

**From:** St. Matthew's Episcopal Church office@stmattsbldm.org  
**Subject:** St. Matthew's Newsletter  
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## Rector's Ramblings

This Sunday we will celebrate the Baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Jordan River. I think that it is a feast that seems to pass us by each year as we know the story so well. Yet, we do need to be reminded of this event in Christ's life in the same way we need to be reminded of our own baptisms, because they are saving acts.

In Christ's baptism all the waters of creation are blessed to be used for baptism. As Christ is "drowned" so we are drowned and raised to life through those waters.

And what is this life to which we have been raised? It is a life governed and empowered by the Holy Spirit. It is a life lived by the grace (gift) of God and a life lived for the kingdom. A life no longer motivated by our solitary will, but inspired by the will and love of God. Nothing less than this is meant by being "spiritual" beings in the Christian sense.

But, we do have a long way to go. Well, at least I do. Pray that God will renew us in the Holy Spirit this day and always and give thanks for the waters of Baptism.

Dave+

Service Schedule

## The Good News

January 8, 2016



### Pastoral Letter

Bishop Daniel has issued a Pastoral Letter and we are asked to commend it to you. Please read it at [the Diocesan website](#). If you prefer a hard copy, some will be available at the entrances this Sunday.

### Morning Prayer - Standard Schedule

Morning Prayer is offered at 7AM on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and at 7:30 AM on Thursday. The fourth Thursday at 7:30 AM is Holy Eucharist.

### Bible Study

Continues on Wednesday at 6PM. We will finish Genesis this month and begin preparing for the Lenten Series which will start on February 17.

During Lent we will study the lives of the Apostles after Pentecost. Each evening will begin at 6PM with soup and salad and conclude at 7:30 with Compline.

### Poverty Simulation

Fr. Dave will be participating in a poverty simulation alongside the staff of Oakland School on January 19. Principal Lafrance is looking for volunteers to staff the event. If you are interested in helping that day, please call or email St. Matthew's office.

### Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting will take place on Sunday, January 31. We will have one service at 9AM that day with the meeting immediately to follow. All reports from committees and ministries should be turned into the office by January 24. No reports will be published after that date.

## Service Schedule

### for the week of January 10, 2016

**Holy Eucharist (Rite I)**  
7:30 AM

**Holy Eucharist (Rite II)**  
10:00 AM

**Evensong** 5:00 PM

#### Other Services:

#### Morning Prayer

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday,  
and Friday 7:00 AM  
and Thursday 7:30 AM

**Rosary 5:30 PM Wednesdays.**

#### Intercessory Prayer

Monday at 5:30 p.m., Wednesday  
at 12:15 p.m., and Thursday at  
10:30 a.m. in the Chapel

### Ministry Links

St. Matthew's Webpage  
The Episcopal Diocese of  
Springfield  
Rector's Blog

Two additional candidates are needed to fill the vestry elections, if no candidates are nominated the vestry will proceed with whomever is elected.

Two delegates to Diocesan Synod are also needed. If no nominations are made, the vestry will appoint from its own membership.

If you are interested in being nominated for either of these positions, please let a vestry member know.

#### Parish Mission Trip

If you are interested, please see Fr. Dave. The trip will leave the week of June 27 and return on July 8. The cost of the trip is \$1500 (inclusive).

The goal of the trip is 1) to build relationship with our brothers and sisters in Christ and 2) to rebuild a roof at St. John Church, Owia, St. Vincent.

No shots are required, but a passport is. All ages are welcome and you don't have to know how to swing a hammer.

#### Local Mission Opportunities

ITEMS OF THE MONTH FOR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2016-The old year goes and the new year comes, but the need never ends. The Salvation Army is always there to help; and we can all help this fine, historic organization feed, clothe, and shelter those in need by donating food for the Safe Harbor Shelter and the Army's food pantry. Please place supplies and imperishable foods in the Outreach baskets in the narthex and the hallway beside the fireplace. We bless and thank you!

