



Adoration of the Magi, Abraham Bloemaert, 1624

THE EPISTLE

OF SAINT PAUL'S PARISH—K STREET

AN EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE DIOCESE OF WASHINGTON

JANUARY 2019 XXXIII NUMBER 1

Always We Begin Again

Always, wrote St Benedict in his Rule, *we begin again*. And it's good to see the world around us taking some Benedictine wisdom to heart.

For January is, of course, the month of beginning again; the season of resolve. Don't take my word for it: pop your head around the door of any gym. Or google around for some January gym statistics: this is the month of profit, of selling countless annual subscriptions, never to be used... perhaps a little like paying a pledge in full every January, and then missing Mass for the rest of the year. Interestingly, a trainer told me recently that it's not just new faces they expect to see appear over the next 6-8 weeks, but "regularly returning" faces: in other words, people who re-appear year-in and year-out, every single January, only to reliably vanish once again. Always (Benedict might say) they too begin again.

Benedictine life is, of course, more than a series of great slogans. Only a cursory reading of The Rule shows that life in those early communities was neither simple nor comfortable. Yet how extraordinary to think of beginning again and fresh starts as being part of a community norm and rule of life.

To you and me, of course, this is simply the rhythm of discipleship that we know and love. Each and every day



THE REV'D RICHARD WALL

we in some sense begin again. We find the same in the Sacraments: at the altar rail and in the Confessional we die to our sins and rise to new life in Christ.

Sacramental confession, Benedictine precepts, New Year's Resolutions, gym memberships: in some sense they all point to that corporate feeling of incompleteness – the perpetual itch that will not be scratched. We know that we are each made in the image and likeness of God, and at Christmas we celebrated the dignity and worth God gives to all humanity by sharing in our flesh. The famous phrase is true: there is a God shaped hole in each one of us, that only God can fill.

This Benedictine invitation – the good news of life beginning once again – is at the heart of the Gospel.

IN THIS ISSUE

**PATRICK WHITE (1942-2018),
CURIOSER AND CURIOSER**

A tribute by Dr. Jeffrey Smith, Director of Music— Page 4

EPIPHANY

John Keble — Page 4

**CHILDREN SHARE ADVENT
PREPARTION AND CHRISTMAS JOY**

A Photo Essay with photos from Janet Wamsley — Page 5

**ON MATTERS OF THE SOUL —
MAKE IT YOUR NEW YEAR'S
RESOLUTION**

Tina Mallett — Page 6

**INVITATION TO ORDINATION OF
DAVID GOLDBERG**

Former Seminarian Assistant at St. Paul's to be ordained February 2 — Page 6

THE EPISTLE

Rector The Rev'd Fr. Richard Wall
Co-Editors Katherine Britton, Cathy Downes

THE PARISH

Rector The Rev'd Fr. Richard Wall
Assistant Priest The Rev'd Fr. Shawn Strout

Assisting Priests The Rev'd Frs. Tony Lewis, Randy McQuin, J. Peter Pham

Director of Music Jeffrey Smith
Director of Communication and Administration Mauricio Franco Ospina

Address 2430 K Street Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20037-1797

Phone 202.337.2020

Fax 202.337.7418

Email office@stpauls-kst.com

THE VESTRY

Senior Warden David Schnorrenberg (2020)
Junior Warden Anne Windle (2021)

Secretary

Treasurer

Members

Katherine Britton
John Orens (2019)
Michael Robinson (2019)
Preston Winter (2019)
Gwyneth Zakaib (2019)
Ed Britton (2020)
Patricia Byrd (2020)
Matthew Leddicotte (2020)
Mary Beth Bakke (2021)
Drew Peterson (2021)
Lindsay Raffetto (2021)

EPISTLEEDITOR@GMAIL.COM

[HTTP://WWW.STPAULS-KST.COM/EPISTLE](http://WWW.STPAULS-KST.COM/EPISTLE)

The Epistle is a monthly publication of St. Paul's Parish. We invite you to submit your articles, photos, and suggestions. Email us at epistleeditor@gmail.com. **Our deadline is the fifteenth of each month** (for the next month's issue) and articles accepted for the Epistle are subject to editorial revision. Please submit your content in Microsoft Word format. © 2019 St. Paul's Parish, K Street, Washington.

VISIT US ON THE WEB AT [HTTP://WWW.STPAULS-KST.COM](http://WWW.STPAULS-KST.COM)

And yet this is no invitation to laissez-faire and no mandate to sin boldly – but more a constant call to repent and return. For repentance – “metanoia” – is an invitation to simply that: turning away from one thing and towards another – turning away from all that diminishes and destroys, and towards our Heavenly Father who teaches us how to love. It is a constant dynamic: an endless, winding pilgrimage towards the place of our own resurrection. Just like those same faces appearing and disappearing and reappearing on treadmills, so too do we come again and again unto the Altar of God.

