

## St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

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### A parish of the Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey

The Rt. Rev. William H. (Chip) Stokes, Bishop

The Rev. Paul A. Van Sant, Sr., Rector

Sandra Gaskill, Treasurer

Gerianne Murphy Assistant Treasurer

Pam Unger, Organist & Choir Director

Colleen Clover, Parish Administrator

Tom O'Brien, Sexton

Dottie Kaster, Rector's Warden

### Wardens and Vestry 2018

Dottie Kaster, Rector's Warden

Richard Smithson, Property Warden

William Bodine, Carol Cavanaugh, Randy Walton

Jack Brown, Laura Gural, Tom Larson

Lillian Fink, Marge Pomykala, Peter Quigley

Jo Ann Smithson, Clerk

### Mission Statement

To proclaim the faith that our years have engendered: to use the diversity of our Episcopal experience while working toward a common goal; to teach the young about Jesus and to reach out and affect the lives of those in the community.

*"Wherefore by their fruits you shall know them." Matthew 7:20*

### Welcome to St. Stephen's Church!

We thank you for joining us for worship today. Please stay for coffee hour, and sign our guest book at the podium in the Narthex. If you are looking for a church home, you have just found it. We would love to have you at St. Stephen's. Arrangements for weddings and baptisms can be made by speaking directly with the Rev. Paul A. Van Sant, Sr., Rector.

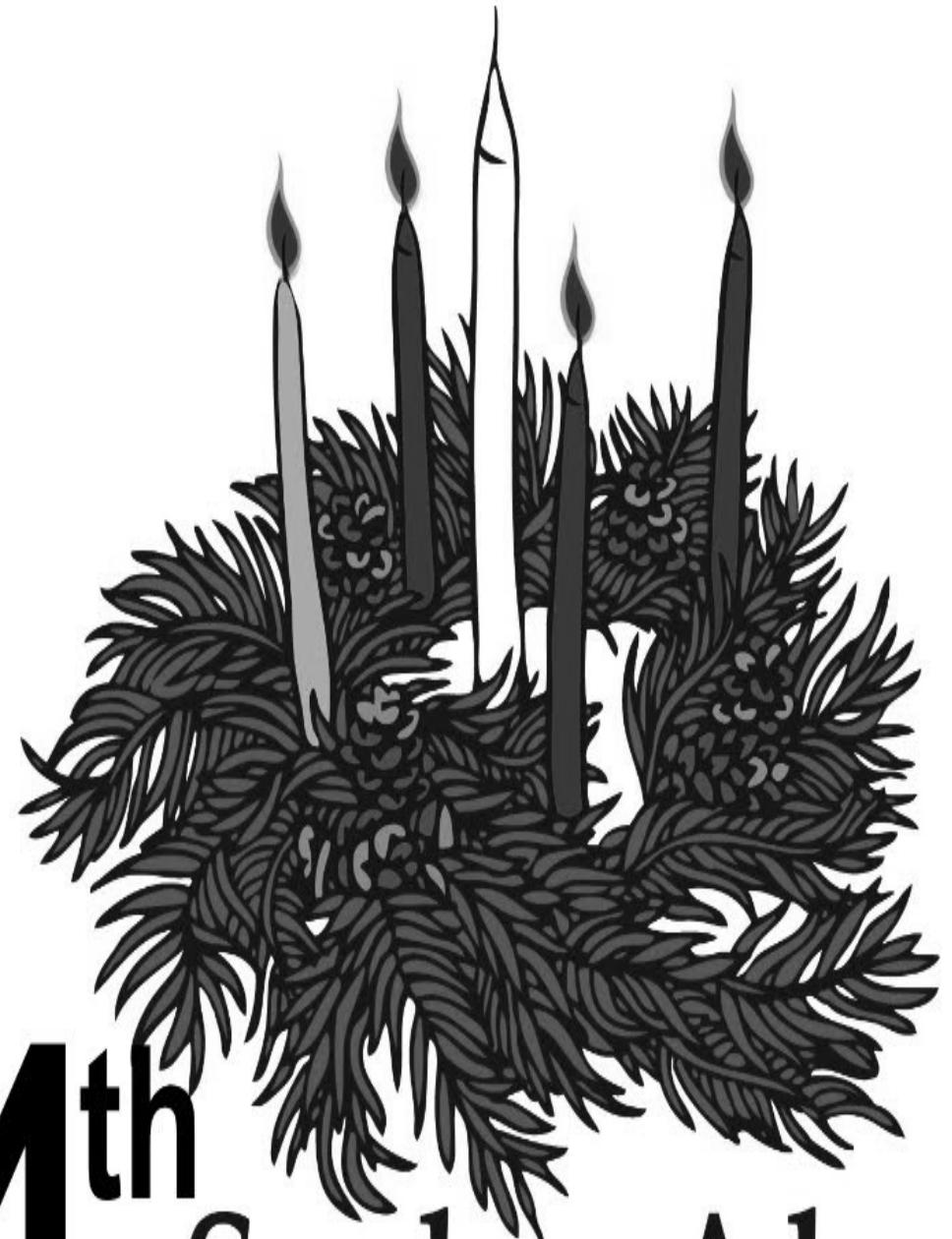
### To Report Illness, Hospitalization, etc.

