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Ministry Assignments

## Rector's Ramblings

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.

Some of you may not realize that I really like football. I really like Ohio State Football, and enjoy keeping up with recruiting, offseason workouts, news, analysis and anything else I can read about the upcoming season, or even past seasons. There is one particular website that gives me all that information in one place, and it is on my daily list.

There is one thing I do not like about it, however, and that is the comments section. While I used to comment, I have found that facts and figures are often useless in an online discussion and are quickly replaced by opinions. In fact, most online discussions seem to be merely the repeating of opinions of opinions and others' opinions. I do find that quite wearisome. But, I suppose, even this is just my opinion. Yet, we are constantly bombarded with the message that our opinions are facts, and true, and that every opinion is therefore true and valid if the holder of said opinion believes it to be true and valid. After all, the individual, in this post-modern culture, is the final arbiter of each subjective truth.

I think this may be why

## The Good News

March 17, 2017



### Ordination Invitation

**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.

### Sign-Up Now

*Sign-Up Sheets are always posted on the bulletin boards outside the office, and across from the Fellowship Hall.*

2 Opportunities are currently available:

Please help those homebound members with a meal. If you might be available to share in this occasional ministry, please sign up today. For questions contact Phyllis Halt.

Share your delicious salad as part of the celebration reception for Tim Leighton on Saturday, March 25th. (see details above)

repentance is so difficult in our culture. Repentance means that I have to change my opinions and that is "dangerous". For me to repent means that I have to admit that there is a standard, and a truth, outside of myself and how I subjectively view myself. If I recognize that external standard, that objective truth, then it must necessitate a change in my opinion about myself. My opinion then is bound upon the fact of either keeping or failing to keep that objective standard.

This is, however, one of the central tenets of the Christian faith. There is an external objective standard that we must strive to meet. His name is Jesus Christ, and we are called to be like him. He has given us the way to be like him.

So, do I measure up? Do you? My opinion, the truth, of myself is that I do not, and still have much of which to repent.

Yet, when we admit that truth and see ourselves through the lens of the life of Christ, we paradoxically find that the deeper our repentance, the deeper will be our love of God, our neighbor, our acceptance of the Truth in Christ Jesus our Lord, and the vision of the immeasurable love God has towards us.

And that, my brothers and sisters, is a fact.

In Christ,

Fr. Dave  
309-660-8515

## Ministry Links

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

### **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.

### **Movie Night**

Join us Saturday Evening, April 22, for the movie "Queen of Katwe". This is the true story of Phiona Mutesi, the slums of Uganda, opportunity, tenacity, and chess. A truly uplifting film.

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 5:30, discussion will begin at 6.

### **Breakfast Fellowship**

Men's Breakfast will be held on March 18th at 8:00AM. All men are invited for good fellowship, food, and prayer.

### **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 19th**

*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

Monday-7:00 p.m.-Mission Leadership Team meeting

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.-Morning Prayer & Breakfast out  
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 March 19, 2017**

Hymns: #685, #693, #690

#### Old Testament

Exodus 17:1-7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

#### Psalm 95

*Venite, exultemus*

1 Come, let us sing to the Lord; \*

let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.  
2 Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving \*  
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.  
3 For the Lord is a great God, \*  
and a great King above all gods.  
4 In his hand are the caverns of the earth, \*  
and the heights of the hills are his also.  
5 The sea is his, for he made it, \*  
and his hands have molded the dry land.  
6 Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, \*  
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.  
7 For he is our God,  
and we are the people of his pasture and the  
sheep of his hand. \*  
Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!  
8 Harden not your hearts,  
as your forebears did in the wilderness, \*  
at Meribah, and on that day at Massah,  
when they tempted me.  
9 They put me to the test, \*  
though they had seen my works.  
10 Forty years long I detested that generation and said, \*  
"This people are wayward in their hearts;  
they do not know my ways."  
11 So I swore in my wrath, \*  
"They shall not enter into my rest."

### The Epistle

Romans 5:1-11

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person-- though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

## The Gospel

John 4:5-42

Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" They left the city

and were on their way to him.

Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

### **Ministry Assignments for March 19 & 26**

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

26-March

7:30

Greeters: Doug & Dede Dyson

Lector: Mark Gibson

E.M.: Chris Bennett

10:00

Acolyte: Chris Bennett

Crucifer: Christian Pitts

Lector: John Stoffer

E.M.: Bob Kohlase

Monday Counter: (Pam Laws)  
Coffee Hour: Janet Hoffman & Dedee Champion

**Birthdays & Anniversaries March 19 - 25**  
Anniversaries

Birthdays  
Daniel Teas

**Collect for March 19th**

Almighty God, who seest that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul: through Jesus Christ our Lord, who; liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Contact Information**

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

