

**Rector's  
Ramblings**

Today is the commemoration of St. Nicholas, yes that St. Nicholas.

Nicholas was the Bishop Myra in the Fourth Century and may have attended the Council of Nicea. He was imprisoned for his faith under the Emperor Diocletian and released by Constantine.

Nicholas is most known for his generosity to the poor. Upon inheriting a significant estate from his parents he distributed this wealth to those in need. In one case he secretly tossed two bags of gold into a house in order to provide three girls with a dowry that would preserve them from the fate of penury and prostitution. On the third night, when he was preparing to deliver the third bag for the third daughter, he was caught by the girls' father who thanked him profusely. Nicholas, however, begged the man not to tell anyone about these gifts. Thus began the tradition of Nicholas and his secret gift-giving.

May St. Nicholas inspire us in the Faith and service to others.

**The Good News**

December 6, 2019



**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?".

**Help with Church Greening**

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.

**Carol Sing**

We will have a Christmas Carol sing during coffee hour on December 22nd. Please bring your favorite cookies to share on this day and join in the singing of our favorites.

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

## 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

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 December 2019.**

*Keep watching this space for the winter request(s) from your Outreach Committee. Pat*

### **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**

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 Kohlhase & Danielle Ward

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: Jim Cooper

E.M.: Jack Pitts

Monday Counter: Roy Laws

Coffee Hour: Susan & Jeff Clark

### **St. Matthew's Weekly Activities as of December 8**

*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

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

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

*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 8, 2019**

Hymns: #76, #56, #63, #535

Old Testament

Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide by what his ears hear;

but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze,  
their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw  
like the ox.

The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

They will not hurt or destroy

on all my holy mountain;

for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord  
as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the  
peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall  
be glorious.

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

*Deus, iudicium*

1 Give the King your justice, O God, \*

and your righteousness to the King's Son;

2 That he may rule your people righteously \*

and the poor with justice;

3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, \*

and the little hills bring righteousness.

4 He shall defend the needy among the people; \*

he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.

5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, \*

from one generation to another.

6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, \*

like showers that water the earth.

7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; \*

there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

18 Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, \*

who alone does wondrous deeds!

19 And blessed be his glorious Name for ever! \*

and may all the earth be filled with his glory.

Amen. Amen.

The Epistle

Romans 15:4-13

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,  
and sing praises to your name";

and again he says,

"Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people";

and again,

"Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,

and let all the peoples praise him";

and again Isaiah says,

"The root of Jesse shall come,

the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;

in him the Gentiles shall hope."

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Gospel

Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,

make his paths straight.'"

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey.

Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

"I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

**Birthdays & Anniversaries December 8 - 14**

*Anniversaries*

*Birthdays*

Colin Bennett

**Dedications for this week:**

**Second Sunday of Advent, December 8th**

Merciful God, who didst send thy messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**Contact Information**

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

