time of celebration, fellowship and reflection, preparing all of us to embrace the arrival of Christ into our lives and hearts And by so doing, enabling us to go out into the world to share God's love with all God's children.



From Deacon Bill

We are moving from celebrating the Christmas season to Epiphany. The diocese will mark that date with the ordination of 5 people to the diaconate at the cathedral. I have been mentoring one of the candidates for ordination over the last year, which gives an opportunity to reflect on our journeys and the journey to my ordination and ministry afterward.

The word Epiphany can be used in two ways in our language that can be related; first is an appearance or manifestation especially of a divine being and the second an illuminating discovery, realization, or disclosure. We celebrate on the arrival of the wise men on January 6th as the first manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles.

Recognizing and answering God's call to us is also requires an epiphany, where each of us takes the time to respond to God's call to us. Recognizing a call becomes that illuminating discovery, realization, or disclosure in our life. Discerning a call to a ministry, whether a lay ministry in the church or the community, an occupation or role in the greater community, or ordination as a minister in the church requires an epiphany, a light coming on in our mind and soul. That epiphany can be a single event or series of gentle nudges from God in a direction. An epiphany can also be something that we discern to change how we take care of each other or take care of ourselves so we can answer our greater call. We tend to view an epiphany is a major event but many times they are a series of small illuminating discoveries that point us in a different, more healthy direction.

During Advent we talked about finding those thin places, where distance between God and Heaven and the Earth is thin and we can hear God's voice. Whether it is a quiet place, a conversation with someone, or on a walk in the community or nature; those thin spaces are where those epiphanies occur, if we listen. So, in this season of Epiphany, let us all look for the light of Christ in our thin places and see what direction God is pointing us on our journey.

Deacon Time at Literatus

Deacon Bill will be at Literatus this coming month, generally on **Thursdays, from 9:00 to 10:00 am**. Come join him for a morning cup of coffee or hot chocolate.



January

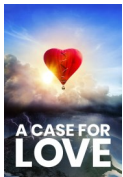
Birthdays

- 11th: Jen Devers
- 11th: Christine Reichardt
- 14th: Dan Senn
- 17th: Elaine Milewsky
- 18th: Laurence Byrne
- 22nd: Steve Simpson
- 22nd: Juliet Slavens
- 23rd: Toron Fritz
- 25th: Sara Dow
- 28th: Parker Harmon

Anniversaries

- 3rd: Steve & Deebee Simpson
- 10th: David & Sara Dow

A Case for Love movie!!



Join us on **January 23rd** to go and watch the movie inspired by Bishop Curry's message "A Case for Love"! **We'll leave church at 6 p.m.** or meet us at the **Marcus Theater in Sun Prairie** at 6:45 p.m. Let Jen know if interested in going! Cost is \$15 each.

Looking Forward!

Feb 4	Vestry Meeting
Feb 7	Mary's Room Diaper Delivery
Feb 10	Lefse Making Class
Feb 11	Youth Formation
Feb 14	Ash Wednesday
Feb 17	Church Family Game Night
Feb 27	Men's Gathering at Amado's Jr



Men's Gatherings

Men will enter our winter schedule, sticking closer to Watertown in case the weather turns.

Our next gathering is scheduled for Monday, January 22nd, at 5:30 pm at Rosatti's Pizza (1907 Market Way, Watertown). Join us for this opportunity to share a meal, for fellowship, and storytelling. Contact Deacon Bill if you have any places you would like to try.

Plan ahead: February 27th (Tuesday) – Amado Jr.'s, 403 E. Main St., Watertown, WI 53094

Lefse making with the Halversons

We know the Halverson's Lefse is in high demand during the Bazaar. Now let's find out how to make it on **Saturday, February 10th**. If you are



interested, please RSVP to Jen Devers by Sunday, February 4th. **Cost is \$25/ person**. This will include all the ingredients used, all the tools needed, and you'll get to take lefse home to enjoy!

Church Family Game Night

Join your church family at a friendly game night fellowship event on **Saturday, February 17th at 6 p.m.** Bring a small snack to share and come check out the games. Feel free to bring some of your family's favorite games. Or just come for some fellowship and enjoy some laughs!

"IT'S THE THINGS WE PLAY WITH AND THE PEOPLE WHO HELP US PLAY THAT MAKE A GREAT DIFFERENCE IN OUR LIVES."

