

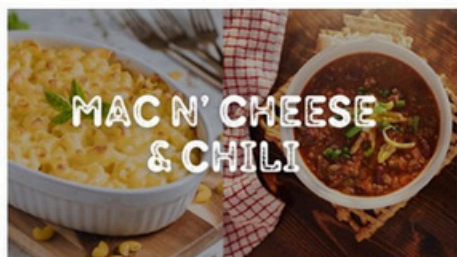
To Know and Share God's Love

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany
Sunday, February 16, 2025



YOUTH MISSION TRIP 2025



2025 YOUTH MISSION TRIP [STMSTS.ORG/YOUTHMISSION](https://www.stmmts.org/youthmission)

Ages: Rising 6th - 12th graders
Dates: August 2 - 8, 2025

We're heading to Miami, Florida!
Join us as we serve communities,
grow in faith, and make lasting
memories. Before we head home,
we'll take our minions on a detour to
Universal Studios and spend our last
day making magical memories and
having big fun!

Register today using the link above
and make a \$150 deposit by March
15 to reserve your space. Payment
plans and scholarships are available.

CHILI & MAC N CHEESE—OH MY! SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 10:30AM

It's always a good time for Chili and
Mac n Cheese, even 10:30 on a
Sunday morning. Bring a crock pot
of your favorite Chili or Mac n
Cheese to share with all your St.
Matt's friends.

Other helpful things to bring: an
extension cord, serving spoon, and
toppings that make your dish really
pop (sour cream, onions, jalapenos,
bacon, hot sauce, etc...) St. Matt's
will supply tasting cups, bowls,
spoons, napkins, and PRIZES! Can't
wait to see you there!

WELCOME

We know that going to church or to a new church for the first time can be nerve-racking. We want to help make your first experience at St. Matthew's a great one!

If this is your first visit to Saint Matthew's, we welcome you. Please join us between services for coffee, tea and refreshments in the Parish Hall. For more information about our community, visit our website www.stmmts.org. We are so glad you are here!



COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

All baptized Christians are welcome to participate in communion. If you would like to receive, simply place one hand on top of the other, palms up, and the priest will place bread in your hand. You may then consume the wafer. If for any reason you prefer to receive a blessing, simply cross your arms across your chest and the priest will give you a blessing. Gluten free wafers are available upon request.

Would you like to learn more about baptism? Please visit our website: stmmts.org/baptism or contact our office via email at Office@stmmts.org or phone at 703-430-2121.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER LIST

The Saint Matthew's intercessory prayer list is for those in or related to our community who are in need of prayer. It is designed so that all members of our community can pray for each other on an ongoing basis. In order to pray for those on the list, simply ask God to be with them and help them in any way needed - God knows what is going on, so we don't need to.

Please pray for the following:

Kay, Jane, Panita, Mary Ann, Sharp Family, Amelia, Kassadi, Samantha, Dawn, Rudy, Kay, Clarissa, Dottie, Jonathan, Ageanna, Becky, RL, Darla, Gerry, Jenny, Reena, Sarah, Brandi, Barbara, Michael, Peggy, Emmett, Cathleen, Ray, BMR, Asley, Robyn, Emma, Frances, Christy, Nick, Gus, Aldana, Clint, Chelsea, Edgar, Rusty, Anne, Shelby, Kiera, Marty, Candace, Kevin, John, Ome, Renee, Grace, Kristina, Fire and Hurricane Victims, Freya, Ava, Steve, Natalie, Kristen, Sophia, Sadie, Shaundra, Larry, Don, Fabiano, Luke, John, Brenda, Pete, Valorie, Cathy, Naomi, Dan, Christy, Dennis, Diane, Brent, Mary, Sybil, Judy, James, Rick, Avery, Emory, Mario, Molly, Cooper, Rose, Sarah, Jessica, Jay, Amanda, Venessa, Desira, Rose, Sarah, Natalie D, Natalie S, Paul, Katy, Randy, Maura, Kaufman Family, Rinker Family, Blair Family, Colon Family, Suaib Family, Gonzalez Family, Omar, Mona, Tala, Bayan, Dima, Carter, Jean, Martha, Tony, Nancy, Clara, Elijah, and Maria.

If you or someone you care about are in need of Pastoral Care, please call 703-430-2121.

