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This Week's Readings

Rector's Ramblings

The highlight of the ancient Easter Vigil was the baptism of new believers, and it continues to be so today. This is apparent in that the Easter Vigil in the Book of Common Prayer includes the service of the Vigil before the liturgy of Baptism, and because the Vigil liturgy requires the Renewal of the Baptismal Covenant if there are no baptisms that day. The Vigil is the liturgy par excellence for reflecting the importance of and links between Baptism and Eucharist, as one does not receive the Eucharist if one has not received Baptism. In fact, the Vigil also links proper preparation (catechism) for Baptism with the Sacrament as the great history of salvation is rehearsed in the readings, Psalms, and hymns preceding Baptism and Eucharist.

Early in the Church's history those who were being prepared for Baptism, called Catechumens, left the Sunday liturgy before the offertory so that they could be instructed in the faith. Thus, their first experience of the Holy Eucharist was immediately after their Baptism the night before Easter. They received the new Life in

The Good News

April 5, 2019



Holy Week Schedule

It is never too early to announce and plan for Holy Week.

Our schedule will be as follows:

Palm/Passion Sunday (4/14)--Regular Sunday Schedule

Maundy Thursday (4/18)--7PM Mass w/ The Watch to follow.

Good Friday (4/19)--Noon (spoken service) & 7PM (sung service)

Holy Saturday (4/20)--9AM Holy Saturday Office

Easter Sunday--6AM The Great Vigil of Easter

8:30 (ish) Easter Brunch

10AM Rite II Holy Eucharist

For Easter Week there will be a noon Mass Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday. Thursday Mass will be at 7:30AM.

The Watch

From previous Rector's Ramblings, you learned of The Watch. If you choose to participate here at St. Matthew's, please sign up for an hour between 9 PM Thursday and Noon on Good Friday. The sign up sheet is posted on the Schedule Bulletin Board (left of the hall clock).

Lenten Formation

Christ, were illumined with the Light of Christ, and becoming a part of His Body (The Church) participated in the reception of Holy Communion in His Body and Blood, thereby confirming all that they had affirmed and experienced. It must have been a powerful event and celebration.

When we celebrate this Vigil together we stand with those who experienced this liturgy throughout history, and we worship together with our forebears in the Body of Christ.

Dave+
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PS. If you would like to read a description of the Vigil Baptism in the ancient Church, it may be found [here](#). The process described is real, the characters are fictionalized representatives.

Ministry Links

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

Adult Study will meet for the last time in Lent on April 10th.

Brunch for Easter

The Easter Brunch, or the Easter Party!!!, will follow the Easter Vigil on Easter Day (21 April). Since the Vigil is a bit longer than a regular service, we expect to be partying by 8:30 AM. Easter Ham and drinks will be provided. Please bring a dish to share.

Chrism Mass

The annual Chrism Mass and the renewal of ordination vows will be held at St. Paul's Cathedral at 11AM on April 13th. The oils used at Baptism and the Anointing of the Sick for the next year are also blessed at this service. This is an important moment in our mutual life as a Diocese, and all are invited to attend. If you would like to attend please let one of the clergy know and we will arrange carpooling.

Youth Group

Will meet following Evensong on April 7th. All youth and friends are invited to join us.

Women's Breakfast

Usual Day, second Saturday, April 13th, and usual time, beginning at 8:30 AM, for the usual folkies, all women of St. Matthew's. What is UN-usual is the place. Women's Breakfast for April will be held in the home of Rose Adams; 2614 Crooked Creek Rd, Bloomington.

Save the Dates

More information will follow.

Church Camp

Episcopal Church Camp dates for 2019: June 30-July 6 at East Bay, Lake Bloomington. Camp sessions are available for children finishing 1st grade through those finishing 11th grade. We will post a link to registration information when it goes live.

St. Michael's Conference

A youth conference for those between the ages of 13 to 19. The dates this year are June 16-22. Registration information is in development.

Eucharistic Minister Training

We have been notified that our current licenses for those serving as Eucharistic Ministers are due to be renewed.

If you are a currently a Eucharistic Minister, or believe you are called to assist with the Chalice at the Holy Eucharist, we will have a brief training after both services on April 7.

If you are not available for either training, but still wish to serve, please notify Fr. Halt and he will schedule a time to meet.

Special Event at U of I, Champaign

We received this via email from Mo. Beth Maynard, Rector of Emmanuel Memorial, Champaign.

Fr. Halt plans on attending and would be willing to organize a carpool for anyone else interested.

A distinguished Episcopalian, Dr. Ian Hutchinson, will be in town on Thursday April 11th to give a free 7pm lecture on "Can A Scientist Believe in Miracles" in 141 Wolhers Hall on campus. He is Professor of Nuclear Science and Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and along with authoring 200 research articles and a textbook about plasma physics, he has written and spoken widely on the relationship between science and Christianity. He has just published a book addressing more than 200 questions he has received in the course of his career as a scientist who is also a Christian.

