

The Episcopal Church of St. Martin
EXTENDED ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 20, 2022

Thank You

Thanksgiving Project Thanks!

Thanks to your generosity, the 2022 Christine Blanchard Annual Thanksgiving Project has been a great success! The total funds received to date are \$8,092. This amount will allow us to serve over 70 families with \$100 grocery gift cards, with the remainder applied to gift cards in smaller amounts for undocumented UC Davis students in need. The cards will be distributed to families the Monday and Tuesday before Thanksgiving. Our hope and prayer is that we will have contributed to a fulfilling and joyous Thanksgiving holiday for our recipients. The generosity of our parish remains a true hallmark of our identity and faith in God. The Social Justice and Outreach Committee thanks all of you for your generous gifts. May you enjoy a blessed Thanksgiving.

Happening Soon—Don't Miss Out!

First Film in Peace and Justice Film Series, November 23, 7pm

We're excited to begin collaborating in monthly film discussions with another Episcopal parish—Messiah in Santa Ana. The first movie in this shared program will be [Ayotzinapa - el paso de la tortuga](#) on Wednesday, November 23 at 7:00pm. The film is a documentary on the 2014 forced disappearance of 43 students from the Ayotzinapa Rural Teachers' College and the highly controversial government investigation that followed. (Produced by Guillermo del Toro. In Spanish with English subtitles). **The movie is available on Netflix. After viewing the selection independently, join the group on Zoom for about an hour-long discussion on Wednesday at 7:00pm. Click [here](#) for the Zoom information or contact the church office.** Biff Baker (Russian Studies) and John M. Liu (Asian American Studies and Sociology), two professors emeriti from UC Irvine will facilitate. This event will repeat with different movies every fourth Wednesday of the month.

Reader Session on Sunday, December 11

After the 10am service on December 11 (11:30am), Charlie Bamforth will lead a discussion in the sanctuary on the reading of lessons and intercessions. **All current readers are asked to attend, if possible**, and those who would like to know more about this important ministry are also encouraged to attend. We are so grateful for our roster of readers and hope this will be a welcome and enriching experience for all!

Our Seminarian Betsy's Ordination Date

Our seminarian Betsy McElroy will be ordained on December 3 as a transitional deacon on her path toward becoming a priest. The Rt. Rev. Betsey Monnot will ordain Betsy at 2:00pm at St. Paul's Cathedral in Des Moines, Iowa. The service will be live streamed and we will make the link available when we have it. We all congratulate Betsy and pray for her as she begins this new stage in ministry. ***Blessings on your journey, Betsy!***

Getting Involved, Making a Difference in our Community

Vestry Nominations

The Nominations Committee of the Vestry will soon be accepting nominations for the 2023 Vestry. Parishioners may self-nominate or be nominated by others. The Vestry seeks a diverse slate to replace the three or four Vestry members whose terms are ending. “Diverse” in this context means we desire a balance with respect to age, gender and race/ethnicity, as well as a mix of those new to St. Martin’s and longtime parishioners. We also seek members with interest in different areas of ministry. Serving on Vestry helps ensure St. Martin’s does its best to care for the parish, the larger church, and the community. For a glimpse of Vestry service, see the link to the Vestry page on our website [HERE](#). You can also speak to any member of the Vestry or the Rector about what is involved in serving on Vestry. Look for nomination forms soon!

Accepting Christmas Flower Donations

The Flower Guild will be arranging greens, poinsettias, and other beautiful flowers to make the church festive for Christmas. If you would like to donate toward the Christmas flowers in memory of or in thanksgiving for a loved one, please send us a check written to The Church of St. Martin with memo line “Christmas Flowers” by December 15. Your memories or thanksgivings will be listed in the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day bulletins.

Matthew 25 Update

A committee of five members of St. Martin’s—from Vestry, the Social Justice and Outreach Committee, and the parish at large—has been meeting to consider the recipients of the 2022 Matthew 25 grant program. If you have a worthy organization you would like to see funded, please contact the office with your nomination as soon as possible. Past recipients include Davis Community Meals and Housing, STEAC (short-term emergency food aid), and other organizations that help those in need, locally and farther afield. Many thanks to Kimo Kimokeo, Bob Polkinghorn, Jordan Roberts, and Ann and Walt Stone for organizing this important process.

