

Second Sunday after Christmas Sunday, January 5, 2025



# SUNDAY, JANUARY 12, 10:30AM FLANNEL & FAVORITES

Wear your favorite flannel shirt and bring your favorite breakfast treat to share during coffee hour. It's a cozy way to start your Sunday.

#### **SUNDAY, JANUARY 19**

"Pop" by the Popcorn bar and enjoy some tasty treats.

#### SUNDAY, JANUARY 25

Celebrate National Chocolate Cake Day with us! Indulge in delicious chocolate cake. Because... maybe chocolate cake calories don't count!



### EPISCOPAL 101 JANUARY 8, 15, and 22

Where did the Episcopal Church come from? What makes us unique? Are we Catholic lite? What's with all the funny costumes? Join Genevieve Davis for two weeks of fun exploring "those Episkopals" (games! activities! group discussion!) on January 8th and 15th, followed by an AMA (ask me anything – yes! we mean it!) session with Genevieve and Fr. Rob on January 22. Submit questions for the AMA ahead of time at Office@stmtts.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.stmtts.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: stmtts.org/baptism or contact our office via email at Office@stmtts.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:

Sean, Sieg, Chuck, Lea, Bonnie, Arthur, John G, Glo, Deb, Teressa, Mel, Eric, Debbie, Marshall, Ruth, Remmie, Arianna, Jeanine, Hunter, Amy, Jackie, Ann, 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, Emett, Cathleen, Ray, BMR, Asley, Robyn, Emma, Frances, Christy, Nick, Gus, Aldana, Clint, Chelsea, Edgar, Rusty, Anne, Shelby, Kiera, Marty, Greg, Candace, Kevin, John, Ome, Renee, Grace, Kristina, Fire and Hurricane Victims, Freya, Ava, Steve, Natalie, Kristen, Sophia, Sadie, Shaundra, Larry, Don, Fabiano, Diana, Phil, 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, Barbara, Jonathan, Jay, Amanda, Venessa, Desira, Rose, Sarah, Natalie D, Natalie S, Paul, Katy, Randy, Jean, Martha, Greg, Tony, 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 Frayer	
Acclamation and Collect for Purity	355
Gloria	356
Collect of the Day (contemporary)	Insert
Lessons	

First Reading • Jeremiah 31:7-14

Psalm • 84

Opening Prayer

Second Reading • Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a

Gospel • Matthew 2:1-12

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

Procession into the World

# **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.stmtts.org/give)

> All things come of thee, O Lord, And of thine own have we given thee.

ACTION TO A STATE OF THE PARTY	
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	

366

# 9:30 AM SERVICE

#### The Word of God

Welcome

Opening Prayer

Opening Songs (stand through the Gospel)

Song • What a Friend

Song • Ain't Nobody

Gospel • Matthew 2:1-12

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.stmtts.org/give)

Great Thanksgiving

Sanctus • It Is You

The Lord's Prayer

Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

Song • First Things First

Closing Prayer (stand through dismissal)

Blessing

Closing Song • Praise

Dismissal

# 11 AM SERVICE

#### The Word of God

The word of	God
Processional Hymn • #	
Opening Acclamation	299
Gloria • Hymn #96 • Angels We Have Heard	d on High (refrain only)
Collect of the Day (Contemporary)	Insert
Lessons	
First Reading • Jeremiah 31:7-14	
Psalm • 84	
Second Reading • Ephesians 1:3-6, 1	5-19a
Gospel • Matthew 2:1-12	
Sermon Th	e 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 Comm	nunion
Offertory Anthem •	
Presentation of Tithes and Offerings	
Doxology • Hymn #380 • Praise God from \	Whom all Blessings Flow (verse 3)
Great Thanksgiving • Eucharistic Prayer A	361
Sanctus • Hymnal S130 • Holy, Holy, Holy I	Lord
The Lord's Prayer	364
Breaking of the Bread	364
Invitation to Communion	
Communion of the People	
Communion Hymn • #	
Post-Communion Prayer	365
Blessing	
Procession into the World • #	
Dismissal	366



# BREAD OF LIFE BOOK GROUP MONDAYS AT 7PM

This January, we invite you to join us as we continue our study of Barbara Brown Taylor's *An Altar in the World*.

We meet Mondays (in-person and on Zoom) for discussions that inspire, challenge, and connect us in faith. Whether you're new to Bible study or a seasoned reader, we invite you to join us. Email office@stmtts.org for the Zoom link if you'd like to join virtually.