Greta Pearl for prayer requests: 732-350-7584

Please notify the church office 732/350-2121 of any illnesses or hospitalizations.

If it is an emergency you may also reach Dottie Kaster, Rector's Warden at 732-647-5065 or

Father Paul at his home 609-268-2864.



# 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

**The Fourth Sunday of Advent  
Holy Eucharist Rite I**

**December 23, 2018  
8:00 & 10:00 AM**

Hymnal	THE WORD OF GOD	BCP
56	Processional: <i>“O come, O come, Emmanuel”</i> (vrs.5-8)	
	Opening Acclamation	319
	Confession and Absolution	320
S-91	Kyrie	324
	The Collect of the Day	Insert
	First Lesson: <b><i>Book of Micah 5:2-5a</i></b>	Insert
	<b><i>Canticle 3</i></b>	Insert
	Second Lesson: <b><i>Letter to the Hebrews 10:5-10</i></b>	Insert
	Gradual – <i>“Behold your God”</i>	Insert
	The Holy Gospel: <b><i>Luke 1:39-5</i></b>	Insert
	Sermon: Fr. Paul A. Van Sant, Sr.	
	The Nicene Creed	326
	Prayers of the People	328
	The Peace	332
	Announcements	
73	Offertory Hymn: <i>“The King shall come when morning dawns”</i>	
	Doxology: <i>“All things come of thee O Lord”</i>	
	HOLY COMMUNION	
	Eucharist Prayer II	340
S112	Sursum Corda	
S113	Sanctus	
	The Lord’s Prayer	336
S152	Breaking of the Bread	337
S157	Agnus Dei	
	Communion Hymns:	
256	<i>“The angel Gabriel from heaven came”</i>	
267	<i>“Praise we the Lord this day”</i>	
	Post Communion Hymn <i>“Soon and very soon”</i>	Insert
	Blessing	339
437	Recessional: <i>“Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord”</i>	

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**December 23, 2018**

Serving in the Liturgy today:

