

## Contents

This Week's Readings

### Rector's Ramblings

A new year begins in the Church this week, and it can be a bit confusing to keep all the calendars and lectionaries straight. I often think one of the primary reasons we send folk to Seminary is to learn how to manage these calendars, cycles, and lectionaries. With that in mind here are a few notes to help wade through what can be quite confusing.

There are two calendrical cycles in the Church year.

1. The Temporal Cycle concerns the Liturgical Seasons of the Year (Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, etc.) and begins on the First Sunday of Advent. This cycle has a Lectionary that most of us encounter on Sundays. In The Episcopal Church we can use either the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL) or the 1979 Book of Common Prayer Lectionary. At St. Matthew's we are using the RCL, and this year we will be in Year C.

2. The Sanctoral Cycle are Saints' Days and Holy Days in the year. Each has its own set of readings and prayers (Propers). This cycle begins on 30 November with the commemoration of St. Andrew "The First-Called".

Additionally, the Daily Office has its own Lectionary that can be found beginning on page 936 in The Book of Common Prayer 1979. This Lectionary is a two-year cycle with Year One beginning on the First Sunday in Advent preceding odd numbered years. Simply put, we start Year One this coming Sunday.

## The Good News

November 30, 2018



### Youth Group

Will meet on December 2 for Evensong at 5:30 and pizza fellowship at 6. We will work together to form a schedule for the next year.

### Breakfast Fellowships

Women's Breakfast will meet in the Parish Hall at 8:30 AM on Saturday, December 8.

Men's Breakfast will meet in the Parish Hall at 8:00 AM on Saturday, December 15.

### Theology Uncorked

Will hold its regular meeting at 6PM on Sunday, December 9.

### Christmas Schedule

We are in the process of finalizing the schedule for Christmas services. The final schedule will be announced in this space next week.

Our aspirational schedule is to have a Christmas Eve Day Eucharist that ends before nightfall for those who prefer to not drive after dark, a later Candlelight Eucharist, and a quiet Christmas Day Eucharist.

We are also working to schedule a special Epiphany Evensong at Funk's Grove Chapel with a "Twelfth-Night" celebration including burning of the greens at the Nature Center. Details

If you would like any help in negotiating any of these, please reach out to me.

I pray you have a blessed Advent, and ask your prayers as well.

Dave Halt, Rector  
309-660-8515

## Ministry Links

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

will be provided as they are finalized.

### **Annual Meeting**

Hold the date: January 13, 2019

Reports are due by January 6.

There are currently three seats open for Mission Leadership Team. Anyone interested in serving in this ministry is invited to submit a brief bio to the office by January 6. This shall constitute a nomination for office.

### **Upcoming Meetings**

**Parish Mission Council meets on December 2 at 4PM.**

**Outreach meets at 8:30 on December 9.**

### **From the Parish Mission Council**

The Saint Matthew's Parish Mission Council has been meeting to discuss the surveys we asked the parish family to fill out. After much discussion we realized that we as a parish are very comfortable getting together in social situations. In that light, we have planned some events throughout the upcoming year where we may gather and get to know one another better.

Our first event will be on Sunday, December 16. Following the 10:00 service we will have a carol sing with cookies, hot chocolate and coffee. Bring your favorite cookie and join us in singing your favorite Christmas songs.

We look forward to kicking off our get togethers and bring our parish family closer together

### **Devotionals**

If you are not using a devotional, Advent is a good time to begin. Here are a couple that are easy to receive and well worth the read.

1. "The Good News Daily" which is included in this newsletter and is produced by the Bible Fellowship. Our publication also

includes the weekly prayer list.\*

2. "The Living Church" offers a daily devotional delivered to your inbox each morning. These are written by lay and ordained members of The Episcopal Church (several members of our Diocese, including our Rector, write for this ministry). If interested you may sign up [here](#).

\*If you would like to place someone on the prayer list, or have not updated your request recently, please email Pat at [office\(at\)stmattsblm.org](mailto:office(at)stmattsblm.org).

## **Outreach Opportunities**

### **Warm Clothing**

As the weather cools, The Outreach Committee is again urging you to think about the need for warm coats, hats, gloves, and scarves in our community. Please bring your gently used coats, etc., to church and place them in the big white box in the hallway across from the office. The Committee will take them to The Salvation Army, which will distribute them to the needy through January 16, 2019. Thank you for helping us keep people warm.

