

The Episcopal Church of St. Martin
EXTENDED ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 11, 2022

Happening This Sunday

Godly Play Today—plus our plans for January and beyond!

This Sunday, December 11, will be our last regular Godly Play class for the year. We made Advent wreaths in our last class and this coming Sunday, we'll turn our attention to the story of Advent and help to decorate a Christmas tree. It has been such a pleasure to acquaint and reacquaint ourselves with your children, tell stories, and “wonder” together. Beginning in January, we will hold **Godly Play three times a month – the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Sundays – during the 10:00am service**, with the first Sunday of the month designated as a “First Sunday” intergenerational service. Sunday, January 8 will be the first family service of the year and we'll start up Godly Play again on **January 15**. if you haven't yet joined us in Godly Play this year, we would love to see you this advent and beyond. Please contact the Church Office (info@churchofstmartin.org) or Sheri Reynolds with questions.

Our Nursery Is Also Open on Sunday Mornings

We are excited to invite parents to bring infants through age 5 to our fully-equipped nursery (Classroom 2) on Sundays between 9:30am and 11:30am. Our nursery care staff will welcome you and answer any questions you may have. If you'd like to come take a look at the nursery anytime, just let us know and we'd be happy to show it to you. Feel free also to talk to Rev. Pamela if you have questions about the nursery—and don't worry, children of all ages are always welcome in church, too!

Reader Session on Sunday after 10am Service

After the 10am service on December 11 (at approximately 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!

Blue Christmas on Sunday at 4pm (in person and online)

Join us on December 11 at 4:00pm for a beautiful service specially designed for those who might be experiencing grief or may not feel joyful during this Christmas season. The service will consist of readings, hymns, and candle lighting. A reflection will be offered by the clergy and time for individual reflection will also be given. This service will be both online and in person. For the Zoom link and more information: <https://churchofstmartin.org/event/blue-christmas-service/>

Advent Formation Offerings

Living Well in Advent—Two More Tuesdays at 10am on Zoom

Join us for Living Well Through Advent, a *Living Compass* 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 the remaining two Tuesdays during Advent, **Dec. 13 and Dec. 20, on Zoom from 10am to 11:30am**. Advent Living Compass booklets can be picked up in the Narthex of the church on Sunday or from the church office on weekdays. The

booklets provide daily readings and reflections; even if you can't join us, feel free to take one. For the Zoom link, email Gabe at communications@churchofstmartin.org.

Journeying the Way of Love on Wednesday Nights

We are offering Wednesday night classes on Journeying the Way of Love in Advent. The last two classes are on Dec. 14, and 21. You can take a look at the Advent curriculum we are using here: <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/journeying-way-love/>. And you are welcome even if you did not attend the first two sessions.

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

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. This month we will be at St. Martin's, walking the beautiful setting of our own campus, drawing on scripture and poetry to ponder the themes of Incarnation, Solstice, and the Gifts of Winter. After the program, stay for fellowship and warm apple cider to close our Advent gathering. Bring a sack lunch, for an option to eat together afterwards. Contact Alessa Johns or the Rev. Deborah Hawkins or the church office if you have questions about our upcoming gathering. **If it rains, we will still meet in the narthex of the church.**

Special Advent and Christmas Services

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 please add some of the language around this from our flyer

We join the Sanctuary Choir in singing songs of Advent and reading lessons. In person and online.

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. In person only. **If you can bring a plate of cookies to share after the "posada," please contact the church office.**

Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24

3:00pm Children's Service: A brief interactive service for families with young children (or, yes, those who are young at heart!). In person only.

7:00pm and 10:00pm: Festive Choral Eucharist with Christmas Carols.

In person and online.

Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25 at 10:00am

Contemporary Eucharist with Christmas Carols. Only one service this day. In person only.

New Year's Day, Sunday, January 1, 2023 at 8:00am and 10:00am

We will have our two Sunday services with coffee hour following. 8:00am in person only. 10:00am in person and online.

Christmas Flower Donations

If you would like to donate toward the Christmas flowers in memory of or in thanksgiving for a loved one, you can do so in two ways: Send a check written to The Church of St. Martin with memo line "Christmas Flowers," or give online using the green GIVE button on our website (select "Christmas Flowers" from the menu). Be sure to send us the names of those you are giving in memory of or in thanksgiving for and we will list them in the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day bulletins. Please send your donations by Monday, December 19.

Sacred Ground Circle New Start Date, January 8

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. We will meet in a hybrid format at St. Martin's on Sunday afternoons, starting on 8 January, with meetings approximately every two weeks (with a break around Easter) until the last session in June. Interested? Contact Ernie Lewis or Carole Hom by 23 December, or email the church office at info@churchofstmartin.org.

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>

Gratitude and Generosity—Stewardship and Special Offerings

A Message from the Vestry

The Vestry of the Episcopal Church of St. Martin, as duly elected leaders of the congregation, have turned in their 2023 pledges, as have the clergy staff. As our fall stewardship campaign comes to a close, we encourage all members of the parish likewise to decide on their best estimate of financial support to the parish in 2023 and make their pledge.

