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This Week's Readings

Rector's Ramblings

I will be leaving next Saturday (5/13) for continuing education in Pennsylvania. This is the second residency for the PhD in Orthodox Theology (Patristics) through the Antiochian House of Studies.

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 Papadopoulos.

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.

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

The Good News

May 5, 2017



New Member/Inquirers Gathering

Fr. Halt will host a New Member/Inquirers Gathering on Sunday, May 7th at 6PM (after Evensong). We will meet in the Parish Hall.

This is a social event, but time will be set aside to answer questions and discuss life at St. Matthew's.

All are welcome.

Beverages and snacks will be provided.

Parish Education

Resumes this Wednesday at 6PM. Light supper served at 5:30.

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 altar. The cost of the project is expected to be approximately \$11,400. Contributions to cover these expenses can be made to St Matthews. (Memo line to read - flooring project)

The flooring choices have been confirmed. There will be hard wood around the altar space and a carpet runner in the center aisle. The choice was confirmed via consensus of those who offered their opinions.

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 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.

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.

The Outreach Committee will hold its **spring Book/DVD/Bake Sale** on Saturday, April 22, 8 AM - 12 Noon. Please bring your donations of books, DVDs, VHS tapes and other recordings to the parish hall and place near the book shelves. If you need any help getting donations to the church, please call Debbie Leighton at 662-7478.

Parish Schedule for the week of May 7th

Coffee hour follows worship in Parish hall

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

Sunday-5:30 p.m.-Evensong

Sunday-6:00 p.m.-New Member Gathering

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.-light supper for participants

Wednesday-6:00 p.m.-adult bible study and Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

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

Thursday-6:00 p.m.-Cub Scouts meeting

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

Saturday-8:30 a.m.-Women's Breakfast

Saturday-noon-Kohlhase Shower

Saturday-Fr. Dave departs for his continuing education

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 7, 2017

Acts 2:42-47

Those who had been baptized devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

The Response Psalm 23

Dominus regit me

1 The Lord is my shepherd; *

I shall not be in want.

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures *
and leads me beside still waters.

3 He revives my soul *

and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.

4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil; *

for you are with me;

your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who
trouble me; *

you have anointed my head with oil,

and my cup is running over.

6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days
of my life, *

and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

The Epistle 1 Peter 2:19-25

It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

"He committed no sin,

and no deceit was found in his mouth."

When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

The Gospel John 10:1-10

Jesus said, "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate.

Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Will return next week. We will also post belated birthdays.

Collect for the Fourth Sunday of Easter

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of thy people:
Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who
calleth us each by name, and follow where he doth lead; who
with thee and the Holy Spirit, liveth and reigneth, one God, for
ever and ever. Amen.

Contact Information

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