This cycle of repentance and redemption is the movement of both the Mass but also the entire liturgical year: the sanctification of even time. Every year we begin once again on the arc of salvation, beginning in the long, dark days of Advent waiting. And now we look to the gradual revelation of this baby through these Epiphany weeks, before we dive once again into 40 days and nights of wilderness living. And we wave palms, wash feet, shout “Crucify”, bless new flames and rejoice as Jesus once again rises from the dead precisely so that this entire world and all creation might always begin again.

This year the Feast of The Epiphany falls on a Sunday – 6th January. And yet again we celebrate beginning again: mysterious figures from the East who somewhere deep in their spirits felt a call and stirring to follow a star: a call and stirring, no doubt, built on their sense of incompleteness, and longing for God. They seek the King of Jews in the place of power, but the star leads them on to a stable and to a manger. And, Matthew records, when their eyes beheld their salvation – a young child – they responded as we only can: they fell down and worshipped him.

This Benedictine invitation – the good news of life beginning once again – is at the heart of the Gospel.

Please note carefully our schedule for Sunday 6th January:

10am – Solemn Choral Mattins
11:15am – Procession & Solemn Mass
4pm – Solemn Evensong & Benediction

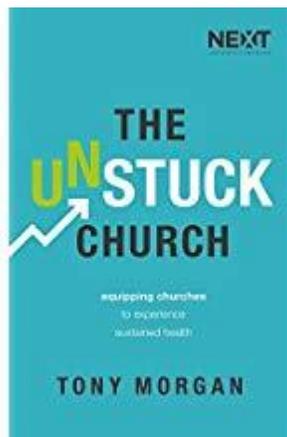
I am particularly excited that we are able to offer Solemn Choral Mattins – part, I believe, of the genius of Anglicanism, and yet a part of our tradition that grows elusive. This is something we can offer both to this city and to the wider church, as part of our faithful witness and discipline of prayer.

What might it mean for a church to begin again? As for individuals, so too for congregations: not plastic surgery, not throwing out babies with water, not mindless reinvention, not abandoning core values or personality. But perhaps facing honestly patterns and trends and wondering how we become “unstuck” – how we disrupt ourselves, and our best loved habits, to reach more people and grow God’s Kingdom.

For the price of growth is often some kind of change: a willingness to reach beyond ourselves and to try something new; or perhaps “focusing” our programs, missions, ministries – of owning and embracing our God-given purpose and personality - rather than trying so hard to be all things to all people. What might it take for us to embrace that mindset?

I use “unstuck” with intentionality as Bishop Budde has invited Tony Morgan (the author of “The Unstuck Church”) to address congregational leaders. The clergy, staff, vestry will be in that audience, and are reading his

book in advance. We will also be hearing from some of our sister parishes who are already using his methodology as a tool for planning their next cycle of congregational life.



Perhaps this might be for us too a useful perspective: a way of training our thinking and praying about the future. And I believe we are already in a good place to begin again. My thanks to the great generosity of the parish and the hard work of the vestry in funding and passing a balanced budget for 2019: and a budget based not on the generosity of the dead, but on the stewardship and resourcefulness of the living. The arrival of Acton Academy helps this in no small part; and we are all enjoying their wonderfully positive presence around our buildings during the week.

Finally, Fr Shawn and I are only too happy to work with each of you individually for 2019 to be a year of spiritual fresh starts, and a deepening of your relationship with God. For amidst the usual hullabaloo of budgets, programs, volunteering, and so on – this is what really and ultimately matters.

I will be teaching a 6-week course beginning Wednesday 16th at 6:40pm

(“Emmaus II”) which is open to absolutely anybody. Anybody interested in receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation or being Received into the Episcopal Church should make this a priority. We will be diving deeper into the Eucharist – the very core of our life – based around Acts 2:42:

And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

This comes with my love and prayers

+ Fr Richard



Patrick White (1942-2018)

Curiouser and Curiouser

Dr. Jeffrey Smith, Director of Music

Patrick described last September's party for newcomers as the best ever. That night at the rectory, he was in his element; no surprise really, for Patrick's enthusiasms and curiosities were those of an eternal newcomer. Greeting at the nave doors he was the dependable old-hand usher, but always with "beginner's mind."

