

St. Paul Lutheran Church of Catonsville



December 28, 2025

The Holy Innocents Martyrs

December 28, 2025

Prelude:

Interlude on the Coventry Carol

W. S. Lloyd Webber
(1914-1982)

Stand

See amid the Winter's Snow

LSB 373



1 See a - mid the win - ter's snow, Born for us on earth be - low,
2 Lo, with - in a sta - ble lies He who built the star - ry skies,
3 Sa - cred In - fant, all di - vine, What a ten - der love was Thine,
4 Teach, O teach us, ho - ly Child, By Thy face so meek and mild,



See, the gen - tle Lamb ap - pears, Prom - ised from e - ter - nal years.
He who, throned in height sub - lime, Sits a - mid the cher - u - bim.
Thus to come from high - est bliss Down to such a world as this!
Teach us to re - sem - ble Thee In Thy sweet hu - mil - i - ty.



Refrain
Hail, O ev - er - bless - ed morn! Hail, re - demp - tion's hap - py dawn!



Sing through all Je - ru - sa - lem: "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"

Text: Edward Caswall, 1814-78, alt.
Tune: John Goss, 1800-80
Text and tune: Public domain

Confession and Absolution

Invocation

Matthew 28:19b; 18:20

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Exhortation

1 John 1:8–9

- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Kneel/Sit

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination

Confession of Sins

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

Absolution

[John 20:19–23]

- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

Stand

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 31:1, 3, 5; antiphon: Revelation 7:14b

These are the ones coming out of the great tribu- | lation.*

They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood | of the Lamb.

In you, O LORD, do I take refuge; let me never be | put to shame;*

in your righteousness de- | liver me.

For you are my rock and my | fortress;*

and for your name's sake you lead me and | guide me.

Into your hand I commit my | spirit;*

you have redeemed me, O LORD, | faithful God.
 Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
 and to the Holy | Spirit;
 as it was in the be- | ginning,*
 is now, and will be forever. | Amen.
 These are the ones coming out of the great tribu- | lation.*
 They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood | of the Lamb.

Kyrie

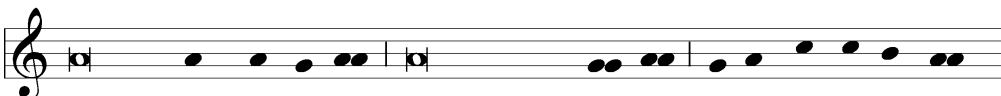
Mark 10:47



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from a-bove and for our sal-va-tion let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



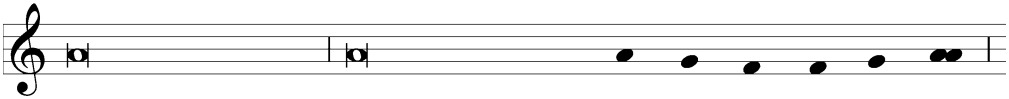
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the uni-ty of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



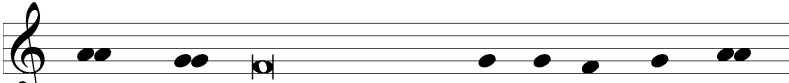
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

Gloria in Excelsis

Luke 2:14; John 1:29



A Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to His peo - ple on earth.



C Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and



Fa - ther: We wor - ship You, we give You thanks, we



praise You for Your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly

Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God: You
 take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on
 us. You are seat - ed at the right hand of the
 Fa-ther; re - ceive our prayer. For You a-lone are the
 Ho - ly One, You a-lone are the Lord, You a-
 lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,
 in the glo - ry of God the Fa-ther. A - men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

C **Almighty God, the martyred innocents of Bethlehem showed forth Your praise not by speaking but by dying. Put to death in us all that is in conflict with Your will that our lives may bear witness to the faith we profess with our lips; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**



C A - - men.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 31:15–17

¹⁵Thus says the LORD:

“A voice is heard in Ramah,
lamentation and bitter weeping.
Rachel is weeping for her children;
she refuses to be comforted for her children,
because they are no more.”

¹⁶Thus says the LORD:

“Keep your voice from weeping,
and your eyes from tears,
for there is a reward for your work,
declares the LORD,
and they shall come back from the land of the enemy.