### **Mitten Trees**

It is an annual tradition at St. Matthew's that Christmas trees be trimmed with hats, scarves, gloves and mittens for children in need in the community. "Mitten Trees" have been placed in the Narthex and hallway outside the Parish Hall. Please help decorate them with store bought or handmade items during Advent and through the season of Christmas.

### **Thanks**

Many thanks to everyone who helped make the fall Book/DVD/Bake Sale another success. More than \$1100 was raised for outreach needs in the community and beyond. The Outreach Committee thinks this was the best bake sale ever.

## **Crossroads Area Student Theatre**

Some of youth are participating in this program and will be showcased in the "Dickens Christmas Festival 2018".

Tickets are available for free at the box office one hour before show time.

The Festival is free and runs December 6, 7, 8 and 13, 14, 15 at Eastland Mall from 5-8:30 in the evenings and on Saturdays from 12-8:30PM.

The play "The Ghosts of Dickens" is featured at 6:30PM on evenings and 1:30PM on Saturdays.

### **Advent Evensong**

Evensong is offered each Sunday at 5:30PM. This is a service of scripture readings and reflective music. All are invited to this restful service in the midst of a busy Advent.

### **New Email**

Fr. Dave is closing out his GMail account. His new email is **frhalt (at) protonmail.com**.

### **The Daily Devotional Reading**

is available by clicking of the link below:

[Good News Daily](#)

### **Worship Serving Schedule**

2-December

7:30

Greeter: Doug & Dede Dyson

Lector: Chris Bennett

E.M.: Bill Johns

9:30

Acolyte: Liam Halt

Crucifer: Shelley Carter

Thurifer: Brad Bauman

Lector: Valarie Jones

E.M.: Emily Lavikoff

Monday Counter: Roy Laws

Coffee Hour: Kia, Donna, Georgia Griffin

9-December

7:30

Greeter: Ray Durham

Lector: Julie Bennett

E.M.: Chris Bennett

10:00

Acolyte: Alley Roberson

Crucifer: Brad Bauman

Lector: Karyn Smith

E.M.: Emily Lavikoff

Monday Counter: Gary Ploense

Coffee Hour: Chrissy & John Stoffer

## **St. Matthew's Weekly Activities as of December 2nd**

*Coffee Hour follows 10:00 worship in the Parish Hall*

Sunday-7:30 a.m.-Rite I

10:00 a.m.-Rite II

10:45 a.m.-Sunday School

11:00 a.m.-Rosary

1:00 p.m.-Green Scouts

4:00 p.m.-PMC

5:30 p.m.-Evensong

6:00 p.m.- Youth Pizza Fellowship

Tuesday-7:00 a.m.-Morning Prayer

Wednesday-5:30 p.m.-Holy Eucharist followed by Adult Formation

Thursday-7:30 a.m.-Morning Prayer & breakfast

Friday -7:30 a.m.-Morning Prayer

6:00 p.m.-Girl Scouts

Saturday-8:30 a.m.-Women's breakfast

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

*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.*

## **Readings for December 2, 2018**

Hymns: #58, #72, #66, #100

Old Testament

Jeremiah 33:14-16

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

Psalm 25:1-9

*Ad te, Domine, levavi*

1 To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;

my God, I put my trust in you; \*

let me not be humiliated,

nor let my enemies triumph over me.

2 Let none who look to you be put to shame; \*

let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.

3 Show me your ways, O Lord, \*

and teach me your paths.

4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, \*

for you are the God of my salvation;  
in you have I trusted all the day long.

5 Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, \*  
for they are from everlasting.

6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; \*  
remember me according to your love  
and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.

7 Gracious and upright is the Lord; \*  
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.

8 He guides the humble in doing right \*  
and teaches his way to the lowly.

9 All the paths of the Lord are love and faithfulness \*  
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

### The New Testament

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

### The Gospel

Luke 21:25-36

Jesus said, "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory.

Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of

Man."

## **Birthdays & Anniversaries December 2 - 8**

*Anniversaries*

*Birthdays*

Joel Gordon

### **Dedications for this week:**

*The Memorial lamp is lit in loving memory of Linda Sayegh  
by Chrissy & John Stoffer.*

### **Collect for the First Sunday of Advent, December 2nd**

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

### **Contact Information**

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

