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This Week's Readings

Rector's Ramblings

I am leaving tomorrow for continuing education in Pennsylvania.

The courses this term are "Philosophic and Patristic Theology" taught by Metropolitan Hierotheos Vlachos of Nafpaktos and "The Place of Psychology in Christian Ministry" taught by Dr. Renos Papadopolous.

It is an exhasuting schedule of 3 class sessions per day each lasting 3.5 hours. The sessions consist of both lecture and seminar formats.

Though, while exhausting physically, I have found myself mentally and spiritually energized at the end of each session.

One of the things that I enjoy about this program is the holistic approach it takes towards theological education. At United Theological (my MA in Theology) chapel was offered on Tuesday and Thursday each week. At Bexley Hall (M.Div) there was a Wednesday chapel service with the Lutherans, a Friday Eucharist, and Morning Prayer three times a week. In this program there is an understanding that doctoral level theological study and the prayers of the Church must be combined.

In fact, a true theologian is first a person of prayer. In this program we begin and end the day with mandatory participation in Orthros (Morning Prayer) and Vigil (Evening Prayer) with the Divine Liturgy on Sundays and feasts.

Each class session begins and ends with prayer as well. It is wonderful to study in a prayer filled and thoughtful environment with professors and mentors who

The Good News

May 12, 2017



Parish Education

Adult Formation is on hiatus until the 31st of May. Catechesis for children will continue at 6:00 p.m.

From the MLT

The Mission Leadership Team (Vestry) has accepted bids and has approved a bid to replace the carpet in the sanctuary and install hardwood flooring around the alter. The cost of the project is expected to be \$12,225. At this time we have received over half of the amount needed for the project. Contributions to cover these expenses can be made to St Matthews. (Memo line to read - flooring project)

The flooring choices have been confirmed and ordered. Install will take place either the week of 5 June or 12 June.

Confirmation

We are compiling a list of individuals (youth and adults) interested in confirmation/reception this fall. Please let Fr. Halt know if you are interested in this process.

The classes will occur monthly June-September. Time and dates TBD based on participants schedules.

Mission Leadership Team

Meeting is scheduled for June 5 at 7PM. All Mission Leadership Team meetings are open meetings.

St. Michael's Conference

The St. Michael's Conference will be held June 11-17 at St. Michael's Church in O'Fallon. The conference is designed to

truly believe the Gospe of Christ.

Please keep me in your prayers as I travel and study, especially that these studies will become a source of strength for our ministry together. I will hold you all in my prayers.

Deacon Tim will serve as officiant for morning prayer on 5/14 and Fr. Geoffrey Scanlon will celebrate the Holy Eucharist on 5/21.

During this absence, please call Deacon Tim in case of a pastoral emergency or need.

My course ends on the 27th and I will be back in the saddle on the 28th.

In Christ,

Fr. Dave
309-660-8515

Ministry Links

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

be both formational and fun. It is open to all youth between the ages of 13-19. If you are interested, please see Fr. Dave for more information. The cost is \$100 for the week.

Church Camp

The Episcopal Church camp of Illinois will be held at East Bay Camp from July 2-8. Camp is open to rising 1st Graders to High School Seniors. Brochures are available [here](#) and the registration site is [open](#). Camp is \$250 for the week, and scholarships are available.

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.

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. PLEASE NOTE THAT WEDNESDAY MORNING PRAYERS ARE UNATTENDED WHILE FR DAVE IS AT CONTINUING EDUCATION.

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

May and June Items of the Month

In May and June the Outreach Committee will collect and deliver Items-of-the-month to Home Sweet Home Mission, which provides shelter and meals to needy people in our community.

Some suggestions: baby diapers - size 4; baby wipes; combs and brushes; children's toothpaste; paper towels and toilet paper.

Thanks so much!

Parish Schedule for the week of May 14th

Sunday - 7:30 a.m. - Rite I Morning Prayer
- 10:00 a.m. - Rite II Morning Prayer
- 11:00 a.m. - Guild of the Holy Rosary
Monday - 7:00 a.m. - Morning Prayer
- 8:00 p.m. - Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday - 7:00 a.m. - Morning Prayer
- 10:00 a.m. - Quilters
Wednesday - 5:30 p.m. - Guild of the Holy Rosary
- 6:00 p.m. - Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
Thursday - 7:30 a.m. - Morning Prayer & Breakfast
- 6:00 p.m. - Cub Scouts meeting
Friday - 7:00 a.m. - Morning Prayer
- 6:00 p.m. - Brownie troop meeting
Saturday - 8:00 a.m. - Men's Fellowship Breakfast

Office Hours: Monday through Friday: 9:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.

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.

Readings & Music for May 14, 2017

Hymns: #365, #231, #437, #487

Acts 7:55-60

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

John 14:1-14

Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?"

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."

Birthdays & Anniversaries from 4/23 - 5/20

Anniversaries

Chrissy & John Stoffer

Phyllis & Dave Halt

Liz & Ron Gordon

Birthdays

Gary Ploense

Susan Clark

Amy Halt

Jennifer Fissel

Kevin Roberts

Justin Palm

Diane Gardner

Barbara Williamson

Carole Cox

Shelley Brenneman Carter

Liam Halt

Alex Davingman

Regina Bray

Daniel Kohlhase

Collect for the Fifth Sunday of Easter

O Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know thy Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leadeth to eternal life; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contact Information
St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

