



April

**ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

775-358-4474

www.StPaulsSparks.org

The Rev. Kirk A. Woodliff, Rector

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From the Pile on Fr. Kirk's Desk...



Holy Week is upon us, and I am inviting you into the story, into the journey between Palm Sunday and Easter. It will be inconvenient and mess up your normal routines, as it should.

I don't recall Jesus ever saying, "Come follow me. The journey will be convenient, and the path will be easy."

The reality is that our walk with Jesus is anything but convenient or easy. Our challenge at hand is to muster up the courage not to seek a short cut to resurrection, bypassing the messiness of betrayal, denial, suffering, and death.

Holy Week will move us from the light into the darkness. Together in our humanness we will shout Hosanna, praising Jesus and seeking his salvation. We will hear of the humble nature of Jesus as he washes his disciple's feet and then be invited to do the same. Our courage will succumb to fear as the words from our lips move from Hosanna to shouting Crucify Him, and we will stand at a distance of 2000 years and witness Jesus being nailed to a cross, die, and be buried.

It is only in knowing the story of darkness that we can proclaim the glory and light of the resurrection...a story we are all called to share.

I hope to see you.

Food Pantry Volunteers Needed

The pantry needs help! Are you able?

Tuesday 9:00 to 11:00

Bringing in food from the delivery truck and stocking the shelves.

Wednesday 9:00 to 12:00

Helping distribute food.

If you would like more information, or if you would like to volunteer, email TCFPVolunteers@gmail.com

What is Holy Week?

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Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday, April 10th, 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, April 13th

Tenebrae, 6:00 p.m.

(In-person worship only)

Maundy Thursday, April 14th

6:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist with foot washing

Good Friday, April 15th

12:15 p.m. Stations of the Cross

(In-person worship only)

Good Friday, April 15th

6:00 p.m., Good Friday Liturgy

Holy Saturday, April 16th

8:00 p.m. The Great Easter Vigil

(In-person worship only)

Easter Sunday, April 17th, 10:00 a.m.

Followed by an Egg Hunt

Easter Egg Hunt

The Easter Egg Hunt will be held in the garden on **Easter Sunday, April 17th**, immediately following the 10:00 a.m. service. Children ages toddler through 5th grade are invited to participate.

Easter Candy for the Egg Hunt

Pick up some empty easter eggs from the narthex, fill them with individually wrapped peanut free candy and bring the filled eggs back to the church on or before Palm Sunday, April 10th.

No time to fill the eggs? No problem. We invite you to bring individually wrapped peanut free candy to the church by April 10th and the youth group will fill the empty eggs for you.

Thank you for helping make the St. Paul's Easter Egg Hunt a success.

Fork in the Road

My “Fork in the Road” Moment

by St. Paul’s member Daniel Villanueva



My big “fork in the road” moment was when I chose to leave the Catholic Church and join the Episcopal Church. As a cradle Catholic into my early 40’s, attending Mass and social activities were key parts of my life, both because you’re conditioned to believe you have to as a Catholic, and also because a Catholic church was the most familiar thing in every city I lived in from my hometown to college to Germany and to graduate school. But after moving to Las Vegas to work at UNLV in 2000, it became harder to meet people of faith at work and socially. It was a struggle to stay true to my relationship with God and give it the priority it had when I was younger.

Throughout the 2000s, I became ever more comfortable praying or meditating alone as opposed to attending Mass, and so I scheduled activities on Sundays that conflicted with church and Catholic social activities. But Catholic guilt is real, and it didn’t feel right to skip Mass for years and still call myself Roman Catholic...so after a few years I tried again. But things were different. After so long away, the Eucharistic celebration was kind of foreign and it was harder to make the same spiritual connection to God at Mass than when I was younger. I began hesitantly exploring other denominations: First Lutheran because it was founded in the country of my professional career, Germany, then Methodist because that was my mother’s denomination before becoming Catholic. I met wonderful, welcoming people and heard great preaching, but neither church was, for me, a serious spiritual alternative to going to Mass every week.

