

The Episcopal Church of St. Martin
ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE WEEK OF December 3, 2023

This Week

A Very Special “First Sunday” Advent Service This Sunday

On Sunday, December 3, at our 10am service, we will celebrate an Advent Lessons and Carols service with a focus on Our Lady of Guadalupe, who is considered by many the Patron Saint of the Americas. We'll enjoy extra special music, with guest musicians and the Pop-Up Choir. During the first half of the service, children will have the option of gathering in the narthex with Godly Play teachers to make Christmas ornaments, so bring your whole family!

The service will be followed immediately by *Las Posadas*, a re-enactment of Joseph and Mary's search for a place to stay. *Las Posadas* is a venerable Mexican custom, celebrating the journey of the Holy Family to Bethlehem. It is fun for all generations and will conclude with a special coffee hour/fiesta featuring pan dulce, hot chocolate, and an old-fashioned carol-sing. During the “fiesta,” children will be able to make Advent Wreaths to take home.

Music Notes for Sunday, December 3

Last year, our Advent Lessons and Carols service was a meditation on *Las Posadas*, or the journey to Bethlehem. This year on December 3, we are expanding this idea to include a liturgy celebrating Our Lady of Guadalupe, whose festival day is December 12, and who is beloved as a champion of the oppressed. The Sanctuary Choir will sing music of the Spanish Colonial era in languages of the occupied (Quechua, Nahuatl, Spanish, and Mono Paiute) and the Pop-Up Choir will teach the congregation the *Las Posadas* song. We will be joined by David Avila on guitar, plus a professional early music wind ensemble playing recorders, dulcians, and shawms.

Members of our own congregation will perform on primitive percussion instruments during “Asi Andando,” or “Thus it Comes,” a song about the Virgin’s childbirth pains by Mayan composer Max Quin (“Mahsh Keen”), known by his Christian name Tomás Pascual. Our processional, “Hanacpachap Cussicuinin,” was first published in Peru in 1631. This anonymous hymn in the Quechua language praises the Virgin Mary using metaphors of nature drawn from the Quechua culture. “Xicochi conetzintle” is a Christmas lullaby to the Christ child, composed in the Nahuatl language by Gaspar Fernandes in the early 17th century. Fernandes was well-known as a singer and organist in Guatemala and Mexico. Immediately after the service, we will hold *Las Posadas*, where we follow “Mary” and “Joseph” as they sing and stroll, reenacting their search for hospitality. When they are finally welcomed inside, they will be met with a fiesta featuring carol singing and treats.

SING Community Walk and Hot Cocoa on Sunday, December 10, at 4pm

Take a break from the pre-Christmas stress with a neighborhood walk and some relaxed time with your parish family. We'll meet at Sycamore Park at 4pm, walk through the neighborhood—with a couple of stops for thought-provoking poetry and Bible passages—and end at St. Martin's for a cup of cocoa and conversation about nature and spirituality in the winter months. The event will wrap up with (optional) Evening Prayer at 5:30pm; you'll be done in time for dinner or whatever errands, parties, or other events your night holds! Please let us know if you're coming so we're sure not to start the walk without you. Contact Rev. Pamela or the office to let us know.

Advent Living Compass Class Continues

Helen Campbell is offering an Advent series using *Living Compass* materials on Tuesdays at 10:30am. The next three dates of the class are December 5, December 12, and December 19.

The class meets on Zoom and lasts about an hour. The focus of this Advent is on *wonder*. We have booklets in the Narthex, or Helen can send you a PDF version. Get the Zoom link from Helen or from the church office info@churchofstmartin.org.

A Big Thank-You to the Scouts for Three Beautiful Christmas Trees

We are grateful to Scout Troops 466 and 139 for gifting us three beautiful Christmas Trees, one large tree for the church and two smaller for the parish hall and Rooms 6/7. Not only did they gift them, they delivered them and put them in stands for us so they are all ready to go. Many thanks!