8 AM SERVICE

The Word of God

Opening Prayer	
Acclamation and Collect for Purity	355
Gloria	356
Collect of the Day (contemporary)	Insert
Lessons	
First Reading • Jeremiah 17:5-10	
Psalm • 1	
Second Reading • 1 Corinthians 15:12-20	
Gospel • Luke 6:17-26	
Sermon	The Reverend C. Robert Merola, Jr.
Nicene Creed	358
Prayers of the People, Form III	387
Confession of Sin and Absolution	359-360
Peace	360
Announcements & Welcome	

The Holy Communion

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

(An offertory plate is not passed at this service. If you wish to make a donation, the collection plate can be found at the back of the church, or donations are accepted online at www.stmmts.org/give)

All things come of thee, O Lord,

And of thine own have we given thee.

Great Thanksgiving • Eucharistic Prayer A	361
The Lord's Prayer	364
Breaking of the Bread	364
Invitation to Communion	364
Communion of the People	
Post-Communion Prayer	365
Blessing	
Procession into the World	366

9:30 AM SERVICE

The Word of God

Welcome

Opening Prayer

Opening Songs (stand through the Gospel)

Song • Walking on Water

Song • Running Back to You

Gospel • Luke 6:17-26

Sermon

The Reverend C. Robert Merola, Jr.

Prayers of the People

Peace

Announcements & Welcome

The Holy Communion

Offertory

(An offertory plate is not passed at this service. If you wish to make a donation, the collection plate can be found at the back of the church, or donations are accepted online at www.stmmts.org/give)

Great Thanksgiving

Sanctus • It is You

The Lord's Prayer

Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

Song • Holding On to You

Closing Prayer (stand through dismissal)

Blessing

Closing Song • Hallelujah Anyway

Dismissal

11 AM SERVICE

The Word of God

Processional Hymn • #440 Blessed Jesus	
Opening Acclamation	299
Gloria • S280	
Collect of the Day (Contemporary)	Insert
Lessons	
First Reading • Jeremiah 17:5-10	
Psalm • 1	
Second Reading • 1 Corinthians 15:12-20	
Gospel • Luke 6:17-26	
Sermon	The Reverend C. Robert Merola, Jr.
Nicene Creed	358
Prayers of the People	
Confession of Sin and Absolution	359-360
Peace	360
Announcements & Welcome	

The Holy Communion

Offertory Anthem • Break Forth Into Singing	
Presentation of Tithes and Offerings	
Doxology • Hymn #380 • Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow (verse 4)	
Great Thanksgiving • Eucharistic Prayer A	361
Sanctus • Hymnal S130 • Holy, Holy, Holy Lord	
The Lord's Prayer	364
Breaking of the Bread	364
Invitation to Communion	
Communion of the People	
Communion Hymn • #335 vs. 1, 2, 3, 5 I am the Bread of Life	
Post-Communion Prayer	365
Blessing	
Procession into the World • #470 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy	
Dismissal	366



YOUTH GROUP

Activities, connection, conversation designed specifically for our middle and high school students.

Scan the QR Code to stay up to date with all the youth happenings, or contact our Youth Minister, Ben at Ben.Merola@stmnts.org.



DONUTS & DISCOVERY Sundays at 9:30AM

Middle and high school students are invited to start Sunday mornings with a treat and some thought-provoking conversations at Donuts and Discovery. Join us for donuts and engaging faith discussions tailored just for you. It's the perfect way to connect with friends, explore big questions, and deepen your understanding of faith.

TREE OF LIFE DINNER PREP Sunday, Feb. 23, 4:30-7:30PM

Meet at church to prepare dinner for 70 people at the weekly Tree of Life dinner. Help our local neighbors by providing a warm, delicious meal.



KIDS SUNDAY FAITH & FUN

This February, join us at 9:30 AM Faith Factory as kids explore God's Call—how He calls people for a special purpose! Through Bible stories like Jeremiah's calling and Jesus calling the disciples, kids will learn how God chooses, guides, and calls us to serve, use our talents, and live out our faith daily. Plus, a NEW preschool class for ages 2-4! Stay after service for fun and games at Kids Coffee Hour, 10:30 AM.

Learn more about Faith Factory and activities for kids by contacting our Faith Factory Director, Hilary at FaithFactory@stmnts.org



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL JULY 21-25, 2025

VBS 2025 will guide kids on the ultimate Alaskan adventure. Pointing them toward Jesus, True North VBS shows them that he is a faithful friend we can always trust—our True North.

Register today or share with a friend at stmnts.org/VBS.