# THE MOST IMPORTANT YEAR OF YOUR LIFE

Join us this January for our new sermon series. We get just one 2025–live it well. Your story. Your chapter. What will you and God write together this year?

Start the year with us as we explore the powerful potential of 2025 and how we can align our lives with God's purpose. Whether you're seeking new direction or reaffirming your faith, 2025 can be your most important year yet.



#### 2030 BOWLING-JAN. 12, 12:30PM

Whether you're single, married, or starting a family, our 2030 group is a great opportunity for those in their 20's and 30's to build friendships and community. Join Robby and Emily Stevens, to connect with others and enjoy an afternoon of fun. Meet at Bowlero at 46490 Woodson Dr., Sterling. Cost is approx. \$30 for bowling and shoe rental.

Need child care? Contact Miriam in the church office—we'd love to help.



#### 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 stmtts.org/VBS.

Documentation of service hours will be provided to all teens who need to record service hours for school clubs.



#### YOUTH GROUP

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

#### BOWLING AT BOWLERO Sunday, January 5, 12:30PM

Kick off the new year with bowling! Meet at Bowlero 46940 Woodson Dr. Sterling. Cost is \$12.

#### SNOW TUBING Sunday, January 26, 11AM–4PM

Depart immediately after the 9:30AM service to carpool to Harpers Ferry. Cost \$22. Lunch is additional. RSVP on Band App.

Scan the QR Code to stay updated with all the youth happenings, or contact our Youth Minister, Ben at Ben.Merola@stmtts.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.



#### FAITH FACTORY KIDS LABS

Children's ministry gets messy with a special lesson each Sunday in January, followed by more messy fun during coffee hour at 10:30AM.

### Jan. 5–Slime Sunday

We'll learn that life is messy, but Jesus helps us get through it. Then join us at coffee hour for karaoke and a silly string battle!

# Jan. 12-Soap and Water Sunday

Celebrate the baptism of Jesus with some wet and wild fun. Then join us at coffee hour for a bounce house and games.

### Jan. 19–Wacky Science Weekend

The Lord transforms us, just as Jesus transformed water into wine. Then join us at coffee hour for a visit with special animal friends.

#### Jan. 26–Faith Factory Fitness

Fun physical activities that show us how we are each important to the Lord, just like parts of a body. Then join us at coffee hour for a rock your body game of Twister and bubble ball battle.

WOW! What a January! You don't want to miss it!





#### BACKPACK BUDDIES STERLINGHELP.ORG

Backpack Buddies (HRTS) returns in 2025 with our first pack on Sunday, January 5 at 10:30AM. HRTS packs 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.

Do you know a teen looking for service hours? We are actively seeking people or companies interested in hosting neighborhood or company food drives.

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



#### MEN'S GROUP SATURDAYS AT 8AM

All men are welcome to meet in the classrooms on the hill for fellowship, Bible study, and encouragement. Contact mensgroup@stmtts.org.



#### 2025 WOMEN'S MINISTRY SATURDAY, FEB. 8, 9AM - 11AM

RSVP: stmtts.org/womensbrunch
Join us for a delightful Women's
Brunch and Small Group Event at St.
Matthew's! Connect with fellow
women in our community for a time
of fellowship and enjoy delicious
food. If you don't have time to make
something to share don't let that
deter you from attending. We always
have lots of food, and we are just
happy to have you join us.

Contact the office if you need child care at Office@stmtts.org.



#### PODCAST NOW AVAILABLE STMTTTS.ORG/PODCAST

Love the sermon? Want to listen again or share with a friend? Check out the weekly podcast on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, or Google.





# 2 CHRISTMAS Second Sunday after Christmas



Revised Common Lectionary

Sunday, January 5, 2025

#### COLLECT

Traditional

O GOD, who didst wonderfully create, and yet more wonderfully restore, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, thy Son Jesus Christ; who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen*.

Contemporary

O GOD, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen*.

# FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:7-14

THUS SAYS THE LORD: "Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, 'Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel. See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead

them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, 'He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock.' For the LORD has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty," says the LORD.

### Refrain

How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of hosts!

