

**Rector's
Ramblings**

As awareness increases of the risk of the spread of the COVID-19 the Bishop has sent a pastoral letter entitled "Responding to a Public Health Crisis".

It may be found at the Diocesan website [here](#).

The highlights are:

1. Come to church unless you are actually sick. If sick, stay home.

2. Please do not pass the peace via a handshake. The preferred method is the ancient practice of placing hands on the shoulders, but not a hug.

3. Anyone who handles the bread and chalice needs to wash their hands before doing so.

4. Suspension of self-intinction and recommending using the common cup as there is less danger of contamination via this method.

5. Reception of Holy Communion in one kind (host only) is a full Communion.

Additionally, I am directing



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.

This Wednesday is an Ember Day (days for which we specially pray for the increase of the ministry and the clergy), and we will have a Votive Eucharist for the Ministry.

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

the following changes.

1. Anyone who has symptoms, beyond seasonal allergies, needs to absent themselves from handling the host or the chalice, especially the Altar Party.

2. All clergy and Eucharistic Ministers will wash hands with soap and water before the service, and again before handling the elements if they touch their faces during the service.

3. There will be a cruet of alcohol on the credence table as a sanitizer. All clergy and EMs will use this before touching the bread or wine. The hosts for the congregation will be consecrated in the Ciborium (Bread Box).

4. The elements will not be brought forward at 10AM. They will be placed on the credence table before the service.

5. We will have two sides from which to receive communion. The pulpit side will be for those who wish to use the common cup. The lectern side will be for those who wish to receive by intinction. Deacon Tim will handle intinction and the EM will have the common cup. If you wish to receive the host only, you may do so on either side.

Theology Uncorked

We meet this Sunday at 6PM.

Daylight Savings Begins on Sunday!

Don't forget to "spring forward" or you will be very late for services.

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.

Ordination

Chris Simpson, who attended our 10AM service before joining the Episcopal Church officially and attending the congregation in his home town will be ordained a Deacon on Saturday.

The service is at 11AM at Trinity, Lincoln.

All are invited.

Breakfast Fellowships

There will be no Women's Breakfast in March, 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](#), by March 7th.

Outreach Opportunities

ITEMS-OF-THE-MONTH

Thanks so much for your generous outpouring of items for Heartland Head Start in January and February. Much appreciated by staff and parents

6. I am instituting the Tanzanian response to the HIV crisis as the guideline for intinction. The process is as follows: the Deacon will stand next to the Priest and the Priest will dip the host in the chalice and place it in the hands of the communicant.

7. If the Priest is ill, there will be no celebration of Holy Communion. Instead, Morning Prayer with Distribution by the Deacon will take its place. If both the Priest and Deacon are ill, Morning Prayer will be the order of the day.

I understand that these changes are quite radical, but until the crisis has passed they will remain in place. I truly hope they do not cause offense.

Even with all of these precautions in place, I am convinced that nothing deleterious is passed through receiving the Sacred Body and Blood of our Lord. I have been ordained for 16 years and have never gotten ill from consuming the remaining Eucharistic Wine, and I drink after everyone!

Praying thou has an Holy Lent and remain in good health!

Dave+
309-660-8515

In March and April the Outreach Committee is asking for personal care items for the Salvation Army. For adult men and women we need shampoo, body wash, shaving cream, feminine products. There's always a need for baby diapers, too. Thank you.

Book/DVD/Bake Sale

The spring Book/DVD/Bake sale will be on Saturday, March 21, 8 AM -1 PM. Please bring donations to the parish hall and place near the bookshelves. Bake sale items can be brought to the church on Thursday or Friday, March 19-20 or on the morning of the sale. Sale set-up will be Friday, March 20, 3-6 PM. Any amount of time you can help is much appreciated by the Outreach Committee. Any questions call Debbie Leighton at 662-7478.

Advent Time

Advent is enrolled in year 3 of a 5 year course to become a doctor. He is the son of Bishop Elias in Tanzania. In US dollars, his tuition would be \$2,273 per year. Room & Board is an additional \$1826 annually. Anyone wishing to help Advent with his education can make checks to St. Matthew's Episcopal Church; putting Outreach-Education in the memo line. God Bless, and we thank you

The Daily Devotional Reading

is available by clicking of the link below:
[Good News Daily](#)

Worship Serving Schedule

8-March 2020

7:30

Greeters: Doug & Dede Dyson

Lector: Bill Johns

10:00

Acolyte: Jack Pitts

Crucifer: Brad Bauman

Lector: Karyn Smith

E.M.: Emily Lavikoff

Monday Counter: Roy Laws

Coffee Hour: Susan & Jeffrey Clark

 **Ministry Links** 

St. Matthew's Webpage
The Episcopal Diocese of
Springfield

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

Find us on Instagram--stmattsblm

Twitter--@BloomingtonSt

15-March 2020

7:30

Greeters: Ray Durham

Lector: Kathryn Morris

E.M.: Emily Lavikoff

10:00

Acolyte: Alley Roberson

Crucifer: Christian Pitts

Thurifer: John Stoffer

Lector: Jim Cooper

E.M.: Jack Pitts

Monday Counter: Gary Ploense

Coffee Hour: Chrissy & John Stoffer

St. Matthew's Weekly Activities as of March 8

Coffee Hour fellowship follows worship in the Parish Hall.

Sunday-7:30 a.m.-Holy Eucharist

10:00 a.m.-Holy Eucharist

5:30 p.m.-Evensong

6:00 p.m.-Theology Uncorked

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

Wednesday-1:30 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

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

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

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

Saturday-all day--Halt's (Sarah's Bridal Brunch at 10 a.m.)

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

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 March 8, 2020

Hymns: #401, #691, #337

Old Testament

Genesis 12:1-4a

The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him.

Psalm 121

Levavi oculos

1 I lift up my eyes to the hills; *
from where is my help to come?

2 My help comes from the Lord, *
the maker of heaven and earth.

3 He will not let your foot be moved *
and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.

4 Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel *
shall neither slumber nor sleep;

5 The Lord himself watches over you; *
the Lord is your shade at your right hand,

6 So that the sun shall not strike you by day, *
nor the moon by night.

7 The Lord shall preserve you from all evil; *
it is he who shall keep you safe.

8 The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming
in, *

from this time forth for evermore.

The Epistle

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works,

he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations") -in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

The Gospel

John 3:1-17

There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God."

Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above."

Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old?

Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit.

What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?"

Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?"

"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from

heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

Birthdays & Anniversaries March 8 - 14

Anniversaries

Birthdays

Martha Lakin

Roy Laws

Dedications for this week:

Second Sunday in Lent, March 8th

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from thy ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of thy Word, Jesus Christ thy Son; who with thee and the Holy Spirit liveth and reigneth one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contact Information

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