In a city teeming with introverts, we could depend upon the none-too-shy Patrick for unrated pronouncements and factoids, often irrelevant but always amusing. Generally hyperbolic, these riffs could run from czarist bloodlines or antebellum tableware to Ivor Gurney lyrics, from the origin of Bermuda shorts to the unappreciated applicability of "Land of Hope and Glory." But he aged graciously, and his grand judgments on taste or man-

ners would inevitably be offset by the twinkle of self-irony.

Patrick was a keen supporter of our musicians and was often deeply moved by a simple line of hymn text, which he would repeat to me with evident emotion. Saint Paul's was family for Patrick White and he made it so for others. Summarizing that most recent newcomers' party, Patrick mirrored his own gift to us: "My, what fun we had!"



The Epiphany

*Star of the East, how sweet art Thou,
Seen in life's early morning sky,
Ere yet a cloud has dimm'd the brow,
While yet we gaze with childish eye;*

*When father, mother, nursing friend,
Most dearly lov'd, and loving best,
First bid us from their arms ascend,
Pointing to Thee in Thy sure rest.*

*Too soon the glare of early day
Buries, to us, Thy brightness keen,
And we are left to find our way
By faith and hope in Thee unseen.*

*What matter? If the waymarks sure
On every side are round us set,
Soon overleap'd, but not obscure?
'Tis ours to mark them or forget.*

*What matter? If in calm old age
Our childhood's star again arise,
Crowing our lonely pilgrimage
With all that cheers a wanderer's eye?*

*Ne'er may we lose it from our sight,
Till all our hopes and thoughts are led
To where it stays its lucid flight
Over our Saviour's lowly bed.*

*Will not the long-forgotten glow
Of mingled joy and awe return,
When stars above or flowers below
First made our infant spirits burn?*

*Look on us, Lord, and take our parts
Even on Thy throne of purity!
From these our proud yet grovelling
hearts
Hide not Thy mild forgiving eye.*

John Keble, *The Christian Year*



Children Share Advent Preparation and Christmas Joy

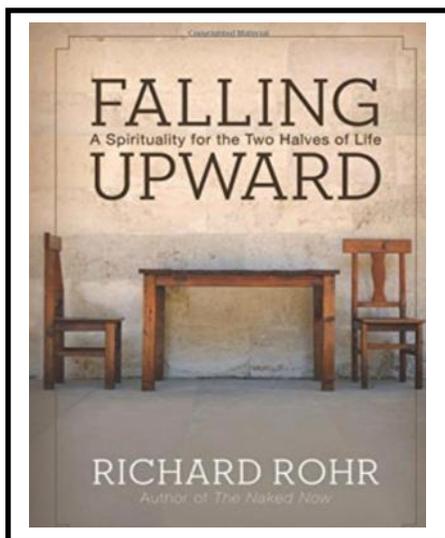


On Matters of the Soul — Make it your New Year's Resolution

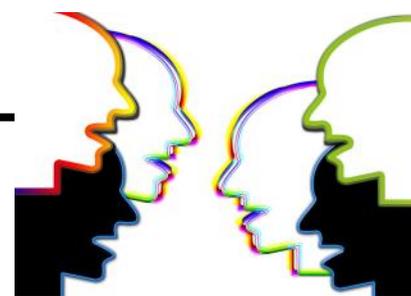
Tina Mallett

One of the best ways to make new friends in the parish or develop deeper connections with people you already know is to attend a small group. One such group, On Matters of the Soul, meets each Monday evening at 7:00 in the Volunteer Office (formerly the Guild Room). We learn about our God, our church and our faith by means of reading and discussing books. In the process, we learn about each other and strengthen the bonds of friendship.

We are currently reading Richard Rohr's *Falling Upward*, which, happily, Bishop Mariann referenced in her November 29 message to the diocese, "Why We Need Advent." As she pointed out, in this book Fr. Rohr describes two major life tasks: building a strong



"container" or self-identity and filling that container with appropriate content. As we work our way through the book and reflect on Fr. Rohr's profound insights on spiritual growth, we introduce our own stories and experiences and thus fortify our bonds of friendship.



Each meeting opens and closes with invigorating psalms and prayers from the *BCP* that we read together.

I recommend giving On Matters of the Soul a New Year's try - it is a welcoming community and not at all dour - there is plenty of conviviality along with serious discussion.



Invitation to the Ordination of David Goldberg, Former Seminarian Assistant at St. Paul's

God willing, The Rt. Rev'd Héctor Monterroso Gonzáles, Assistant Bishop, The Episcopal Diocese of Texas, will ordain The Rev'd David Michael Goldberg to the Sacred Order of Priests on The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, February 2, 2019 at half-past five in the evening at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 705 Williams St, Pasadena, Texas 77506.

