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## Rector's Ramblings

Lent 2017 begins on 1 March! Be prepared!

Details of the weekly schedule and special events during this time set apart for repentance and renewal can be found to the right of this space. Please take advantage of any opportunities you have to make your Lent one of spiritual growth.

In years past, I have suggested the taking on of a spiritual discipline during Lent. I wholeheartedly encourage you to do so with things like daily prayer, contemplation, joining a book study, improving church attendance, bible reading, and other spiritual activities that feed the soul.

Yet, Lent is not just about adding good things to our lives, it is repenting of our sins. So, as you add disciplines or new things, I encourage you to seriously consider taking on a Lenten Fast.

A Lenten Fast is more than just "giving something up", it is an intentional abstention from something that has a significant hold over us. Fasting for a meal once or more per week forces us to do battle with our desire for food and weigh our choices. Additionally, it provides us with resources to assist those who lack food.

Yet, it is not just food from which we can fast. We can choose not to fill our minds with unhealthy and useless images, TV, films, news programs. We can fast from

## The Good News

February 24, 2017



### Parish Education

We are currently studying Revelation. All are invited to study this work together and discover the history and meaning of this most enigmatic of books.

Due to Ash Wednesday Service - Children & Adult Formation programs will not meet this week.

### Pancake Supper

The Men of St. Matthews (MSM?) will be hosting the annual pancake supper on Tuesday 2/28. Preparations will begin at 4:30. Pancakes and Sausage will be served from 6-7. All are welcome.

### Ash Wednesday & Lent Schedule

Ash Wednesday Service will be held at 7PM on March 1st.

Stations of the Cross will be prayed at 5:30 each Friday in Lent.

Fr. Halt will be available to hear confessions from 3-6PM on Ash Wednesday, 3-5 on Fridays in Lent, and between services on Sunday. Other times may be scheduled as needed.

To help prepare for confession a small booklet is available in the literature racks.

### Movie Night

Join us Saturday Evening, March 11, for the movie "Risen" starring Joseph Fiennes as a Roman Tribune assigned to investigate the strange events around a Jewish prophet.

getting angry at our brothers and sisters, and not by removing ourselves, but deepening our commitment. We can fast from sloth, envy, greed, lust, and pride as well.

Whichever fast you choose to make this year, make it an opportunity for growth and prayer.

May God grant you a holy Lent.

In Christ,

Fr. Dave  
309-660-8515

## **Ministry Links**

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

Movie will begin at 6:00 PM. Pizza, popcorn, and drinks will be provided.

A short discussion will follow. Friends are always invited.

The movie is rated PG-13.

### **Lenten Book**

This year instead of a "Lenten Study" I am recommending that we read together Archbishop Justin Welby's, [Dethroning Mammon](#). I have several copies available if you wish to purchase one for \$11.41. Copies can also be purchased online at Amazon, Barnes & Noble, or as an e-book.

A discussion of the book will be held each Sunday evening in Lent after Evensong (6PM).

### **Morning Prayer - Standard Schedule**

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

### **Intercessory Prayer**

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**

#### **March & April Items of the Month**

As we continue into the new year please consider assisting those in our community who are seeking help to escape the abuse of domestic violence. Mid Central Community Action's (MCCA) emergency shelter, Neville House, provides safe harbor, assists and provides families in crisis situations with individual and group counseling for adults and children, and serves as a community resource providing awareness, advocacy, and education on the issue of domestic violence.

Neville House personnel have suggested the following necessary supplies for the shelter and its residents: women and children who arrive with literally the clothing they have on their backs and nothing else need comfortable pajama/lounge-like clothes, in a variety of sizes along with t-shirts, underwear, socks, and diapers (of all sizes). In addition, personal hygiene items such as: bath soaps, lotions, shampoos/conditioners, toothpaste and brushes are always in short supply. Cleaning supplies for the bathroom and kitchen along with paper products (especially toilet paper) are

always needed. Please help by providing nonperishable canned goods and boxed meals for the pantry. Grocery store gift cards also assist in helping provide fresh produce, dairy and other perishable items for the kitchen.

