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## Rector's Ramblings

It is our prayer that you enjoy a blessed Feast of the Nativity this weekend. May your travels be blessed with safety. May your worship be filled with joy and mystery. May your homes be filled with love, laughter, and the light of Christ whose advent we celebrate.

As we spend the last two days preparing for our Nativity celebrations, we offer you these words from St. Athanasius to meditate upon.

"Accordingly, the Son of God became Son of Man, so that the sons of man, that is of Adam, might become sons of God. The Word begotten of the Father from on high, inexpressibly, inexplicably, incomprehensibly and eternally, is He that is born in time here below, of the Virgin Mary, the Mother of God,--so that those who are in the first place born here below might have a second birth from on high, that is, of God. He then, has on earth only a Mother, while we have in heaven only a Father. And for this reason He calls Himself Son of Man: so that we men might call God our Father in heaven." (*De Incarnatione Verbi Dei* 8).

"He became man so that we might be made God." (*Contra Gentes* 54.3)

May the Son of Righteousness  
bless you always,

Fr. Dave, Amy, Sarah, and Liam  
309-660-8515

## The Good News

December 23, 2016



### Christmas Eve & Day Schedule

Candlelight Christmas Eve Mass: 10:30PM on 12/24. Carol singing begins at 10:30. Mass immediately follows.  
Christmas Day. The Christ Mass will be celebrated at 7:30 and 10:00 according to our regular Sunday Schedule.

### Parish Education

Continues meeting on 12/21.

### Coffee Hour

Here's a New Year's Resolution to benefit St. Matthew's: " I resolve to host Coffee Hour at least once during 2017. " A new Coffee Hour schedule will be coming out in February, and we'd like to see your name on the list. You need not go into debt to serve light snacks and keep the coffee brewing. Please pray about it, ask us questions, and let us know if you'll join us.

Thank you for considering this important ministry. Ann Sokan, 664-1639, and Linda Thomas, 242-7160.

### Morning Prayer - Standard Schedule

Morning Prayer is offered at 7AM on Monday and Tuesday, 8:30 AM Wednesday and Friday, and at 7:30 AM on Thursday. The fourth Thursday at 7:30 AM is often Holy Eucharist. Fr. Dave will not be available for Holy Eucharist on 12/22, so this will be a regular Morning Prayer.

### Intercessory Prayer - Fall Schedule

Intercessory Prayer is offered at 8 p.m. on Monday, and on Thursday at 12:15.

## **Guild of the Holy Rosary**

Meets immediately after the 10:00 service on Sunday morning and Wednesdays at 5:30pm.

## **Outreach Opportunities**

### **Mitten Trees**

It is tradition at St. Matthew's during the Advent and Christmas seasons to collect new mittens, gloves, hats and scarves for children in need. Please help decorate the "mitten trees" located in the narthex and in the hallway outside the parish hall.

### **January & February Items of the Month**

During the cold winter months of January & February 2017, the Outreach Committee will be collecting items for the Salvation Army, with emphasis on products for its local shelter. The shelter houses and feeds men, women, and children in need of a warm place to sleep and a good breakfast and dinner.

You can help by filling the outreach baskets with such items as: 1. Cleaning Products: laundry detergent, dish detergent, bathroom cleanser, bleach; Paper & Plastic Products: toilet paper, napkins, 40-45-gallon garbage bags, latex gloves; Personal Hygiene Products: razors, shampoo, deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, foot powder, lotion; Miscellaneous Products: dish towels, face towels, coffee, gift cards from Sam's Club (for general operation of the shelter).

We will continue to collect gently used coats and other cold-weather garments for the Salvation Army through January 2017. If Santa brought you a new coat for Christmas, bring your old one to church and place it in the big white box opposite Pat's office.

Many, MANY thanks for your marvelous generosity to those in need in our community. The Outreach Committee

### **Parish Schedule for the week of December 25**

*Coffee Hour resumes next year*

Sunday-11:00 a.m.-Guild of the Holy Rosary

Monday-7:00 a.m.-Morning Prayer

Monday-Office Closed-Holiday

Monday-8:00 p.m.-Intercessory Prayer

Tuesday-7:00 a.m.-Morning Prayer

Wednesday-8:30 a.m.-Morning Prayer

Wednesday-5:30 p.m.-Guild of the Holy Rosary

Wednesday-5:30 p.m.-pot-luck supper

Wednesday-6:00 p.m.-Catechesis of the Good Shepherd & Adult Bible Study

Thursday-7:30 a.m.-Morning Prayer & Breakfast out

Friday-7:00 a.m.-Morning Prayer

Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday: Mornings, 8:00 a.m.- noon

*If you have anything you would like added to the schedule or announcements in the bulletin and news letter please send an email reply to the newsletter, or call the office.*

### **Good News Daily**

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

### **Readings & Music for December 25, 2016**

Hymns: #congregation's choice

#### Old Testament

Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness--  
on them light has shined.

You have multiplied the nation,  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.

For the yoke of their burden,  
and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

His authority shall grow continually,  
and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onward and forevermore.

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Psalm 96

## Cantate Domino

1 Sing to the Lord a new song; \*

sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.

2 Sing to the Lord and bless his Name; \*

proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.

3 Declare his glory among the nations \*

and his wonders among all peoples.

4 For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; \*

he is more to be feared than all gods.

5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; \*

but it is the Lord who made the heavens.

6 Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! \*

Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!

7 Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples; \*

ascribe to the Lord honor and power.

8 Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; \*

bring offerings and come into his courts.

9 Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; \*

let the whole earth tremble before him.

10 Tell it out among the nations: "The Lord is King! \*

he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;

he will judge the peoples with equity."

11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;

let the sea thunder and all that is in it; \*

let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

12 Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy

before the Lord when he comes, \*

when he comes to judge the earth.

13 He will judge the world with righteousness \*

and the peoples with his truth.

## Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

## The Gospel

Luke 2:1-14(15-20)

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with

Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

[When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.]

## **Ministry Assignments for December 24 & 25 & January 1**

24-December

10:30 p.m.

Acolytes: Alley Roberson & SB Carter

Crucifer: Alex Davingman

Lector: John Stoffer

E.M.: Jack Pitts

Monday Counter: Roy Laws

25-December

7:30

Greeters: Ray Durham

Lector: Liz Gordon

E.M.: Bill Johns

10:00

Acolytes: Christian Pitts & Liam Halt

Thurifer: Collin Bennett

Crucifer: Sarah Halt

Lector: John Stoffer  
E.M.: Bill Pitts  
Tuesday Counter: Laws  
Coffee Hour: ---

1-January, 2017

7:30

Greeters: Doug & Dede Dyson

Lector: Bill Johns

E.M.: Chris Bennett

10:00

Acolytes:

Thurifer:

Crucifer:

Lector: Jim Cooper

E.M.: Bob Kohlhasse

Tuesday Counter: Pam Laws

Coffee Hour:

### **Birthdays & Anniversaries    December 25- 30**

#### Anniversaries

Judy & Loren Thomson

Karyn Smith & Robin Levine

Grace & Bill Johns

#### Birthdays

Hally Brenneman

Woodie Shadid

Chrissy Stoffer

### **Collect for December 25th**

O God, who makest us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of thy only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that as we joyfully receive him for our Redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him when he shall come to be our Judge; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end.. Amen.

### **Contact Information**

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