Ordination

of Kara Laughlin to the
Sacred Order of Deacons

ORDINATION OF KARA LAUGHLIN SATURDAY, MARCH 1, 10:30AM

God willing The Rt. Rev. Gayle Elizabeth Harris, Assistant Bishop of Virginia, will ordain Kara Laughlin to the Sacred Order of Deacons. This is the next step for Kara in her call to pursue a life of ordained ministry, and God willing she will be ordained as a priest in the summer of 2025. The ordination will take place at St. George's Episcopal Church in Arlington. Please contact Miriam in the church office if you are interested in carpooling.



**FEBRUARY
COFFEE HOUR**

SUNDAY FUN DAYS!

Join us at 10:30AM on Sundays for fun, fellowship, and delicious treats.

Sun, Feb. 16: Valentine's Treats

Join us for Valentine goodies.

Sun, Feb. 23: Chili & Mac n Cheese

Bring your favorite crock of chili or mac and cheese to share.

Want to learn more about our fun fellowship time, or can you bring a treat to share? Contact Miriam at Office@stmtts.org



FEBRUARY MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY WITH FR. ROB

Join Fr. Rob on Wednesdays at 7PM or Thursdays at 12PM as we dive into the Book of Romans and explore the question, "How Shall We Then Live?"

Each week, we'll spend one hour taking a look at the book of Romans, and focusing on a deeply practical chapter that guides us in living out our faith.

We hope you'll join us on Wednesdays or Thursdays as we pause to take time to listen and discuss God's word.



BOARD GAME NIGHT! FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 6-9PM

Do you love tabletop games? Uno, Machi Koro, Star Wars Deck Building, King of Tokyo, Tether, Forbidden Desert, Who Killed Dr. Lucky?

There are so many great games! Which is your favorite? Bring your favorite game and a snack to share, as we hang out and try new games.



BACKPACK BUDDIES STERLINGHELP.ORG

Backpack Buddies (HRTS) continues packing 280 bags of food each week to feed local school children. Pack with us on Tuesdays at 12pm in the Classrooms on the Hill, and the first Sunday of each month at 10:30am in the Parish Hall.

Learn more about feeding children in our community by visiting the link above or contact Hilary at Hilary.Hultman-Lee@hrtsterling.org.



CLOTHING DONATIONS NEEDED WOMENGIVINGBACK.ORG

Our Care Response Team refers many families to Women Giving Back. WGB is a vital resource in the community helping individuals and families who need clothing at no charge. Our help is needed to replenish women and children's fall and winter clothing.

Drop off clothing directly at WGB on Mon., February 17th 10 AM - 12 PM

Location: 20 Export Drive, Sterling, VA (do not drop off at church).



OUTREACH MEETING SUNDAY, MARCH 2, 2PM

Outreach is one of the hallmarks of our shared life together at St. Matt's, and one of the many ways we share God's love. We have lots of ways to participate and lead. Will you prayerfully consider how you might be called to serve?

Please join us on Sunday, March 2 at 2PM at the home of Kristin Drummond to share ideas and make plans for an incredible year of loving our neighbors. Please **RSVP** at STMTTS.ORG/MARCHOUTREACH



ROB RECOMMENDS STMTTS.ORG/ROBREADS

Fr. Rob often recommends books in Sunday messages. If you're looking for your next book, or a gift for a friend, check out the latest suggestions at the link above.

The list has been updated to include our upcoming Lenten book, *Cherished Belonging*. Order now to be ready for our Wednesday discussions and small groups that begin on March 12.



6 EPIPHANY

Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany



Revised Common Lectionary

Sunday, February 16, 2025

COLLECT

Traditional

O GOD, the strength of all who put their trust in thee: Mercifully accept our prayers; and because through the weakness of our mortal nature, we can do no good thing without thee, give us the help of thy grace, that in keeping thy commandments we may please thee both in will and deed; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Contemporary

O GOD, the strength of all who put their trust in you: Mercifully accept our prayers; and because in our weakness we can do nothing good without you, give us the help of your grace, that in keeping your commandments we may please you both in will and deed; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 17:5-10

THUS SAYS THE LORD: Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the LORD. They shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when relief comes. They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land. Blessed are those who trust in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit. The heart is devious above

all else; it is perverse—who can understand it? I the LORD test the mind and search the heart, to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.

Refrain

Happy are they whose delight is in the law of the LORD.

