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This Week's Readings

Rector's Ramblings

This Sunday is Gaudete Sunday and remains in the calendar from a time when Advent started in mid-November and was almost as long as Lent.

On this Sunday the clergy wear pink, really rose, vestments. These were probably the result of laundering the white vestments with a Christmas stocking. Just kidding. In reality there is no known historical reason for this tradition. Some posit it was because by the 11th Century it became customary for the Bishop of Rome to celebrate the Eucharist on this day with a rose in his hand. Some posit that rose is a color of joy in a somber time.

I, personally, am most fond of the color as symbolizing gaudiness. Yes, indeed, I find most rose (read pink) vestments to be gaudy. The term "gaudy" comes to the English language from the word that describes this Sunday: Gaudete.

Gaudete Sunday gets its name from the introit to the Eucharist, "Gaudete in Domino semper" (Rejoice in

The Good News

December 13, 2019



Midweek Activities

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

At 6 we continue our Advent study "Who is Mary?".

Help with Church Greening - This Week

The Altar Guild invites you to help with greening of the Church and decorating for Christmas. Sunday, December 15th, after Coffee Hour everyone is welcome to help!

Theology Uncorked

Will meet on December 15th this month at 6PM in the Rector's Study.

Breakfast Fellowships

Women's Breakfast will meet on 12/14 at 8:30AM in the Parish Hall.

Men's Breakfast will be held on 12/21 at 8AM in the Parish Hall. All men of the church are invited.

Carol Sing

We will have a Christmas Carol sing during coffee hour on December 22nd. Please bring your favorite cookies to share on

the Lord always). Gaudete, therefore, means to rejoice or celebrate, and we do so on this Sunday with gaudy vestments.

Now, as we poke a wee bit of fun at ecclesiastical fashion, let us not forget the point that we are to rejoice in the Lord, for Jesus is to be the source of all our joy. We sometimes need to be reminded that it is perfectly acceptable to be a bit gaudy for Jesus Christ! And so I will wear pink on Sunday, and invite you to do the same.

Wishing you a Holy Advent.

Dave+
309-660-8515

Ministry Links

St. Matthew's Webpage
The Episcopal Diocese of
Springfield

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

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

this day and join in the singing of our favorites.

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 Eve Day Eucharist (with hymns)

9:00 p.m. Candlelight Eucharist

December 25th (Wednesday)

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

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

Epiphany Eve

On Sunday, January 5th, we will celebrate Epiphany at Funk's Grove. We will begin with Evensong at 5:30 PM at Funk's Grove Church and then move to Sugar Grove for the burning of the greens that decorated the church, caroling, hot beverages and treats. All are invited to bring any greens that need disposing.

We are also inviting the other congregations in our Deanery.

Outreach Opportunities

ITEMS-OF-THE-MONTH for December 2019.

Keep watching this space for the winter request(s) from your

Winter Needs

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

15-December 2019

7:30

Greeters: Doug & Dede Dyson

Lector: Julie Bennett

E.M.: Bill Johns

10:00

Acolyte: Alley Roberson

Crucifer: Christian Pitts

Thurifer: John Stoffer

Lector: Harlan Noel

E.M.: Jack Pitts

Monday Counter: Roy Laws

Coffee Hour: Susan & Jeff Clark

22-December 2019

7:30

Greeters: Ray Durham
Lector: Kathryn Morris

10:00
Acolyte: Jack Pitts
Crucifer: Christian Pitts
Lector: Chrissy Stoffer
E.M.: Robin Levine
Monday Counter: Gary Ploense
Coffee Hour: Chrissy & John Stoffer (Cookies & Carols)

St. Matthew's Weekly Activities as of December 15

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 *

Friday-

Saturday-8:00 a.m.-Men's breakfast

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 15, 2019

Hymns: #56, #67, #74

Old Testament

Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the Lord,
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
"Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools,
shall go astray.
No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.
And the ransomed of the Lord shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,

and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Psalm 146:4-9

Lauda, anima mea

4 Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! *
whose hope is in the Lord their God;

5 Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in
them;*

who keeps his promise for ever;

6 Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, *
and food to those who hunger.

7 The Lord sets the prisoners free;
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind; *

the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;

8 The Lord loves the righteous;
the Lord cares for the stranger; *

he sustains the orphan and widow,
but frustrates the way of the wicked.

9 The Lord shall reign for ever, *
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.

Hallelujah!

The Epistle

James 5:7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord.
The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being
patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You
also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of
the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another,
so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the
doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take
the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The Gospel

Matthew 11:2-11

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he
sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one
who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered
them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind
receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the
deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news
brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense
at me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about
John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A

reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.'

"Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

Birthdays & Anniversaries December 15 - 21

Anniversaries

Birthdays

Jack White

Dedications for this week:

The Memorial lamp is lit in loving memory of

Mary Moussalli

by Chrissy & John Stoffer

Third Sunday of Advent, December 15th

Stir up thy power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let thy bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be honor and glory, world without end.. Amen.

Contact Information

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