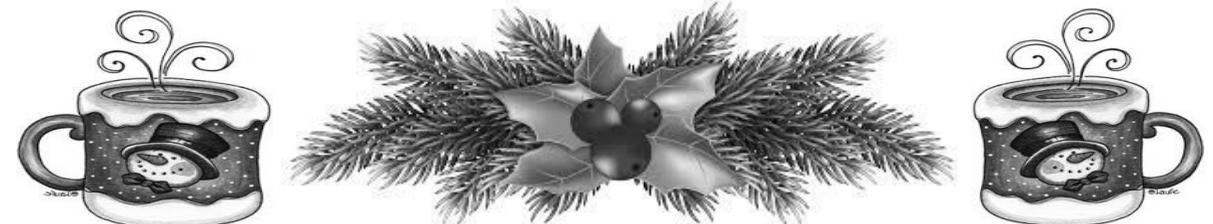
Lector	8:00 AM	Susan Quigley
LEM	8:00 AM	Bill Bodine
Altar Guild	8:00 AM	Mary Storey, Betty Carino
Ushers	8:00 AM	Mary Storey, Glenn Mortimer, Bill Bodine, Peter Quigley
Lector	10:00 AM	Bernice Neuman
LEMs	10:00 AM	Stefanie Rotsaert, Lillian Fink
Altar Guild	10:00 AM	Valerie Thompson, Carol Cavanaugh
Ushers	10:00 AM	Al Thompson, Valerie Thompson

CALENDAR FOR WEEK OF: December 23, 2018-December 29, 2018

Today	Holy Eucharist	8 am & 10 am
	AA Meeting	8:00 pm
Monday	<i>Christmas Eve</i>	<i>see insert</i>
Tuesday	<i>Christmas Day</i>	<i>see insert</i>
Wednesday	Closed AA Meeting	3:00 pm
	Chime Practice	7:00 pm
Thursday	Healing Service	10:00 am
	Choir Practice	2:00 pm
Friday	Pineland Symphonic Band Practice	9:30 am
Saturday	AA Meeting	3:00 pm
	AA Meeting	8:00 pm

Everyone is welcome to come to the coffee hour after worship

*All baptized Christians are invited to receive Holy Communion at our Lord’s Table; regardless of your church affiliation. We encourage you to share with us in this sacrament*





## The Legend of the Poinsettia

*Outside the lowly manger where slept the new-born king  
 Stood a sad and lonely child who had no gift to bring.  
 An angel hovered o’re her and in that star-bright night  
 Made a lovely pathway of flowers-green, red, and white  
 With joyous heart she gathered them and brought them to the child  
 And lo! A radiance touched her when the holy Baby smiled.*

*J. Callaway’s Legend of Christmas*



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## *Philadelphia Flower Show*

**March 4, 2019**

*A beautiful reminder that Spring is not far away!*

*This year’s theme is “**Flower Power**”*

*At the Pennsylvania Convention Center, this years’ show will pay tribute to the enormous impact flowers have on our lives.*

*The cost is \$67.00 (non-refundable) This includes: bus transportation, driver’s tip, and admission.. The deadline to sign up is **February 1, 2019***

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**December 23, 2018  
8 AM & 10 AM**

### **Collect of the Day**

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

### **First Reading**

*Book of Micah 5:2-5a*

But you, O Bethlehem Eph'rathah, who are little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in travail has brought forth; then the rest of his brethren shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. And this shall be peace.



## Canticle 3

- 1 My soul doth magnify the Lord,\*  
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.
- 2 For he hath regarded \*  
the lowliness of his handmaiden.
- 3 For behold from henceforth \*  
all generations shall call me blessed.
- 4 For he that is mighty hath magnified me, \*  
and holy is his Name.
- 5 And his mercy is on them that fear him \*  
throughout all generations.
- 6 He hath showed strength with his arm; \*  
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
- 7 He hath put down the mighty from their seat, \*  
and hath exalted the humble and meek.
- 8 He hath filled the hungry with good things, \*  
and the rich he hath sent empty away.
- 9 He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel, \*  
as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.
- 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.



ORDER OF SAINT LUKE: 2nd Thurs. after healing service.  
PINELAND SYMPHONIC BAND Practice Fridays @ 9:30 am

*2018 Christmas services*

*At Saint Stephen's*

**Monday, December 24th-Christmas Eve**

*Carol Sing—3:30 PM*

*Choral Eucharist—4:00 PM*

*Contemporary Service—7:00PM*

**Tuesday, December 25th-Christmas Day**

*Feast of the Nativity—10:00 AM*

*All are welcome—come join us and celebrate*

*Rector: Father Paul Van Sant*



**HEALING PRAYERS** The Order of St. Luke provides prayers of healing to anyone after Holy Communion on the last Sunday of the month at each service. Members are also available every Sunday after the services. Look for a member near the baptismal font if you would like a prayer of healing after any service.