Here's the description:

<http://www.veritas.org/location/university-illinois-urbana-champaign/>

Here is a 10 min video profile of him, featuring his research, his faith story, and interviews with his priests and

parish: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gWRvd5hA9Z8>

And here's the questions book: <https://www.amazon.com/Can-Scientist-Believe-Miracles-Professor/dp/083084547X>

Outreach Opportunities

Items of the Month

March and April focus is on Mid Central Community Action's (MCCA) emergency shelter: Neville House. 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 requests the following for women, children and

occasionally men: personal hygiene items, clothing, shoes/sneakers and socks, laundry & cleaning supplies, kitchen supplies, and gift cards. Specific items requested are listed on the displays with Outreach baskets, which are located in the narthex and hallway near the fireplace.

Outreach-Education

Advent Chakupewa, son of Bishop Elias, is continuing school to become a doctor. His tuition is annually \$2273 + \$1836 for room & board, but this is far more than his family and community can provide. St. Matthew's hopes to continue his support in this valuable ministry. If you wish to participate, please make funds available to St. Matthew's with the notation: Outreach-Education.

Job Opening (Tentative)

The MLT has authorized the creation of a job description for a Sexton to care for basic cleaning and maintenance of our facilities. The position is part-time and would not increase our bottom line expenses for cleaning and maintenance. That is, if we can find someone who is interested and meets our requirements.

The primary qualities we are looking for in a potential hire are positive attitude, genuine care for a job well done and helping our facility continue to be a welcoming space. If you know of someone who has these qualities, is physically capable of light lifting (40lbs), and is available to work regular part-time hours, please have them contact us for an application.

The Daily Devotional Reading

is available by clicking of the link below:

[Good News Daily](#)

Worship Serving Schedule

7-April 2019

7:30

Greeter: Dede & Doug Dyson

Lector: Bill Johns

E.M.: Bill Johns

10:00

Acolyte: Sarah Halt

Crucifer: Christian Pitts

Lector: Brad Bauman

E.M.: Jack Pitts
Monday Counter: Roy Laws
Coffee Hour: Chrissy & John Stoffer

14-April 2019

7:30

Greeter: Ray Durham
Lector: Mona Johnstone
E.M.:

10:00

Acolyte: Shelley Carter
Crucifer: Brad Bauman
Thurifer: Emily Lavikoff
Lector: Ann Sokan
E.M.: Bob Kohlase
Monday Counter: Gary Ploense
Coffee Hour: DiAnne Wunderle & Matt Matsuda

St. Matthew's Weekly Activities as of March 31

Coffee hour follows 10AM worship in Parish Hall

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

9:15 a.m.-Sunday School for Children

10:00 a.m.-Rite I

1:00 p.m.-Green Scouts

5:30 p.m.-Evensong

Monday-5:00 p.m.-WMFY classes

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

10:00 a.m.--Quilters

6:00 p.m.-Zumba

Wednesday-2:00 p.m.-Piano Classes

5:30 p.m.-Holy Eucharist

6:00 p.m.-Adult Bible Study

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

2:00 p.m.-Piano Classes

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

5:30 p.m.-Stations of the Cross

Saturday-8:00 a.m.-Zumba

8:30 a.m.-Women's breakfast at Rose Adams'

11:00 a.m.-Chrism Mass, Springfield

2:00 p.m.-Piano Classes

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 April 7, 2019

Hymns: #145, #552, #674

Old Testament

Isaiah 43:16-21

Thus says the Lord,
who makes a way in the sea,
a path in the mighty waters,
who brings out chariot and horse,
army and warrior;
they lie down, they cannot rise,
they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:
Do not remember the former things,
or consider the things of old.
I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.
The wild animals will honour me,
the jackals and the ostriches;
for I give water in the wilderness,
rivers in the desert,
to give drink to my chosen people,
the people whom I formed for myself
so that they might declare my praise.

Psalm 126

In convertendo

1 When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, *
then were we like those who dream.
2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter, *
and our tongue with shouts of joy.
3 Then they said among the nations, *
"The Lord has done great things for them."
4 The Lord has done great things for us, *
and we are glad indeed.
5 Restore our fortunes, O Lord, *
like the watercourses of the Negev.
6 Those who sowed with tears *
will reap with songs of joy.
7 Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, *
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

The Epistle

Philippians 3:4b-14

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.
Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss

because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

The Gospel

John 12:1-8

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

Birthdays & Anniversaries April 7 - 13

Anniversaries

Birthdays

Dedications for this week:

Collect for the Fifth Sunday in Lent, April 7th

O Almighty God, who alone canst order the unruly wills and affections of sinful men: Grant unto thy people that they may love the thing which thou commandest, and desire that which thou doest promise; that so, among the sundry and manifold changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Contact Information

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

