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This Week's Readings

Rector's Ramblings

A word from a member of the Altar Party.

I am the newest and most inexperienced member of the Altar Party, having served as Crucifer only a few times. Father Dave has asked me to share what I told him I have experienced in my limited service thus far, something that I did not anticipate.

Being close to the altar and a part of the rites in the service has had a significant impact on my spirituality. Experiencing the power of the mysteries and miracles that transpire at the altar during the service is impossible for me to put in words. But what I can tell you is that it has changed me profoundly. I encourage anyone who may feel the slightest sense of call to serve to come and join the Party!

Thank you, Brad for your service and witness.

Dave Halt, Rector
309-660-8515

Ministry Links

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

The Good News

February 2, 2018



Mardi Gras & Ash Wednesday

The Men of St. Matthew's will be serving a Pancake Supper on Mardi Gras (2/13). Dinner will be served from 6PM-7PM. We will even attempt heart shaped pancakes for Valentine's Day. Prep will begin at 4:30.

Ash Wednesday services will be held at 7AM and 7PM. The 7AM service will be a quiet Rite I and the 7PM will be a Sung Rite II.

Adult Formation

Will be on hiatus until 21 February.
For Lent we will try something just a little bit different. We will study Hymns and Prayer. Each night we will discuss a couple of hymns from our Hymnal, different types of prayer, and spend time in quiet practicing prayer.

Theology Uncorked

Meets at 6PM after Evensong on 11 February. The topic for conversation this month is the "Meaning and Purpose of Lent". Anyone interested in the conversation is invited.

Breakfast Fellowships

Women's Breakfast will meet at 8:30 AM on 10 February.
Men's Breakfast will meet at 8:00 AM on 17 February.

Altar Leadership

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ
Would you please mark Sunday, February 18 on your calendar to join Fr. Dave and Dn. Tim for a brief ministry training/refresher after the 10:00am service.

We are asking all serving as Acolytes, Crucifers, Eucharistic

Ministers, Lectors and Thurifers to come together for review and refresher of our various ministries and their details. Feel free to go briefly to coffee hour and then gather around the rail promptly so we can share about a half an hour to cover key aspects of the functions.

To prepare for February 18, please share any specific questions or concerns you may have about your ministry so we can be sure to cover what you wish to know.

Deacon Tim

Time to Update the Directory

In early 2018, we need to publish a new Congregational Directory, and so it is time to gather updates and new information. We will leave 1 copy of the old directory out for you to examine - if your information is incomplete, inaccurate, or missing we ask that you fill out the reporting sheets provided. If you have a photo (.img format) to include, send it to the Office (office@stmattsbldm.org) and if you want to have a photo taken at no charge, see Gary Ploense.

Gary will take photos for 10AM worshippers on the next three Sundays (Feb 4, 11, 18) and then he will be available for 7:30AM worshippers on Sundays (Feb. 25, March 4 and 11). He sets-up in Parish Hall immediately after worship.

The Daily Devotional Reading

is available by clicking of the link below:

[Good News Daily](#)

Serving Schedule

4-February

7:30

Greeter: Ray Durham

Lector: Liz Gordon

E.M.: Chris Bennett

10:00

Acolyte: Christian Pitts

Lector: Amy Halt

E.M.: Bob Kohlase

Monday Counter: Shelley Carter

Coffee Hour: Pam & Roy Laws

11-February

7:30

Greeter: Doug & Dede Dyson

Lector: Bill Johns
E.M.: Bill Johns

10:00

Acolyte: Liam Halt

Lector: Sandy Kohlhasse

E.M.: Emily Lavikoff

Monday Counter: Row Laws

Coffee Hour: Valerie & Rex Schaeffer

14-February Ash Wednesday

7:00 AM

7:00 PM

Outreach Opportunities

ITEMS-OF-THE-MONTH

In January and February of the new year, let's help The Salvation Army collect nonperishable food items to help needy people get through the winter. Here are suggestions:

Canned fruits & vegetables

Canned soups

Peanut butter

Canned meats (tuna, chicken, etc.)

Macaroni & cheese boxes

Box dinners

Any nonperishable food items

We will continue to collect and deliver gently used coats and other winter items to The Salvation Army through January. Thank you all so very much for your continuing generosity.

The Outreach Committee

Faith In Action

Join us for a fun filled evening at -

FIA's Annual Gala Auction & Dinner!!

February 10, 2018, 5:00-9:00

Raddison Hotel, 8 Traders Circle, Normal

Dinner, Games, Raffles, Live Auction plus a cash bar

Dinner choices : Asiago Chicken, Pork Loin,

or Eggplant Parmesan

Tickets: \$65 e. or \$585 for a table of 10

For tickets, contact Linda Thomas, FIA Liaison

(lthomasheyworth7@gmail.com, 309-242-7160),

or RSVP to public.bnfia.org, 309-827-7780

Request seating at St. Matt's tables

St. Matthew's Schedule for the week of February 4th

Coffee Hour follows 10:00 a.m. worship in the Parish hall

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

Sunday-5:30 p.m.-Evensong

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

Wednesday-5:30 p.m.-Light Supper for participants

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

Thursday-7:30 a.m.-Morning Prayer and breakfast

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

Saturday-8:30 a.m.-Women's 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 for February 4, 2018

Hymns: #362, #313, #552

Old Testament

Isaiah 40:21-31

Have you not known? Have you not heard?

Has it not been told you from the beginning?

Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,

and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;

who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,

and spreads them like a tent to live in;

who brings princes to naught,

and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,

scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,

when he blows upon them, and they wither,

and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

To whom then will you compare me,

or who is my equal? says the Holy One.

Lift up your eyes on high and see:

Who created these?

He who brings out their host and numbers them,

calling them all by name;

because he is great in strength,

mighty in power,

not one is missing.

Why do you say, O Jacob,

and speak, O Israel,
"My way is hidden from the Lord,
and my right is disregarded by my God"?
Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The Lord is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.
He gives power to the faint,
and strengthens the powerless.
Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted;
but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.

Psalm 147:1-12, 21c

Laudate Dominum

1 Hallelujah!

How good it is to sing praises to our God! *
how pleasant it is to honor him with praise!

2 The Lord rebuilds Jerusalem; *
he gathers the exiles of Israel.

3 He heals the brokenhearted *
and binds up their wounds.

4 He counts the number of the stars *
and calls them all by their names.

5 Great is our Lord and mighty in power; *
there is no limit to his wisdom.

6 The Lord lifts up the lowly, *
but casts the wicked to the ground.

7 Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving; *
make music to our God upon the harp.

8 He covers the heavens with clouds *
and prepares rain for the earth;

9 He makes grass to grow upon the mountains *
and green plants to serve mankind.

10 He provides food for flocks and herds *
and for the young ravens when they cry.

11 He is not impressed by the might of a horse; *
he has no pleasure in the strength of a man;

12 But the Lord has pleasure in those who fear him, *
in those who await his gracious favor.

21 Hallelujah!

The Epistle

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting,
for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not

proclaim the gospel! For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

The Gospel

Mark 1:29-39

After Jesus and his disciples left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

Birthdays & Anniversaries February 4 - 10

Anniversaries

Kathie & Loren Dyson

Birthdays

Donna Dyson

June Galt

Collect for February 4th

Set us free, O God, from the bondage of our sins and give us, we beseech thee, the liberty of that abundant life which thou hast manifested to us in thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Contact Information

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