But then came my fork in the road. I found a denomination I could seriously dare to leave Catholicism for: The Episcopal Church. In 2008, I went to a workshop at Epiphany (Las Vegas) on what to know if you’re a Catholic considering conversion. It was led by a former

Jesuit priest who became an Episcopalian, so he “spoke my language.” At the seminar he said both scary and intellectually seductive things: Episcopalians don’t just have women clergy and married priests and are LGBTQ-affirming because they are in opposition to Roman Catholic traditions. No, this comes from a fundamental difference in the way the Episcopal Church views the relationship between tradition, authority, experience, and community. And then, the kicker: A decision to become Episcopalian shouldn’t be a spur of the moment act just because you like seeing women preside at services, or more tolerant stances on divorce and abortion, etc. For a Catholic, he said, it is a fundamental reordering and re-structuring of your faith tradition from the role of bishop on down.

WOW. I came home that Sunday afternoon really blown away and told my then-fiancée, now wife, OK, I really have to see how attached I am to Catholic traditions before I even look at another denomination or religion. And as I examined my attachment over a period of weeks, painful as it was, it became clear the fork in the road would lead to taking the Episcopal path from then on out. My wife and I were received into the Episcopal Church in 2010 and the “fork” that radically changed my views continues to be a positive choice. Being an Episcopalian has encouraged me to active in social justice issues, service projects, and evangelization. And while Catholicism was appealing for decades because of what I saw as a deep tradition of spirituality, I’ve loved exploring the equally-historic Episcopal traditions and more importantly, our vibrant, lived theology, Given the opportunities to serve others in the community and learn more about my adopted faith tradition through programs like EfM, I’m very glad to have found a tradition that encourages both hitting the streets and the books in community with others.

Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross, also called The Way of the Cross, will be offered on Thursday, April 7th from 5:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and on Good Friday, April 15th from 12:15 p.m. to 12:45 p.m.

The “Seating” of the Bishop

Sunday, May 1, 3:00 p.m.

The Welcoming and Seating of the Bishop will be at Trinity Cathedral, Reno at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 1. This will be northern Nevada's celebration for Bishop Elizabeth and we hope everyone will attend. All the clergy are invited to vest and be part of the procession. A combined choir is also planned, so let Alissa, our Choirmaster, know if you would like to represent St. Paul's. Parking on May 1 will be available along the street as well as nearby lots. Trinity will host a reception for all attending after the liturgy. Reservations are not required for the service. It will be a grand day.

St. Paul's Girls Weekend 2022

St. Paul's Girls Weekend 2022 is scheduled. Please add to your calendars and save the dates Friday, April 29 through Sunday May 1, 2022. Two nights at Camp Galilee, arriving Friday afternoon and leaving Sunday noon, before lunch, Friday night meal to be provided by those attending and all other meals provided by Camp Galilee staff. Cost \$165 per person. We were able to reserve the same cost as 2020 before the Corona Virus pandemic cancelled plans in 2020.

For more information or to confirm your attendance, contact Mary Moss marykmoss1@gmail.com or (805) 495-5636 or Jody Rolfson jody@rolfson.reno.nv.us or (775) 772-5318. Checks can be made out to St. Paul's and note for SPGW 2022, we will have lots of fun, good food, great conversation, and movie fun. Hope to see you there.

Recovery Groups at St. Paul's

Wednesdays: Women's AA @ 6:30 p.m.

Thursdays: Ala-Non Meeting @ 6:00 p.m.

St. Paul's Prayer Team

Please call or email a prayer request to Robin at church or Rita at honda07rita@gmail.com or 775-971-4775.

Prayer requests for your special people will be on for about 2 months, unless you need a longer date. Your special people will be lifted to our Lord each day. Thank you for the privilege of praying for you and your special people.

Altar Guild

We are still looking for volunteers to help with the Altar Guild Team. If you are interested, please contact either Sue Schultz at 775-626-5814 or the church office at 775-358-4474. Training is provided.

Prayers and Squares: May 15th

Prayers and Squares will now meet quarterly. The first "Super" meeting will be Sunday, May 15th after coffee hour. Mark your calendars and invite your family and friends to come join us. All skill levels are encouraged to participate (even if you have never sewn a stitch.)