¹⁷There is hope for your future,
declares the LORD,
and your children shall come back to their own country.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual

Isaiah 9:6; Psalm 98:1a

To us a child is born, to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder.
And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvelous things!

Epistle

Revelation 14:1–5

¹Then I looked, and behold, on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads. ²And I heard a voice from heaven like the roar of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder. The voice I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps, ³and they were singing a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and before the elders. No one could learn that song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth. ⁴It is these who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are virgins. It is these who follow the Lamb wherever he goes. These have been redeemed from mankind as firstfruits for God and the Lamb, ⁵and in their mouth no lie was found, for they are blameless.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

John 6:68

C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff begins with a C-clef and a common time signature. The melody starts with a whole rest, followed by quarter notes G4, A4, B4, and C5. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?' are written below the staff. The second staff continues the melody with quarter notes D5, E5, F5, and G5, followed by a half note G5 and a whole note G5. The lyrics 'You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.' are written below the staff. The piece ends with a double bar line.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 2:13–18

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the second chapter.



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

¹³When [the wise men] had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.”
¹⁴And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt ¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, “Out of Egypt I called my son.”

¹⁶Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. ¹⁷Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah:

¹⁸“A voice was heard in Ramah,
weeping and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be comforted, because they are no more.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

By All Your Saints in Warfare

LSB 517



1 By all Your saints in war - fare, For
 2 All praise for in - fant mar - tyrs, Whom
 △ 3 Then let us praise the Fa - ther And



all Your saints at rest, Your ho - ly name, O
 Your mys - te - rious love Called ear - ly from their
 wor - ship God the Son And sing to God the



Je - sus, For - ev - er - more be blest! For
 war - fare To share Your home a - bove. O
 Spir - it, E - ter - nal Three in One, Till



You have won the bat - tle That they might wear the
 Ra - chel, cease your weep - ing; They rest from earth - ly
 all the ran - somed num - ber Fall down be - fore the



crown; And now they shine in glo - ry
 cares! Lord, grant us crowns as bril - liant
 throne, As - crib - ing pow'r and glo - ry



Re - flect - ed from Your throne.
 And faith as sure as theirs.
 And praise to God a - lone.

Text: Horatio Bolton Nelson, 1823–1913, alt. Tune: English; coll. and arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958 Text: Public domain Tune: Public domain

Sermon

Stand

Nicene Creed

☩ I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life \dagger of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

Offering

(An offering plate is available in the narthex. You may also give electronically via this QR code or through our website at stpaulcatonsville.org/donation. If you would like to send in an electronic offering via text, text the dollar amount you would like to give to 410-888-0161.)



Offertory

Psalm 116:12-13, 17-19



C What shall I ren - der to the Lord for all His ben - e-fits to



me? I will of - fer the sac - ri - fice of thanks - giv - ing and will



call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-



va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my



vows to the Lord now in the pres - ence of all His peo - ple, in the



courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface


2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136]



P The Lord be with you.




G And al-so with you.




P Lift up your hearts.



G We lift them to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



G It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

P It is truly good, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



G Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of



pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your

glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is He who comes in the name

of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13

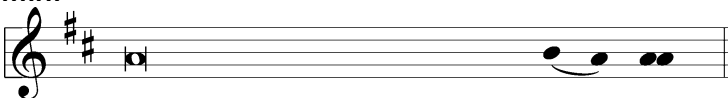
P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

Pax Domini

John 20:19



P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



C A - men.

