

make room

ADVENT I

First Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 3, 2023

Christmas
service times

CHRISTMAS SERVICE TIMES
STMTTS.ORG/CHRISTMAS

We look forward to celebrating Christmas with you. Christmas Eve is on a Sunday so please note the four special service times for this year's Christmas celebrations.

Sunday, December 24

8am - Advent IV Peaceful Worship

11am - Children's Pageant

8pm - Festival Worship with Band

11pm - Classic Worship with Choir

Monday, December 25

10am - Christmas Day Worship



CHRISTMAS SCAVENGER HUNT
SAT., DEC. 16, 3PM - 5:30PM
STMTTS.ORG/HOLIDAYRACE

Grab your family, or a team of friends and hop in the car! Together you will race to find Christmas sights and sounds in the Sterling area then meet back at St. Matt's for holiday treats and prizes - Best Time, Best Team Name, and Best Costumes! Plan your costumes now! Learn more by visiting the link above.

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:

Flood Victims, MaryLea, Alan, Nishah, Marty, Damar, Jeremy, Kyeron, Abigail, Verdun, Candace, Sieg, Chuck, Lea, Bonnie, Arthur, John G, Gina, Glo, James, Sean, Deb, Teresa, Mel, Eric, Debbie, Marshall, Sites Family, Frank, Tess, Brian, Mike, Zach, Paine, Arjun, Scotty, Brad, Myers Family, Phil, Terry, Kathy, Bobby, Elijah, Philip, Pat, Bob, Mary W., Tonia, Bronwyn, Sanjay, Susanna, Fabiano, Lawrence Family, McKeown Family, Viola, Harry R, Karter, Addie, Mercedes Family, Crystal, Benjamin, Shaumbey, Ruth, Remmie, Webster, Julia, Charlene, Dustin, Chris, Madison, Nora, Robert, Missy, Gerry, Tom, Lynne, Arianna, Amy, Jackie, Ann, Kay, Jane, Panita, Mary Ann, Sharp Family, Saint, Amelia, Kassadi, Kyle, Woll Family, Samantha, Dawn, Ruby, Kay, Clarissa, Huxton, Dottie, Jonathan, Becky, RL, Priscilla, Madison, Katie, Julia, and Darla, Alex.

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 |
| Holy God | 356 |
| Collect of the Day (contemporary) | Insert |
| Lessons | |
| First Reading • Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 | |
| Psalm • 100 | |
| Second Reading • Ephesians 1:15-23 | |
| Gospel • Matthew 25:31-46 | |
| Sermon | Kara Laughlin, Seminarian |
| 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

Lighting of Advent Wreath and Prayer

Gather in God's Presence

Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Song • What a Glorious Night

Song • Glory (Let There Be Peace)

Gospel • Mark 13:24-37

Sermon

The Reverend C. Robert Merola, Jr.

Prayers of the People

Peace

Announcements

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.stmtts.org/give)

Great Thanksgiving (stand through Communion)

Eucharistic Prayer

Sanctus • Christmas This Year

The Lord's Prayer

Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

Song • Make Room

Closing Prayer (stand through dismissal)

Blessing

Closing Song • Make Way

Dismissal

11 AM SERVICE

The Word of God

Processional Hymn • #484 vs. 1 & 2 Praise the Lord through every nation

Acclamation and Collect for Purity 355

Gloria • S280

Collect of the Day (Contemporary) Insert

Lessons

First Reading • Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Psalms • 100

Second Reading • Ephesians 1:15-23

Gospel • Matthew 25:31-46

Sermon Kara Laughlin, Seminarian

Nicene Creed 358

Prayers of the People

Confession and Absolution 360

Peace 360

Announcements & Welcome

The Holy Communion

Offertory Anthem •

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Doxology • #380 vs. 3 • Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow

Great Thanksgiving • Eucharistic Prayer A 361

Sanctus • S130

The Lord's Prayer 364

Breaking of the Bread 364

Invitation to Communion

Communion of the People

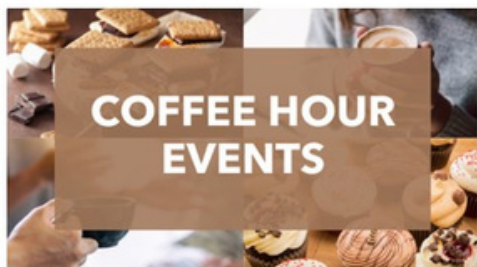
Communion Hymn • #336, Come with us, O blessed Jesus

Post-Communion Prayer 365

Blessing

Procession into the World • #460 vs. 1, 2, 3 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

Dismissal 366



COFFEE HOUR

Join us on Sunday mornings at 10:30AM for fellowship, connection, and special treats!

December 10 - Donuts, Christmas card making, and Backpack Buddies Packing! Fun for all!

December 17 - Wear your favorite Christmas sweater & enjoy hot cocoa.



