

To Know and Share God's Love

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

Fourth Sunday in Lent
Sunday, March 10, 2024



EASTER FOOD DRIVE
DUE: TUESDAY, MARCH 12

Share God's love this Easter through the act of packing a reusable grocery bag with essential food items. Join us in achieving our goal of donating 225 bags to those in need this Easter. Drop off all donations before March 12. We encourage you include a notecard or drawing with a heartfelt message.

Sign up to sort food, purchase extra supplies, deliver bags, and more:
stmmts.org/EasterBags



MEN'S FELLOWSHIP EVENT
SAT., MARCH 16, 9:30 AM - 1PM

Join the men of St. Matt's for outdoor repairs, cleanup, and fellowship. Grilled food and refreshments will be served!

MEN'S GROUP
SATURDAYS AT 8AM

All men are welcome to meet in the classrooms on the hill for fellowship, Bible study, and encouragement. We are starting a new book in March - The Gospel of Mark for Everyone by NT Wright. Want to learn more? Contact mensgroup@stmmts.org.

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:

Zach, Arjun, Scotty, Brad, Myers Family, Phil, Terry, Kathy, Pat, Mary W., Sanjay, Susanna, Fabiano, McKeown Family, Viola, Harry R, Karter, Addie, Mercedes Family, Crystal, Benjamin, Sieg, Chuck, Lea, Bonnie, Arthur, John G, Gina, Glo, James, Sean, Deb, Teressa, Mel, Eric, Debbie, Marshall, Ruth, Rennie, Webster, Julia, Madison, Nora, Robert, Missy, Tom, Lynne, Arianna, Amy, Jackie, Ann, Kay, Jane, Panita, Mary Ann, Sharp Family, Amelia, Kassadi, Kyle, Samantha, Dawn, Rudy, Kay, Clarissa, Huxsten, Dottie, Jonathan, Ageanna, Becky, RL, Priscilla, Darla, Gerry, Paul, Jenny, Reena, Sarah, Brandi, Barbara, Michael, Peggy, Cathleen, Ray, BMR, Asley, Robyn, Emma, Frances, Christy, Nick, Gus, Shelby, Marty, Verdun, Candace, Rusty, Anne, William, Billie, Brown family, firefighters and first responders.

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

8 AM SERVICE

Silent Entrance (Congregation Stands)	
Acclamation and Opening Sentences	351
Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.	
God's mercy endures for ever.	
Confession of Sin and Absolution	352
Collect of the Day (Contemporary)	Insert
Lessons	
First Reading • Numbers 21:4-9	
Psalm • 107:1-3, 17-22	
Second Reading • Ephesians 2:1-10	
Gospel • John 3:14-21	
Sermon	The Reverend C. Robert Merola, Jr.
Nicene Creed	358
Prayers of the People, Form III	387
Peace	360
Announcements & Welcome	
The Holy Communion	
Offertory	
Great Thanksgiving • Eucharistic Prayer B	367
Proper Preface	379
Sanctus	362
The Lord's Prayer	364
Breaking of the Bread	364
Angus Dei	407
Invitation to Communion	
Communion of the People	
Post-Communion Prayer	366
Blessing	
Dismissal	366

9:30 AM SERVICE

The Word of God

Opening Song

Opening Sentences

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

God's mercy endures forever.

Opening Prayer (stand through the Gospel)

Song • Your Love Never Fails

Song • Magnolia

Gospel • John 3:14-21

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 (stand through Communion)

Eucharistic Prayer

Sanctus

The Lord's Prayer

Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

Song • Never Far Away

Closing Prayer

Blessing

Closing Song • Something Beautiful

Dismissal

11 AM SERVICE

Silent Entrance (Congregation Stands)	
Acclamation and Opening Sentences	351
Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins. God's mercy endures for ever.	
Confession of Sin and Absolution	352
Collect of the Day (Contemporary)	Insert
Lessons	
First Reading • Numbers 21:4-9	
Psalm • 107:1-3, 17-22	
Second Reading • Ephesians 2:1-10	
Gospel • John 3:14-21	
Sermon	The Reverend C. Robert Merola, Jr.
Nicene Creed	358
Prayers of the People	
Peace	360
Announcements & Welcome	
The Holy Communion	
Offertory Anthem • Lenten Medley	
Doxology • #380 vs. 3 • Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow	
Great Thanksgiving • Eucharistic Prayer B	367
Proper Preface	379
Sanctus • S129	
The Lord's Prayer	364
Breaking of the Bread	364
Angus Dei	
Invitation to Communion	
Communion of the People	
Communion Hymn • #343, vs. 1,2,3,4 - Shepherd of Souls	
Post-Communion Prayer	366
Blessing	
Procession into the World • #108 Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus	
Dismissal	366



YOUTH GROUP ON SUNDAYS

Faith Factory Unplugged: 6-8th graders, 9:30 AM, classroom four. Bible study and life lessons.

