

Contents

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 19, 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.

Serving Schedule

21-May

7:30

Greeters: Doug & Dede Dyson

Lector: Mark Gibson

E.M.: Bill Johns

10:00

Acolyte: Liam Halt

Crucifer: Christian Pitts

Lector: SB Carter

E.M.: Jack Pitts

Monday Counter: Susan Clark

Coffee Hour: Martha Lakin & Linda Stawick

28-May

7:30

Greeters: Ray Durham

Lector: Liz Gordon

E.M.: Chris Bennett

10:00

Acolyte: Alley Roberson

Crucifer: SB Carter

Lector: Cris Embree

E.M.: Bob Kohlhasse

Monday Counter: SB Carter

Coffee Hour: Sandy Kohlhasse & Danielle Ward

Outreach Opportunities

ITEMS-OF-THE-MONTH

In May and June we are asking for donations for the Home Sweet Home Mission, a 100-year-old Christian organization which provides shelter and meals for the needy in our community.

Here are some suggestions: body wash, baby wipes, diapers sz. 4, razors, shaving cream, children's toothpaste, dish soap, paper towels; cooking oil, coffee, canned or jars of nuts, baked beans, fruit cups, pudding cups, dried fruit, dry milk.

Many thanks! The Outreach Committee

Parish Schedule for the week of May 21st

Coffee hour follows worship in the Parish hall

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

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

Wednesday-6:00 p.m.-Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Thursday-7:30 a.m.-Morning Prayer & Breakfast

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

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 21, 2017

Hymns: #518, #304, #448

The First Lesson

Acts 17:22-31

Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him-though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.'

Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

Psalm 66:7-18

Jubilate Deo

7 Bless our God, you peoples; *
make the voice of his praise to be heard;
8 Who holds our souls in life, *
and will not allow our feet to slip.
9 For you, O God, have proved us; *
you have tried us just as silver is tried.
10 You brought us into the snare; *
you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.
11 You let enemies ride over our heads;
we went through fire and water; *
but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.
12 I will enter your house with burnt-offerings
and will pay you my vows, *
which I promised with my lips
and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.
13 I will offer you sacrifices of fat beasts
with the smoke of rams; *
I will give you oxen and goats.
14 Come and listen, all you who fear God, *
and I will tell you what he has done for me.

15 I called out to him with my mouth, *
and his praise was on my tongue.
16 If I had found evil in my heart, *
the Lord would not have heard me;
17 But in truth God has heard me; *
he has attended to the voice of my prayer.
18 Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, *
nor withheld his love from me.

The Epistle

1 Peter 3:13-22

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you-- not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

The Gospel

John 14:15-21

Jesus said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

Birthdays & Anniversaries from May 21 - 27

Anniversaries

Amy & Fr Dave Halt
Theresa & Lew Garrison

Birthdays

Alexandra Thomas
Stephanie Davingman

Collect for the Sixth Sunday of Easter

O God, who hast prepared for those who love thee such good things as pass man's understanding: Pour into our hearts such love toward thee, that we, loving thee in all things and above all things, may obtain thy promises, which exceed all that we can desire; 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

