

Over the past several weeks I have been increasingly asked about my thoughts regarding our current situation, specifically in relation to obedience and worship. In the interest of publicly answering those questions, I have posted several short articles on my personal blog this morning.

However, those questions are part of a larger set of questions I have been thinking, and praying, through since mid March.

What is laid out below in links is a work in progress, and is presented knowing there is still more to be discerned.

[Part I--Introduction and Social Media](#)

[Part II--Fear, Death, and Hope](#)

[Part III--Worship During Pandemic](#)

[Part IV--Obedience--Secular and Ecclesial](#)

[Part V--Love Your Neighbor](#)

[Part VI--Christian Witness](#)

May God bless you all, and I hope to "see" you on Sunday.

Dave+  
309-660-8515

Ministry Links

St. Matthew's Webpage  
The Episcopal Diocese of Springfield  
Rector's Blog (new)  
Find us on Instagram--stmattsbml  
Twitter--@BloomingtonSt



Plans for Phase III of Illinois's Reopening/Recovery

Bishop Daniel has posted a [document](#) that details his directives for the reopening of the Diocese, by region, pending announcement that the individual regions have achieved Phase III metrics. (Hopefully, this will be done on the 29th).

We will do as many services as required to meet the needs of the parish. However, please use your prudential judgment as to whether to attend services in person, especially if you have a condition that places you at increased risk.

The basic outline for St. Matthew's, with Bishop Daniel's permission is:

1. All services (with 10AM excepted) will be limited to 10 individuals (including the celebrant/officiant), and will be spoken/read services.
2. In order to ensure that no more than 10 individuals are present, the office will take reservations by email (office@stmattsbml.org) or phone (309-662-4646) (voicemail is acceptable). Reservations will open on the Monday preceding the next week's services. (Monday the 25th will be the first day to make reservations for the week beginning the 31st.)
3. The office will keep a rolling list of those interested in attending the different services, and notify you if an opening occurs before the service, or if your request cannot be accommodated. We ask that you be patient with us as we move in this new direction.
4. We ask that you be as flexible as possible in your requests to allow for others to participate. If you could give several options, that would be appreciated. We will attempt to honor at least one request per individual per week.
5. All individuals who are in the building must maintain physical distance and wear a mask/face covering, unless actively leading a portion of the service.
6. Each service will have color coded seats in the Nave. They will also be numbered and have the day/time of the service on them. Please choose a pew accordingly.
7. Please enter and exit via either the north door of the new addition or the east door of the Nave. To limit touching these surfaces the doors will be propped open starting 30 minutes before the service. They will be shut at the starting time and reopened following.
8. Only the restrooms in the addition will be available for use.
9. **The 10AM service will continue to be streamed "live" on Facebook. This will be the only service of Holy Eucharist that will be streamed on Sunday. In order for this service to remain "musical" it will be CLOSED to the public. Except for the Rector, all who are serving have volunteered to do so, (even staff are not required to serve at this time). If you wish to volunteer to be on the Lector or Cantor list for this service, please contact Fr. Dave.**
10. **Communion will still be distributed via "drive-through" after the 10AM for those who desire and have participated in the streaming service.**
11. The service schedule is a work in progress, and does not reflect permanent changes.
12. Again, please be patient as we all adjust to this current state of reality.

Schedule for the week beginning 31 May (Open services in Bold)

Sunday 5/31

- 8:00AM Rite I Holy Eucharist**
- 10:00AM Rite II Holy Eucharist (Closed/Streamed)
- 5:30PM Evening Prayer with Holy Communion.**

Tuesday 6/2

- 8:30AM Morning Prayer
- 5:30PM Evening Prayer with Holy Communion**

Wednesday 6/3

- 8:30AM Morning Prayer
- 5:30PM Rite II Holy Eucharist**

Thursday 6/4

- 7:30 AM Morning Prayer with Holy Communion**
- 5:30 PM Evening Prayer

This Sunday is the Seventh Sunday after Easter.

