

**Rector's  
Ramblings**

*Fr. Dave is taking a mini-vacation this week but his Ramblings from last week are most helpful and bear repeating as we begin a new Church year. From all the staff - Happy Thanksgiving!*

The Season of Advent is quickly approaching, and I wanted to get ahead of it with a couple announcements.

1. The Lectionary for Holy Eucharist changes to Year A on 1 December this year. So, we start a new three-year cycle of readings for Sundays on that day.
2. The Daily Office Lectionary changes to Year Two on that same day. For those who are doing two readings with Morning Prayer the Gospel usually becomes the second reading in Year Two.
3. We all know that as much as we would like to slow down and experience a calm and quiet Advent preparing for Christmas, the holiday buzz makes it almost impossible. Therefore, I am trying to



**Midweek Activities**

There will be a celebration of Holy Eucharist for Thanksgiving Day at 5:30 on this Wednesday.

Beginning in Advent our Wednesday gathering will focus on "Who is Mary?".

**Flowers at Christmas**

If you plan to make a donation to assist the Altar Guild in filling the sanctuary with Poinsettias for the Christmas season, please let the office know by 12/18. We include the names of loved ones in whose honor or memory these flowers are dedicated and print them in the holiday bulletins. It truly helps if you leave a written list or e-mail it, so the names are properly spelled.

**Advent - Christmas Season Services**

December 24th (Tuesday)

12:30 p.m. Christmas Even Day Eucharist (with hymns)

9:00 p.m. Candlelight Eucharist

December 25th (Wednesday)

9:00 a.m. Christmas - Rite I Eucharist

design our liturgical experiences as times we can slow down and simplify in this season. No, the structure and content will not change, but we will intentionally leave out some of the "extras" including entrance and exit processions. We will also take advantage of more time for quiet within the service itself.

4. In keeping with the above, Evensong is an excellent opportunity to soak in quiet reverence amongst Scripture and music.

Wishing you a Holy Advent.

Dave+  
309-660-8515

December 26th (Thursday)  
7:30 a.m. Feast of St. Stephen

December 27 (Friday)  
7:30 a.m. Feast of St. John the Apostle

January 1st (Wednesday)  
9:00 a.m. Feast of the Holy Name

### **Qualified Charitable Distributions and Required Minimum Distribution Gifts**

The tax law permits anyone 70½ or older to make a direct transfer of IRA balances up to \$100,000 per year to a charity like St. Matthews. For most donors, these qualified charitable distributions (QCDs) make it possible to net an ever-greater tax benefit because those dollars will never hit your adjusted gross income (AGI). Since you would have paid income taxes on that distribution, this strategy offers significant benefit to those who would have given that amount regardless. Added bonus: QCDs go toward satisfying your required minimum distribution (RMD). Bear in mind, though, that QCDs must come from IRAs; they cannot come from 401(k)s. Please contact your tax adviser as to whether this strategy is right for you. They can help advise you on the specific compliance rules to qualify and rollover strategies if your retirement funds are currently held in a 401(k) or similar investment. Also, most brokerage firms will assist you with these transactions and will either disburse the checks directly to the charities, or send the checks to you to pass along.

### **Outreach Opportunities**

#### **ITEMS-OF-THE-MONTH for November 2019.**

Thanks for your generous donations of food for the MIDWEST FOOD BANK's Thanksgiving meal giveaway for local residents in need known as The Big Give. Overall, 20 churches (including St. Matthew's) have collected an abundance of traditional Thanksgiving meal items. In light of the very generous donations of canned and boxed items received, the Food Bank would like to ask those still wishing to support The Big Give to purchase \$15 turkey cards at Hy-Vee and Schnuck's. To date, about half of the 2,500 needed turkeys have

### **Ministry Links**

St. Matthew's Webpage  
The Episcopal Diocese of  
Springfield

[Rector's Blog \(new\)](#)

Find us on Instagram--stmattsblm  
Twitter--@BloomingtonSt

been donated. Please consider supporting this vital community need. THANK YOU! The Outreach Committee

Updated ways to assist Oakland School are found on their [PTO News](#)

#### ALSO FROM THE OUTREACH COMMITTEE:

As you go through your coat closet, do you find a jacket that you're tired of wearing but that is still in pretty good condition?