Donuts and Discovery: Middle and high schoolers, 10:30 AM, classroom one. Donuts, Starting Point series, Palm Sunday Passion planning. Also, stay updated with Band App! Scan the QR code to join for group updates, chats, & event reminders.



YOUTH EVENTS

[STMTTS.ORG/YOUTHEVENTS](https://stmtts.org/youth-events)

Launch Trampoline Park

Wednesday, March 27th

Meet at Launch Herndon at 1:15 PM

Cost: \$10

Join Ben at Launch for an Indoor Trampoline Park Party!

Details and RSVP can be found at the link above.

Passion Reading

Sunday, March 24th

Support our youth group members as they present the reading of the Passion on Palm Sunday at all three morning services: 8 AM, 9:30 AM, & 11:00 AM.



SUMMER 2024 YOUTH MISSION

[STMTTS.ORG/YOUTHMISSION](https://stmtts.org/youth-mission)

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 the link above.



STMTTS.ORG/YOUTHEVENTS

EASTER CANDY NEEDED

The Easter Egg Hunt is a cherished tradition at St. Matt's. Help us fill thousands of eggs by donating individually packaged, small candy and toys. Place donations on the carts at the back doors.

Join us in the parish hall on Sundays at 10:30 AM to stuff Easter eggs.



WOMEN'S MINISTRY

WOMEN'S MINISTRY STMTTS.ORG/WOMENSMINISTRY

Letters from Love, Women's Small Group continues on March 10. Join Sara from 1PM-3PM. Find more info at the link above.

Women Giving Back, Women's Volunteer Event on Sunday, April 28, 1PM - 3:30PM. RSVP is required using the link above.



journey 
heading towards our
hearts true home

LENT RESOURCES

LENT RESOURCES & BIBLE STUDY STMTTS.ORG/LENT

Visit the link above to find a selection of Lenten resources: mid-week Bible studies, recipes, book and app recommendations, FAQ's, and the electronic version of the Lenten devotional, **Wandering Heart: A Journey Through Lent with Peter**. Printed copies of the devotional are also available by the front door.




St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

FRIDAY FLASH

Weekly Newsletter

Email office@stmtts.org
to be added to the
distribution list today!



PARISH WORK DAY

PARISH WORK DAY SAT. MARCH 23, 9AM - 12PM

Join us for Parish Work Day as we prepare for Easter. All abilities are welcome for indoor and outdoor jobs. Enjoy coffee and donuts while serving our community.

For parents: parish work day is a great opportunity to demonstrate the value of service to raise capable, serving adults. All ages are welcome. Teens can earn service hour certificates. Let's make a difference together!



EASTER FLOWER DEDICATIONS

DEDICATE EASTER FLOWERS STMTTS.ORG/FLOWERS

You're invited to help us fill the church with flowers on Easter Sunday. Dedications for Easter flowers are due Palm Sunday, March 24. Flower dedications are a joyful way to celebrate special occasions, give thanks, or honor the memory of loved ones.

Any donation amount is welcome. Submit donations at stmtts.org/flowers.



SUPPORT BACKPACK BUDDIES

BACKPACK BUDDIES/HRTS STERLINGHELP.ORG

Share the message of HRTS and follow us on social media @hungerresponse. Also, Backpack Buddies will be packing today in the parish hall and noon on Tuesdays in the Classroom on the Hill.

We also accept donations of shelf-stable, single-serve pantry items (e.g. tuna, ramen, snacks, fruit cups).

If you'd like to learn more about how you can help fight childhood hunger in our community, please contact Hilary Hultman-Lee by email at Hilary.Hultman-Lee@hrtserling.org

**BREAD OF LIFE
BOOK GROUP
MONDAYS AT 7PM**



CO-ED BOOK GROUP MONDAYS AT 7PM

Join us in classroom four on Monday evenings during Lent as we read and discuss *Seven Words; Listening to Christ From the Cross*, by Susan G. Robb. We will begin each meeting with a short 10-12 minute video followed by a discussion of the video and corresponding chapter from the book.



with St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

**SUNDAY, MARCH 31st
6:30, 9:30 & 11:15 AM**

CELEBRATE EASTER AT ST. MATT'S SUNDAY, MARCH 31 STMTTS.ORG/EASTER

6:30 AM - Watch the sun rise on Easter morning during the beautiful Easter Vigil, followed by a delicious brunch. This service begins outdoors and then moves into the sanctuary.