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank-you to the 112 individuals and families who have already given us their pledge for 2023. **If you haven't pledged yet, you can still do so** by filling out a pledge card and mailing or bringing it to the church office, by putting it in the plate at church on Sunday, or by writing to our confidential stewardship e-mail (stewardship@churchofstmartin.org). Your pledge helps us plan as accurately as possible for next year's budget and ministries. For

questions about stewardship and pledging, feel free to reach out to a Vestry member. Thank you and God bless you!

Getting Involved, Making a Difference in our Community

Vestry Nominations

The Nominations Committee of the Vestry is accepting nominations for the 2023 Vestry. The Vestry seeks a diverse slate to replace the three or four Vestry members whose terms are ending. "Diverse" in this context means 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 gives you a role in ensuring that St. Martin's does its best to care for the parish, the larger church, and the community.

If you wish to nominate yourself or another parishioner, please use the form [HERE](#). We also have hard copies available in the narthex and the church office. Please return any hard copies to the church office. **We request your nominations no later than December 12.** For questions or additional information, you can speak to a member of the Vestry Nominating Committee (Julie Knudsen, Ann Liu, Beth Capell, Maria Acuna-Feldman) or Co-Sr. Warden Neil Willits.

Who Should Receive our Christmas Plate Offering? Help us decide!

St. Martin's tradition is to give away our Christmas plate offering to an organization that serves those in need. A parishioner committee recommends to Vestry an organization to receive our Christmas plate offering. "Christmas Plate" offerings are special donations by parishioners intended to bring an added boost of financial support to an organization serving individuals and/or families in great need.

We invite parishioners to nominate a recipient organization for 2022. Nonprofit organizations that serve the most needy among us are our highest priority. We are targeting organizations that directly serve individuals and families that are dealing with food insecurity, housing insecurity, mental health issues, and other such needs. While we generally fund organizations in our community or diocese, there is no geographic restriction.

If you would like to nominate an organization, please email the church office and provide the following: a) Name of the organization; b) Key contact/s (e.g., executive director) including contact information, website, flyer or other information); c) In no more than one paragraph, your rationale for nominating this organization for committee consideration. **We need your recommendation no later than December 11.** If you have questions about the Christmas Plate offering, please contact Co-Sr. Warden Kimo Kimokeo or the church office to put you in touch. Thank you so much for your consideration and generosity.

Other Important Updates

New Yolo County Masking Recommendations and Signage

Yolo County is now recommending that everyone 2 years of age and older wear a mask indoors this Winter as several respiratory viruses are spreading, including influenza, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), and COVID. The County has also changed their signage to reflect that masking

recommendations are now based on combined respiratory virus levels rather than a single virus. For this reason, we have replaced our older signs with Yolo County's new red signs. While masking will continue to be recommended only at St. Martin's, we have two types of masks available for anyone who needs one (medical and KN95 masks). The County recommends high quality N95, KN95, and KF94 masks for the best protection. For more information, here is the County's press release and website: <https://www.yolocounty.org/Home/Components/News/News/13197/4918>

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. 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.

Save the Dates for "Revive," February 24 - 25 and throughout Lent 2023!

"Revive," a small-group discipleship program to help individuals grow in confidence as spiritual leaders, have the chance to be re-energized with new ideas, and learn about yourself and the God we serve, was rescheduled from Fall and will be offered starting late February. The program begins with a retreat on February 24 - 25, which will be held either at St. Martin's or nearby (no long drives or expensive overnight accommodations necessary!). After the retreat, the program meets on Wednesday evenings for six consecutive weeks. We ask for people to commit to all six weeks, at the end of which you will have a chance to discern whether or not to continue with another six-week module. For now, we'd just like you to know about the dates and format. We'll provide sign-up information soon. If you have questions, please reach out to Rev. Pamela. She'd love to talk with you about it!

Help Needed

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 sign-up 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 on Wednesday, December 14.** If you would like to meet with Pamela at a different time, just email her or contact the church office (info@churchofstmartin.org).

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 Deacon Margaret at margaret@churchofstmartin.org by 6:00 pm on Friday.

Upcoming Meeting Dates

Care for God's Creation: Monday, December 12 at 7:00pm

Caring Ministries: Tuesday, December 13 at 7:00pm

Choir Practice: Thursday, December 15 at 7:00pm (in the church)

Vestry: Monday, December 19 at 7:00pm

Worship Committee: Tuesday, January 10 at 5:00pm

Ministry Council: Thursday, January 12 at 10:00am

Buildings & Grounds: Friday, January 20 at 4:00pm

Social Justice & Outreach: Tuesday, January 24 at 7:00pm

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.

Church Office Hours

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.

Upcoming holiday office closures include Monday, December 26 (in observance of Christmas) and Monday, January 2 (in observance of New Year's Day).