PARISH WORK DAY

SAT., DECEMBER 16, 9AM-12PM

Join us as we help prepare the grounds and church for a glorious Christmas celebration. Stop by for an hour or two. There are jobs for all ability levels. Enjoy coffee & donuts!



FRIDAY FLASH

Stay up to date on all the happenings at St. Matt's. Email Office@stmtts.org to be added to the weekly email distribution list.



BACKPACK BUDDIES/HRTS STERLINGHELP.ORG

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world: indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." Margaret Mead

Thank you for sharing the good news about the HRTS Giving Tuesday campaign. Because of your willingness to share, together, we exceeded our goal of 50 students sponsored and raised enough to provide six meals a week for 65 of our 288 Backpack Buddies! How did we accomplish such phenomenal results? YOU!

You shared the message with friends that HRTS is serving students in our community who are at risk of going hungry. You asked your places of employment to match your charitable donations. You asked businesses you frequent to sponsor children in need. You hosted fundraisers on social media throughout the month of November. You invited friends, co-workers, neighbors, and community networks to like, share, and support HRTS!

As we move forward to Christmas and the end of the year, help us continue to share the message of HRTS and follow us on social media @hungerresponse.



CHRISTMAS FLOWER DEDICATIONS

CHRISTMAS DEDICATIONS DUE: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

Remember a loved one or give thanks for blessings received through the dedication of Christmas flowers.

Donations of any amount are graciously accepted as we decorate the church to celebrate Christmas. Submit a dedication online at stmmts.org/flowers.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

CHILDREN'S PAGEANT STMSTS.ORG/PAGEANT

The link shown above will provide all the details on rehearsal times. Rehearsals will take place during the 9:30 service. Communion will be offered to the children at the end of rehearsal. Find all details online!

Sunday, December 3, 10, and 17:
Rehearsal at 9:30 - 10:45 AM
Saturday, December 23: Dress
Rehearsal in the Parish Hall at 3 PM.
Sun., December 24: Children please
arrive at 10 AM to get into costume.
The pageant begins at 11 AM.
Questions? Contact Kara at
Kara.Laughlin@stmmts.org



ADVENT WREATH MAKING
Sunday, Dec. 3rd

JOIN US IN THE PARISH HALL
FAMILIES WELCOME! 10:30AM

ADVENT RESOURCES STMSTS.ORG/ADVENT

Join us at 10:30 AM today to make a fresh Advent Wreath. It will be a wonderful addition to your holiday celebrations. Visit the website to download an Advent devotional and find other resources to make Advent a special season.

BIBLE STUDY

EXPERIENCE ADVENT

This Advent, as we prepare for the birth of Jesus, let us remember the importance of the Advent wreath. We invite you to join us on Wed. evenings at 7 PM in the parish hall. We will explore the meaning behind each of the four Advent candles.

JOIN THE CHOIR!

CHRISTMAS CHOIR

Join the Christmas choir: Thursdays at 7:30PM. All are welcome.



YOUTH GROUP EVENTS

YOUTH GROUP
STMTTS.ORG/YOUTHEEVENTS
LOCK-IN IS COMING-SEE BELOW

DONUTS & DISCOVERY

Middle and high school students are invited to join Ben on Sundays at 10:30am in classroom four for donuts and discussion.

YOUTH TRAMPOLINE PARK
SAT., DEC. 9, 3:30PM - 6PM
COST: \$31

Trampolines, go-karts, games and more. Middle & High School youth are invited to join Ben for an afternoon of fun at Launch Trampoline Park in Herndon. Meet at the church by 3:30 PM for carpooling. RSVP: **STMTTS.ORG/YOUTHEEVENTS**

SCAVENGER HUNT
SAT. DEC. 16, 3:00PM - 5:30PM

Join Ben and your St. Matt's friends to race around Sterling finding Christmas sights and sounds. Meet back at St. Matt's at 5PM for holiday treats and to celebrate the winners!

LOCK-IN AND ESCAPE ROOM
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29

Meet at church at 3:30 PM and let the fun begin with a trip to Escapology. Join Ben & Kassidy to spend the night at church with lots of food, fun, games, and more! RSVP for all youth events:
STMTTS.ORG/YOUTHEEVENTS



GIVING TREE


ADOPT A FAMILY OR PICK A SINGLE GIFT

GIVING TREE 2023 - DUE DEC 10

Make someone's Christmas brighter by shopping for a family or a single toy/gift. Single items will go to Women Giving Back & Sterling MS. We are joyfully accepting any new, unwrapped toys for toddler - teens.

- Choose a tag from the tree and shop for the chosen item.
- Drop off labeled, unwrapped gifts by December 10
- Invite a friend to donate a toy.