Do your kids' coats no longer fit?

Bring your gently used winter wear to church and put it in the big white box in the hallway opposite the main office. The Outreach Committee will deliver your donations to The Salvation Army for distribution to people in need. Thank you!

#### **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 out side the Parish Hall. Please help decorate them with store bought or handmade items during Advent and through the season of Christmas. They will be delivered to the Boys and Girls Club in January.

#### **The Daily Devotional Reading**

is available by clicking of the link below:

[Good News Daily](#)

#### **Worship Serving Schedule**

1-December 2019

7:30

Greeters: Doug & Dede Dyson

Lector: Chris Bennett

E.M.: Bill Johns

10:00

Acolyte: Jack Pitts

Crucifer: Liam Halt

Thurifer: Brad Bauman

Lector: Chrissy Stoffer

E.M.: Bob Kohlhase

Monday Counter: Susan Clark

Coffee Hour: Debbie Leighton & Patty Pitts

8-December 2019

7:30

Greeters: Ray Durham

Lector: Mark Gibson

10:00

Acolyte: Shelley Carter

Crucifer: Brad Bauman

Lector: John Stoffer

E.M.: Emily Lavikoff

Monday Counter: Shelley Carter

Coffee Hour: Sandy Kohlhasse & Danielle Ward

### **St. Matthew's Weekly Activities as of December 1**

*Coffee Hour fellowship follows worship in the Parish Hall.*

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

9:00 a.m.-Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (for Children)

10:00 a.m.-Rite II

5:30 p.m.-Evensong

Monday-11:00 a.m.-Private Music Lessons \*

Tuesday-10:00 a.m.-Quilters

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

2:00 p.m.-Private Music Lessons \*

5:30 p.m.-Mid-week Holy Eucharist

6:00 p.m.-Adult Study

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

9:00 a.m.-Moms in Prayer \*

2:00 p.m.-Private Music Lessons \*

Friday-

Saturday-

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

*\* Authorized Group--St. Matthew's guests*

*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 1, 2019

Hymns: #56, #58, #324, #595

Old Testament

Isaiah 2:1-5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come  
the mountain of the Lord's house  
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,  
and shall be raised above the hills;  
all the nations shall stream to it.  
Many peoples shall come and say,  
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,  
to the house of the God of Jacob;  
that he may teach us his ways  
and that we may walk in his paths.'  
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,  
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.  
He shall judge between the nations,  
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;  
they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,  
and their spears into pruning-hooks;  
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob,  
come, let us walk  
in the light of the Lord!

Psalm 122

*Laetatus sum*

1 I was glad when they said to me, \*  
"Let us go to the house of the Lord."  
2 Now our feet are standing \*  
within your gates, O Jerusalem.  
3 Jerusalem is built as a city \*  
that is at unity with itself;  
4 To which the tribes go up,  
the tribes of the Lord, \*  
the assembly of Israel,  
to praise the Name of the Lord.  
5 For there are the thrones of judgment, \*



the thrones of the house of David.

6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: \*

"May they prosper who love you.

7 Peace be within your walls \*

and quietness within your towers.

8 For my brethren and companions' sake, \*

I pray for your prosperity.

9 Because of the house of the Lord our God, \*

I will seek to do you good."

The Epistle

Romans 13:11-14

You know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The Gospel

Matthew 24:36-44

Jesus said to the disciples, "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

**Birthdays & Anniversaries December 1 - 7**

*Anniversaries*

**Dedications for this week:**

**First Sunday of Advent, December 1st**

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

