

Saint Paul's Episcopal Church

February 2026

The Reverend David Braddock

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Dear St. Paul's Parish:

We are finishing up our Sundays in Epiphany during the first part of the month and will begin the Lenten season on February 18 with our Ash Wednesday service. This begins the time of preparation for our celebration of Easter. The principal feast of the Church and the high point of the Christian year. The Lenten season is 40 days (excluding Sabbath). This follows several biblical periods from Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness, Moses' 40 days on the Mountain of Sinai, and Elijah's 40 days of wondering.

In the early days of the Church, Lent was dedicated to the preparation for Baptism and the preparation of penitents for reconciliation. Initially only those doing public penance would receive ashes on their foreheads. Then friends and relatives wanted to join in and show their affection for sinners and humility for their own sins. So, they asked to be marked with ashes. This eventually extended to the entire congregation in services like ours.

On Ash Wednesday, February 18, 2026, we will gather as a community to make our confessions. We come on Ash Wednesday to ask the Lord to create in us clean hearts and renew a right spirit within us.

And what a blessing we will be given as we are invited into a Holy Lent...invited into intimacy with God...invited to allow ourselves to be drawn to the very heart of God...where sin and death are not something to be feared. All Christians are invited to the observance of a Holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word.

I invite you to draw closer with God and one another to prepare ourselves to be renewed into the mystery of Jesus' resurrection and our redemption.

We will also again celebrate our Annual Shrove Tuesday PANCAKE DINNER from 5:00pm to 6:30pm on February 17, 2026. This is for our members and friends to come and join us.

We will on Wednesday February 18 at 6:30pm have the Ash Wednesday EUCHARISTIC SERVICE with the imposition of Ashes.

Beginning on Friday February 27 and every Friday during Lent, we will have STATIONS OF THE CROSS at 12:15pm in the nave of the Church.

Beginning on Wednesday February 23, and every Wednesday during Lent we will continue to have Evening Prayer at 5:30pm in the Chapel. On February 23 we will have a soup supper after Evening Prayer at 6:30 pm. This will kick off our Lenten fellowship. We will additionally have a soup supper after the March 18 Evening Prayer service.

NOTE: We will celebrate a MORNING PRAYER SERVICE AND HAVE A LENTEN STUDY AT 12:10 PM ON MONDAY FEBRUARY 23, AND EVERY MONDAY DURING LENT. (WE REALIZE THE TIME LIMITATIONS FOR THOSE THAT ARE WORKING.) COME JOIN US!

HAVE A HOLY AND BLESSED LENT.
YOURS IN CHRIST,
FATHER DAVE +

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

February 7 The Rev. Suzanne Mollison's Ordination (2015)

February 24 Billy and Meltri Allday

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

February 1 Kally Tuttle -- February 15 Billy Allday

February 18 Billye Kidwell and Mark Stephens – February 21 Fletcher Bowers

February 25 Jessica White - February 26 Vickie Hennessee - February 28 Terry Davidson



FEBRUARY

| DATE | READINGS | MINISTERS | LECTORS | USHERS Crucifer | ALTAR GUILD | FLOWERS | HOSPITALITY LOCKUP |
|--|---|---|---|--|----------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| February 1st Presentation of Jesus in Temple 10:30 Holy Eucharist Rite II | Micah 6:1-8 Psalm 15 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 Matthew 5:1-12 | Celebrant Rev. Braddock LEM Womack Sermon Fr Dave | First Reading Womack Epistle Craighead J | Sharp and Howard Robison | Howard | OPEN | Open Womack |
| February 8th 5th Sunday Epiphany 10:30 Holy Eucharist Rite II | Isaiah 58:1-9a, [9b-12] Psalm 112:1-9, (10) 1 Corinthians 2:1-12, [13-16] Matthew 5:13-20 | Celebrant Rev. Braddock LEM Craighead J Sermon Fr Dave | First Reading Craighead J Epistle McAskill | Craighead D and Womack Howard | Womack | OPEN | Open Howard |
| February 15th Last Sunday Epiphany 10:30 Holy Eucharist Rite II | Exodus 24:12-18 Psalm 2 2 Peter 1:16-21 Matthew 17:1-9 | Celebrant Rev. Braddock LEM Howard Sermon Fr Dave | First Reading Howard Epistle Peer | Kidwell and Craighead D Robison | Howard | OPEN | Open Robison |
| February 18th Ash Wednesday 6:30pm Imposition of Ashes Holy Eucharist Rite I | Isaiah 58:1-12 Psalm 103:8-14 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 Matthew 6:1- 6,16-21 | Celebrant Rev. Braddock LEM Womack Sermon Fr Dave | First Reading Womack Epistle McAskill | Robison And Kidwell Howard | Kidwell | OPEN | Open Kidwell |
| February 22nd 1st Sunday in Lent 10:30 Holy Eucharist Rite I | Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 Psalm 32 Romans 5:12-19 Matthew 4:1-11 | Celebrant Rev. Braddock LEM Kidwell B Sermon Fr Dave | First Reading Kidwell B Epistle Kidwell J | Sharp and Kidwell Davidson | Kidwell J | OPEN | Open Stebbens |

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Altus, OK 73521*

O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*