

November 2023

Saint Paul's Episcopal Church

A place of Rest, Peace and Love

The Reverend Suzanne Mollison

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Dear Parish Family,

As I write this epistle my heart is filled with joy and gratitude. On October 19th I was released from Magnolia Rehabilitation Center to the care of my local physician with the help of home health care. That means I am back in my own home, which is wonderful medicine, and home health nurses come every other day to change wound dressings on two incisions that have yet to fully close and heal.

The good news is this means I plan to be present as a member of the congregation on October 29th when Canon Betsy will be celebrant. The following Sunday, November 5, we will celebrant All Saints Sunday and if all goes well, I will once again have the privilege of being your celebrant.

I find it hard to believe that we are fast approaching the end of the church year, but when you look at the church calendar, Advent will indeed begin on Sunday, December 3rd. During the month of November, we will be given several specific opportunities to very intentionally give thanks for the many blessings in our lives.

The first comes very quickly when we will celebrate All Saints Day on Sunday, November 5th. This ancient celebration dates back to 837 when Pope Gregory IV ordered a church wide observance of the commemoration of the martyrs of the early church. The Roman Catholic Church celebrates this feast day on November 1st. After the Church of England broke from Rome it continued to celebrate All Saints Day with the New Testament understanding of the term "saints", or believers, who have passed on to greater life. It is that special time where we remember those who have inspired us, taught us, and guided us to live into our faith. This year during the Sunday Service we will remember by name those who have played such an important part in our lives. You will need to submit the names of those whom you wish to be remembered to me no later than next Wednesday, November 1, 2023. You may text the names to 580-471-2339 or email to s_mollison@sbcglobal.net. OR, FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE, a yellow pad is in the parish hall upon which you may submit names.

On All Saints Sunday we at St Paul's will lift our voices in the hymn "Sing the Song of the Saints of God. Then on November 23rd we will celebrate that great American tradition called Thanksgiving Day. It is significant to note the first Thanksgiving was a celebration which included not only the Pilgrim settlers in a new land but also included Native Americans. It was these native peoples who taught the Pilgrims how to fish and provided the seeds with which to plant their crops and thus made it possible for them to survive and thrive in this New

Land. So once again we have a rich historical example reminding us that all the blessings that we have been given and the things which we have achieved are not only the product of our own hard work, but also the product of the help, support, and love of others.

One question we should ask ourselves is this: How do we tangibly, individually and as a community, give thanks for the many blessings that we have enjoyed in our lives? I think the answer is simply --- We Give Back---We strive to be good stewards with our lives following in the steps of the saints of old by inspiring, teaching, and guiding others in the faith and also sharing our resources so that others might thrive as well, and we may continue to have this beautiful place to worship.

So, each of you will be receiving a letter in November asking for your commitment of time, treasure, and talent to support St. Paul's during the coming year. Then on Sunday, December 3rd, the first Sunday in Advent, we will have our annual Commitment Ingathering. On that day each family will bring to the altar their commitment and place it in the alms basin. At that time our offerings will be blessed and offered to God.

St. Paul's is a special place because of each of you and we have been greatly BLESSED BY God, this place, and each other. I ask that you prayerfully consider the abundance that God has bestowed upon you when determining your commitment.

Blessings always,
Mother Suzanne

Advent will begin on December 3rd this year

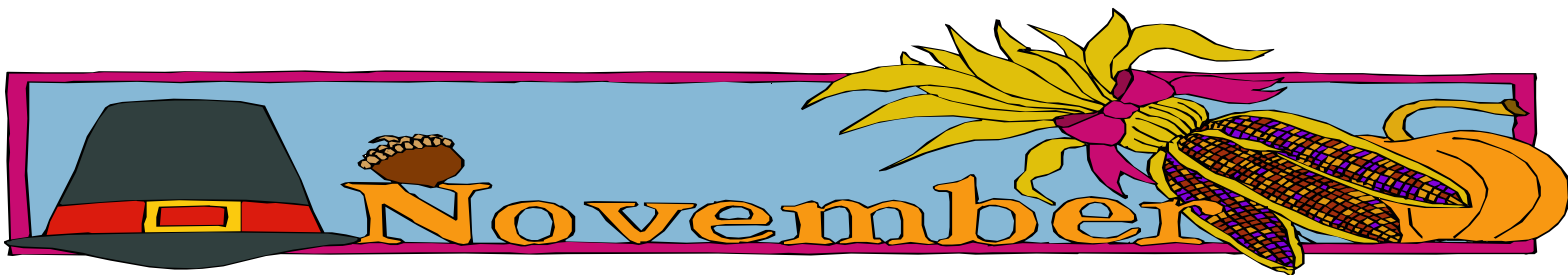
Birthdays

November 1 Romanita Alcorta

November 10 Stephen Dowlen -- November 13 Jessie Craighead

November 16 Dale Craighead -- November 23 Rick Hammock

No Anniversaries this month



2023

DATE	READINGS	MINISTERS	LECTORS	USHERS Crucifer	ALTAR	ALTAR FLOWERS	HOSPITALITY
November 5th All Saints 23rd Sunday after Pentecost 10:30 Holy Eucharist, Rite II	Revelation 7:9-17 Psalm 34:1-10, 22 1 John 3:1-3 Matthew 5:1-12	Celebrant Rev Mollison LEM Kidwell B Sermon Mtr Suzanne	First Reading Kidwell B Epistle Bowers V	Kidwell J and Sharp Howard	Kidwell J	OPEN	LOCK-UP: Bowers A
November 12th The 24th Sunday after Pentecost 10:30 Holy Eucharist, Rite II	Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25 Psalm 78:1-7 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 Matthew 25:1-13	Celebrant Rev. Mollison LEM Bowers A Sermon Mtr Suzanne	First Reading Bowers A Epistle Craighead J	Templer and Craighead Robison	Howard	OPEN	LOCK-UP: Howard
November 19th 10:30 Holy Eucharist Rite II The 25th Sunday after Pentecost	Judges 4:1-7 Psalm 123 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 Matthew 25:14-30	Celebrant Rev. Mollison LEM Kidwell B Sermon Mtr Suzanne	First Reading Kidwell B Epistle Kidwell J	Kidwell J and Robison Braddock	Templer	OPEN	LOCK-UP: Kidwell J
November 26th 10:30 Holy Eucharist, Rite II The last Sunday after Pentecost: Christ the King	Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 Psalm 100 Ephesians 1:15-23 Matthew 25:31-46	Celebrant Rev. Mollison LEM Braddock Sermon Mtr Suzanne	First Reading Braddock Epistle Kidwell B	Templer and Kidwell J Bowers A	Bowers A	OPEN	LOCK-UP: Perryman

Daylight Saving Time ends on Nov. 5th -- Fall back one hour before bed Saturday night.

This is also a good time to check the batteries in your smoke detectors and the expiration date on your driver's license.

*Saint Paul' s Episcopal Church
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Most gracious God, by whose knowledge the depths are broken up and the clouds drop down the dew: We yield thee hearty thanks and praise for the return of seedtime and harvest, for the increase of the ground and the gathering in of its fruits, and for all the other blessings of thy merciful providence bestowed upon this nation and people. And, we beseech thee, give us a just sense of these great mercies, such as may appear in our lives by a humble, holy, and obedient walking before thee all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost be all glory and honor, world without end. Amen.