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This Week's Readings

Rector's Ramblings

We would like to thank our Parish Family for the truly generous Christmas gift. We are overwhelmed, and humbled, by your generosity and especially your love. Each of you are special to us, and we love you all. It is a great joy to serve as your Rector and family. Thank you again, and may God bless you in this new year!

Dave+
309-660-8515

Ministry Links

St. Matthew's Webpage
The Episcopal Diocese of
Springfield

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

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

The Good News

January 3, 2020



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.

Epiphany Service

Solemn Mass will be held at 7PM on January 6th.

Breakfast Fellowships

Women's Breakfast will meet in the Parish Hall, Saturday morning, January 11th at 8:30 A.M.

Men's fellowship breakfast will meet in the Parish Hall, Saturday morning, January 18th at 8:00 AM.

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting will be held at 8:30 on Sunday, January 26th. A catered breakfast will be provided.

Bios for those who are running for Vestry and Synod Delegate are due no later than January 15th in order to publish the booklet by January 19th. Committee/Ministry reports are due the same day.

Nominations from the floor are permitted, but please bring copies of your bio to the meeting as time precludes us copying those the day of the meeting.

Bishop Election

As was announced after our last Diocesan Synod, Bishop Daniel has called for the election of a new bishop for the Diocese and announced his own retirement in June of 2021. The Standing Committee of the Diocese, who is responsible for holding the election, has published a letter updating us on the process to elect the XIIth Bishop of Springfield.

That letter can be found [here](#).

More importantly they have asked that we keep this election in our prayers, and they suggest the following prayers for our use. We will use one of these each Sunday as part of the Prayers of the People.

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a bishop for this Diocese, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. - BCP page 818, #13

Almighty and everliving God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with those who take counsel for the choosing of a bishop for this Diocese. Teach them in all things to seek first your honor and glory. Guide them to perceive what is right, and grant them both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. - Adapted from BCP page 818, #12

Outreach Opportunities

ITEMS-OF-THE-MONTH for December 2019.

Head Start is one of the featured agencies supported by Outreach at St. Matthew's.

Head Start is a federal funded program that works to educate children and empower families. Through education and community resources, Head Start families make the transition from dependence to independence. Our goal is to break the cycle of poverty for the children in our program.

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

5-January 2020

7:30

Greeters: Ray Durham

Lector: Chris Bennett

E.M.: Bill Johns

10:00

Acolyte: Shelley Carter

Crucifer: Brad Bauman

Thurifer: John Stoffer

Lector: Karyn Smith

E.M.: Emily Lavikoff
Monday Counter: Gary McGinnis
Coffee Hour: Dedee Champion, Janet Hoffman, Martha Carroll

12-January 2020

7:30

Greeters: Doug & Dede Dyson

Lector: Mark Gibson

E.M.: Bill Johns

10:00

Acolyte: Alley Roberson

Crucifer: Brad Bauman

Lector: Brad Bauman

E.M.: Emily Lavikoff

Monday Counter: Susan Clark

Coffee Hour: Chrissy & John Stoffer

St. Matthew's Weekly Activities as of January 5

Coffee Hour fellowship follows worship in the Parish Hall.

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

10:00 a.m.-Rite II

Coffee hour fellowship follows worship in the Parish Hall

5:30 p.m.-Evensong (at Funks Grove Chapel, with
burning of the Greens)

Monday-9:00 a.m.-Home Schoolers *

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

Tuesday-10:00 a.m.-Quilters

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

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

6:00 p.m.-Adult Study

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

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 & Tuesday 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 January 5, 2020

Hymns: #102, #100, #86, #89, #81, #99

Old Testament

Jeremiah 31:7-14

Thus says the Lord:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
"Save, O Lord, your people,
the remnant of Israel."

See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame, those with child and
those in labor, together;

a great company, they shall return here.

With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back,
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;
for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

Hear the word of the Lord, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him,
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock."

For the Lord has ransomed Jacob,
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.
They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord,
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;
their life shall become like a watered garden,
and they shall never languish again.

Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
and the young men and the old shall be merry.

I will turn their mourning into joy,
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.
I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,
says the Lord.

Psalm 84:1-8

Quam dilecta!

1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord of hosts! *
My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

2 The sparrow has found her a house
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; *
by the side of your altars, O Lord of hosts,
my King and my God.

3 Happy are they who dwell in your house! *
they will always be praising you.

4 Happy are the people whose strength is in you! *
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place
of springs, *
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.

6 They will climb from height to height, *
and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.

7 Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; *
hearken, O God of Jacob.

8 Behold our defender, O God; *
and look upon the face of your Anointed.

The New Testament

Ephesians 1:3-6,15-19a

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe.

The Gospel

Luke 2:41-52

The parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem every year for the

festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

Birthdays & Anniversaries December 22 - 28

Anniversaries

Birthdays

Mona Johnstone

Dedications for this week:

Second Sunday after Christmas, January 5th

O God, who didst wonderfully create, and yet more wonderfully restore, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, thy Son Jesus Christ; who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contact Information

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