A reception will follow at the church.

The bishop requests the honor of your presence.

Clergy are invited to wear cassock, surplice, and white stole.

JANUARY ON K STREET

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS AT ST. PAUL'S PARISH

1	Linda DeBerry Amelia Williamson	18	Anna Cecere
6	Liz Ryon	21	John Crane Mark Freeland
8	William Buzby Frank Parlier Eric Petersen	24	James Kennedy Ann Martin William O'Brien
9	Penelope Wilhelm	27	Andrew Darmstadter
10	Hannah Proctor Jeanne Smith	31	Mildreth Thorberg
11	Peter Agnew Catherine Ballinger Linna Barnes		
12	Sarah Evans Brown		
14	Grace Buzby Edward Loucks		
17	Richard Best		

HaPpY
BiRtHdAY

Pixabay Free Images (<https://pixabay.com/en/happy-birthday-text-happy-birthday->



The Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ Sunday, January 6, 2019

10:00 a.m. Solemn Choral Mattins
11:15 a.m. Procession & Solemn Mass
4:00 p.m. Evensong & Benediction of
the Blessed Sacrament

The First Sunday After Epiphany: The Baptism of Our Lord Sunday, January 13, 2019

7:30 a.m. Morning Prayer
7:45 a.m. Low Mass
9:00 a.m. Sung Mass
11:15 a.m. Solemn Mass
4:00 p.m. Epiphany Lessons and Car-
ols, followed by Benediction of the
Blessed Sacrament

The Solemnity of the Conversion of St. Paul, Our Patronal Feast Sunday, January 20, 2019

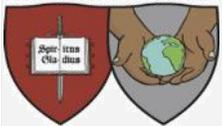
9:45 a.m. Morning Prayer
10:30 a.m. Procession and Solemn
Mass
4:00 p.m. Solemn Evensong and Ben-
ediction of the Blessed Sacrament

The Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary: Candlemas

Friday, February 1, 2019
5:45 p.m. Evening Prayer
6:45 p.m. Blessing of the Candles,
Procession with Solemn Mass



SAINT PAUL'S PARISH
COMMISSION ON MISSION



We are short on drivers for weekend
breakfast delivery runs!!!!!!

Could you help out????

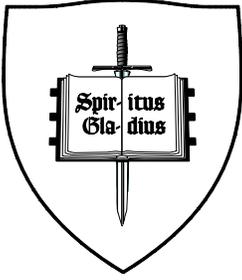
If you can help, please contact Glenn Marsh
(gmarsh338@outlook.com).

Delivery teams meet in the parish parking lot at 5:45 am on
Saturday and Sunday mornings and deliver along pre-set
routes. Newcomers will be teamed with old hands. You can
volunteer for a regular time or as your schedule allows.



Your help will make all
the difference to those
in need.





SAINT PAUL'S PARISH

K STREET — WASHINGTON

2430 K Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20037

202.337.2020
<http://www.stpauls-kst.com>

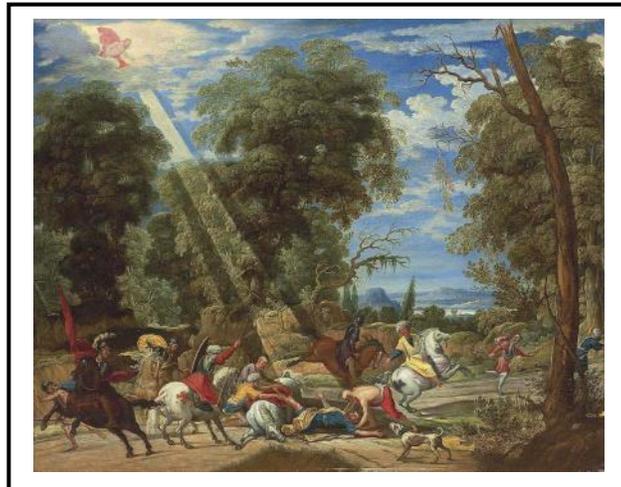
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Remember to mark your Calendar:

**January 6, Epiphany: 10 a.m. Choral Mattins, and
11:15 a.m. Procession and Solemn Mass**

January 13, Baptism of Our Lord: 4 p.m. Epiphany Lessons and Carols

**January 20, Solemnity of the Conversion of St. Paul, Patronal Feast:
10:30 a.m. Combined Service, Procession and Solemn Mass**



Conversion of Paul, David Teniers The Elder (1582-1649)