

Contents

This Week's Readings

Rector's Ramblings

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

This week our Adult Formation conversation was on Confirmation.

The old joke goes, "How do you get rid of bats in the belfry?" "Confirm them, and you will never see them again."

The joke works because it is true on many levels. In our Church, Confirmation has become a simple rite of passage that youth go through because it is expected. This is not a good enough reason.

Sometimes, Confirmation is (half-jokingly) referred to as making one an Episcopalian and allowing you to serve on the MLT and Diocesan Leadership.

So, what is Confirmation?

Baptism and Chrismation (marking with the Holy Oil) makes us citizens of the kingdom of God. We are born again in Baptism and are spiritual infants called to grow into the full stature of Christ. Confirmation marks that time when we make our mature confession of faith, and become full participants in the Church Militant for the service of God and the Kingdom.

The grace of Confirmation is that it refreshes us in the gifts of the Holy Spirit given at Baptism for that life of service. It does not make one an Anglican, or in the US an Episcopalian, it makes one an adult Christian united to the Church catholic through the laying on of hands, and made ready to stand up and serve. It

The Good News

May 4, 2018



Wednesday May 9- 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 Marriage.

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.

What is new...

Is actually old. For the past several weeks we have announced that several of the wood panels in the Narthex would be removed to experiment with how this would affect lighting in preparation of creating a "cry room" in the Narthex.

Several panels were removed this week, and behind them we found the original glass installed at the time of construction.

makes us soldiers of Christ, fighting not against flesh and bone, but against the forces of sin in our lives and in the world.

Confirmation serves as the Christian's oath of enlistment in the kingdom of Christ.

If you would like to be confirmed during our next Bishop's visitation, please let me know.

Christ is Risen!

Dave Halt, Rector
309-660-8515

Ministry Links

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

This was a pleasant surprise.

If anyone knows the history of why this was originally covered, please let Fr. Dave know.

As we determine whether or not to leave these opened up, please share your concerns with a member of the MLT.

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.

MLT Meeting May 7 @ 7:00 PM

The MLT will meet this Monday. As always, meetings are open to the congregation.

Main agenda items for this month include reception of the Mission Strategy Report and the state of the roof over the Parish Hall.

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 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 wrap up its Spring Sale on Saturday, May 5, 8 am - 12 pm with a \$5 bag sale.

The Daily Devotional Reading

is available by clicking of the link below:

[Good News Daily](#)

Serving Schedule

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

13-May

7:30

Greeter: Ray Durham

Lector: Mona Johnstone

E.M.: Chris Bennett

10:00

Acolyte: Liam Halt

Lector: Sandy Kohlase

E.M.: Sarah Halt

Crucifer: Brad Bauman

Monday Counter: Gary Ploense

Coffee Hour: Phyllis & Dave Halt

St. Matthew's Schedule beginning May 6th

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

Tuesday-10:00 a.m.-Quilters

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

Saturday-8:30 A.M.-Women's Breakfast

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 May 6, 2018

Hymns: #291, #199, #302, #580

The First Lesson

Acts 10:44-48

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

Psalm 98

Cantate Domino

1 Sing to the Lord a new song, *
for he has done marvelous things.

2 With his right hand and his holy arm *
has he won for himself the victory.

3 The Lord has made known his victory; *
his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.

4 He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, *

and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

5 Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands; *
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.

6 Sing to the Lord with the harp, *
with the harp and the voice of song.

7 With trumpets and the sound of the horn *
shout with joy before the King, the Lord.

8 Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, *
the lands and those who dwell therein.

9 Let the rivers clap their hands, *
and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord,
when he comes to judge the earth.

10 In righteousness shall he judge the world *
and the peoples with equity.

The Epistle

1 John 5:1-6

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

The Gospel
John 15:9-17

Jesus said to his disciples, "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another."

Birthdays & Anniversaries May 6 - 12

Anniversaries

Phyllis & Dave Halt

Liz & Ron Gordon

Birthdays

Fr. Joe Dunlap

Liam Halt

Collect for Sunday, May 6th

O God, who hast prepared for those who love thee such good things as pass man's understanding: Pour into our hearts such love toward thee, that we, loving thee in all things and above all things, may obtain thy promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contact Information

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

