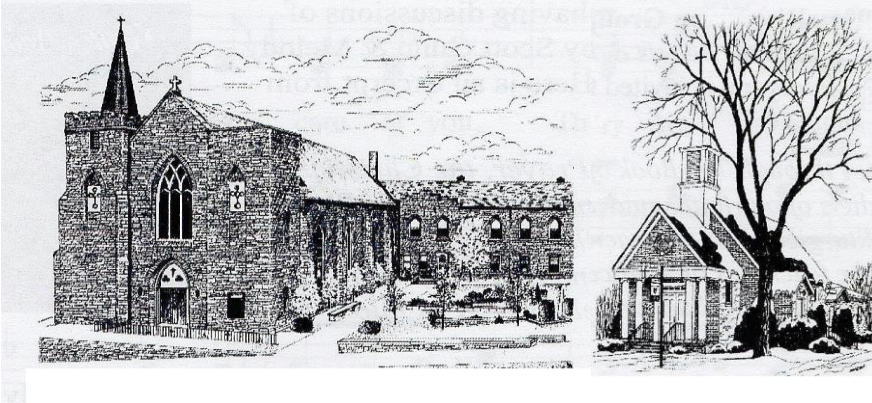


# THE EPISCOPAL PARISH OF ALTON

Alton, Illinois



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

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

**Second Sunday after Christmas**  
**January 4, 2026**

**The Rev. Garron C. Daniels+**  
**Rector XXI**

The Rev. Garron C. Daniels – Email: [frgarron@gmail.com](mailto:frgarron@gmail.com)

Church Office Telephone – 618-465-9149

Church Email: [episcopalalton@gmail.com](mailto: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**

‘Irby’

arr. G. Young

**Hymn #480**

*When Jesus left his Father’s throne*

*The Hymnal 1982*

**Glory to God: Gloria in excelsis**

*#S202 The Hymnal 1982*

**The Collect of the Day**

O God, who didst wonderfully create, and yet more wonderfully restore, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, thy Son Jesus Christ; who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

**The Lessons** *Please be seated*

*BCP p. 325*

**A reading from Jeremiah**

*31:7-14*

Thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,  
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;  
proclaim, give praise, and say,  
"Save, O LORD, your people,  
the remnant of Israel."

See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,  
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,

among them the blind and the lame, those with child and  
those in labor, together;  
a great company, they shall return here.

With weeping they shall come,  
and with consolations I will lead them back,  
I will let them walk by brooks of water,  
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;  
for I have become a father to Israel,  
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,  
and declare it in the coastlands far away;  
say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him,  
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock."

For the LORD has ransomed Jacob,  
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,  
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,  
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,  
and over the young of the flock and the herd;  
their life shall become like a watered garden,  
and they shall never languish again.

Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,  
and the young men and the old shall be merry.

I will turn their mourning into joy,  
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.

I will give the priests their fill of fatness,  
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,

says the LORD.

- 1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of hosts! \*  
***My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD;  
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.***
- 2 The sparrow has found her a house  
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; \*  
***by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts,  
my King and my God.***
- 3 Happy are they who dwell in your house! \*  
***they will always be praising you.***
- 4 Happy are the people whose strength is in you! \*  
***whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.***
- 5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, \*  
***for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.***
- 6 They will climb from height to height, \*  
***and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.***
- 7 LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; \*  
***hearken, O God of Jacob.***
- 8 Behold our defender, O God; \*  
***and look upon the face of your Anointed.***
- 9 For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my own room, \*  
***and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God  
than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.***
- 10 For the LORD God is both sun and shield; \*  
***he will give grace and glory;***
- 11 No good thing will the LORD withhold \*  
***from those who walk with integrity.***
- 12 O LORD of hosts, \*  
***happy are they who put their trust in you!***

## A reading from Ephesians

1:3-6, 15-19a

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe.

## Hymn #084

*Love came down at Christmas*

*The Hymnal 1982*

## The Gospel

*Matthew 2:1-12*

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who is to shepherd my people Israel.”

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

## **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.

## **Confession of Sin**

*BCP p. 330*

## **The Peace**

## **Welcome and Announcements**

## **Offertory Sentence**

## **Offertory Anthem**

*‘Quem Pastores’*

arr. M. Joseph

## **Presentation Hymn #380**

*Praise God, from whom (vs 3 only)*

*The Hymnal 1982*

## **The Great Thanksgiving**

*Eucharistic Prayer II*

*BCP p. 340*

*Holy, holy, holy Lord: Sanctus*

*#S114 The Hymnal 1982*

**The Lord's Prayer** *(sung)*  
*Jesus, Lamb of God: Agnus Dei*

#S119 *The Hymnal 1982*  
#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**  
**Communion Anthem**

*Siciliana*

*BCP p. 337*  
O. Respighi (1879-1936)

**Post-Communion Prayer**  
**The Blessing**  
**Dismissal**

*BCP p. 339*  
*BCP p. 339*  
*BCP p. 339*

**Hymn #102**  
**Postlude**

*Once in royal David's city*  
*'The Three Kings'*

*The Hymnal 1982*  
arr. G. Young

## **SERVING TODAY**

### **Trinity:**

Celebrant: The Rev. Garron C. Daniels+  
Violinist:  
Lector: Laurna Hutchinson  
Intercessor: Laurna Hutchinson  
CB/Acolyte: Laurna Hutchinson  
Altar Guild: Sue Goers

