

From: St. Matthew's Episcopal Church office@stmattsbldm.org
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St. Matthew's Windows continued...

Christian tradition on the sacramental nature and order of life informs the placement of all the windows of the section dedicated to the seven sacraments.

As the time of installation is was traditional to place confirmation before communion and confession before confirmation, both following baptism.

In the same way the order of the final three windows flow naturally out of the rhythms of life in the Church.



Holy Matrimony is represented by the miracle of turning water into wine at the Wedding at Cana. This event is also used in the liturgy for marriage as a sign of our Lord's commendation of this way of life to the Church. Also remember that marriage is also a prime icon of the relationship between Christ and the Church. (John 2:1:11)



The Good News

March 4th, 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 procede (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+



Holy Orders is next in line and is depicted as the Holy Spirit falling on the disciples gathered in the upper room on the evening of the Resurrection. They would now be missionaries and evangelists, who planted churches throughout the ancient world, and whose heirs our bishops are today. As bishops are the only ones who can validly ordain clergy this depiction reminds us that they are of the essence of the Church. (John 20:19-23).

This window is placed after Holy Matrimony in adherence to the ancient tradition that a cleric was to have only one marriage and that before ordination. If unmarried prior to ordination the expectation was to remain in a state of celibacy.



Finally, the sacrament of Holy Unction, sometimes known as Last Rights, is represented by priests laying hands upon and anointing with oil one who is sick while praying for healing. (James 5:13-16)

While this is also a part of ministry to the dying, the anointing and laying on of hands is available to all who are sick. The window's placement here is related to the normative cycle that sickness of this type occurs at the end of life. Any who desire unction may call upon the priest.

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

Dave+

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 years 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.

Stations of the Cross

Are prayed each Friday in Lent at 5:30 PM

Service Schedule for the week of March 6, 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

Are played each Friday in Lent at 9:30 PM.

Local Mission Opportunities

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.

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 no longer be the Parish Administrator here during the week. My name is Connor Bennett and I will assuming Pat's duties here during the day for the time being.

Readings & Music for March 6th, 2016

Hymns: #690, #343, #470

Joshua 5:9-12

The Lord said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the

crops of the land of Canaan that year.

Psalms 103:1-11

- I will bless the LORD at all times; *
his praise shall ever be in my mouth.
- 2 I will glory in the LORD; *
let the humble hear and rejoice. REFRAIN
- 3 Proclaim with me the greatness of the LORD; *
let us exalt his Name together.
- 4 I sought the LORD, and he answered me *
and delivered me out of all my terror.
REFRAIN
- 5 Look upon him and be radiant, *
and let not your faces be ashamed.
- 6 I called in my affliction and the LORD heard me *
and saved me from all my troubles. REFRAIN
- 7 The angel of the LORD encompasses those who fear him, *
and he will deliver them.
- 8 Taste and see that the LORD is good; *
happy are they who trust in him! REFRAIN

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

From now on, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

All the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

So Jesus told them this parable:

"There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."' So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his

father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe--the best one--and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

"Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

Ministry Assignments for February 28th and March 6th

06-Mar.

7:30

Greeters: Ray Durham

Lector: Martha Carroll

E.M.: Bill Johns

10:00

Lector: Annie Ingersoll

Acolytes: Liam Halt, Jack and Nolan White

Crucifer: Brent Baughan

E.M.: Robin Levine

Monday Counter: Susan Clark

Coffee Hour: Cooper Family

13-Mar.

7:30

Greeters: Doug & Dede Dyson

Lector: Bill Johns

E.M.: Chris Bennett

10:00

Lector: Amy Halt

Acolytes: Shelly Breneman Carter and Hally, and Sarah Halt

Shadow: Georgia

Crucifer: Christian Pitts

E.M.: TBD

Monday Counter: TBD

Coffee Hour: Janet Hoffman and Dedee Champion

Birthdays & Anniversaries March 4th- 20th

Anniversaries

Doug and Dede Dyson
Paul and Janenne Schmidt

Birthdays

Erik Larson
Heather Mather
Jane Shadid
George Dyson
Roger Hunt
Craig Matsuda
Ora Bachmann
Roy Laws
June Mcanulty

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

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