

Contents

This Week's Readings

Rector's Ramblings

It does not feel quite right that another Thanksgiving is just around the corner. Maybe it was the long summer and short fall, but it feels like Thanksgiving has snuck up on me, and that is a shame.

Yet, I do not think this sneaking up is due to the weather, but due to busy-ness. We are all busy. We run from one thing to another, and how many of us can function without a calendar telling us where and when we have to be places. In all that busy-ness, Thanksgiving sneaks up on us.

This is not good, for part of the Christian life is to be a life of thanksgiving. Each Sunday we offer the Great Thanksgiving, or Eucharistic Prayer, for what has been done and will be done for us in Christ. However, how often do we translate the thoughts of the Great Thanksgiving into the little thanksgivings of our daily life. Have I given a perfunctory thanks for my daily bread? Am I too busy in my daily life to give thanks for the very fact that by the grace of God I have a daily life? Do I give thanks for each person that enters into my life each day? Am I truly thankful, or does it just sneak up on me to remind me how regularly thankless I am? When time is made in the prayers of the people to give thanks, do I do so, do I count the blessings that I have been given or do I stand in uncomfortable silence?

Our new canons state that we are a Eucharistic Community. Eucharistic, or Eucharist, comes to us from the Ancient Greek verb "eucharisto" meaning "I give

The Good News

November 17, 2017



Thanksgiving

Our annual Thanksgiving celebration will be held this Sunday 11/19 immediately following our worship service.

This Sunday, there will be only one service at 9:30AM.

And Note: Traffic Advice for Sunday, November 19

The city of Bloomington has closed Oakland Ave between Mercer and the church, so if you usually come (east to west) on Oakland Avenue, remember to go around the couple of blocks involved and allow for a little more drive time.

Parish Education

Parish study and Catechesis of the Good Shepherd for children meets will take a break on Wednesday, November 22 for Thanksgiving

Youth Evening

Will be held after Evensong this Sunday in the Parish Hall. Invite a friend for an evening of food, games, and conversation.

Parish Education

Parish study and Catechesis of the Good Shepherd for children meets will take a break on Wednesday, November 22 for Thanksgiving

Men's Breakfast

Men's breakfast will not meet this Saturday. We apologize for any inconvenience. There will be no breakfast in December.

thanks". We are called to be a Thanks-giving Community, in our prayers, in our stewardship, and in our giving of ourselves in service to the Gospel.

As we prepare for our community meal this weekend, and our family celebrations next Thursday, let us recommit ourselves to giving God thanks for, and in, all things.

And let us pray for each other, that thanks-giving will not sneak up on us again.

Dave Halt, Rector
309-660-8515

Ministry Links

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

Advent Study

Adult Formation during Advent will focus on reading St. Maximus' the Confessor's "Four Hundred Chapters on Love/Charity".

This is not a long book, in the time of Maximus a "chapter" was roughly equivalent to what we might call "sound bites".

Since Advent provides us less Wednesdays this year, to complete this walk through the chapters together, we will meet on 12/6, 12/13, 12/27 and 1/3.

Copies of the chapters will be made available, but if you wish to purchase a copy they can be found at [Amazon](#).

Midwest Food Bank

St. Matthew's will be volunteering at Midwest Food Bank on Wednesday, December 20.

Details will follow in the next newsletter, but mark your calendars for this evening of service and community building. All ages are welcome to help.

Theology Uncorked

A new ministry of theological discussion for young adults will meet again on 10 December immediately following Evensong. Invite your friends and anyone who might be interested.

McLean County Parish News

Bishop Daniel has asked that an agreement between the two Eucharistic Communities in McLean County be signed by 12/31/17.

The most important part of this agreement, for St. Matthew's, is the formation of a Parish Council with membership drawn from both Eucharistic Communities. The role of this Council is to be about the visioning, creating, and implementing of a common mission work with the approval and support of the Mission Leadership Teams of each Eucharistic Community. This would be submitted to the Diocese as the now required annual Mission Strategy Plan.

The Council has no independent authority over any aspect of the life of each community.