## **NEXT WEEK**

The Rev. Garron C. Daniels+  
Nick Zankl  
Linda Dunnagan  
Linda Dunnagan  
Jeff Dunnagan  
Nancy Weiss-Hayes

**St. Paul's:**

Celebrant:	The Rev. Garron C. Daniels+	The Rev. Garron C. Daniels+
Organist:	Gay Anderson	Gay Anderson
Crucifer:	Chuck Drennan	Dereck Cook
Altar Acolyte:	Donna Fisher	Nathalia Baum
Acolyte:	Robbie Cupp	Destiny Drennan
Chalice/BB:	Susan Lukasik	Marti LoRusso
Lector:	Marti LoRusso	Robbie Cupp
Intercessor:	Marti LoRusso	Robbie Cupp
Thurifer:		
Altar Guild:	D. Cook, J. Cook	S. Lukasik, A. Drennan, D. Drennan
Greeters:	Nathalia Baum	Dave Elson
Ushers:	Meg & Scott Dorris	Nancy Elson

**Calendar and Announcements for the Week of January 4, 2026****Today's Open Offering supports the Rector's Discretionary Fund**

<b>Sunday, January 4</b>	<i>Second Sunday of Christmas</i> 11:30 p.m. Coffee Hour presentation – St. Paul's 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. Pet Food Pantry at St. Paul's 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Ecumenical Youth Group at St. Paul's
<b>Tuesday, January 6</b>	9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer at St. Paul's 10:00 a.m. Bible Study at St. Paul's 5:00 p.m. Bible Study – Trinity Chapel 6:00 p.m. <i>The Epiphany of our Lord Jesus Christ</i> – Trinity Chapel
<b>Wednesday, January 7</b>	6:30 p.m. Education Commission meeting at St. Paul's
<b>Thursday, January 8</b>	4:00 p.m. Handbell practice at St. Paul's 5:00 p.m. Choir practice at St. Paul's
<b>Saturday, January 10</b>	10:00 a.m. Second Saturdays Healthy Living – St. Paul's Annual reports are due in the church office today

## **Sunday, January 11**

*First Sunday after The Epiphany*

8:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist at Trinity Chapel

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist at St. Paul's

12:15 p.m. Parish Life meeting – St. Paul's

12:15 p.m. Usher/Greeter meeting – St. Paul's

**Bible Study will resume on Tuesday, January 6th** 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 will be led at 5:00 p.m. at Trinity Chapel .** We are currently studying *The Gospel of Luke*. All are welcome to join – be sure to bring your Bible!

**The next Parish Life meeting will be held on Sunday, January 11th, at 12:15 p.m.** in the St. Paul's conference room. Anyone is welcome to come to the meeting.

**If you are interested in serving as a Greeter/Usher, plan to attend the upcoming meeting on Sunday, January 11th, at 12:15 p.m. in the St. Paul's sanctuary.** The meeting will be led by Nathalia Baum and is training oriented to review guidelines and new procedures.

### **Upcoming Coffee Hour Presentations:**

**Sunday, January 4th – St. Benedict Community Garden; Come to coffee hour after the 10:30 a.m. service at St. Paul's** for a special presentation by Tiffany McAlister. She will discuss and answer any questions about the new St. Benedict Community Garden that is being built at Trinity Chapel and how parishioners can get involved! Learn about how our ministry in the community is growing!

**Sunday, January 18th – Alton Mission with Pastor Peter Hough; Please join us at St. Paul's during our coffee hour** for a special presentation by Pastor Peter Hough from Alton Mission. Peter will talk about how Alton Mission started, what it is doing in our community, and how we can help support the mission. You won't want to miss this presentation!

**The 2026 Episcopal Church Year calendars are now available in Heneghan Hall –** please take one for your use as we begin the New Year.

**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.

**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.**

**Annual reports are due in the church office by January 10th.** Groups with checking and/or savings accounts must include their expenses/receipts and end of year balance.

**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:**

Sheta, Chris, Randy, Brian, Joan, Steve, Audrey, Bill, Marie, Ryan, Kathryn, Bria, Barbara, Brenda, Dane, Greg, Jim, Irene, 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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**St. Paul's Episcopal Church Presents:**

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# **The Case of The Frozen Future**

**A youth Whodunnit Mystery!**

2026 has begun and St. Paul's Annual Meeting is Sunday, but reports are missing, the voting box has vanished, ballots are nowhere to be found, and only an ink blotch is left behind. Every program, trip, and event for 2026 is at risk of being canceled!

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**This is your official summons!**

Join the St. Paul's Investigators to hunt for clues, interrogate four mysterious suspects, and unravel the conspiracy. It's a race against time to solve "The Case of the Frozen Future."

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## **Who?**

All youth ages 9-14  
are invited to participate.

## **What?**

"The Case of the Frozen Future"  
A Whodunnit Mystery

## **When?**

Sat. January 24th 3:00 - 5:00pm

## **Where:**

St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
10 E 3rd St.  
Alton, IL 62002

## **RSVP:**

Please RSVP to  
[episcopalalton@gmail.com](mailto:episcopalalton@gmail.com)  
or call 618-465-9149!

**S.P.I.**

**FREE  
Event**

**For ages  
9-14**

**St. Paul's Episcopal &  
First Presbyterian  
invite you to our January**

# **Kids' Night In!**

**Pizza  
Movies  
Snacks**

**Activities  
Games  
Crafts**

**Free for children 5-14  
Saturday, January 24th  
5:00 - 8:00pm**

**St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
10 E. 3rd St.  
Alton, IL 62002  
618-465-3592**

