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Lent is here!

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.

I once had a conversation with a pastor of a non-denominational church who was critiquing the Lenten call to repentance. He suggested that since we believed in Jesus any type of emphasis on repentance was a seeking after justification by works and not faith. He then went on to state that the believer in Jesus had no need to repent anyway, since all had been forgiven.

My response was simply to quote the two commandments of our Lord, "Love God" and "Love Neighbor", and simply state that until each of us is living these commandments with all our being we have need of repentance. Until we are like Him who was able to keep these commandments, we will continually need to repent. Of course, repentance means to be changed, and we are to be changed into His likeness.

Repentance is the hard work of the Christian life and it is through repentance that we come to know and understand the extent of Divine love for us and are conformed to the image of Christ. This is true grace.

May God grant you a holy Lent.

The Good News

March 10, 2017



This Just In...

On March 25th, being the Feast of the Annunciation, at 11:00 a.m., in St. Matthew's Church, God willing, and the people consenting, The Rt. Rev. Daniel H. Martins Bishop of Springfield will ordain Mr. G. Timothy Leighton to the Sacred Order of Deacons.

Reception to follow.

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.

Lent Schedule

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

Fr. Halt will be available to hear confessions from 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.

In Christ,

Fr. Dave
309-660-8515

Ministry Links

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

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.

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

Lenten Book

This year instead of a "Lenten Study" I am recommending that we read together Archbishop Justin Welby's, Dethroning Mammon.

A discussion of the book will be held each Sunday evening in Lent after Evensong. NB: Evensong is at 530, discussion will begin at 6.

Breakfast Fellowships

Women's Breakfast is cancelled for March and will resume on April 8.

Men's Breakfast will be held on March 18th at 8:00AM. The Cub Scouts from Oakland School will be joining us at 9:00 for a yard work day.

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 March 12th

Coffee Hour follows worship in the parish hall.

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

Sunday-5:30 p.m.-Evensong

Sunday-6:00 p.m.-Lenten Book Discussion

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

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

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

Tuesday-10:00 a.m.-Quilters

Wednesday-7:00 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.-Adult Formation and Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

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
Saturday-8:00 a.m.-Men's Breakfast Fellowship

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 March 12, 2017

Hymns: #691, #318, #636

Old Testament

Genesis 12:1-4a

The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him.

Psalm 121

Levavi oculos

1 I lift up my eyes to the hills; *
from where is my help to come?

2 My help comes from the Lord, *
the maker of heaven and earth.

3 He will not let your foot be moved *
and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.

4 Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel *
shall neither slumber nor sleep;

5 The Lord himself watches over you; *
the Lord is your shade at your right hand,

6 So that the sun shall not strike you by day, *
nor the moon by night.

7 The Lord shall preserve you from all evil; *
it is he who shall keep you safe.

8 The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in, *
from this time forth for evermore.

The Epistle

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor

according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations") -in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

The Gospel

John 3:1-17

There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that

everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

Ministry Assignments for March 12 & 19

12-March

7:30

Greeters: Doug & Dede Dyson

Lector: Chris Bennett

E.M.: Diane Gardner

10:00

Acolyte: Alley Roberson

Crucifer: Brent Baughan

Lector: Karyn Smith

E.M.: 2 volunteers needed

Monday Counter: (Roy Laws) Gary Ploense

Coffee Hour: Cris Embree & Gary Ploense

19-March

7:30

Greeters: Ray Durham

Lector: Julie Bennett

E.M.: Bill Johns

10:00

Acolyte: Christian Pitts

Crucifer: Liam Halt

Lector: Chrissy Stoffer

E.M.: Jack Pitts

Monday Counter: Gary Ploense

Coffee Hour: Leightons & Pitts

Birthdays & Anniversaries March 12 - 18

Anniversaries

Birthdays

Martha Lakin

Roy Laws

June McAnulty

James Gordon

Collect for March 12th

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from thy ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of thy Word, Jesus Christ thy Son; who with

thee and the Holy Spirit liveth and reigheth, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contact Information

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