Agnus Dei

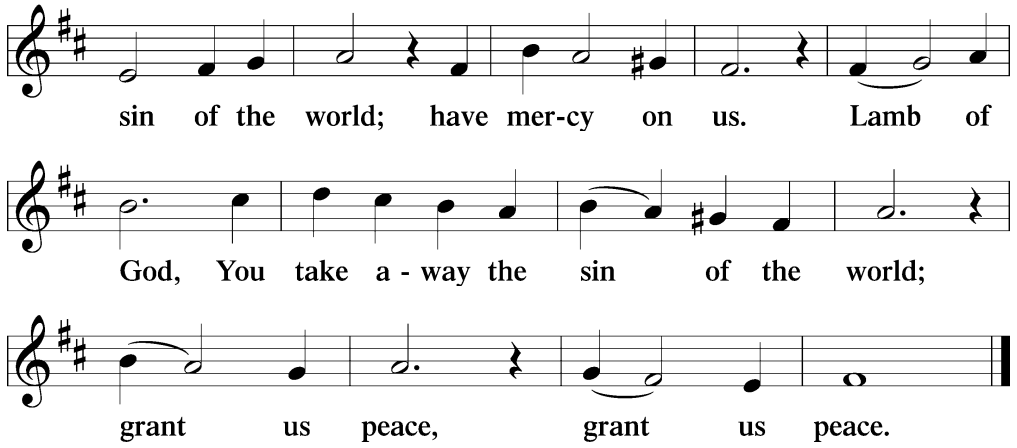
John 1:29



C Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world;



have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the



sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of
God, You take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.

Distribution



What Child Is This

LSB 370



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is
 2 Why lies He in such mean es - tate Where ox and ass are
 3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to



sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While
 feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The
 own Him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let



shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is
 si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall
 lov - ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise the



Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
 pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;
 song on high, The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mar - y!
 Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mar - y!
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-98 Tune: English, 16th cent. Text and tune: Public domain

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

LSB 393



1 In - fant ho - ly, In - fant low - ly, For His bed a cat - tle stall;
 2 Flocks were sleep - ing, Shep - herds keep - ing Vig - il till the morn - ing new



Ox - en low - ing, Lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.
Saw the glo - ry, Heard the sto - ry, Tid - ings of a Gos - pel true.



Swift - ly wing - ing, An - gels sing - ing, Bells are ring - ing, Tid - ings bring - ing:
Thus re - joic - ing, Free from sor - row, Prais - es voic - ing, Greet the mor - row:



Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

Text: tr. Edith M. G. Reed, 1885-1933, alt. Text and tune: Polish Text and tune: Public domain

Away in a Manger

LSB 364



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed,
2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask Thee to stay



The lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down His sweet head.
But lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing He makes.
Close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.



The stars in the sky _____ looked down where He lay,
I love Thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky,
Bless all the dear chil - dren in Thy ten - der care,



The lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
And stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
And take us to heav - en to live with Thee there.

Text (sts. 1-2): Little Children's Book, 1885, Philadelphia; (st. 3): Vineyard Songs, 1892, Louisville, alt.
Tune: James R. Murray, 1841-1905
Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace

LSB 937

1 Lord, bid Your ser - vant go in peace,
2 This is the Sav - ior of the world,
△ 3 With saints of old, with saints to come,
Your word is now ful - filled. These eyes have seen sal -
The Gen - tiles' prom - ised light, God's glo - ry dwell - ing
To You we lift our voice; To Fa - ther, Son, and
va - tion's dawn, This child so long fore - told.
in our midst, The joy of Is - ra - el.
Spir - it blest Be hon - or, love, and praise.

Text (sts. 1-2): James Quinn, 1919-2010; (st. 3): Henry V. Gerike, 1948-2025 Tune: American Text (sts. 1-2): © 1969, 1989 OCP Publications; (st. 3): © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002320 Tune: Public domain

Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray...

C A - men.

Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you
and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

C A - men.

Angels from the Realms of Glory

LSB 367

- 1 An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er
- 2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, Watch - ing o'er your
- 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, Bright - er vi - sions
- 4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, Watch - ing long in
- △ 5 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther,

all the earth; Ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
 flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing,
 beam a - far; Seek the great De - sire of na - tions,
 hope and fear, Sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,
 Spir - it, Son, Ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing

Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth.
 Yon - der shines the In - fant Light.
 Ye have seen His na - tal star.
 In His tem - ple shall ap - pear.
 To the e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain

Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship;

Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

Text (sts. 1, ref. 2-4): James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt.; (st. 5): Salisbury Hymn Book, 1857, Salisbury, alt. Tune: Henry T. Smart, 1813-79
 Text and tune: Public domain

Postlude:

In Dulci Jubilo
In Sweet Jubilation

Johann Michael Bach ?
(1648-1994)
(formerly attributed to J.S. Bach)



Acknowledgments

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.
Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2025 Concordia Publishing House.