MR. FRED ROGERS. 1928-2003



Looking Ahead at more Social Fun: Oscar Movies—> Ladies - come check out all the buzz of the Oscar movies (more info to come) and then join us for a dress-up Oscar Party at Jen Devers on March 10th.

B.I.N.G.O!! March 17th—Let's have a fun coffee hour playing Bingo with prizes!!!



Transitions in Ministry Underway at St Paul's

St Paul's will experience a number of significant transitions in ministry leadership as we end 2023 and enter 2024. Our junior warden, Jean Kalivoda is stepping away from her leadership role after two years of dedicated and creative service. Martin Ruder graciously stepped into the void when Alice Mirk stepped down as Sr. Warden due to her move to Minnesota in October and has agreed to remain Sr. Warden during 2024.

Our music ministry is also undergoing significant change as we enter a New Year. After six years of dedicated leadership, Caroline Senn has resigned as our Music Director in order to devote all of her time and attention to her work as the Chief Financial Officer at the Diocese of Milwaukee. We will miss her weekly presence and gifts among us but look forward to her returning regularly as a guest musician with us whenever her schedule allows. David and Sara Dow will be assuming leadership for our music ministry as Interim Church Musicians as we further discern the structure for our music program in the future.

Times of change can create significant anxiety. However, we need not fear. We are blessed in this church family with strong fellowship, faith in the future and confidence that the Holy Spirit is working among us to forge a strong way forward.

**HELP
WANTED**

*Your parish
needs you!*

St. Paul's is looking for a few volunteers to assist with church business.

⇒ Treasurer: Parish member who oversees bookkeeper & financials.

⇒ Bookkeeper: knows QuickBooks, reconciles books each month, and runs reports for vestry & treasurer.
Paid Position.

⇒ 3 Vestry Members: 3 year term on the vestry.

If you are interested in learning more, please speak with Mother Monica.

Welcoming Watertown Update

Our ecumenical efforts with several area churches to "Build a Welcoming Watertown" for everyone continues. Our next community meeting will be Sunday afternoon **Jan 14 from 12:30 to 2:30 pm at the Watertown Public Library Community Room**. Refreshments will be provided. The focus of the group will be to prepare and build a community organizing effort around the goal of creating a more hospitable and progressive community for all. Questions? Contact Mother Monica for more information or to get on the email list.

Year-end Financial Update

We are pleased and thankful to report that St Paul's closed out the year with very robust giving, thanks in large part due to folks' completing their pledge commitments and the success of our Match donation campaign.

First, our pledge drive ended up with a slight increase over last year in both the number of pledging households and the overall dollar amount of pledges. Total pledges: \$82,480 (up \$4650 from last year) and 26 pledging households (a gain of 3) . We also received a total commitment of \$2,000 for the Firm Foundation Building Fund. And ---drum roll please-- our Match campaign has resulted in total donations of \$7220. (including the \$2500 pledge that was the seed money). **Praise the Lord!**

Christmas Eve Service



Bread & Roses Community Dinner





OUTREACH NEWS

A donation basket is at the back of the church for any donation drop offs. Monetary donations can be put in the offering plate.

Diaper Delivery Feb 7th at 9:45 a. m.



Many hands make light work!

Record number of diapers to start out the year. Thanks to all who helped unload!! And thanks to the Village Diaper Bank!! →



Help Us Help Hungry Neighbors

Would you like to help us help our neighbors who experience food insecurity? Did you know that St Paul's regularly provides support through three area food ministries in Watertown?

*The Bread and Roses meal ministry was originally founded at St Paul's but is now housed at Immanuel Ev Lutheran Church and provides a free meal to anyone in need on Thursday evenings. Member Liz Fritz is on the Bread and Roses Board and may be contacted for more information.

*St Paul's is also an active participant in the weekly Food to Go and Grow (FTGAG) bag program which sends food home weekly to families identified through the public school system as being in need of extra help. We provide items for the bags as requested by the weekly menu (applesauce or fruit, etc.). Martin Ruder is our lay leader and main contact for this program.

*In the summer months (June, July and August) St Paul's provides weekly bag lunches to any who attend our weekly Sandwiches in the Park program on Tuesdays. A balanced bag lunch is available for any who join us. This coming summer we will be looking for 3 Leaders (one for each month) to run the program. Questions? Contact Fran Vandre, our Ministry leader this past year.

If you would like to financially support any of these programs, simply provide a check with the name of the program in the memo line: "Bread and Roses", "FTGAG" or "Sandwiches".