Here are some suggestions from The Salvation Army: Ketchup--Mayo--Hot Sauce; Italian & Ranch Dressing; Butter, Sugar & Syrup; Coffee & Kool-Aid; Fruit Juice & Tomato Juice; Jell-O (not pudding); Cereal (hot or cold) & Grits; Canned Meats; Canned Fruits/Vegetables; Boxed Meals; Mac-N-Cheese; Cereal; Crackers.

COATS-donated to The Salvation Army will still be welcome through the end of January.

#### Coffee Hour

##### COFFEE HOUR HOSTS NEEDED

A big thank-you to all who served as Coffee Hour hosts in 2015! But please don't stop now. We want you to serve sometime during February through July 2016. If you are currently on our schedule, you'll be on the new schedule UNLESS you tell us to drop you. (Please don't.)

If you are not on our current schedule, we urge you to come back or to join for the first time. We will instruct you. You need not offer large and varied amounts of food unless you really want to: all we ask is that you keep the coffee going (St. Matthew's provides the coffee and tea) and provide snacks

after the 10 a.m.service. Thanks again.

Ann Sokan, 664-1639; Linda Thomas, 242-7160

**Good News Daily**

This Week's Good News Daily is [here](#).

**Readings & Music for January 10, 2016**

Hymns: #296, #297, #295

Isaiah 43:1-7

Thus says the Lord,  
he who created you, O Jacob,  
he who formed you, O Israel:  
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by name, you are mine.  
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;  
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;  
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,  
and the flame shall not consume you.  
For I am the Lord your God,  
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.  
I give Egypt as your ransom,  
Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.  
Because you are precious in my sight,  
and honored, and I love you,  
I give people in return for you,  
nations in exchange for your life.  
Do not fear, for I am with you;  
I will bring your offspring from the east,  
and from the west I will gather you;  
I will say to the north, "Give them up,"  
and to the south, "Do not withhold;  
bring my sons from far away  
and my daughters from the end of the earth--  
everyone who is called by my name,  
whom I created for my glory,  
whom I formed and made."

Psalm 29

Afferte Domino

1 Ascribe to the LORD, you gods, \*  
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.  
2 Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his Name; \*  
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.  
3 The voice of the LORD is upon the waters;  
the God of glory thunders; \*  
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.  
4 The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice; \*  
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.  
5 The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees; \*  
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;  
6 He makes Lebanon skip like a calf. \*

and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.  
7 The voice of the LORD splits the flames of fire;  
the voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; \*  
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.  
8 The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe \*  
and strips the forests bare.  
9 And in the temple of the LORD \*  
all are crying, "Glory!"  
10 The LORD sits enthroned above the flood; \*  
the LORD sits enthroned as King for evermore.  
11 The LORD shall give strength to his people; \*  
the LORD shall give his people the blessing of peace.

Acts 8:14-17

When the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

## **Ministry Assignments for January 10 & 17**

10-Jan

7:30

Greeters: Ray Durham

Lector: Mona Johnstone

E.M.: Chris Bennett

10:00

Lector: Ann Sokan

Acolytes: Shelley Brenneman Carter, Alley & Devan Roberson

Crucifer: Brent Baughan

Shadow: Georgia

E.M.: Shelley Brenneman Carter & Robin Levine

Monday Counter: Gary Ploense

Coffee Hour: Linda Thomas & Ann Sokan

17-Jan

7:30

Greeters: Doug & Dede Dyson

Lector: David Hanck

E M · Chris Bennett

EMM: CHRIS BOMER

10:00

Lector: Julie Bennett

Acolytes: Shelley Brenneman Carter & Hally, Alley Roberson

Crucifer: Christian Pitts

Shadow: Sean

E.M.: Jack Pitts

Monday Counter: Pam Laws

Coffee Hour: Char Wald, Carole Cox & Robin Levine

### **Birthdays & Anniversaries January 8 - 24**

Gee Thomas

Jacob Donnelly

Paul DeMeritt

Brent Baughan

Harry Bray

Tina Kaufman

Brad Dyson

Paul Schmidt

Alicia Perry

### **Collect for Sunday, January 10th**

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen

### **Contact Information**

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

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