- Sunday Eucharist Outline is [here](#).**
- Full Service is [here](#).**

*Added Note: Please bring your own printed copy, or electronic device from home to avoid cross contamination in the Nave.*

Both bulletins have the music included, so there is no need to touch the hymnals.

You are invited to stream the service from the comfort of your home prayer corner or the parking lot. For those who wish to receive, Holy Communion will continue to be offered after the Liturgy using the drive-way for reception. It is distributed in as sanitary and safe method as receiving a meal from a "curbside" pickup restaurant (gloves, mask, etc.). Holy Communion will remain available for 30 minutes after the end of the service. If you do not wish to receive, I commend the practice of Spiritual Communion, which can be found in the links below.

Other services this week.

- Tuesday: 8:30AM Morning Prayer**  
**5:30PM Evening Prayer**
- Wednesday: 8:30AM Morning Prayer**  
**5:30PM Evening Prayer**
- Thursday: 8:30AM Morning Prayer**  
**5:30PM Evening Prayer**
- Friday: 8:30AM Morning Prayer**

Services will be streamed if possible.

NB--As the governmental authorities continue to update policies, all plans are subject to change.

As always, you remain in our prayers, and I ask that you let us know if you need anything at this time. St. Matthew's stands ready to help as we can.

Dave+

**A Couple of Links**  
[St. Bede's Breviary](#) (Daily Offices)

[Book of Common Prayer](#)

[Spiritual Communion \(Update\)](#) (An Anglican Rite).

[Prayer of Elder Paisios for the World](#) (I have found this quite helpful at the current time).

From the Jr. Warden

The work of the church goes on through plagues, pestilence, and disasters. Those of you who are practicing social distancing and staying home can still contribute your tithing to keep St. Matthew's providing worship and other services to the parish. Weekday morning Mass at 7:30 a.m., Evening Offices at 5:30 p.m. and Sunday Mass at 10 a.m. are being streamed on St. Matthew's Facebook page. You can contact your bank to have a direct check mailed at whatever interval you choose. You can mail in checks to St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 1920 E. Oakland Ave, Bloomington, IL 61701.

Please remember that Outreach is not able to hold the book sale this spring and will not have money to support Advent Chakupewa's medical education expenses or any of their other causes. Donations to them can also be made, be sure to note those special funds in the memo line of your check.

Yours in Christ,

Gary Ploense  
Jr. Warden

Outreach Opportunities  
ITEMS-OF-THE-MONTH

**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. Celebrate with the St. Matthew's family and the Outreach Committee on learning that all \$4099 has been raised/committed for this coming year's studies!

**Meals**  
Thank you for the generous outpouring of support for this ministry. The freezer is quite full at this time.

We also have packages of Tender Mercies meals from Midwest Food Bank.

If you, or someone you know, need(s) a meal at this time please let us know, or stop by the office when it is open.

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

**Worship Serving Schedule**  
Thank you to all of you who faithfully serve in the ministry of the Altar. At this time we are suspending the scheduling of servers to keep you safe and to reflect the changing circumstances we face.

A service will always be held on Sunday, but the numbers allowed to be present will necessarily be limited. If you wish to serve at any service where you will be present, you are invited to do so.

We will resume scheduling as events allow.

Thank you again, and may God bless you.

Birthdays & Anniversaries May 24 - 30

*Anniversaries*  
Kim & Harry Bray  
Keith & Gus Mather

*Birthdays*  
Stephanie Davingman  
Penny Smith

Dedications for this week:

**7th Sunday of Easter, May 24th**  
O God, the King of glory, who hast exalted thine only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph unto thy kingdom in heaven: We beseech thee, leave us not comfortless, but send to us thine Holy Ghost to comfort us, and exalt us unto the same place whither our Savior Christ is gone before; who liveth and reigneth with thee, and the same Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. Amen