

**Rector's
Ramblings**

In recent years it has become quite popular for clergy to offer "Ashes to Go" on Ash Wednesday since modern life leaves people too busy to visit a Church on this day.

While I commend the spirit behind the movement, there is a significant misunderstanding of what the ashes of Ash Wednesday mean. They are not primarily a mark that one is a Christian, or has been baptized, nor are they simply sign of blessing.

Ashes are a reminder that we are all going to die. We are mortal, formed of the earth, and to earth we will return. This thought should bring us to our knees. We need the time and space to process this reality, to take stock of our human condition. This is what an Ash Wednesday service does, and to shortcut this tremendous work is a disservice.

Of course, Ash Wednesday proclaims the other side of the fact of Death. We proclaim that in Christ there is ultimate deliverance from death itself. And we receive ashes as a sign of our



From the Jr. Warden

I would like to make a friendly challenge to my fellow members of St. Matthew's. I would like each of you to bring someone new, a friend, relative, co-worker, to something at St. Matthew's. It can be a Sunday morning worship service, Wednesday night adult formation, Evensong, morning prayer, theology uncorked, Shrove Tuesday, Ash Wednesday, or any other activity here. We have the good news; let's share it with the people we care about.

Gary Ploense
Junior Warden

Shrove Tuesday

The traditional Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper will be held on 25 February. We will begin serving at 5:30 and go until 7:00. Please invite others to join us in this last feast before Lent.

Ash Wednesday

Spoken service will be celebrated at 7AM.

Sung service will be celebrated at 7 PM.

repentance from our sin that would bind us into death, and of our faith in Christ. This, too, is tremendous spiritual work and should not be cut short.

We then carry the mark into the world that proclaims that death is real, and our confidence that deliverance from death is found in Christ alone.

Memento mori,

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

Stations of the Cross

will be held at 5:30 each Friday in Lent.

Confessions

There is an old saying about Episcopalians and confession, "All may, some should, none must".

For those desiring to make a confession during Lent, opportunity will be given from 4-5:30P and 6-6:30P on Fridays.

Lenten Series

Our Lenten series will take place on Wednesday evenings beginning with Eucharist at 5:30. At 6PM we will be reading, and praying, together through sayings of the Desert Fathers and Mothers on the life of prayer, spiritual disciplines, and forgiveness. We will end each evening with Compline.

Breakfast Fellowships

March Breakfasts are scheduled: Women's Breakfast at 8:30AM in the Parish Hall on the 14th, and Men's Breakfast meets on the 21st at 8AM (location TBD).

Bridal Shower

A potluck bridal brunch/shower for Sarah Halt will be held in the Parish Hall on March 14th at 10AM. RSVPs can be made at this [link](#).

2019 Giving Statements

Your annual giving statements are printed and available in the hallway outside the parish hall. Please help us avoid the high cost of postage by remembering to collect your statement before tax season gets in full swing.

Outreach Opportunities

ITEMS-OF-THE-MONTH

HEARTLAND HEADSTART PANTRY DRIVE

Heartland Head Start works to educate children and empower families. The goal of our family work is to help our families be

as independent as possible. When families are trying to move from dependence on Government help to independence, we try to fill in the gaps as they grow. For example; As family income increases government help decreases, leaving the family still in need. We provide what we can so that their paychecks go farther while they are making this transition. Our families use Snap cards (that diminish with rising paychecks) and food pantries. We try to make available items that cannot be obtained at these sources, often coming out of the pockets of our staff members. This is where I ask for your help. We try to maintain a small pantry of non- food items for our families, I am asking St. Matthew's outreach committee to hold a drive for our family pantry. Thank you so much for your consideration.

Patty Pitts

Heartland Head Start Home Educator

Shampoo

Soap/bodywash

Deodorant

Children's bath products

Toothpaste

Toothbrushes

Toilet paper

Paper towels

Diapers (all sizes) (NO NEWBORNS)

Baby wipes

Laundry detergent

Dryer sheets

Cleaning supplies

Hand soap

Dish soap

Kitchen garbage bags

Gas card

Wall mart gift cards

The Daily Devotional Reading

is available by clicking of the link below:

[Good News Daily](#)

Worship Serving Schedule

23-February 2020

7:30

Greeters: Doug & Dede Dyson
Lector: Chris Bennett

10:00

Acolyte: Jack Pitts
Crucifer: Christian Pitts
Lector: Cris Embree
E.M.: Robin Levine
Monday Counter: Susan Clark
Coffee Hour: Valerie & Rex Schaeffer

2-March 2020

7:30

Greeters: Ray Durham
Lector: Kathryn Morris

10:00

Acolyte: Liam Halt
Crucifer: Brad Bauman
Thurifer: Emily Lavikoff
Lector: Harlan Noel
E.M.: Bob Kohlhase
Monday Counter: Shelley Carter
Coffee Hour: Susan & Eric Teoro

St. Matthew's Weekly Activities as of February 16

Coffee Hour fellowship follows worship in the Parish Hall.

Sunday-7:30 a.m.-Rite

10:00 a.m.-Rite II

5:30 p.m.-Evensong

Monday-9:00 a.m.-B-N Community Co-operative *

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

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

10:00 a.m.-Quilters

5:00 p.m.-Shrove Tuesday, pancakes & sausage

Wednesday-7:00 a.m.-Ash Wednesday (spoken service)

1:30 p.m.-Private Music Lessons *

7:00 p.m.-Ash Wednesday

Thursday -7:30 a.m.-Holy Eucharist & breakfast

9:00 a.m.-Moms in Prayer *
2:00 p.m.-Private Music Lessons *

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

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 February 23, 2020

Hymns: #135, #129, #618, #460

Old Testament

Exodus 24:12-18

The Lord said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction." So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. To the elders he had said, "Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them." Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

Psalm 99

Dominus regnavit

1 The Lord is King;

let the people tremble; *

he is enthroned upon the cherubim;

let the earth shake.

2 The Lord is great in Zion; *

he is high above all peoples.

3 Let them confess his Name, which is great and awesome; *
he is the Holy One.

4 "O mighty King, lover of justice,
you have established equity; *
you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob."

5 Proclaim the greatness of the Lord our God
and fall down before his footstool; *
he is the Holy One.

6 Moses and Aaron among his priests,
and Samuel among those who call upon his Name, *
they called upon the Lord, and he answered them.

7 He spoke to them out of the pillar of cloud; *
they kept his testimonies and the decree that he gave them.

8 O Lord our God, you answered them indeed; *
you were a God who forgave them,
yet punished them for their evil deeds.

9 Proclaim the greatness of the Lord our God
and worship him upon his holy hill; *
for the Lord our God is the Holy One.

The Epistle

2 Peter 1:16-21

We did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

The Gospel

Matthew 17:1-9

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then

Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

Birthdays & Anniversaries February 23 - March 1 *Anniversaries*

Birthdays

Dedications for this week:

Last Sunday after Epiphany, February 23rd

O God, who before the passion of thy only-begotten Son didst reveal his glory upon the holy mount: Grant unto us that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contact Information

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