The Mission Leadership Team of St. Matthew's has authorized

the Rector and Sr. Warden to sign this agreement, and look forward to working with Christ the King for the spread of the Gospel in McLean County.

The Daily Devotional Reading

is available by clicking of the link below:

[Good News Daily](#)

Serving Schedule

19-November

9:30 ONLY

Greeter: Doug & Dede Dyson

Acolyte: Christian Pitts

Lector: Cris Embree

E.M.: Bob Kohlhase

Monday Counter: Roy Laws

Coffee Hour: Thanksgiving Meal

26-November

7:30

Greeters: Ray Durham

Lector: Mona Johnstone

E.M.: Chris Bennett

10:00

Acolyte: SB Carter

Thurifer: Sarah Halt

Crucifer: Brad Bauman

Lector: Susan Long

E.M.: SB Carter

Monday Counter: Gary Ploense

Coffee Hour: Phyllis & Dave Halt

Outreach Opportunities

ITEMS-OF-THE-MONTH

Why the big white box in the hallway across from the office?

That's where we're asking you to place clean, gently used coats you no longer wear. We will deliver them to The Salvation Army's local headquarters for distribution to needy people this fall and winter. We'll also collect other gently used winter wear (gloves, hats, scarves). THANK YOU! The Outreach Committee

Parish Schedule for the week of November 19th

Sunday-9:30 a.m.-Rite II only
Sunday-5:30 p.m.-Evensong
Sunday-6:00 p.m.-Youth Evening in Parish Hall
Monday-7:00 a.m.-Morning Prayer
Monday-5:30 p.m.-Brownies
Tuesday-7:00 a.m.-Morning Prayer
Tuesday-10:00 a.m.-Quilters
Wednesday-7:00 a.m.-Morning Prayer

The Office is closed Thursday through Saturday for the holiday

Office Hours:

Monday through Wednesday: 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 November 19, 2017

Old Testament

Zephaniah 1:7,12-18

Be silent before the Lord God!

For the day of the Lord is at hand;

the Lord has prepared a sacrifice,

he has consecrated his guests.

At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,

and I will punish the people

who rest complacently on their dregs,

those who say in their hearts,

"The Lord will not do good,

nor will he do harm."

Their wealth shall be plundered,

and their houses laid waste.

Though they build houses,

they shall not inhabit them;

though they plant vineyards,

they shall not drink wine from them.

The great day of the Lord is near,

near and hastening fast;

the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter,

the warrior cries aloud there.

That day will be a day of wrath,

a day of distress and anguish,

a day of ruin and devastation,

a day of darkness and gloom,

a day of clouds and thick darkness,

a day of trumpet blast and battle cry

against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.
I will bring such distress upon people
that they shall walk like the blind;
because they have sinned against the Lord,
their blood shall be poured out like dust,
and their flesh like dung.
Neither their silver nor their gold
will be able to save them
on the day of the Lord's wrath;
in the fire of his passion
the whole earth shall be consumed;
for a full, a terrible end
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

Psalm 90:1-8, 12

Domine, refugium

1 Lord, you have been our refuge *
from one generation to another.

2 Before the mountains were brought forth,
or the land and the earth were born, *
from age to age you are God.

3 You turn us back to the dust and say, *
"Go back, O child of earth."

4 For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it
is past *
and like a watch in the night.

5 You sweep us away like a dream; *
we fade away suddenly like the grass.

6 In the morning it is green and flourishes; *
in the evening it is dried up and withered.

7 For we consume away in your displeasure; *
we are afraid because of your wrathful indignation.

8 Our iniquities you have set before you, *
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.

12 So teach us to number our days *
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

The Epistle

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters,
you do not need to have anything written to you. For you
yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come
like a thief in the night. When they say, "There is peace and
security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as
labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no
escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to
surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and
children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So
then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake

and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

The Gospel

Matthew 25:14-30

Jesus said, "It is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

Birthdays & Anniversaries from November 19 - 25

Anniversaries

Birthdays
Grace Johns
James Messer

Collect for Sunday, November 19th

Blessed Lord, who hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them; that, by patience and comfort of thy holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contact Information

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

