

Contents

This Week's Readings

Rector's Ramblings

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

This week our Adult Formation conversation was on the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist.

From *Tracts for the Times - Tract 26*, we read:

"The Blessed Body and Blood of Christ, received, as it ought to be, with a quick and lively faith, will most certainly have its desired effect. But it operates, for the most part, upon our *souls*, as our ordinary food doth upon our *bodies*, insensibly and by degrees. We *eat* and *drink* every day, and by that means our bodies grow to their full stature, and are then kept up in life, health, and vigour, though we ourselves know not how this is done, nor perhaps take any notice of it. So it is with this spiritual meat and drink, which God hath prepared for our souls. By eating and drinking frequently of it, we grow by degrees in grace, and in the "knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ," and still continue steadfast and active in the true faith and fear of God; though after all, we may be no way sensible how this wonderful effect is wrought in us, but only as we find it to be so by our own experience."

Christ is Risen!

Dave Halt, Rector
309-660-8515

Ministry Links

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

The Good News

April 27, 2018



Wednesday April 25 - 5:30 p.m.

Adult Formation and Catechesis of the Good Shepherd meets this week.

The Adult Formation topic for discussion is the Sacraments, and this week's conversation will focus on Confirmation.

Schedule Changes

As we approach summer and my last intensive for Continuing Education the following changes will be effective next week.

***Evensong is on hiatus until the first Sunday in August.**

***Morning Prayer on Mondays will move to 6:30AM when I am in the Parish.**

***Instead of Morning Prayer on Wednesdays, Evening Prayer will be offered at 5:00 when I am in the Parish.**

Thank you for your patience over the next couple of months, as I finish coursework and fulfill Diocesan and "National Church" obligations.

Cursillo

The Diocesan Cursillo weekend for adults will be 22-24 June at Toddhall. This is a renewal and growth weekend for anyone over the age of 18. It is a powerful experience and life-changing.

If interested, please see Fr. Dave for more information.

St. Michael's Conference

The annual Diocesan St. Michael's Conference will be held 10-16 June at St. Michael's Church in O'Fallon. The conference is open to youth ages 13-19 as "Michaelites" and young adults who wish to serve as counselors.

The topic for this year is "Called, Consecrated, and Commissioned" and will focus on the meaning and discernment of vocation and ministry. There will be lay and clerical presenters from across the Diocese, the daily cycle of Mass and Office, as well as, fellowship and recreational activities.

The cost of the conference is \$100 and scholarships are available.

Please see Fr. Dave for registration information.

Quilters' News

The quilters are offering a quilt for a silent/secret auction, that Peggy Blackley pieced and the current quilters have finished. It will make a great gift for Mother's Day, Birthday, or just to have and hold for your own comfort. See it on display in the Parish Hall.

All of the MONEY will go to the THE OUTREACH COMMITTEE for their community activities. The reserve limit on the quilt is \$100.00

BID RULES:

1. Name, telephone number and \$\$\$\$ on bid paper
2. Put bid paper in designated box
3. All bids must be in by May 5, 2018
4. The bids will be opened/winner notified on May 6, 2018

Happy bidding, The Quilters

Outreach Opportunities

Outreach Opportunities for May and June - St. Vincent de Paul

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul, an international organization, has been in Bloomington for over 50 years. Its mission is "to seek and find the forgotten, suffering and the deprived." It is maintained entirely by volunteers. This past year they served around 1000 households a month.

Specifically, the following supplies are needed:

- Canned foods, especially those with protein as peanut butter and tuna fish
- Vegetables of all kinds
- Boxed foods as rice and varieties of rice and beans
- Macaroni and cheese

- Instant oatmeal
- Dry cereals
- Drinks as Gatorade and water
- Baby diapers and wet wipes

Please place supplies in the baskets in the Narthex and in the hallway by the fireplace. If you prefer to give money, make your check out to St. Matthew's and in the memo line write "outreach." Place these in the plate offering, not the baskets.

The volunteer workers of St. Vincent de Paul are most grateful for all we give and the Outreach Committee thanks you for your continued generosity in helping those in need.

