

The Episcopal Church of St. Martin
ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE WEEK OF December 22, 2024

This Week

This Sunday! Return to Worshipping in the Church

Nzilani Glass Conservation's work on the ceiling stained-glass window is complete. The scaffolding has come down, and we will be back in the church on Sunday, December 22, the fourth Sunday of Advent. You will also be able to see the brilliance of the ceiling stained-glass window, now that it has been cleaned, cracks filled, and the pieces that fell reinstalled. Netting, which is completely "reversible," meaning it can be removed if ever needed, has also been placed under the window for extra safety. Ariana Makau, the principal conservator for Nzilani, will be back at St. Martin's to give a talk to all in the congregation who are interested on **Sunday, January 19 after the 10am service. She will have pictures and will talk about our window and the restoration work that has been done.** You will not want to miss this chance to learn more about our beautiful ceiling window!

Music Notes for Sunday, December 22

This Fourth Sunday of Advent, the liturgy includes the Magnificat, or the "Song of Mary," a canticle based on the words of Mary in the Gospel of Luke. A canticle is a scriptural hymn or song that is not a Psalm. The Magnificat is Mary's song of praise, an expression of faith, hope, and joy, celebrating God's plan of mercy and salvation. The Magnificat was likely used in early Christian worship. Certainly it was a standard part of the liturgy by the Middle Ages and remains important in both Catholic and Protestant worship. In our offertory anthem "The Coming Joy," composer Joseph M. Martin (b. 1959) has inventively combined two familiar but contrasting Christmas carols, "Ding Dong, Merrily on High" and "Good King Wenceslas," as a setting for a metrical version of the text, expressing both the exultation and the humility of Mary's words.

The Weary World Rejoices: Group Study and Conversation on Sundays during Advent

Join Rev. Pamela this Sunday, December 22 from 11:30am to 12:30pm for the last class in the series **The Weary World Rejoices: A Journey Towards the Promise of Christmas**. This resource is from acclaimed author and podcaster Kate Bowler, known for facing the hard realities of life with humor and faith. **This Sunday, December 22, we focus on the Advent promise of justice.** All are welcome, even if you have not attended the previous sessions.

Greening of the Church for Christmas, December 22, 11:30am

After the 10am service on Sunday, December 22, stay after church to help several St. Martin's volunteers green the church and make it beautiful for Christmas. We will be hanging wreaths and bows, placing garlands and lights, and decorating the Christmas tree. We need about ten people to help and expect to be done well before the Blue Christmas service at 4pm.

Blue Christmas, Sunday, December 22, 4pm

Join us for a contemplative service of music, candle lighting, and prayer followed by a reception in the narthex. We offer this service to honor and provide support to those feeling "blue" this Christmas season, or to those who seek a way to enter into Christmas week with calm. [Click here for Blue Christmas Service Bulletin.](#)

Chamber Music Society of Sacramento Winter Concert, Saturday, December 21, 7:30pm

St. Martin's will host the Chamber Music Society of Sacramento Winter Concert on Saturday, December 21, at 7:30pm. The program features Frederick the Great Concerto for Flute, Strings, and Continuo; Tartini Sonata for Violin and Harpsicord (Devil's Trill); and Handel Motet "Silete Venti" for Soprano, Flute, Strings, and Continuo. Tickets are \$35 (general) and \$15 (students) and can be purchased online or at the door. St. Martin's parishioners receive \$5 discount at the door. For tickets and more information: <https://cmssacto.org>.

Christmas at St. Martin's

Christmas Service Schedule

Blue Christmas, a Contemplative Service of Music, Candle Lighting, and Prayer

Sunday, December 22 at 4pm; in person and live-streamed (reception following)

Christmas Eve Service for Children and All Ages with Music, Eucharist, and Pageant

Tuesday, December 24 at 3pm; in-person only (nursery open)

Christmas Eve Festive Christmas Eucharist with Choir

Tuesday, December 24 at 7pm and 10pm; in-person and livestreamed

Christmas Day Contemporary Eucharist with Christmas Carols

Wednesday, December 25 at 10am; in-person and livestreamed

First Sunday after Christmas Contemporary Eucharist with Christmas Carols

Sunday, December 29 at 10am; in-person and livestreamed; one service only (nursery closed)

Christmas Pageant: Calling All Sheep, Angels, and Shepherds! December 24, 3pm Service

Calling all sheep, angels, and shepherds: St. Martin's will hold a family-friendly service and pageant on Christmas Eve at 3pm. All children two years and older are invited to be a part of the pageant. There are no speaking parts and costumes are provided. Contact the church office or Sheri Reynolds if you would like your child(ren) to participate and/or just meet us in the church library between 2:15 and 2:30 pm to get in costume. Many thanks to Sheri Reynolds for coordinating the pageant.

Christmas Donations in Memory of or Thanksgiving for Loved Ones CC only

This year, Christmas donations in memory of or thanksgiving for loved ones will go to the Altar Guild. The Altar Guild provides all the bread and wine for Communion as well as the linens, candles, candle oil, and silver you see on and around the altar every Sunday. If you would like to donate to the Altar Guild in memory of or in thanksgiving for loved ones this Christmas, we will list the names of your loved ones in the Christmas bulletins. Please write a check to the Church of St. Martin with "Memorial Donation/Altar Guild" in the memo line. Or use the GIVE button on our website. In either case, please write the office with the names of those you wish to have noted in the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day bulletins. **The deadline to have memorials and thanksgivings listed in the Christmas bulletins is December 20.**

Christmas Special Offering

St. Martin's has a long history of giving away our Christmas plate offering to an organization that serves others. The Vestry, along with the Social Justice and Outreach Committee, is pleased to announce that The Belfry Lutheran Episcopal Campus Ministry is this year's recipient of our

Christmas Special Offering. The kitchen at The Belfry house on A Street is in serious need of a new stove and some additional upgrades. It's been over two decades since the kitchen has been improved, although it is used regularly. All contributions to the 2024 Christmas special offering will be directed towards a new and much safer gas stove, along with a new floor in the kitchen. Just think, as we "pass the plate," you are giving a Christmas gift that will improve the lives of students today and for years to come! Contributions may be made online through the church website (menu item "Christmas Special Offering for The Belfry") or by writing a check with "Christmas Special Offering for The Belfry" on the memo line. Checks may be placed in the offering plates or mailed to the church office. Thank you for your generosity.

