

***Good News Daily***  
***For St. Matthew's Church***  
***Fr. Halt Mobile: 309-660-8515***

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**XV**

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**Sunday, February 8**

John 7:37-46 *On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them." (vv.37-38 NIV)*

John's Gospel makes it clear that there was much division over who Jesus was. As he taught they sensed his authority, yet he had not been formally educated. He had wisdom beyond his years; some were in disbelief, others were amazed.

I have often struggled with the thought that, were I living in Jesus' time, would I have been a believer or one who doubted him? I tend to be skeptical of things that don't seem logical or make common sense. There's nothing logical or routine about Jesus' response in verse 16: "My teaching is not my own. It comes from the one who sent me."

Through my faith journey and life experience, I find comfort in the hope and possibility that the awe-inspiring, heart-tugging authenticity of Jesus' love would have drawn me close and touched my heart deeply so that I, too, would have said, "Truly, this is the Messiah, the Christ."

Isaiah 57:14-21; Psalms 93, 96; Hebrews 12:1-6

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* PRAY for Maiduguri – (Jos, Nigeria) The Rt Revd Emmanuel Kana Mani

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* Christ Church, Springfield, The Rev Dr Gregory Tournoux, Rector; Mbugani Parish: Rev. Leonard Birusha, Tabora, Tanzania; The Parish of Jesus the Saviour, Villa El Salvador, Lima, Peru, The Rev. Carlos Quispe, Priest in Charge; Birthday of the Rev Brian T. Kellington, Pekin. Wedding Anniversary of The Venerable Shawn W. and Mary Ann Denney, Springfield.

*ST. MATTHEW'S:* Altar servers and Eucharistic Ministers.

## **Monday, February 9**

Isaiah 58:1-12 *Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?...you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls, Restorer of Streets with Dwellings.* (vv.6, 12)

Relationships come in such a variety of flavors: spouses, parents, children, friends, colleagues, neighbors, employers, clients, and patients, to name a few. They can be positive and fulfilling or difficult, draining the joy from life. The tough ones are the challenge. Perhaps it might be a difficult patch in what has been an overall good relationship.

Forgiveness, I believe, is the key—both of others and of ourselves. Isaiah speaks of being set free, breaking the yoke and becoming “repairers” and “restorers” so “your healing will quickly appear” (v.8). The results are worth the effort: healing, peace of mind, joy, and freedom to love as God loves us.

Psalm 80; Galatians 6:11-18; Mark 9:30-41

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Maine – (I, The Episcopal Church) The Rt Revd Stephen Lane

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* Pray for the Clergy of the Diocese as they gather for the Pre-Lenten Retreat, King's House, Belleville.

*ST. MATTHEW'S:* Anniversaries of Rutger & Ora Bachmann and Loren & Kathie Dyson.

## **Tuesday, February 10**

Psalm 78:1-39 *He rained down manna for the people to eat, he gave them the grain from heaven. Human beings ate the bread of angels; he sent them all the food they could eat. (vv.24-25)*

In the Lord's Prayer we say, "Give us this day our daily bread..."—*daily*, enough for today, not enough for tomorrow, next week, or next year. So it was with Moses and the Israelites during their 40-year sojourn in the desert. God provided "bread from heaven" and they were told to gather "enough for that day." When some tried to hoard more, it spoiled and became inedible.

These words help me as I try to lean into them, trusting that God has and will continue to provide enough for my needs. It's easy to worry, to fear the future, wondering if I will have enough to take care of myself, a single woman who has a history of longevity in her genes.

By focusing on today, working hard, and giving thanks for God's love and provision, I can trust that He is in control and will provide. He will guide me to use the gifts He has provided; He will continue to love me for He wants the best for me, and all His children. It's not about stockpiling material wealth but having enough and knowing Whom to thank.

Isaiah 59:1-15a; 2 Timothy 1:1-14; Mark 9:42-50

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Makamba – (Burundi) The Rt Revd Martin Nyaboho

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* Pray for the Clergy of the Diocese as they gather for the Pre-Lenten Retreat, King's House, Belleville.

*ST. MATTHEW'S:* Birthday of Donna Dyson, June Gault, Matthew Owens, and Peyton Owens.

### **Wednesday, February 11**

Isaiah 59:15b-21 *"As for me, this is my covenant with them" says the LORD. "My Spirit, who is on you, will not depart from you, and my words that I have put in your mouth will always be on your lips, on the lips of your children, and on the lips of their descendants—from this time on and forever," says the LORD. (v.21)*

"My Spirit, who is on you, will not depart from you..."—what comforting words for me but especially for those whom I love. Having grown children who lead independent lives and grandchildren who live several states away, I pray for God's protection and blessing on them every day.