News And Notes

Altar Flowers

Flowers are given by The Women’s Guild, to the Glory of God!

Flower Calendar For 2026 Is Up!

Please note: There is a new 2026 sign-up sheet for Altar Flowers on the bulletin board. Sign up to honor and to celebrate people in your life and to beautify our sanctuary for worship.

Sunday School And Adult Bible Class!

Classes meet every Sunday at 8:45 AM. Come and join us.

Thank You!

Thank you to Pastor Tom Foelber for filling in today.

Mission Brunch Sign-up 2026

Our 4th annual Congregation Mission Brunch will be held on Sunday, January 18th. We’ll have a meal together after worship, and welcome guest speaker LeChelle Redd from Faith & Works Enterprises. Join us as we learn more about their mission and opportunities to impact Baltimore with the Gospel. **Sign-up on the bulletin board in the stairwell.**

End Of The Year Giving

End of the tax year giving: to be included for tax year 2025 St. Paul need to receive your donations by December 31st. The last worship service opportunity for offerings is December 28th. You may send a check via the US mail to St. Paul Lutheran 2001 Old Frederick Rd., Catonsville, MD 21228. These must be postmarked by December 31st. You may give electronically until the end of the day December 31st.

Newsletter

January Newsletter articles are due on December 29, 2025. Thank you for your promptness.

Serving at St. Paul

	This week 28th	Next week 4th
Cantor	Jim Baeder	Steve Haar
Reader	Suzanne Giguere	Jay Barringer
Usher	Roy Krakat	Jeffrey Hemmeter
Usher	Ed Kester	Mathew Harmon
Greeter	Pat Wesselman	TBD

Daily Readings

28 Dec	Is 52:13—54:10, Matt 2:13–23
29 Dec	Is 55:1–13, Luke 1:1–25
30 Dec	Is 58:1—59:3, 14–21, Luke 1:26–38
31 Dec	Is 60:1–22, Luke 1:39–56
1 Jan	Is 61:1–11, Luke 1:57–80
2 Jan	Is 62:1–12, Luke 2:1–20
3 Jan	Is 63:1–14, Luke 2:21–40

Happening This Week

Monday Dec 29, 2025

7:30 PM – 9:00 PM

AA Small Group

Fellowship Hall

Tuesday Dec 30, 2025

Wednesday Dec 31, 2025

7:30-9:00

Choir Practice

Thursday January 1, 2026

Friday January 2, 2026

Pastor Alms' Day off

Saturday January 3, 2026

Sunday January 4, 2026

8:45 AM – 9:45 AM

Bible Classes

10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Sunday Worship

Sanctuary

12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Oromo Worship

Sanctuary

18:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Oromo Fellowship

Sanctuary

CHURCH MEMBERS

Fred Shifflet (Heart valve replacement)
Debbie Frech (pneumonia, cancer, new chemotherapy treatment)
Jim Kyne (vision problem)
Lindsey Gay (continued recovery)
Merilyn Blomster (recovering)
Marilyn Haberl (scleroderma)



SHUT-INS

Dorothy Shifflett and Janet Conklin.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Ellie Hroblak, broken hip (Carolyn Louden daughter's Mother-in-Law)
Steven Dombrowski, testing (father of Joy Brooks) 12/9
Kelly Kolenda, recovering from surgery (mother of Emily Kolenda) 12/9
Heidi Krenzke, rare muscle cancer (wife of OGT volunteer) 12/9
Tracy Family at the passing of their daughter Clare (family of Diane Jaeger)12/9
Tommy Stigdon, recovering (Dana Stigdon's son) 11/30
Bob Unglesbee, spine fracture, (Christine Unglesbee Father-in-law) 10/28
John, rare aggressive form of cancer, (Sari's co-worker's husband)10/28
Walt O'Reilly for recovering (Renata O'Reilly's husband)

Prayer is a great gift and privilege for Christians. To add people to the prayer list printed in the bulletin, please email pastoralms@stpaulcatonsville.org or linda.jones@splscatonsville.org or call the church office at 410-747-1897. Family and friends will automatically be removed after one month. If you want your request to stay on for another month, just contact the office.