Come See Us at Farmers’ Market on Most Saturdays

The St. Martin’s booth at the Farmers’ Market is up and running. We are there two or three Saturdays a month, from about 8:30am to 1pm, depending on weather and volunteer availability. Rev. Pamela and John Dolan will be there on November 19, the day of the Turkey Trot, so it will be a fun-filled morning for sure! So far, we have talked to quite a few people interested in St. Martin’s ministries. Come see us! Thanks to Tim Williams and the Invite, Welcome, Connect group for getting this ministry off the ground. And if you want to volunteer, contact Tim or the church office.

New Sacred Ground Circle Starting November 27

Sacred Ground is a discussion series on race, grounded in faith and developed by the Episcopal Church. Small groups use films and readings to walk through chapters of America’s history of race and racism, while weaving in threads of family story, economic class, and political and regional identity. The Rev. Ernie Lewis and Carole Hom will co-facilitate a new Sacred Ground Dialogue Circle that will meet in person on Sunday afternoons, starting on November 27, and meet approximately every two weeks (with breaks for holidays) until the last session in May. Interested?

Contact Ernie or Carole (contact info in church directory) or the office to help you connect (info@churchofstmartin.org).

Advent is Almost Here!

Godly Play Next Sunday, November 27 with Advent Wreath Making

Children in Godly Play will have an opportunity to make Advent Wreaths on November 27. We will do this during class time and then bring our creations into church to be blessed. Materials will be provided and we will plan for one wreath per family. If you have holly in your garden, Diane Bamforth would love to know if you could bring some for the wreaths. All parishioners are welcome to bring their own wreaths to church to be blessed at the end of the service.

Journeying the Way of Love: Advent Formation Opportunity beginning on November 27

All are welcome to join us on Sunday, November 27, after the 10 o'clock service to learn about our upcoming class on Journeying the Way of Love in Advent. We'll spend an hour together getting acquainted with the curriculum and learning about the seven spiritual practices in the Way of Love, what we mean when we talk about a Rule of Life, and how the scripture passages we associate with Advent can help us draw closer to God and one another. Come to this first gathering and then decide if you want to participate in the four Wednesday night sessions that will follow. Either way, go home with a special Advent calendar! To check out the Advent curriculum we will be using, you can find it here: <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/journeying-way-love/>.

Living Well in Advent—Three Tuesdays at 10am on Zoom

Join us for Living Well Through Advent, a Living Compass Advent offering. This year the Advent theme is simplicity. We'll explore and reflect on scripture while considering how it affects our hearts, souls, strength, and minds. Anyone interested can drop in on three Tuesdays during Advent, **Nov. 29, Dec. 13, and Dec. 20, on Zoom from 10am to 11:30am.** (Note no meeting on Dec. 6). Advent Living Compass booklets can be picked up in the Narthex of the church starting this Sunday. The booklets provide daily readings and reflections so even if you can't join us, feel free to take one. For the meeting Zoom link, email Gabe at communications@churchofstmartin.org or contact the church office.

Save the Dates for December Special Services

Blue Christmas, Sunday, December 11 at 4:00pm: A service specially designed for those who might be experiencing grief or may not feel joyful during this Christmas season.

Greening of the Church, Saturday, December 17 at 1:00pm: Join us as we put up lights, wreaths, garlands, candles and other festive decorations in the church for Christmas. We have everything needed. Many hands make light work.

Advent Lessons and Carols, Sunday, December 18 at 4:00pm: We join the Sanctuary Choir in singing songs of Advent and reading lessons.

Las Posadas, Sunday, December 18 at 5:00pm: A traditional Latin American service commemorating the journey Mary and Joseph took from Nazareth to Bethlehem looking for shelter

and a place for Jesus to be born. We will walk around the church grounds going door-to-door and end with a celebration and caroling in the Parish Hall.

Christian Formation & Social Justice Learning Opportunities

Next Spirituality in Nature Gathering on Saturday, December 10, from 10am to 12noon

A recent nationwide survey of American spiritual and religious practices confirmed what most of us already know: people connect with the Holy when they spend time in nature. We are holding monthly Spirituality in Nature Gatherings (known as SINGs!) at various locations in the area, where we can learn from the earth and from one another. Generally, these will take place on the second Saturday of each month. In November we were at Forbes Ranch, planting trees, picking fruit, and learning about gratitude. This month we'll be right here on the St. Martin's campus, exploring the theme of incarnation and taking a prayer walk. Look for announcements on future Nature Gatherings. For questions, contact Rev. Pamela, Alessa Johns, Rev. Debbie Hawkins, Stan Forbes, Jim Schaal, or the church office.