Isaiah's words echo those in the service of Holy Baptism spoken as the priest marks the head of the newly baptized with the sign of the cross, saying, "You are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own forever." Forever...Christ's own, forever! I treasure these words and claim them knowing that my loved ones belong to our loving God. Our children are not our possessions but rather are gifts from God entrusted to us to be loved, guided, and nurtured. They have the sign of the Cross indelibly marked on their foreheads and, as much as I love them, I know that God loves them even more. Thank You, Lord.

Psalm 119:97-120; 2 Timothy 1:15—2:13; Mark 10:1-16

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Makurdi – (Abuja, Nigeria) The Rt Revd Nathan Nyitar Inyom

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* Pray for the Clergy of the Diocese as they complete their Pre-Lenten Retreat, King's House, Belleville.

*ST. MATTHEW'S:* Members of the Outreach Committee

## **Thursday, February 12**

Mark 10:17-31 *Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God."* (v.27)

Do you really believe that all things are possible with God? For many years I have attended a weekly healing service that is part of a larger healing ministry and community. I've learned so much. In my heart I know nothing is impossible with God although His ways are not always manifested according to my expectations.

I've learned to trust that God sees the entire plan and I only see in part. It's a journey of trust that brings me comfort and peace. He knows everything, loves me totally, and wants the best for me. What a blessing.

Isaiah 60:1-17; Psalms 83, 146, 147; 2 Timothy 2:14-26

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Malaita – (Melanesia) The Rt Revd Samuel Sahu; Assistant Bishop of Malaita – The Rt Revd Alfred Hou

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* Birthday of Jean, widow the Rev Canon Charles Draper, Springfield.

*ST. MATTHEW'S:* Shelley Brenneman Carter, Rector's Warden; Roy Laws, Parish Warden; Mark Smith, Treasurer; Annie Ingersoll, Gary Ploense, Bill Johns, Lorinda Demeritt, Miles Price, and Cliff Grill, Vestry.

## **Friday, February 13**

Mark 10:32-45 *“For even the Son of Man did not come to be serve, but to serve.”* (v.45)

As a nurse as well as a parent and grandparent, it's natural to serve and provide for others. I am a caregiver by nature. There is a deep sense of joy and satisfaction that comes from helping another along life's journey. Each of us will experience moments of receiving as well as giving, but I always find it humbling to be served. That makes Jesus' servant-hood even more meaningful to me. Here is the Son of God, the Messiah, washing the disciples' feet, my feet. My, oh my, this is pure grace in its simplest yet most profound expression, undeserved yet freely given. Surely my cup runneth over.

Isaiah 61:1-9; Psalm 88; 2 Timothy 3:1-17

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Malakal – (Sudan) The Rt Revd Hilary Garang Deng; Malakal – Bentiu Area – The Rt Revd John Gattek

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* May God be merciful to us and bless us.  
*ST. MATTHEW'S:* That we may walk in the way of the Cross, and find it the way of life and peace.

## **Saturday, February 14 (Saints Cyril and Methodius, missionaries to the Slavs)**

Psalm 90 *A thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by, or like a watch in the night. Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.* (vv.4, 12)

The same yesterday, today, and forever—that is God. It is difficult for me to fathom the height, depth, and breadth of God or to get my head around infinity. My little mind isn't capable of

understanding the complexities of our world, God's creation; however, having now been privileged to live well into my sixties, there are lessons I've learned from this journey called life.

The important things are not things at all, but rather those intangibles of love, joy, and peace. Relationships are essential and the most important one is knowing I am a child of God, who loves me and died for me, and would have done so even if I were the only person left on earth. It's almost too much to grasp but I know it's true.

Today is Valentine's Day and I have received the ultimate gift of love from God. May you also know and claim how precious you are to Him.

Isaiah 61:10—62:5; Psalm 87; 2 Timothy 4:1-8; Mark 10:46-52

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Manchester – (York, England) The Rt Revd David Walker; Manchester – Bolton – The Rt Revd Christopher Paul Edmondson; Manchester – Middleton – The Rt Revd Mark Davies

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving.

*ST. MATTHEW'S:* St. Nicholas' Church, Sablino, Russia; Birthday of Julaine Ingersoll and Jarod Roberson.

*by Suzanne McKee*

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