Psalm 1 *from the Book of Common Prayer*

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| 1 | Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, * nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful! | | everything they do shall prosper. |
| 2 | Their delight is in the law of the LORD, * and they meditate on his law day and night. | 4 | It is not so with the wicked; * they are like chaff which the wind blows away. |
| 3 | They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; * | 5 | Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, * nor the sinner in the council of the righteous. |
| | | 6 | For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, * but the way of the wicked is doomed. |

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:12-20

NOW IF CHRIST IS PROCLAIMED as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the

dead, then Christ has not been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

GOSPEL: Luke 6:17-26

JESUS CAME DOWN WITH THE TWELVE apostles and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them. Then he looked up at his disciples and said: “Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. “Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets. But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. Woe to you who are full now,

for you will be hungry. Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep. Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.”

The Scripture quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, copyright © 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. Used by permission. Collects and Psalter translation are from The Book of Common Prayer, 1979.

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THIS WEEK AT ST. MATT'S

Sunday, February 16th

- 8:00 am - Rite II Worship Service
- 9:30 am - Festival Worship Service
- 9:30 am - Faith Factory
- 9:30 am - Middle & High School Student
- 11:00 am - Classic Worship Service

Monday, February 17th

- 12:00 pm - Social Time with Candace
- 7:00 pm - Bread of Life
- 7:30 pm - Free to Live

Tuesday, February 18th

- 9:00 am - Staff Meeting
- 12:00 pm - HRTS/Backpack Buddies Packing
- 6:30 pm - Alcoholics Anonymous
- 7:00 pm - Education for Ministry
- 7:00 pm - Band Rehearsal
- 8:00 pm - Compline (on line)

Wednesday, February 19th

- 12:00 pm - Alcoholics Anonymous
- 7:00 pm - Bible Study with Rob
- 8:00 pm - Women's NA Group

Thursday, February 20th

- 12:00 pm - Bible Study with Fr. Rob
- 7:30 pm - Choir Rehearsal

Friday, February 21st

- 7:00 pm - Old Dominion Dancers
- 8:00 pm - Compline (on line)

Saturday, February 22nd

- 8:00 am - Men's Group
- 6:30 pm - Alcoholics Anonymous
- 7:00 pm - Narcotics Anonymous
- 8:30 pm - Narcotics Anonymous

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- February 16th: Chris Hallett
- February 17th: Peyton Elliott
- February 19th: Stephanie Zebrowski
- February 20th: Cathleen Pannell, Lisa Caselli
- February 21st: Carolyn Wright

ATTENDANCE

January 26, 2025

Time or Place	Attendance Online	Attendance In-Person
8:00 AM	21	25
9:30 AM	27	180
11:00 AM	16	52
Faith Factory		20
Youth Group		8

HELP SUPPORT ST. MATTHEW'S MINISTRIES



GIVE ONLINE



stmmts.org/give



venmo



@stmmtssterling



CASH OR
CHECK

Checks can be made payable to "St. Matthew's Church"

For more ways to give and information on automatic giving:

stmmts.org/give

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

In-Person & Online

8:00AM | This is a traditional communion service using Rite II from the Book of Common Prayer.

9:30AM | This is a vibrant communion service with our very own live band. If you are looking for a joyous family service with some of the best music around, this is the service for you.

11:00AM | A classic communion service with our fabulous choir. We use Rite II from the Book of Common Prayer.

Compline (evening prayer) Tuesday & Friday at 8pm on Facebook

Online Worship
stmmts.org/live

Sunday services are broadcast on Facebook and YouTube.

St. Matthew's Staff & Vestry

Rector, Rev. C. Robert Merola, Jr.
Rob@stmmts.org

General Manager, Miriam Turner
Office@stmmts.org

Audio, Livestream Coordinators,
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Christian Turner

Bookkeeper, Wendy Filler
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VESTRY

Robby Stevens, Senior Warden

Andrew Wright, Junior Warden

Craig Dubishar

Bob Henry

Julie Kane

Alexis Sather

Stephanie Zebrowski

Service Volunteers

Ushers | Fred Brittain, Emory Henderson, Michael Horrigan, Sharon Ferguson, Justin Warnick

Lectors | Richard Henry

Eucharistic Ministers/LEMS | Martha Olson, Cindy Steinman, Gerry Wardell

Tellers | Dan Robertson

Altar Guild | Ann Lowden, Tom Leary, Anitrus Jones