Registration Open for Sacramento Racial Reconciliation Workshop—January 21

The next racial reconciliation one-day workshop, "I Will, With God's Help: Journey Toward Racial Healing and Justice," will be held at Trinity Cathedral in Sacramento on Saturday, January 21, 2023. Registration is now open and is limited to 30 participants. This one-day in-person workshop was specially developed for the Episcopal Diocese of Northern California by the Commission for Intercultural Ministries. Renew your Baptismal Covenant as we learn about forms of historic and contemporary racism and how to engage in ministry with sensitivity and respect for all. Register: <https://forms.gle/tAa9a3Wmij2e3PsL9>

Other Noteworthy Updates

We Need Your Help with Coffee Hour Hospitality!!

Do you enjoy coffee, snacks and fellowship during coffee hour after the 10am service? Could you help host coffee hour once every month or two? You can sign up on SignUp Genius for the date(s) you wish to host: <https://stmartinsdavis.tiny.us/hospitality>

Tables will always be put up for you in advance. We have 3 different sign-up slots for volunteers a) Make coffee and put items out on the coffee and snack tables starting at 9 or 9:15am; b) Bring snacks; c) Clean up after coffee hour (starting about 11:45am). Let's continue to have a great coffee hour, with everyone's help!

Readers, Ushers, EMs, Crucifers

We need an array of liturgical ministers every Sunday for worship at both the 8am and 10am services. We have a signup system for volunteers that allows you to pick the days and ministries in which you would like to volunteer. Here is the link:

<https://stmartinsdavis.tiny.us/worshipsignup>

Staying Connected with Each Other

Encouraging All to Wear Name Tags

Now that we have returned to church in person in larger numbers and since many joined us during the pandemic lock-down, we hope all will wear name tags so that we can learn each other's names. If you need a name tag (new or replacement), just put your name on the list on the welcome table at church. Your new name tag will be available the following Sunday. In the meantime, we have stick-on name tags at the welcome table.

Rector's Office Hours - Wednesdays 4:00 - 5:00pm

Rev. Pamela holds office hours most weeks on Wednesday, 4:00 - 5:00 pm in the church library. **Her next office hours will be the week after Thanksgiving on Wednesday, November 29.** If you would like to meet with Pamela at a different time, just email her or contact the church office (info@churchofstmartin.org) to set something up.

Parish Prayer List Requests

Do you have a prayer request? Please know that people you have placed on the Parish Prayer List are being prayed for. Please see the information on our website about how to make a prayer request (i.e., to have someone put on our written prayer list). You will also find other useful information, such as how long we keep people on the prayer list. [HERE](#) is the link (scroll down to the section that says "Do you have a prayer request?").

Prayer Requests, Celebrations and Milestones for Sunday Services

If you would like to submit a prayer request, celebration or milestone to be read during Sunday services, please send it to Margaret at margaret@churchofstmartin.org by 6:00 pm on Friday.

Upcoming Meeting Dates

Social Justice and Outreach: Tuesday, November 29, at 7:00pm
Choir Practice: Thursday, November 30 at 7:00pm (in the church)
Invite, Welcome, Connect: Thursday, December 1 at 7:00pm
Buildings and Grounds: Friday, December 2 at 4:00pm
Worship Committee: Tuesday, December 6 at 5:00pm
Ministry Council: Thursday, December 8 at 10:00am (church library)
Caring Ministries: Tuesday, December 13 at 7:00pm
Vestry: Monday, December 19, Time TBA

Meetings are on Zoom unless otherwise noted; for a link, please contact communications@churchofstmartin.org. If you wish to schedule a meeting on the calendar, contact the church office info@churchofstmartin.org.

Regular Church Office Hours and Upcoming Closures

We are open in person Monday-Friday 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. You can also reach the office by calling us at 530-756-0444 or sending an email to info@churchofstmartin.org.

The church office will be closed on Thursday and Friday, November 24 - 25 for Thanksgiving. If you have an announcement for the bulletin for Sunday, Nov. 27, please email it to the office at info@churchofstmartin.org by Monday Nov. 21 at 10am.