Socks & Undies Drive for our Schools

The Mission: For the month of January, we will be collecting socks and undies for ages 5—18. They will be distributed to the area schools.

The Reason: Undergarments should not be a luxury for children. They should be able to go to school without that worry. Teachers can easily distribute these items when the need is warranted.

How You Can Help? When you are out, grab a package and drop the donation in the basket at the back of the church. Or you may put money in the offering plate with "Socks & Undies" and we'll purchase for you.

Any questions, please see Deacon Bill Dunlop, Mother Monica, or Martin Ruder.



Church Service Staff Rotation

*Note Changes	January 2024			
Date	Sunday, January 7, 2024	Sunday, January 14, 2024	Sunday, January 21, 2024	Sunday, January 28, 2024
Holiday/Specials	<i>Epiphany</i>	<i>Youth Formation</i>	<i>Baptism</i>	<i>Annual Meeting</i>
Celebrant	The Rev Monica Burkert-Brist	The Rev Monica Burkert-Brist	The Rev Monica Burkert-Brist	The Rev Monica Burkert-Brist
Deacon	The Rev Dcn Bill Dunlop	The Rev Dcn Meredith Harmon	The Rev Dcn Bill Dunlop	The Rev Dcn Meredith Harmon
Sub Deacon	Richard Wackett	Peter Wright	Richard Wackett	Peter Wright
Acolyte	--	--	--	June Harmon
Chalice Bearer	--	--		--
Lector	Mike Klaus	Fritz Family	Georgia Irre	Vicki Wright
Musician	Caroline Senn			
Choir Director	--	David Dow	David Dow	David Dow
Altar Guild	Don Gottschalk	Don Gottschalk	Don Gottschalk	Don Gottschalk
Ushers	Cathy Kerwin & Don Gottschalk	Mary Flint & Dan Milewsky	Cathy Kerwin & Ken Krueger	Don Gottschalk & Mary Flint
Camera Operator	Jen Devers	Jen Devers	Jen Devers	Jen Devers
Counters	Juliet Slavens & Ellen Klaus	Juliet Slavens & Cathy Kerwin	Nancy Bauer & Cathy Kerwin	Vicki Wright & Ellen Klaus
Altar Flowers				
Coffee Hour	Ellen Klaus		Harmons	
February 2024				
Date	Sunday, February 4, 2024	Sunday, February 11, 2024	Sunday, February 18, 2024	Sunday, February 25, 2024
Holiday/Specials		<i>Youth Formation</i>		
Celebrant	The Rev Monica Burkert-Brist	The Rev Monica Burkert-Brist	--	The Rev Monica Burkert-Brist
Deacon	The Rev Dcn Bill Dunlop	The Rev Dcn Meredith Harmon	The Rev Dcn Bill Dunlop	The Rev Dcn Meredith Harmon
Sub Deacon	Richard Wackett	Peter Wright	Richard Wackett	Peter Wright
Acolyte	--	--	--	June Harmon
Chalice Bearer	--	--	--	--
Lector	Georgia Irre	Byrne Family	Cindy Krueger	Ellen Klaus
Musician				
Choir Director	David Dow	David Dow	David Dow	David Dow
Altar Guild	Don Gottschalk	Don Gottschalk	Jean Kalivoda	Jean Kalivoda
Ushers	Dan Milewsky & Ken Krueger	Cathy Kerwin & Don Gottschalk	Mary Flint & Dan Milewsky	Cathy Kerwin & Ken Krueger
Camera Operator	Jen Devers	Jen Devers	Jen Devers	Jen Devers
Counters	Nancy Bauer & Cathy Kerwin	Vicki Wright & Ellen Klaus	Juliet Slavens & Jean Kalivoda	Jean Kalivoda & Ellen Klaus
Altar Flowers				
Coffee Hour				

Giving to St. Paul's & its Ministries

Did you know that you can give to St. Paul's and its ministries right from your computer or phone? Online giving makes it easy and simple to give your pledge and to any ministry like Mary's Room. You can go directly to our website www.saintpaulswt.org and click on the "Donate" page. That will take you to our giving page. Or you can follow this link: <https://giving.servantkeeper.com/spec-x> As always, you may write a check with the ministry stated in the memo line and it will all go directly to that ministry. Mail checks directly to the church at 413 S. 2nd St., Watertown WI 53094.