More info: stmtts.org/givingtree



2024 YOUTH GROUP SUMMER MISSION TRIP

SUMMER 2024 YOUTH MISSION
STMTTS.ORG/YOUTHMISSION

Register now for the youth mission trip, June 23-29, 2024. Rising sixth - twelfth graders (and chaperones) are invited. The goal this year is to help students navigate the many influences in their lives and encourage them to look toward Jesus, the greatest influencer of all time, so they use their influence to positively change their culture.

Find more details and register at
STMTTS.ORG/YOUTHMISSION



1 ADVENT

First Sunday of Advent



Revised Common Lectionary

Sunday, December 3, 2023

COLLECT

Traditional

ALMIGHTY GOD, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Contemporary

ALMIGHTY GOD, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

FIRST READING: Isaiah 64:1-9

O THAT YOU would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet

those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

Refrain

Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light
of your countenance and we shall be saved.

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18 *from the Book of Common Prayer*

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; * shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim. | 4 O Lord God of hosts, * how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people? |
| 2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, * stir up your strength and come to help us. | 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; * you have given them bowls of tears to drink. |
| 3 Restore us, O God of hosts; * show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved. | 6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, * and our enemies laugh us to scorn. |
| | 7 Restore us, O God of hosts; * show the light |

- of your countenance,
and we shall be saved.
- 16 Let your hand be upon
the man of your right
hand, * the son of man
you have made so
strong for yourself.
- 17 And so will we never
turn away from you; *
give us life, that we may
call upon your Name.
- 18 Restore us, O Lord
God of hosts; * show
the light of your
countenance, and we
shall be saved.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

GRACE TO YOU and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

GOSPEL: Mark 13:24-37

JESUS SAID, "In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and

puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

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THIS WEEK AT ST. MATT'S

Sunday, December 3rd

- 8:00 am - Rite I Worship Service
- 9:30 am - Festival Worship Service
- 9:30 am - Pageant Rehearsal/Faith Factory
- 10:30 am - Donuts & Discovery for Middle & High School Students
- 10:30 am - Advent Wreath Making
- 11:00 am - Classic Worship Service
- 12:30 pm - Young Professionals
- 6:30 pm - Girl Scout Troop 2274

Monday, December 4th

- 12:00 pm - Social Time with Candace
- 5:00 pm - Girl Scout Troop 2157
- 7:00 pm - Bread of Life
- 7:30 pm - Free to Live
- 8:00 pm - Compline

Tuesday, December 5th

- 9:30 am - All Ages Read Together
- 12:00 pm - Backpack Buddies Packing
- 1:30 pm - Staff Meeting
- 6:30 pm - Alcoholics Anonymous
- 7:00 pm - Education for Ministry
- 7:00 pm - Band Rehearsal
- 7:30 pm - Sandwich Generation
- 8:00 pm - Compline

Wednesday, December 6th

- 12:00 pm - Alcoholics Anonymous
- 7:00 pm - Bible Study
- 8:00 pm - Compline

Thursday, December 7th

- 9:30 am - All Ages Read Together
- 11:00 am - Anam Cara (Closed Group)
- 7:30 pm - Choir Rehearsal
- 8:00 pm - Compline

Friday, December 8th

- 8:00 pm - Compline

Saturday, December 9th

- 8:00 am - Men's Group
- 4:00 pm - Private Party
- 6:30 pm - Alcoholics Anonymous
- 7:00 pm - Narcotics Anonymous
- 8:30 pm - Narcotics Anonymous

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- December 3rd: Anna Campbell, Brogan Schlabach
- December 4th: Claire Hart, Oliver Massa
- December 5th: Pete Hart, Kris Golden
- December 7th: Melissa Hancock, Mary Ann Smith, Koko Solomon, Martha Olson, Karen Circle
- December 8th: Reggie Mervine
- December 9th: Steve Sawyer, AJ Jacoby, Avery Boone

ATTENDANCE

Sunday, November 26, 2023

| Time or Place | Attendance Online | Attendance In-Person |
|---------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| 8:00 AM | 18 | 25 |
| 9:30 AM | 33 | 128 |
| 11:00 AM | 23 | 36 |
| Faith Factory | | 28 |
| Youth Group | | 5 |

Thank you to those who have made financial gifts and those who have increased their regular recurring donations. We are grateful for your support of the ministry work here at Saint Matthew's.

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" and placed into the collection plate

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) Mon.–Fri. at 8pm on Facebook

Online Worship
stmmts.org/live

Sunday services are broadcast on Facebook and YouTube.

St. Matthew's Staff & Vestry

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Sara Warnick, Senior Warden
Andrew Wright, Junior Warden
Caitlin Dronfield
Kristin Drummond

Bob Henry
Sharon Muniz
Robby Stevens

Service Volunteers

Ushers | Emory Henderson, Dee Carter, Lorenzo Martini, Justin Warnick

Lectors |

Eucharistic Ministers LEMs | Debbie Majewski, Tom Leary, Cindy Steinman

Tellers | Dan Robertson

Altar Guild | Elly Hilz, Adrienne Miller, Anitrus Jones