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## 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.

Today I wish to address a topic that is causing some angst amongst members of our Eucharistic Community: is it Parish Hall or Eucharistic Community Hall or Fellowship Hall?

Ok, I admit that I jest. It really is not causing any angst, but I have been asked several times by folks who are truly trying to live out the language of our new Constitution and Canons.

So, here is my brief answer: I will continue to call it the Parish Hall. There all done.

Seriously, though, there is both a missiological and theological purpose to maintaining the terminology. That purpose, put simply, is that the Parish Hall (or the Parish Church for that matter) does not simply exist for the use of our Eucharistic Community. These two buildings are signs of God's love and presence and are to be places of welcome and invitation. They are places where the Good News is proclaimed, the Sacraments are celebrated, the Christian communal life is lived, and disciples are made.

## The Good News

March 31, 2017



**The Eucharistic Community of St. Matthew congratulates  
The Rev. G. Timothy Leighton  
on his ordination to the  
Sacred Order of Deacons.  
Many years!**



### 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 Parish Hall.*

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.

The name itself is a reminder to us that we exist as a people who are sent into the highways and byways to bring people to the Kingdom of God.

Each year our Parish Hall hosts gatherings for families, book sales to support outreach, our own fellowship activities, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, board meetings for Recovery Starts Today and community organization lunches and dinners.

If you would like to reserve the Parish Hall for an event or a group, please contact Pat.

Oh, and thank you for helping to make it a welcoming space.

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.

Discussion of the Lenten book: Archbishop Justin Welby's, *Dethroning Mammon* continues each Sunday evening, following Evensong. Evensong is at 5:30 and discussion begins at 6 pm.

## Holy Week Schedule

April 9, Palm Sunday: Regular Sunday Schedule.

April 10, Monday in Holy Week: Eucharist at 7AM.

April 11, Tuesday in Holy Week: Morning Prayer at 7AM.

April 12, Wednesday in Holy Week: Eucharist at 7AM. No evening activities.

April 13, Maundy Thursday: Morning prayer at 7:30AM and Maundy Thursday Liturgy at 7PM followed by the prayer vigil.

April 14, Good Friday: Morning Prayer at 7AM and Good Friday Liturgy at 7PM.

April 15, Holy Saturday: Liturgy at 9AM and Easter Vigil at 7PM.

April 16, Easter Day: Rite I at 7:30AM and Rite II at 10AM. Pastry Fellowship held 8:30-9:45.

## Movie Night

Join us Saturday Evening, April 29, 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.

## PARTY!

My family and I would like you to help celebrate my 80th birthday, on Saturday, April 8, 2--4 p.m., St. Matthew's Parish Hall.

No presents, please. Just your presence! ANN SOKAN

*Please see the invitation posted on our hallway bulletin board.*

### **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 April 2nd**

*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 CGS  
Thursday-7:30 a.m.-Morning Prayer & Breakfast out  
Thursday-6:00 p.m.-Cub Scouts  
Thursday-6:00 p.m.-private meeting-Parish Hall/Kitchen  
Friday-7:00 a.m.-Morning Prayer  
Friday-5:30 p.m.- Stations of the Cross  
Friday-6:00 p.m.-Safe Harbor meal service  
Friday-6:00 p.m. Brownie Troup meeting  
Friday-8-10 p.m.-Saturday Party set-up  
Saturday-5:00 p.m.-private family event in Parish Hall  
Saturday-8:30 a.m.-Women's Breakfast  
Saturday-2-4 p.m.-Birthday Celebration for Ann Soka

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 April 2, 2017**

Hymns: #635, #455, #495

Old Testament

Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there

were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord."

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act," says the Lord.

### Psalm 130

#### *De profundis*

1 Out of the depths have I called to you, O Lord;  
Lord, hear my voice; \*  
let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.  
2 If you, Lord, were to note what is done amiss, \*  
O Lord, who could stand?  
3 For there is forgiveness with you; \*  
therefore you shall be feared.  
4 I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for him; \*  
in his word is my hope.  
5 My soul waits for the Lord,  
more than watchmen for the morning, \*  
more than watchmen for the morning.  
6 O Israel, wait for the Lord, \*  
for with the Lord there is mercy;  
7 With him there is plenteous redemption, \*  
and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

## The Epistle

Romans 8:6-11

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law--indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

## The Gospel

John 11:1-45

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been

here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world." When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

## **Ministry Assignments for April 2 & 9**

2-April

7:30

Greeters: Ray Durham

Lector: Liz Gordon

E.M.: Diane Gardner

10:00  
Acolyte:  
Crucifer:  
Lector: Jim Cooper  
E.M.: SB Carter  
Monday Counter: Gary McGinnis  
Coffee Hour: Phyllis & Dave Halt

9-April  
7:30  
Greeters: Doug & Dede Dyson  
Lector: Bill Johns  
E.M.: Bill Johns

10:00  
Acolyte:  
Crucifer:  
Lector: Brad Bauman  
E.M.: Emily Lavikoff  
Monday Counter: Susan Clark  
Coffee Hour: C. Wald, C. Cox, Levine/Smith Family

**Birthdays & Anniversaries April 2 - 9**  
Anniversaries

Birthdays  
Patty Pitts  
Martha Carroll  
Ann Sokan  
Debbie Thomas

**Collect for April 2nd**

Almighty God, who alone canst order the unruly wills and affections of sinful men; Grant unto thy people that they may love the thing which thou commandest, and desire that which thou dost promise; that so, among the sundry and manifold changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**Contact Information**

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