9:30 AM - Vibrant Easter service with band. Kids will love our special Children's Program during the service featuring games, science experiments, music, and an interactive story. After the service, join in the fun with our outdoor egg hunt and photos with the Easter bunny.

11:15 AM - Classic, family-friendly worship service with choir, strings and woodwinds. Children will enjoy a special goodie bag with activity booklet and Easter treat. Join us outdoors following the service for a visit with the Easter bunny and egg hunt.

VOLUNTEER THIS EASTER

Easter brings many guests to St. Matthew's and it is our great privilege to welcome them. *"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve..."* There are many ways to serve on Easter and in the days leading up to Easter. Please visit the link below to select an opportunity to serve.

STMTTS.ORG/EASTERHELP



4 LENT

Fourth Sunday in Lent



Revised Common Lectionary

Sunday, March 10, 2024

COLLECT

Traditional

GRACIOUS FATHER, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which giveth life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Contemporary

GRACIOUS FATHER, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

FIRST READING: Numbers 21:4-9

FROM MOUNT HOR they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it

on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

Refrain

Give thanks to the Lord, whose mercy endures for ever.

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 *from the Book of Common Prayer*

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, * and his mercy endures for ever. | 18 They abhorred all manner of food * and drew near to death's door. |
| 2 Let all those whom the LORD has redeemed proclaim * that he redeemed them from the hand of the foe. | 19 Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, * and he delivered them from their distress. |
| 3 He gathered them out of the lands; * from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south. | 20 He sent forth his word and healed them * and saved them from the grave. |
| 17 Some were fools and took to rebellious ways; * they were afflicted because of their sins. | 21 Let them give thanks to the LORD for his mercy * and the wonders he does for his children. |

22 Let them offer a sacrifice
of thanksgiving * and
tell of his acts with shouts
of joy.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 2:1-10

YOU WERE DEAD through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

GOSPEL: John 3:14-21

JESUS SAID, “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. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

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 **CHURCH
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THIS WEEK AT ST. MATT'S

Sunday, March 3rd

- 8:00 am - Rite I Worship Service
- 9:30 am - Festival Worship Service
- 10:30 am - Donuts & Discovery for Middle & High School Students
- 10:30 am - Backpack Buddies Packing
- 11:00 am - Classic Worship Service
- 12:15 pm - Kara's Lay Support Team
- 6:30 pm - Girl Scout Troop 2274

Monday, March 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, March 5th

- 9:30 am - All Ages Read Together
- 10:00 am - Staff Meeting
- 12:00 pm - Backpack Buddies Packing
- 4:00 pm - Youth Group: Tree of Life Volunteer Event
- 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, March 6th

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

Thursday, March 7th

- 9:30 am - All Ages Read Together
- 11:00 am - Anam Cara (closed group)
- 12:00 pm - Bible Study with Fr. Rob
- 7:30 pm - Choir Rehearsal
- 8:00 pm - Compline

Friday, March 8th

- 11:00 am - Celebration of Life: Janice Joyce Rybar
- 12:00 pm - Rybar Reception
- 8:00 pm - Compline

Saturday, March 9th

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- March 3rd: Anne Martini, Megan O'Hara, Rachel Weller, Pete Hester, Evie Emanuel
- March 6th: Gregory Drew, Randy Hurst
- March 7th: Sandra Harvey
- March 8th: Christie Olson
- March 9th: Katie Elliott

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- March 8th: Lisa & Glenn Lintelman
- March 9th: Cheryl & Robert Cranson


ATTENDANCE


February 25, 2024


Time or Place	Attendance Online	Attendance In-Person
8:00 AM	22	27
9:30 AM	34	159
11:00 AM	20	43
Faith Factory		32
Youth Group		5

HELP SUPPORT

ST. MATTHEW'S MINISTRIES


GIVE ONLINE stmmts.org/give


venmo [@stmmtssterling](https://www.venmo.com/@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) 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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Andrew Wright, Junior Warden

Craig Dubishar

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Julie Kane

Sharon Muniz

Stephanie Zebrowski

Service Volunteers

Ushers | Fred Brittain, Cheryl Gilligan

Lectors | Linden Sanders, Sue Reier

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

Tellers | Dan Robertson

Altar Guild | Elly Hilz, Linda Merola, Anitrus Jones