

From: St. Matthew's Episcopal Church office@stmattsbldm.org
Subject: St. Matthew's Newsletter
Date: December 18, 2015 at 10:00 AM
To: roghollis@mac.com

PM

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Rector's Ramblings

One of the humorous memes that goes around during Advent is that Christmas is when Protestants don't mind doing Catholic things like honoring Mary and having statues. While there is truth in that statement, we as Anglicans have a long and honored tradition of Marian Devotion and this week we will hear why that is so.

This Sunday will mark the Fourth Sunday in Advent. We will read of the Visitation of Mary and sing her great hymn "Magnificat".

For centuries the Magnificat has been an integral part of Anglican worship as it is the canticle used at the Evening Office if only one reading is done. It is Our Lady's song of praise to God for the blessing she has received in being chosen to bear the Messiah and for what God is doing.

I commend the devotion of saying the Magnificat on a daily basis from now through Christmas as your prayer. If you want to "spice" it up a bit use the verses of "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (Hymn 56) as the antiphon before and after the Magnificat.

May Our Lady intercede for us today and always,

Dave+

The Good News

A weekly newsletter of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
December 18, 2015



Morning Prayer - Standard Schedule

Morning Prayer is offered at 7AM on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and at 7:30 AM on Thursday. The fourth Thursday at 7:30 AM is Holy Eucharist.

Bible Study

Continues on Wednesday at 6PM.

Fr. Dave

Poverty Simulation

Fr. Dave will be participating in a poverty simulation alongside the staff of Oakland School on January 19. Principal Lafrance is looking for volunteers to staff the event. If you are interested in helping that day, please call or email St. Matthew's office.

Men's Breakfast

Will meet at 8:00AM on December 19 at St. Matthew's. All men of the church are invited.

Christmas Services

Christmas Eve: 5:30 PM Holy Eucharist Rite II
10:30 PM Candlelight Eucharist w/ Hymn Sing
(children may wear pajamas to late service)

Christmas Day: 10AM Holy Eucharist Rite I (spoken)

 **Service Schedule**
for the week of 
December 20, 2015

Holy Eucharist (Rite I)
7:30 AM

Holy Eucharist (Rite II)
10:00 AM

Evensong 5:00 PM

Other Services:

Christmas Eve 5:30 PM

Candlelight Christmas Eve
10:30 PM

Christmas Day 10:00 AM

Morning Prayer
Monday, 7:00 AM

Rosary 5:30 PM Wednesdays.

Intercessory Prayer
Monday at 5:30 p.m., Wednesday
at 12:15 p.m., and Thursday at
10:30 a.m. in the Chapel

 **Ministry Links** 

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

Parish Mission Trip

If you are interested, please see Fr. Dave. The trip will leave the week of June 27 and return on July 8. The cost of the trip is \$1500 (inclusive).

The goal of the trip is 1) to build relationship with our brothers and sisters in Christ and 2) to rebuild a roof at St. John Church, Owia, St. Vincent.

No shots are required, but a passport is. All ages are welcome and you don't have to know how to swing a hammer.

Local Mission Opportunities

COATS COATS - It's time to collect coats to donate to The Salvation Army for distribution to people in need. Bring your gently used coats to St. Matthew's and place them in the big white box opposite the church office, and you'll be blessed. Gently used scarves, hats and mittens are also welcome. Thanks so much.---The Outreach Committee

MITTEN TREE-It is tradition at St. Matthew's that during Advent and Christmas, new mittens, hats, scarves, etc. are collected for The Children's Foundation. Please decorate the trees placed in the narthex and outside the parish hall with your donations. The Outreach committee will deliver them in January.

CELL PHONES-Do you have a cell phone you no longer use? Donate it to Neville House in December by placing it in our big white "coats" box. (We are assured they clean off all history before sharing it with someone in need.) Outreach Committee

Intergenerational Advent Activities:

The Youth Group would like to invite the parish to the following Advent events for all ages!

Christmas Caroling
Sunday, December 20 from 6:00 - 7:30pm

Good News Daily

This Week's Good News Daily is [here](#).

Readings & Music for December 20, 2015

Hymns: #56, #438

Micah 5:2-5a

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,

from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;
and he shall be the one of peace.

Canticle 15 Page 91, BCP The Song of Mary Magnificat
Luke 1:46-55

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; *
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed: *
the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.
He has mercy on those who fear him *
in every generation.
He has shown the strength of his arm, *
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *
and has lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things, *
and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
The promise he made to our fathers, *
to Abraham and his children for ever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Hebrews 10:5-10

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,
"Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body you have prepared for me;
in burnt offerings and sin offerings
you have taken no pleasure.

Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God'
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me)."

When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in
sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are
offered according to the law), then he added, "See, I have come to do your
will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's
will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus
Christ once for all.

Luke 1:39-45

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill
country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.
When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And
Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry,
"Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And

why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

Ministry Assignments for December 20 & 27

20-Dec

7:30

Greeters: Doug & Dede Dyson

Lector: Mona Johnstone

E.M.: Chris Bennett

10:00

Lector: John Stoffer

Acolytes: Chris Bennett, Liam & Sarah Halt

Crucifer: Christian Pitts

Thurifer: Collin Bennett

Boat: Georgia

E.M.: Bob Kohlhase

Monday Counter: Gary McGinnis

Coffee Hour: Stoffers

27-Dec 7:30

Greeters: Ray Durham

Lector: Bill Johns

E.M.: Diane Gardner

10:00

Lector: Alex Davingman

Acolytes: Shelley Brenneman Carter, Halley, Sarah Halt

Crucifer: Brent Baughan

Shadow: Sean

E.M.: Jack Pitts & Shelley Brenneman Carter

Monday Counter: Susan Clark

Coffee Hour: Brays

Birthdays & Anniversaries December 18 - January 3

John Larson

Eric Owens

Jack White

Holly Dyson

Hally Brenneman

Woody Shadid

Karyn Smith & Robin Levine

Chrissy Stoffer

Grace & Bill Johns

DiAnne Wunderle

Karen Pitts

Debbie Leighton

Matthew Schmidt

Matthew Schmidt

Collect for Sunday, December 20th

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

Contact Information

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

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