

From: St. Matthew's Episcopal Church office@stmattsbldm.org
Subject: St. Matthew's Newsletter
Date: February 26, 2016 at 11:20 AM
To: roghollis@mac.com

PM

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)

Contents

This Week's Readings
Ministry Assignments
Birthdays and Anniversaries

Rector's Ramblings

St. Matthew's Windows continued...

As we continue our exploration, hold in mind that we are working our ways clockwise in the Nave starting near the altar rail on the East side.

Last week we looked at the windows representing the sacraments of Holy Baptism, Confirmation, and Reconciliation/Confession.

Immediately after the window representing the baptism with the Holy Spirit (Confirmation) that the Samaritan's receive from Peter, is the window that tells the story of the Last Supper, or Holy Eucharist.



This progression makes liturgical and ritual sense, especially at the time this building was built.

Baptism always comes before Eucharist in the Christian life and the Holy Eucharist is only for those who have been joined to Christ through Baptism.

At the time our building was constructed there was an common understanding that not only was baptism required to receive Holy Communion, but confirmation as

The Good News

February 26, 2016



A Note on the Celebration of the Eucharist

During Lent we will be celebrating the Eucharist "Ad Orientem" or "east facing." This is not literally east, but liturgical east, meaning the direction one is facing when looking at the Altar from the Nave. This is among the options possible for a celebration of the Eucharist, and as is often the case in Lent, serves as an opportunity for Catechesis (Christian Formation/Education).

In classic Christian theology the priest in celebrating serves as an icon of Jesus Christ our Great High Priest and the direction the priest celebrates communicates different meanings of that iconographic element.

Celebration in the position of "Versus Populum" or "towards the people" is our normative style, and while appearing inclusive actually derives from a theological position that the priest is, especially in the Eucharist, "in the person of Christ the head". Simply stated, this means that the priest, ritually becomes Jesus as the last supper as the host of the table.

Celebration in the position of "Ad Orientem", highlights another form of Christ's High Priestly ministry, that of intercessor as a fulfillment of the ancient type of the priesthood of Aaron. In this symbolism, the priest gathers (collects) the prayers of the faithful and offers them up to God. Traditionally, this also highlights the direction of communication flow. Outside of the invitation to communion, announcements (which were not included in the classic liturgies), and the request for permission to proceed (the salutation), whenever the priest is talking to God, the priest faces the Altar. Conversely, whenever the priest, or lector, speaks for God (lessons, Gospel, Homily) he/she will face the people.

Note, that the Church has used both forms of celebration in its history, and neither is "right" or "wrong". They just highlight different things. However, it is important to note that the Altar, and what takes place there, forms the focal point of the celebration in both.

I invite you to note the subtle differences as we celebrate in this manner during Lent, and to share your experience with it.

Dave+

well. Thus, we see the placement of the confirmation window.

But what about confession/reconciliation? Actually, it was, and is, quite common in Anglo-Catholic parishes to require a confirmand to have their first confession before they can be confirmed. So, we should not be surprised with the placement.

The Holy Eucharist window is in four panels, indicating its importance as a Dominical Sacrament.

In the window Jesus sits at the head of the table with his left hand raised in a gesture of thanksgiving and his right over the plate. This is reminiscent of the rubrical requirement that the celebrant place their hand on the bread and wine during the Words of Institution. Most celebrants will also raise a hand in a gesture of thanksgiving at that time, as well.

John, weeping, has placed his head in Jesus' lap. Several other disciples are gesturing that it will not be them who betrays Jesus.

Judas, however, is facing away from Jesus and gestures to the door with his left hand. In his right hand a money bag is firmly clutched.

The scriptural references for this window are: Matthew 26:17-30, Mark 14:12-26, Luke 22:7-23, and 1 Corinthians 11:23-30.

May these beautiful works of art continue to teach and inspire us in our worship.

Dave+

PS I will be migrating my personal (and most often

Dave+

Flocknote

We are adding another tool to our communications box called Flocknote. This is a text/email messaging system to get important reminders and information out in a timely and user-friendly mode.

Please sign up for this tool in either of the following ways:

www.flocknote.com/StMattsBlm

or by texting STMEC to 84576 on your cell phone.

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

During Lent we will study the lives of the Apostles after Pentecost. Each evening will begin at 6PM with soup and salad and conclude no later than 730 with Compline.

The Guild of the Holy Rosary

Several of our members have formed a guild for the promotion and praying of the Rosary. The Guild has put together a devotional manual that they are eager to share with anyone who wishes. They meet at 5:30 PM each Wednesday to pray together, and invites all members of St. Matthew's to join them in prayer. Please join the Guild in prayer for our Church, our Parish, our clergy, and each other.