BOOK/DVD/BAKE SALE

The Outreach Committee will hold its spring Book/DVD/Bake Sale on Saturday, April 28, from 8 AM to 1 PM. Donations of gently used books, DVDs, CDs, and other recordings are greatly appreciated. Please put donations in the parish hall near the bookcases. If you need help getting items to the church please call Debbie Leighton at 662-7478.

Please bring baked goods to the church during office hours of Friday, April 27 (9 a.m. - 1 p.m.) or during set-up, 3 p.m. - 6 p.m. Anyone who would like to help set-up for the sale is welcome to do so.

The Daily Devotional Reading

is available by clicking of the link below:

[Good News Daily](#)

Serving Schedule

29-April

7:30

Greeter: Ray Durham

Lector: Liz Gordon

E.M.: Chris Bennett

10:00

Acolyte: Shelley Carter

Lector: Robin Levine

E.M.: Emily Levine

Crucifer: Brad Bauman

Monday Counter: Shelley Carter

Coffee Hour: Linda Thomas & Ann Sokan

6-May

7:30

Greeter: Doug & Dede Dyson

Lector: Bill Johns
E.M.: Bill Johns

10:00

Acolyte: Sarah Halt
Crucifer: Brad Bauman
Lector: Amy Halt
E.M.: Shelley Carter & Robin Levine
Monday Counter: Roy Laws
Coffee Hour: Julie & Jim Cooper

St. Matthew's Schedule beginning April 29th

Coffee Hour follows 10:00 worship in the Parish Hall

Sunday-7:30 a.m.-Rite I
Sunday-10:00 a.m.-Rite II
Sunday-11:00 a.m.-Guild of the Holy Rosary
Monday-6:30 a.m.-Morning Prayer
Monday-5:30 p.m.-Brownies
Tuesday-7:00 a.m.-Morning Prayer
Wednesday-5:00 a.m.-Evening Prayer
Wednesday-5:30 p.m.-Light Supper
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

Office Hours: 9 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Monday through Friday

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.

May Schedule

May 10--7:30 AM Mass for the Ascension
May 13th--Graduate Recognition at 10AM service. Please provide information on graduates to the Office by May 10th.
May 20th--Pentecost. Fr. Joe will be Celebrant that day.
May 27th--Trinity Sunday. Supply Priest will Celebrate.

Fr. Dave will be attending his last PhD intensive 14May-26th May. He will leave immediately the conclusion of Mass on the 13th and be back in the office on the 29th of May. On Sunday the 27th he will be attending the retirement Mass of his former National Guard Chaplain, mentor, and friend in Lancaster, Ohio.

From the Junior Warden

In an effort to improve lighting and provide space for a cry room that allows continued participation in the liturgy for parents, we will be removing several of the panels separating the narthex from the nave. This will be done before the Feast of Pentecost.

This is an experiment to see if their removal and replacement with glass is feasible in terms of glare, light, and general appearance.

After these are removed, please share your opinions with either a Warden or member of the Mission Leadership Team.

Bells In Motion of Central IL

presents: "Historic Route 66" concerts

Saturday, May 5, 7:00 p.m. - Pontiac, IL
tickets in advance - 815-844-1187

or

Sunday, May 6, 4:00 p.m. - Springfield, IL
tickets available at the door

For details about these bell-ringer concerts, see the bulletin board in the main hallway

Readings for April 29, 2018

Hymns: #296, #487, #662, #294

The First Lesson

Acts 8:26-40

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Psalm 22:24-30

Deus, Deus meus

24 My praise is of him in the great assembly; *

I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.

25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
and those who seek the Lord shall praise him: *

"May your heart live for ever!"

26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to
the Lord, *

and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

27 For kingship belongs to the Lord; *
he rules over the nations.

28 To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in
worship; *

all who go down to the dust fall before him.

29 My soul shall live for him;
my descendants shall serve him; *

they shall be known as the Lord'S for ever.

30 They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn *
the saving deeds that he has done.

The Epistle

1 John 4:7-21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

The Gospel

John 15:1-8

Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

Birthdays & Anniversaries April 29 - May 5

Anniversaries

Chrissy & John Stoffer

Birthdays

Justin Palm

Diane Gardner

Barbara Williamson

Carole Cox

Shelley Carter

Collect for Sunday, April 29th

O Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us

so perfectly to know thy Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leadeth to eternal life; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contact Information

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

