

From: St. Matthew's Episcopal Church office@stmattsbldm.org
Subject: St. Matthew's Newsletter
Date: February 19, 2016 at 8:58 AM
To: roghollis@mac.com

PM

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)

Contents

This Week's Readings
Ministry Assignments
Birthdays and Anniversaries

Rector's Ramblings

There is a continuous debate within Anglicanism about the level of "catholicity" in our organizational DNA. You might have seen this expressed through terms such as "Low Church", "High Church", and "Broad Church". The old shorthand was "Low and lazy, High and crazy, Broad and hazy". While this divide has often been focused on ritual, liturgical terms, vestments it is at root theological. Since I only have time to paint with a broad brush, and knowing it is an oversimplification, you can unpack the terms in this way: High Church is the more catholic wing, Low Church is traditionally more evangelical, and Broad Church is not committed to either.

St. Matthew's being firmly planted in the Biretta Belt (High Church Dioceses from Wisconsin to Texas), has strong elements of High Church tradition in its architecture, especially the first set of windows which represent the Seven Sacraments. Two of the seven are the Dominical (commanded of the Lord) Sacraments of Baptism and Holy Eucharist. The other five (Confirmation, Holy Orders, Holy Matrimony, Reconciliation of a Penitent, Unction) are often debated, the High Church saying "these are sacraments", the Low saying "no", and the Broad

The Good News

February 19, 2016



A Note on the Celebration of the Eucharist

During Lent we will be celebrating the Eucharist "Ad Orientem" or "east facing." This is not literally east, but liturgical east, meaning the direction one is facing when looking at the Altar from the Nave. This is among the options possible for a celebration of the Eucharist, and as is often the case in Lent, serves as an opportunity for Catechesis (Christian Formation/Education). In classic Christian theology the priest in celebrating serves as an icon of Jesus Christ our Great High Priest and the direction the priest celebrates communicates different meanings of that iconographic element.

Celebration in the position of "Versus Populum" or "towards the people" is our normative style, and while appearing inclusive actually derives from a theological position that the priest is, especially in the Eucharist, "in the person of Christ the head". Simply stated, this means that the priest, ritually becomes Jesus as the last supper as the host of the table.

Celebration in the position of "Ad Orientem", highlights another form of Christ's High Priestly ministry, that of intercessor as a fulfillment of the ancient type of the priesthood of Aaron. In this symbolism, the priest gathers (collects) the prayers of the faithful and offers them up to God. Traditionally, this also highlights the direction of communication flow. Outside of the invitation to communion, announcements (which were not included in the classic liturgies), and the request for permission to proceed (the salutation), whenever the priest is talking to God, the priest faces the Altar. Conversely, whenever the priest, or lector, speaks for God (lessons, Gospel, Homily) he/she will face the people.

Note, that the Church has used both forms of celebration in its history, and neither is "right" or "wrong". They just highlight different things. However, it is important to note that the Altar, and what takes place there, forms the focal point of the celebration in both.

I invite you to note the subtle differences as we celebrate in this manner during Lent, and to share your experience with it.

Dave+

"saying not really, but they are nice rites that might have some meaning, but not sacraments."

So as you enter the Church from the main doors, the windows along the East Wall starting by the Altar Rail are the seven sacraments of the Church.



The first of these is Holy Baptism and is a representation of Our Lord being baptized by John the Baptist in the River Jordan. The scriptural references for this window are Matthew 3.13-17; Mark 1.9-11; and Luke 3.21-22. For the Dominical Command to baptize we, of course, refer to Matthew 28.19-20. This window, as it represents a Dominical Sacrament is comprised of four individual panes, as is the window that represents the Holy Eucharist.



The second four pane set references two of the minor sacraments.

Reconciliation of a Penitent (Confession) is represented as Jesus healing the paralytic whose friends lowered him through the ceiling. Recall that when opposed in this story Jesus asks which is easier to say his sins are forgiven or take up the mat and walk. The Scriptural reference is Mark 2.1-12; Matthew 9.1-8; Luke 5.18-26; and for confession itself James 5.13-18.

Confirmation is shown through the

Dave

Flocknote

We are adding another tool to our communications box called Flocknote. This is a text/email messaging system to get important reminders and information out in a timely and user-friendly mode.

Please sign up for this tool in either of the following ways:

www.flocknote.com/StMattsBlm

or by texting STMEC to 84576 on your cell phone.

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

During Lent we will study the lives of the Apostles after Pentecost. Each evening will begin at 6PM with soup and salad and conclude no later than 7:30 with Compline.

Breakfast Fellowships

Men's Breakfast will meet on Saturday 2/20 at 8:00 in the Parish Hall.

The Guild of the Holy Rosary

Several of our members have formed a guild for the promotion and praying of the Rosary. The Guild has put together a devotional manual that they are eager to share with anyone who wishes. They meet at 5:30 PM each Wednesday to pray together, and invites all members of St. Matthew's to join them in prayer. Please join the Guild in prayer for our Church, our Parish, our clergy, and each other.

St. Michael's Conference

The second annual St. Michael's Conference for youth 13-19 will be held from June 12-17th at Our Lady of the Snows in Belleville, IL. Registration forms are available in the Church Office or from Fr. Dave.

