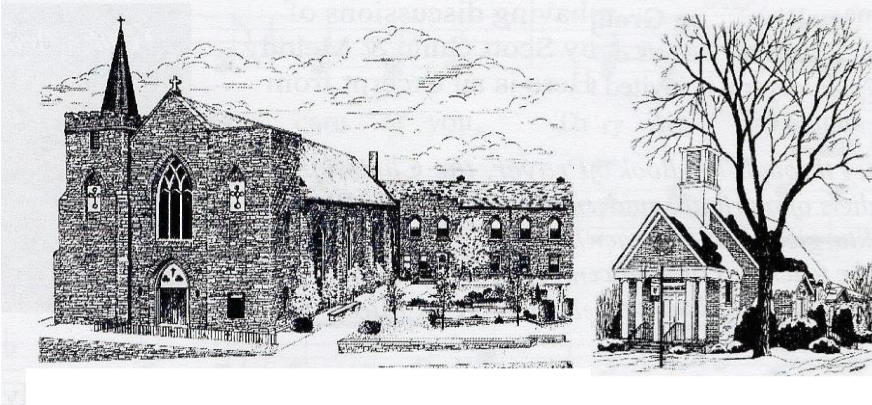


THE EPISCOPAL PARISH OF ALTON

Alton, Illinois



St. Paul's Church
10 E. Third St.
10:30 a.m.

Trinity Chapel
1901 State St.
8:15 a.m.

The Third Sunday of Advent
December 14, 2025

The Rev. Garron C. Daniels+
Rector XXI

The Rev. Garron C. Daniels – Email: frgarron@gmail.com

Church Office Telephone – 618-465-9149

Church Email: episcopalalton@gmail.com

Office Hours – Monday through Thursday, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Welcome to the Episcopal Parish of Alton! We are glad to have you worship with us today. All baptized Christians are invited to receive the Bread and Wine of Holy Communion or to simply come forward for a blessing.

The Holy Eucharist: Rite I

BCP p. 323

Prelude Fanfare on 'Winchester New'

C. Callahan

Hymn #068 *Rejoice! rejoice, believers*

The Hymnal 1982

A Penitential Order

BCP p. 319

Trisagion

#S102 The Hymnal 1982

The Collect of the Day

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Lessons *Please be seated*

BCP p. 325

A reading from Isaiah

35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.

Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
"Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.

And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;

everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Psalm 146:4-9 *Lauda, anima mea*

The people respond with the verses in bold italics

- 4 Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! *
whose hope is in the LORD their God;
- 5 Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; *
who keeps his promise for ever;
- 6 Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, *
and food to those who hunger.
- 7 The LORD sets the prisoners free;
the LORD opens the eyes of the blind; *
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
- 8 The LORD loves the righteous;
the LORD cares for the stranger; *
***he sustains the orphan and widow,
but frustrates the way of the wicked.***
- 9 The LORD shall reign for ever, *
***your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.
Hallelujah!***

A reading from James

5:7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The Gospel*Matthew 11:2-11*

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.’

"Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

The Sermon

The Rev. Garron C. Daniels+

The Nicene Creed*Please stand**BCP p. 327***The Prayers of the People***BCP p. 328*

Intercessor: Lord in thy mercy. **Response:** Hear our prayer.

The Peace

Welcome and Announcements

Offertory Sentence

Offertory Anthem *'Conditor Alme'* (Creator of the Stars of Night) arr. P. Lehenbauer

Presentation Hymn #380 *Praise God, from whom (vs 3 only)* *The Hymnal 1982*

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer I

BCP p. 333

Holy, holy, holy Lord: Sanctus

#S114 The Hymnal 1982

The Lord's Prayer *(sung)*

#S119 The Hymnal 1982

Jesus, Lamb of God: Agnus Dei

#S158 The Hymnal 1982

All baptized Christians are welcome to come forward to receive Communion, and everyone is welcome to come to the rail for a blessing.

If you do not wish to receive either the bread or the wine, please cross your arms across your chest as a silent request for a blessing from the priest.

Prayer of Humble Access

BCP p. 337

Communion Anthem

A Shepherd's Lament

G. Martin

Post-Communion Prayer

BCP p. 339

The Blessing

BCP p. 339

Dismissal

BCP p. 339

Hymn #059

Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding

The Hymnal 1982

Postlude

Carillon on a Moravian Melody

G. Young

SERVING TODAY

Trinity:

Celebrant: The Rev. Garron C. Daniels+
Violinist: Nick Zankl
Lector: Chuck Drennan
Intercessor: Chuck Drennan
CB/Acolyte: Donna Fisher
Altar Guild: Sue Goers

St. Paul's:

Celebrant: The Rev. Garron C. Daniels+
Organist: Gay Anderson
Crucifer: Tom Wrausmann
Altar Acolyte: Nathalia Baum
Acolyte: Donna Fisher
Chalice/BB: Robbie Cupp
Lector: Chuck Drennan
Intercessor: Chuck Drennan
Thurifer:
Altar Guild: N. Weiss-Hayes, M. LoRusso
Greeters: Nancy Simpson
Ushers: D-Ann Kimbro

NEXT WEEK

The Rev. Garron C. Daniels+
Laurna Hutchinson
Laurna Hutchinson
Laurna Hutchinson
Nancy Weiss-Hayes