Upcoming Events

St. Martin's Advent and Christmas Events

Sunday, December 10: SING Community Walk, starting at 4pm in Sycamore Park

Sunday, December 17: Greening of the Church for Christmas after the 10am service

Sunday, December 17: Blue Christmas Service at 4pm

Sunday, December 24: 8am Advent Eucharist; 3pm Christmas Eucharist with Pageant; 7pm and 10pm Festive Choral Christmas Eucharists

Monday, December 25: Christmas Day Eucharist with Christmas Carols at 10am. One service

Sunday, December 31: Holy Eucharist at 10am. One service

Requiem Mass for Bob and Nancy Crummey in Toronto, Canada, Saturday, Dec. 2

Bob Crummey's younger brother has informed us that a Requiem Mass for Bob and Nancy Crummey will be held at St. John's Anglican Church in Toronto on December 2 at 4pm Toronto time (1pm Davis time). It which will be available on Zoom on the church's regular Sunday service link and is also on their website [HERE](#). Bob's brother, Jim, welcomes all those from St. Martin's who wish to attend online.

Greening of the Church

On Sunday, December 17, after the 10am service, please stay to help us decorate the church for Christmas. We'll be hanging garlands, wreaths, and lights. Many hands make light work.

Rev. Mark Allen's Memorial Service on Livestream and Shown in St. Martin's Sanctuary

A memorial service for the Rev. Mark Allen, rector of St. Martin's from 2004 - 2016, will be held on Monday, December 18 at 2pm at Christ Church, Lake Oswego (in the Portland, Oregon area). The service will be livestreamed and will be available to you in two ways. You can use the link and watch it on your own, or you can come to St. Martin's and watch it as a group in the sanctuary. A reception and time to share memories of Mark will follow in the narthex. Click [HERE](#) for the link to Mark's service online. Mark's obituary appeared this week in *The Sacramento Bee* and the *Davis Enterprise*. Find it [HERE](#) in the *Davis Enterprise*.

Volunteer Opportunities

St. Martin's Representatives at the DCMH Meals Needed

Would you like to do a little service for St. Martin's and for our larger community? St. Martin's has a representative at every DCMH meal (offered here at St. Martin's) on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. If you are interested in serving once a month for an hour and a half at one of the meals, we need additional volunteers on Thursdays, 5 - 6:30pm and Saturdays, 11 - 12:30pm. Your role is mainly to see that all is going well and that all gets locked up properly at the end of the meal. If you are interested, contact Janet Lane or the church office.

Other Announcements and Updates

Rooted in Abundance Stewardship Season

As of now, we have received 91 pledges. If you have pledged, thank you! Pledges are an important tool in helping us plan our ministry budget for 2024, so if you have not pledged yet, it is not too late. As our treasurer Jessie Ann Owens mentioned, we are potentially facing a budget shortfall for 2024, so your generosity is more important and appreciated than ever. In order to pledge, just fill out the pledge card sent to you or write to our confidential stewardship email address to tell us your pledge amount (stewardship@churchofstmartin.org). We are very grateful for all pledges and donations given to the church.

Nursery Open

Our nursery is open on Sundays from 9:30 - 11:30am for infants through age 5. Children of all ages are also always welcome in church too!

Beware of Phishing

If you receive an email asking if you would like to purchase a piano from one of our church members, it is a phishing attempt. Please **DO NOT** open this email, click any links in it, or send funds. If you receive such a request, please contact the office to verify that it is legitimate. Phishing emails are emails in which senders attempt to either steal sensitive information, get funds, or to download viruses onto your computer. If you have already clicked any links in such an email, please run your computer's virus protection software scan to ensure any viruses are removed. If you have responded to one of these emails and offered funds, **DO NOT SEND ANY FUNDS**. For more information, and if you have already sent funds, see this FTC link:

<https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/how-recognize-and-avoid-phishing-scams>

Upcoming Meeting Dates

Vestry: Monday, December 4, at 7pm in the library

Choir Practice: Thursday, December 7 at 7pm in the church

Buildings and Grounds: Friday, January 5 at 4pm on Zoom

Social Justice and Outreach: Monday, January 22 at 5:15 on Zoom

Rev. Pamela's Office Hours

Rev. Pamela's holds office hours on Wednesday afternoon. **Her next office hours will be on Wednesday, December 6 from 5-6pm (note time change—will resume 4-5pm time on December 13)**. If you would like to see or talk with Pamela at a different time, please contact the church office or Pamela directly (pamela@churchofstmartin.org).

Church Office Hours

Monday - Friday 9am to 12pm. Stop by in person or contact the office by calling 530-756-0444 or sending an email to info@churchofstmartin.org