A light lunch will be served. Please contact Linda Kennedy linda.kennedy.nv@gmail.com if you have any questions, as well as to let her know if you plan on attending.

Adult Class: Episcopal 101

Confirmation, Reception

Reaffirmation, Adult Baptism

Mondays: April 25, May 2-23

6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. (no meeting May 9)

Sign up at Kirk@StPaulsSparks.org

Are you new to the Episcopal Church and want to dig in and explore? **This class is for you.**

Have you been around for a while but have never been Confirmed or Received in the Episcopal Church? **This class is for you.**

Have you never been baptized? **This class is for you.** Have you been confirmed, but you would like to reaffirm/renew your commitment to Christ through St. Paul's? **This class is for you.**

Would you just like to come and learn more about the Episcopal Church and what it means to live out your faith? **This class is for you.**

This class is an adult preparation class for Confirmation, Reception, Reaffirmation and Adult Baptism.

Next Baptismal Day: April 16th

Are you or a loved one seeking the Sacrament of Holy Baptism? If so, contact Fr. Kirk at 775-358-4474 or Kirk@StPaulsSparks.org.

Our next baptismal day will be the Easter Vigil.

What are Confirmation, Reception, Reaffirmation and Holy Baptism?

Confirmation: Confirmation is the affirmation of one's baptismal vows. It is a sacramental rite in which baptized persons make a mature commitment to Christ and receive strength through the Holy Spirit through prayer and the laying on of hands by a bishop. Confirmation is not required to become full members of Christ's Body; baptism takes care of that. But for those who were baptized at an early age they are expected, when mature and ready, to make a public affirmation of their faith.

Reception: Persons presented for Reception are those who have been baptized with water in the name of the Trinity, have previously made an adult public affirmation of faith in any other Christian Tradition (either at their adult Baptism or on a separate occasion), and now desire to live their faith within the fellowship of the Episcopal Church.

Reaffirmation: Reaffirmation is suitable in a variety of situations for persons who have previously been Confirmed or Received. Have you returned to church after a period of being gone? Have you recently experienced some transition in your spiritual or church life that has changed your perspective? Was your Confirmation so long ago that it is time to reaffirm it? Were you so young that you don't feel you were mature at your Confirmation? Reaffirmation is a repeatable rite of renewal.

Adult Baptism: Holy Baptism is the sacrament by which God adopts us as his children and makes us members of Christ's Body, the Church, and inheritors of the kingdom of God. The outward and visible sign in Baptism is water, in which the person is baptized in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. The inward and spiritual grace in Baptism is union with Christ in his death and resurrection, birth into God's family the Church, forgiveness of sins, and new life in the Holy Spirit.

“Mass on the Grass” May 22nd

Save the date so you don't miss out on attending the Northwest Mission District's “Mass on the Grass” on Sunday, May 22nd, at 10:00 am, at Pavilion at Bartley Ranch Park, 6000 Bartley Ranch Road, Reno, 89511.

Sunday Worship Information

We offer 10:00 a.m. blended Praise and Traditional worship, in-person and on Zoom.

Masks are Optional. If you have any cold, flu, or out of the ordinary allergy type symptoms, please join us on Zoom.

UFO Days: May 9th 10th 11th

Join us in the St. Paul's Parish Hall for our next UnFinished Object (UFO) Days. We are holding three days of sewing or crafting fun to raise money for the parking lot project. The cost of the event is \$100. It includes three delicious lunches and a lot of fun with other crafters. You are welcome to come join us even if you don't sew. Just bring your knitting, crocheting, scrapbooking or whatever. We all have projects that we never have time to finish. Contact Margie Binker at 707-684-9153 to sign up or Linda Kennedy, 775-722-1657 for more information. Please spread the word to your family and friends. Don't delay, we only have a few places still available.