The Rev. Garron C. Daniels+
Gay Anderson
Robbie Cupp
Destiny Drennan
Marti LoRusso
Donna Fisher
Chuck Drennan
Chuck Drennan
S. Lukasik, A. Drennan, D. Drennan
Irene McLaughlin
Bill Moyer

Calendar and Announcements for the Week of December 14, 2025

Sunday, December 14 *Third Sunday of Advent*

12:00 p.m. Parish Life meeting – St. Paul's conference room
4:00 p.m. Christmas Caroling – leave from Trinity Chapel

Tuesday, December 16 9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer – St. Paul's
10:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Bible Study – St. Paul's
6:30 p.m. Vestry meeting – St. Paul's

Wednesday, December 17 9:30 a.m. Book Club – St. Paul’s Heneghan Hall
6:00 p.m. Joint E&O/Education commission meeting

Saturday, December 20 10:00 a.m. Saturday Café - 1st Presbyterian Church

Sunday, December 21 *Fourth Sunday of Advent*
8:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist at Trinity Chapel
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist at St. Paul’s
4:00 p.m. Advent Lessons and Carols – St. Paul’s
6:00 p.m. Ecumenical Youth Group Outreach/Mission Night –
Main St. Methodist Church

Join us for Christmas caroling on Sunday, December 14th! We will leave Trinity Chapel at 4:00 p.m. and carpool to visit John Ulfers in Jerseyville, parishioners at Asbury Village in Godfrey, Charles Buxton, and Anna Potter. We will return around 8:00 p.m.

Bible Study will be held Tuesday, December 16th following Morning Prayer in St. Elizabeth’s Chapel at 9:00 a.m. Bible study begins at 10:00 a.m. and lasts approximately an hour. **Evening Bible study is led each Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. at St. Paul’s.** We are currently studying *The Gospel of Luke*. All are welcome to join – be sure to bring your Bible!

Book Club meets on Wednesday, December 17th, at 9:30 a.m. at St. Paul’s Heneghan Hall. We will be discussing Jeff Guinn’s *The Autobiography of Santa Claus* and hope to see you for the lively discussion, fellowship and refreshments! Come wearing your ugliest Christmas sweater, bring food to share and a wrapped, new or gently used book if you would like to participate in the exchange.

There will be a joint E&O/Education commission meeting held on Wednesday, December 17th at 6:00 p.m. at Good News Pizza inside of Post Commons. This will be a time to celebrate all of the hard work that these commissions have put in this year, as well as plan ahead for 2026 so that we head into the new year on solid ground.

Education commission is offering bookplates to anyone who wishes to purchase these as a memorial or in memory of a loved one. The bookplates will be placed inside the front cover of the new pew Bibles. The cost is \$10 each.

Today is the last day that donations will be accepted for poinsettias and Christmas greens for St. Paul's and Trinity Chapel. Forms are available at church for you to designate whether your donation is in memory or honor of a loved one and to which location you would like the flowers to go. Checks (made payable to the Episcopal Parish of Alton) along with the form may be placed in the offering plate or mail/bring it to the church office.

If you wish to make a donation to the Liturgy and Arts Fund in memory or honor of a loved one, envelopes are in the Narthex and can be placed in the collection plate.

A Timely Reminder: If you wish to deduct contributions to The Episcopal Parish of Alton on your 2025 tax return, it must be received by December 31st.

The boxed sets of envelopes for your pledged offering for 2026 are available in Heneghan Hall. Please take a set for your use throughout the new year.

Parishioners are needed to take turns providing refreshments for the Sunday Coffee Hour after the 10:30 a.m. service at St. Paul's. The sign-up sheet can be found in Heneghan Hall. Thank you for volunteering!

The Episcopal Parish of Alton now offers Online Giving! Scan the QR code to make one-time or monthly contributions.





Please remember in your prayers this week:

Brian, Joan, Steve, Audrey, Bill, Marie, Ryan, Kathryn, Bria, Barbara, Brenda, Dane, Tom, Greg, Jim, Irene, Patty, Keegan, Charles, Anna, Tracy, Linda Johnson & Family, Morio Miller, Keyairuh Simmons and those known only to us.

Please contact the office if you have someone you would like added to the prayer list. Individuals will remain on the list for one month and will be re-added upon request.

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ADVENT *LESSONS & CAROLS*

*Join the Episcopal Parish of Alton
for a special evening of Lessons &
Carols as we await the coming of the
Lord!*



SUNDAY DECEMBER 21ST

4:00PM

**ST PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
10 E 3RD ST, ALTON, IL**





CHRISTMAS WEEK

Feast of St Thomas the Apostle Mass
Mon. Dec 22nd @5:30pm at Trinity

Sacrament of Confession
Tue. Dec 23 @11:00am-Noon & 4:30pm-5:30pm
St Elizabeth's Chapel (located in St Paul's)

Christmas Eve Mass
Wed. Dec 24th @10pm at St Paul's
(Music to begin at 9:30pm)

Christmas Day Mass
Thur. Dec 25th @10am at Trinity

Feast of St Stephen Mass
Fri. Dec 26th @5:30pm at Trinity

Feast of St John the Evangelist Mass
Sat. Dec 27th @Noon at Trinity

First Sunday of Christmas Mass
Sun. December 28th
8:15am (Trinity) and 10:30am (St Paul's)

Feast of the Holy Innocents Mass
Mon. Dec 29th @5:30pm at Trinity