# Psalm 84 (or Psalm 84:1-8) from the Book of Common Prayer

1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of hosts! \* My soul has a desire and longing for

the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

- The sparrow has found her a house and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; \* by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.
- 3 Happy are they who dwell in your house! \* they will always be praising you.
- 4 Happy are the people whose strength is in you! \* whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.
- 5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, \* for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.
- 6 They will climb from height to height, \* and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.
- 7 LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; \* hearken, O God of Jacob.

- 8 Behold our defender, O God; \* and look upon the face of your Anointed.
- [9 For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my own room, \* and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.
- For the LORD God is both sun and shield; \* he will give grace and glory;
- No good thing will the LORD withhold \* from those who walk with integrity.
- O LORD of hosts, \*
  happy are they who
  put their trust in you! ]

# SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a

BLESSED BE THE GOD and Father of our Lord Iesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe.

# GOSPEL: Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

AFTER THE WISE MEN HAD LEFT, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son." When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazorean."

### GOSPEL: Luke 2:41-52

EVERY YEAR Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

or

#### GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1-12

IN THE TIME of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel." Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road

#### THIS WEEK AT ST. MATT'S

#### Sunday, January 5th

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

10:30 am - Backpack Buddies Packing

11:00 am - Classic Worship Service

12:30 pm - Youth: Bowling

#### Monday, January 6th

12:00 pm - Social Time with Candace

5:30 pm - Girl Scout Troup 2157

7:00 pm - Bread of Life

7:30 pm - Free to Live

#### Tuesday, January 7th

9:00 am - All Ages Read Together

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, January 8th

10:30 am - Outside Book Group

12:00 pm - Alcoholics Anonymous

7:00 pm - Episcopalian 101 with Genevieve

8:00 pm - Women's NA Group

8:00 pm - Mindful Ministry with Zorana

#### Thursday, January 9th

9:00 am - All Ages Read Together 12:00 pm - Bible Study with Fr. Rob

7:30 pm - Choir Rehearsal

#### Friday, January 10th

8:00 pm - Compline (on line)

#### Saturday, January 11th

8:00 am - Men's Group

6:30 pm - Alcoholics Anonymous

7:00 pm - Narcotics Anonymous

8:30 pm - Narcotics Anonymous

#### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

January 5th: Phillip Metcalfe, Natalie Waggener, Chris Pyhtila

January 6th: Adrienne Miller, Anastasia Tsvetanov

January 7th: Jeffrey Rickard, Annette Brennan, Otto Zetlan, Quinny Overby

January 8th: Tina Pyhtila, Austin Glascock, Everett Hurst

January 9th: Maria Tuttle, Grace Wiseman

January 11th: Meggie Edwards, Michelle Drew, Lauren Merola

#### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

January 9th: Haley & Ted Elliott

#### ATTENDANCE December 29, 2024

Time or Place	Attendance Online	Attendance In-Person
8:00 AM		21
9:30 AM		108
11:00 AM		46
Faith Factory		14
Youth Group	-	3



# 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 stmtts.org/live

Sunday services are broadcast on Facebook and YouTube.

# St. Matthew's Staff & Vestry

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

General Manager, Miriam Turner Office@stmtts.org

Audio, Livestream Coordinators, Colin Leary and Kaylyn Burakowski and Christian Turner

Bookkeeper, Wendy Filler Bookkeeper@stmtts.org

Director Choir, Kevin Fletcher Kevin@stmtts.org

Dir. of Communications, Kathleen Bellamy Kathleen@stmtts.org

Director, Faith Factory, Hilary Hultman-Lee FaithFactory@stmtts.org

Office Assistant, Sue Reier Sue@stmtts.org

Seminarians Kara Laughlin, Kara.Laughlin@stmtts.org Gabe Oakes, Gabriel.Oakes@stmtts.org

Youth Ministry and Marketing Coordinator, Ben Merola Ben.Merola@stmtts.org

#### VESTRY

Robby Stevens, Senior Warden Andrew Wright, Junior Warden Craig Dubishar Bob Henry Julie Kane Sharon Muniz Stephanie Zebrowski

#### Service Volunteers

**Ushers** | Fred Brittain, Justin Warnick, Dee Carter, Sharon Ferguson, and Regina McPhie

Lectors Linden Sanders and John Druva

**Eucharistic Ministers/LEMs** Darrell Breed, Haley Elliott, Lisa Lintelman, Linda Merola, Alexis Sather

Tellers | Dan Robertson

Altar Guild | Elly Hilz, Adrienne Miller, Sue Reier