Calendar at a Glance

April 7 th	5:30 p.m.	Stations of the Cross
April 10 th	10:00 a.m.	Palm Sunday
April 13 th	6:00 p.m.	Tenebrae Service
April 14 th	6:00 p.m.	Maundy Thursday Service
April 15 th	12:15 p.m.	Stations of the Cross
April 15 th	6:00 p.m.	Good Friday Service
April 16 th	8:00 p.m.	Easter Vigil
April 17 th	10:00 a.m.	Easter Sunday
April 17 th	11:00 a.m.	Easter Egg Hunt
April 25 th	6:00 p.m.	Episcopal 101 Class
April 29 th – May 1 st		St. Paul's Girls Weekend
May 1 st	3:00 p.m.	Seating of the Bishop
May 2 nd	6:00 p.m.	Episcopal 101 Class
May 9 th – 11 th		UFO Days Craft Event
May 15 th	11:30 a.m.	Prayers and Squares
May 16 th	6:00 p.m.	Episcopal 101 Class
May 22 nd	10:00 a.m.	“Mass on the Grass”
May 23 rd	6:00 p.m.	Episcopal 101 Class

What is Holy Week?

From early times Christians have observed the week before Easter as a time of special devotion. As the pilgrim Egeria recorded in the late fourth century, Jerusalem contained many sacred places that were sites for devotion and liturgy. Pilgrims to the holy city worshipped as they followed the path of Jesus in his last days. From this beginning evolved the rites we observe today on Palm Sunday, Tenebrae (Wednesday), Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. These services provide a liturgical experience of the last days of Jesus' earthly life, as well as the time and events leading up to his resurrection. Holy Week ends at sundown on the Saturday before Easter with the celebration of the Easter Vigil.

Palm Sunday

The Sunday before Easter at which Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem is recalled. The observance of Palm Sunday in Jerusalem was witnessed by the pilgrim Egeria in about 381-384. During this observance there was a procession of people down the Mount of Olives into Jerusalem. The people waved branches of palms or olive trees as they walked. The liturgy of the palms is the entrance rite for the service. The congregation may gather at a place apart from the church and process to the church after the blessing of the branches of palm.

Tenebrae (Wednesday evening)

This form of the monastic office (matins and lauds) moves from light and darkness and is structured around psalms, readings, and responsories. The distinctive ceremonial of Tenebrae includes use of fifteen lighted candles. One candle is extinguished as each of the fourteen appointed psalms is completed. The fifteenth candle, symbolic of Christ, is left lighted at the end of the final psalm but it is carried away to be hidden, which signifies the apparent victory of the forces of evil. A sudden loud noise is made at the end of the service, symbolizing the earthquake at Christ's death. The lighted candle is then restored to its place, suggesting Christ's eventual triumph.

Maundy Thursday

The Thursday in Holy Week. It comes from the Latin *mandatum novum*, "new commandment," from Jn 13:34. The ceremony of washing feet was also referred to as "the Maundy." The liturgy for Maundy Thursday provides for celebration of the eucharist and a ceremony of the washing of feet. Following this, the altar is stripped, and all decorative furnishings are removed from the church.

Good Friday

The Friday before Easter Day, on which the church commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus. The liturgy includes the reading of the Passion gospel, a solemn form of intercession known as the solemn collects (dating from ancient Rome), and devotions before the cross (commonly known as the veneration of the cross). The eucharist is not celebrated on Good Friday.

Holy Saturday

The Saturday after Good Friday, which recalls the day when the crucified Christ visited among the dead while his body lay in the tomb. It is also a day that we reflect on what it would be like if Jesus was not resurrected. There is a short simple liturgy with collects and readings.

Easter Vigil or Great Vigil

The liturgy intended as the first (and arguably, the primary) celebration of Easter. The service begins in darkness, sometime between sunset on Holy Saturday and sunrise on Easter and consists of four parts: The Service of Light; The Service of Lessons; Christian Initiation (Holy Baptism) or the Renewal of Baptismal Vows; and the Eucharist.

Easter Day

The feast of Christ's resurrection. According to Bede, the word derives from the Anglo-Saxon spring goddess Eostre. Christians in England applied the word to the principal festival of the church year, both day and season. 1) Easter Day is the annual feast of the resurrection, the pascha or Christian Passover. Faith in Jesus' resurrection on the Sunday or third day following his crucifixion is at the heart of Christian belief.