**YOUR PERSONAL ESTATE PLANNING** Prayerfully consider making an endowment gift to St. Stephen's as part of your estate plan.

**RECTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND** Thank you to all who have donated. There are parishioners as well as other members in our community who benefit greatly from this valued fund. If you wish to contribute, please use



Thank you to everyone who added to this year's flower memorials.

The list will be compiled and printed and available in the Narthex coming week.

May God continue to bless everyone, and Thank you for your support of the Altar Guild.



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### **STEWARDSHIP**

*“Guard, through the Holy Spirit who dwells in us, which has been entrusted to you”*

*2 Timothy 1:14*



**Love. Grow. Serve.**

### **Way of Saint Paul**

*“God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance but God looks at the heart”*

*Galatians 2:6*



### ***Second Reading***

***Letter to the Hebrews 10:5-10***

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings thou hast not desired, but a body hast thou prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings thou hast taken no pleasure. Then I said, 'Lo, I have come to do thy will, O God,' as it is written of me in the roll of the book." When he said above, "Thou hast neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "Lo, I have come to do thy will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

### ***Holy Gospel***

***Luke 1:39-5***

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a city of Judah, and she entered the house of Zechari'ah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the babe in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her from the Lord." And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has regarded the low estate of his handmaiden. For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. And his mercy is on those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm, he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts, he has put down the mighty from their thrones, and exalted those of low degree; he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his posterity for ever."

## Welcome to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

The theme of the Fourth Sunday of Advent is the role of the Virgin Mary in the events that brought about our salvation. A related theme is the Lord's human nature.

The first reading deals with the Messiah's human origins. He will come from the village of Bethlehem within the clan of Ephratha, the smallest and least significant of all the clans of the Tribe of Judah. The importance of this prophecy from the book of Micah is that with the Messiah, as with all people, greatness comes from God rather than from human sources.

It was as an obedient human being that Jesus made the willing offering of himself for our salvation, says the author of the Letter to the Hebrews. The salvation of humanity was accomplished within human life not apart from it.

Human nature has a real and definitive role to play, a role revealed in the story of Mary. Today's Gospel reading is the story of Mary's visit to Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist. Both Elizabeth and her unborn son rejoice in Mary's role. Mary then praises God in the words used by the church at Evening Prayer, "My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior." God's blessing of Mary, the lowly servant, will be extended in the ministry of Christ to all, especially the poor and the lowly. In her acceptance and cooperation with God's will, Mary becomes the model for our response to God and the human agent of God's gift of the redeeming Christ to the world.

From *The Rite Light: Reflections on the Sunday Readings and Seasons of the Church Year*.

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### Announcements

December 23, 2018

#### Prayer to send out LEMs with the Sacrament:

**Celebrant:** N. we send you out to share Communion this week with those who have been entrusted to your care.

**People:** May you carry the prayers of all of us as you take this Sacrament of Christ's presence.

**Celebrant:** Continues with a closing prayer.

*The Sanctuary Candle is given to the Glory of God  
And in honor of my sister Claire Wolpert by Stefanie Rotsaert  
And in memory of my husband Robert by Greta Pearl*



*The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God with love and honor  
of our  
Daughter Holly's Birthday on December 11th  
By  
Fred and Janet Spieth*

#### ASSISTED LIVING COMMUNION SERVICES

The Pines	1st Sunday of each month	at 9:30 am
Arista-Care	1st Monday of each month	at 2:00 pm
The Arbors	2nd Monday of each month	at 2:00 pm
The Pines	3rd Monday of each month	at 2:00 pm