St. Michael's Conference

The second annual St. Michael's Conference for youth 13-19 will be held from June 12-17th at Our Lady of the Snows in Belleville, IL. Registration forms are available in the Church Office or from Fr. Dave.

Highlights of this year's conference:

Mo. Beth Maynard will teach on the sacraments.

Fr. Dave will teach on Genesis 1-3.

Fr. Ian Wetmore will lead a conference on the Parables.

Fr. David Baumann will teach on practical prayer.

Also, afternoon trips for rock climbing, a Cardinals game, and a pool party.

Ask any Michaelite from last year to find out how exciting and transforming this conference is.

Parish Mission Trip--Meeting

Anyone interested in traveling this summer is invited to a meeting following the 10AM service on March 6. A final itinerary and cost will be presented at that meeting.

Local Mission Opportunities

ITEMS OF THE MONTH FOR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2016-The old

checked) email from gmail to frhalt@protonmail.com over the next month or so. The Church email for me (rector@stmattsblm.org) will continue to be "live".

Service Schedule

for the week of
February 21, 2016

Holy Eucharist (Rite I)
7:30 AM

Holy Eucharist (Rite II)
10:00 AM

Evensong 5:00 PM

Other Services:

Morning Prayer

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday,
and Friday 7:00 AM
and Thursday 7:30 AM (Holy
Eucharist)

Rosary 5:30 PM Wednesdays.

Intercessory Prayer

Monday at 5:30 p.m., Wednesday
at 12:40 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

ITEMS OF THE MONTH FOR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2016 - The old year goes and the new year comes, but the need never ends. The Salvation Army is always there to help; and we can all help this fine, historic organization feed, clothe, and shelter those in need by donating food for the Safe Harbor Shelter and the Army's food pantry. Please place supplies and imperishable foods in the Outreach baskets in the narthex and the hallway beside the fireplace. We bless and thank you!

Here are some suggestions from The Salvation Army: Ketchup--Mayo--Hot Sauce; Italian & Ranch Dressing; Butter, Sugar & Syrup; Coffee & Kool-Aid; Fruit Juice & Tomato Juice; Jell-O (not pudding); Cereal (hot or cold) & Grits; Canned Meats; Canned Fruits/Vegetables; Boxed Meals; Mac-N-Cheese; Cereal; Crackers.

ITEMS FOR THE MONTH FOR MARCH AND APRIL 2016 - As we progress 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 has suggested some necessary supplies for the shelter and its residents: laundry and dish soap, paper products (paper towels and toilet paper), and cleaning supplies/products. In addition, personal hygiene items such as (bath soaps, lotions, shampoos, toothpaste and brushes) are always needed along with gift and gas cards. 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.

Outreach Committee - next meets on Sunday, February 21, 8:30 a.m., in the Parish Hall

Good News Daily

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

Transitions

As some of you may or may not know Pat has found full time employment and will

Readings & Music for February 28, 2016

Hymns: #149, #439, #344

Exodus 3:1-15

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said further, "I am the

God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the Lord said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" He said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain."

But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I am who I am." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I am has sent me to you.'" God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you':

This is my name forever,
and this my title for all generations."

Psalms 103:1-11

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

Luke 13:1-9

At that very time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them--do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

Ministry Assignments for February 28th and March 6th

28-Feb.

7:30

Greeters: Doug & Dede Dyson

Lector: David Hanck

E.M.: Bill Johns

10:00

Lector: John Stoffer

Acolytes: Shelley Brenneman Carter, Halley, Alex Davingman

Crucifer: Sarah Halt

Shadow: Sean

E.M.: Bob Kohlhase

Monday Counter: Gary McGinnis

Coffee Hour: Brooks Family

06-Mar.

7:30

Greeters: Doug & Dede Dyson

Lector: Martha Carroll

E.M.: Bill Johns

10:00

Lector: Alex Davingman

Acolytes: TBD

Crucifer: TBD

E.M.: Robin Levine

Monday Counter: Susan Clark

Coffee Hour: Cooper Family

Birthdays & Anniversaries February 26- March 13

Elliott Genge
Robert Cooper
Tami & Bill Rolley
Alexis Ogunmokun
Bill Ingersoll
Lorinda DeMeritt
Erik Larson
Heather Mather
Susan Waring
Dedee & Doug Dyson



Collect for Sunday, February 21st

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

Contact Information

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church



St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 1920 E. Oakland Avenue, Bloomington, IL 61701

[SafeUnsubscribe™ roghollis@mac.com](#)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by office@stmattsblm.org in collaboration with



Try it free today