Vestry and Church Governance - Your Chance to Serve and Participate!

Vestry News and Review for November/December

Click [HERE](#) to read the most recent Vestry News and Review, written by our Sr. Warden Neil Willits, about what the Vestry is thankful for.

Nominate Yourself or Someone Else for Vestry

The Vestry is accepting nominations for the 2025 Vestry. 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. The Vestry seeks a diverse slate to replace the four members whose terms are ending. We hope for balance with respect to age, gender, and race/ethnicity, as well as a mix of those new to St. Martin's and longtime parishioners. If you wish to nominate yourself or another parishioner, please e-mail the church office (info@churchofstmartin.org) and include as much of the following information in your nomination as possible: a) the name of the nominee, b) the nominee's preferred email and phone, and c) the ministries the nominee has been involved in (at St. Martin's or elsewhere). Note that if you are nominating someone other than yourself, please talk to them first and get their permission to nominate them. **We request your nominations no later than January 1.** Questions? Speak to a Vestry member or contact the church office.

Seeking Diocesan Convention Delegates from St. Martin's

At our annual meeting on January 26, we will be electing not only Vestry members but also lay delegates to Diocesan Convention. In 2025, the Convention will be November 7 - 8 in Redding. Delegates will also attend a pre-Convention convocation on a morning in November, which is on Zoom. If you wish to serve as one of our six lay delegates to Diocesan Convention, please let the church office know of your interest.

St. Martin's Annual Meeting, Sunday, January 26, during 10am Service

Our Annual Meeting will be on Sunday, January 26 during the 10am service. Please be there to have a voice in church governance and to help elect Vestry members and Diocesan Convention delegates. See the announcement above about how to nominate yourself or someone else for Vestry as well as how to let us know if you wish to serve as a lay Convention delegate. **If you are a ministry leader or chair of a committee, you should write an annual meeting report by January 10 (please submit to the church office).**

Other Important Announcements

In Loving Memory - Upcoming Memorial Services

The rescheduled memorial service for **Gail Gong** will be on Saturday, January 4 at 3pm at St. Martin's with reception following. The memorial service for **Marguerite (Margy) Spencer** will be at St. Martin's on Saturday, January 11 at 3pm. Please keep all three of their families in your prayers. *Loving God, we pray to you for those we love but see no longer: Grant them your peace; let light perpetual shine upon them. Amen. (BCP p.504)*

Every Person. Every Week. One Item of Food.

The Social Justice and Outreach non-perishable food item collection is one way you can help those in need. We deliver food to four locations on a weekly rotating basis: Dixon Family Services, The Belfry and CA House, STEAC, and the UC Davis Pantry. For The Belfry, please bring toiletries, such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, and other such items. Our motto is *Every Person. Every Week. One Item of Food.* Thanks for your support!

Two Grants Received

St. Martin's recently received two grants from the Diocese of Northern California, the first for \$1,000 to get us started on making our outdoor signage bilingual in Spanish and English. The second, for \$2,500, is to purchase a plug-in that would make our website multilingual with the target language being Spanish and to partially pay for proofreading of the Spanish translation. St. Martin's celebrates Latino language and culture in various ways in our worship and events. These improvements will greatly enhance our welcome and visibility to the Latino population and show our openness to cultural diversity.

Prayer Opportunities on Weekdays

Morning Prayer: Wednesdays, 8:30am in Room 8. Join Rev. Pamela and others for this 25-minute service. *(We will not hold Morning Prayer on Christmas Day).*

Centering Prayer: Wednesdays, 5pm in Room 6/7. Join Kim Andrup and others for this 60-minute session. *(We will not hold Centering Prayer on Christmas Day or New Year's Day.)*

Compline: Fridays, 8:30pm on Zoom. Join Deacon Margaret and others for this 20-minute service. Find the Zoom link on our website under "Worship."

Meetings and Office Hours

Upcoming Meeting Dates

Choir Practice: Resumes on Thursday, January 9 at 7pm in the church

Vestry: Monday, January 20 at 7pm in Room 6/7

Social Justice & Outreach: Monday, January 27 at 5:15pm on Zoom

Rector's Office Hours

Rev. Pamela's office hours are taking a break for Christmas. She will be on vacation from December 30 to January 3 and again from January 6-9. Her regular office hours will resume on Monday, January 13. If you'd like to meet with Rev. Pamela at a different time, you can email her (pamela@churchofstmartin.org) or the office (info@churchofstmartin.org).

Prayer Request Submissions: <https://tinyurl.com/StMsPrayerRequest> or contact the office.

Church Office Hours

We are open Monday - Friday 9am to 12pm. Stop by in person or contact the office at 530-756-0444 or info@churchofstmartin.org.

The church office will be closed on the following dates:

Wednesday - Thursday, December 25 - 26

Monday, December 30

Wednesday, January 1