Keep in mind some children may arrive having left a favorite toy or book behind because of the need to leave quickly. Please consider providing some small (new or gently used) toys and books that may provide some comfort to a child who has been removed from all they have previously known.

And lastly, because of the ongoing unsolved problems with the transit situation, any monetary gifts would be appreciated to assist in transporting residents to doctor appointments, job interviews, and/or their children to school/daycare.

Please place supplies in the Outreach baskets in the narthex and the hallway beside the fireplace. We bless and thank each and every one of you for your continued generosity to those in need in our community.

### **Parish Schedule for the week of February 26th**

*Coffee Hour follows worship in the parish hall.*

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

Sunday-5:30 p.m.-Evensong

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

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

Monday-7:00 p.m.-Mission Leadership Team (Vestry)

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

Tuesday-10:00 a.m.-Quilters

Tuesday-6-7 p.m.-Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

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

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

Wednesday-NO supper or Formation Classes tonight

Wednesday-7:00 p.m.-Ash Wednesday Service

Thursday-7:30 a.m.-Holy Eucharist & Breakfast out

Thursday-6:00 p.m.-Cub Scout meeting

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

Friday-5:30 p.m.- Stations of the Cross

Friday-6:00 p.m.-Brownie Troup meeting

Office Hours: Monday - 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 February 26, 2017

Hymns: #7, #135, #134, #137

### Old Testament

Exodus 24:12-18

The Lord said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction." So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. To the elders he had said, "Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them." Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

### Psalm 2

*Quare fremuerunt gentes?*

1 Why are the nations in an uproar? \*

Why do the peoples mutter empty threats?

2 Why do the kings of the earth rise up in revolt,  
and the princes plot together, \*

against the Lord and against his Anointed?

3 "Let us break their yoke," they say; \*

"let us cast off their bonds from us."

4 He whose throne is in heaven is laughing; \*  
the Lord has them in derision.

5 Then he speaks to them in his wrath, \*  
and his rage fills them with terror.

6 "I myself have set my king \*  
upon my holy hill of Zion."

7 Let me announce the decree of the Lord: \*  
he said to me, "You are my Son;  
this day have I begotten you.

8 Ask of me, and I will give you the nations for your  
inheritance \*

and the ends of the earth for your possession.

9 You shall crush them with an iron rod \*  
and shatter them like a piece of pottery."

10 And now, you kings, be wise; \*  
be warned, you rulers of the earth.

11 Submit to the Lord with fear, \*  
and with trembling bow before him;

12 Lest he be angry and you perish; \*  
for his wrath is quickly kindled.

13 Happy are they all \*  
who take refuge in him!

### The Epistle

2 Peter 1:16-21

We did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

### The Gospel

Matthew 17:1-9

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

### **Ministry Assignments for February 26 & March 5**

26-February

7:30

Greeters: Doug & Dede Dyson

Lector: Bill Johns

E.M.: Bill Johns

10:00

Acolyte: Liam Halt  
Crucifer: Christian Pitts  
Lector: Cris Embree  
E.M.: Bob Kohlhase  
Monday Counter: Susan Clark  
Coffee Hour: Cris Embree & Gary Ploense

5-March

7:30

Greeters: Ray Durham  
Lector: Mona Johnstone  
E.M.: Chris Bennett

10:00

Acolyte:  
Crucifer:  
Lector: Bob Kohlhase  
E.M.: SB Carter & Bob Kohlhase  
Monday Counter: SB Carter  
Coffee Hour: Susan & Jeff Clark

**Birthdays & Anniversaries February 26 - March 4**  
Anniversaries

Birthdays

Robert Cooper  
Lorinda DeMaritt

**Collect for February 26th**

O God, who before the passion of thy only-begotten Son didst reveal his glory upon the holy mount: Grant unto us that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigheth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Contact Information**

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