Highlights of this years conference:

Mo. Beth Maynard will teach on the sacraments.

Fr. Dave will teach on Genesis 1-3.

Fr. Ian Wetmore will lead a conference on the Parables.

Fr. David Baumann will teach on practical prayer.

Also, afternoon trips for rock climbing, a Cardinals game, and a pool party. Ask any Michaelite from last year to find out how exciting and transforming this conference is.

Parish Mission Trip--Meeting

Anyone interested in traveling this summer is invited to a meeting following the 10AM service on March 6. A final itinerary and cost will be presented at that meeting.

Confirmation is shown through the depiction of St. Peter praying that the Samaritans who were baptized by St. Philip the Deacon to receive the Holy Spirit in Acts 8.14-17.

May these beautiful works of art continue to teach and inspire us in our worship.

Dave+

PS I will be migrating my personal (and most often checked) email from gmail to frhalt@protonmail.com over the next month or so. The Church email for me (rector@stmattsblm.org) will continue to be "live".

Service Schedule

for the week of
February 21, 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 (Holy
Eucharist)

Rosary 5:30 PM Wednesdays.

Intercessory Prayer

Monday at 5:30 p.m., Wednesday
at 12:40 p.m., and Thursday at
10:30 a.m. in the Chapel

Ministry Links

St. Matthew's Webpage
The Episcopal Diocese of
Springfield

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.

Outreach Committee - next meets on Sunday, February 21, 8:30 a.m., in the Parish Hall

Good News Daily

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

Readings & Music for February 21, 2016

Hymns: #495, #134 tune only, # 675

Genesis 15:1-12,17-18

The word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." But the word of the Lord came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Then he said to him, "I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." But he said, "O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates."

Psalm 27

Dominus illuminatio

1 The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom then shall I fear? *
the Lord is the strength of my life;
of whom then shall I be afraid?
2 When evildoers came upon me to eat up my flesh, *
it was they, my foes and my adversaries, who
stumbled and fell.
3 Though an army should encamp against me, *
yet my heart shall not be afraid;
4 And though war should rise up against me, *
yet will I put my trust in him.
5 One thing have I asked of the Lord;
one thing I seek; *
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life;
6 To behold the fair beauty of the Lord *
and to seek him in his temple.
7 For in the day of trouble he shall keep me safe
in his shelter; *
he shall hide me in the secrecy of his dwelling
and set me high upon a rock.
8 Even now he lifts up my head *
above my enemies round about me.
9 Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an oblation
with sounds of great gladness; *
I will sing and make music to the Lord.
10 Hearken to my voice, O Lord, when I call; *
have mercy on me and answer me.
11 You speak in my heart and say, "Seek my face." *
Your face, Lord, will I seek.
12 Hide not your face from me, *
nor turn away your servant in displeasure.
13 You have been my helper;
cast me not away; *
do not forsake me, O God of my salvation.
14 Though my father and my mother forsake me, *
the Lord will sustain me.
15 Show me your way, O Lord; *
lead me on a level path, because of my enemies.
16 Deliver me not into the hand of my adversaries, *
for false witnesses have risen up against me,
and also those who speak malice.
17 What if I had not believed
that I should see the goodness of the Lord *
in the land of the living!
18 O tarry and await the Lord's pleasure;
be strong, and he shall comfort your heart; *
wait patiently for the Lord.

Philippians 3:17-4:1

Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven,

and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

Luke 13:31-35

Some Pharisees came and said to Jesus, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

Ministry Assignments for February 21 & 28

21-Feb

7:30

Greeters: Ray Durham

Lector: Mona Johnstone

E.M.: Chris Bennett

10:00

Lector: Robin Levine

Acolytes: Liam Halt, Jack & Nolan White

Crucifer: Christian Pitts

Shadow: Georgia

E.M.: Shelley Brenneman Carter

Monday Counter: Pam Laws (Susan Clark)

Coffee Hour: Susan & Jeffrey Clark

28-Feb

7:30

Greeters: Doug & Dede Dyson

Lector: David Hanck

E.M.:

10:00

Lector: John Stoffer

Acolytes: Shelley Brenneman Carter, Halley, Alex Davingman

Crucifer: Sarah Halt

Shadow: Sean

E.M.: Bob Kohlhase

Monday Counter: Gary McGinnis

Coffee Hour: Brooks Family

Birthdays & Anniversaries February 19 - March 6

Kenneth Barling
Matthew Nadakavukaren
Ron Gordon
Lynn Gray
Carlos Levine
Elliott Genge
Robert Cooper
Tami & Bill Rolley
Bill Ingersoll
Barbara Dennis
Lorinda DeMeritt
Erik Larson
Heather Mather
Jane Shadid
Dedee & Doug Dyson

Collect for Sunday, February 21st

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

Contact Information

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 1920 E. Oakland Avenue, Bloomington, IL 61701

[SafeUnsubscribe™ roghollis@mac.com](mailto:SafeUnsubscribe™_roghollis@mac.com)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by office@stmattsblm.org in collaboration with



Try it free today