



SAINT MATTHEW'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

# Lent

THE PRACTICE OF  
LOVE & BELONGING

Second Sunday in Lent  
Sunday, March 16, 2025 · 8:00 AM



## SUMMER MISSION TRIP AUGUST 2-8 TO 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 using the link below, and make a \$150 deposit today to reserve your space. Payment plans and scholarships are available.

**[STMTTS.ORG/YOUTHMISSION](http://STMTTS.ORG/YOUTHMISSION)**



## EASTER FOOD DRIVE DUE: SUNDAY, MARCH 30

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 250 bags to those in need this Easter. Drop off donations before March 30. We encourage you to include a notecard or drawing with a heartfelt message.

Sign up to sort food, purchase extra supplies, deliver bags, and more:  
[stmts.org/EasterBags](http://stmts.org/EasterBags)

## 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](http://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](http://stmmts.org/baptism) or contact our office via email at [Office@stmmts.org](mailto: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:

Sean, Sieg, Chuck, Lea, Bonnie, Arthur, John G, Glo, Deb, Teresa, Mel, Eric, Debbie, Marshall, Ruth, Rennie, Arianna, Jeanine, Hunter, Robyn, Emma, Frances, Christy, Nick, Gus, Aldana, Clint, Chelsea, Edgar, Rusty, Anne, Shelby, Kiera, Marty, Candace, Gerry, Becky, RL, Panita, Jane, Kevin, John, Ome, Renee, Grace, Kristina, 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, Dima, Carter, Jean, Martha, Tony, Nancy, Clara, Elijah, Maria, Bob, Cindy, Don, Megan, Ian, Marielle, Sharp Family, Mila, Moreau Family, Katt, Joe, Lorrie, and Pat Y.

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.	
<b>God's mercy endures for ever.</b>	
Confession of Sin and Absolution	352
Collect of the Day (Contemporary)	Insert
Lessons	
First Reading • Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18	
Psalm • 27	
Second Reading • Philippians 3:17-4:1	
Gospel • Luke 13:31-35	
Sermon	The Reverend C. Robert Merola, Jr.
Nicene Creed	358
Prayers of the People, Form I	383
Peace	360
Announcements & Welcome	
<b>The Holy Communion</b>	
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 • Walk with Jesus

Song • Ain't Nobody

Gospel • Luke 13:31-35

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](http://www.stmmts.org/give))*

Great Thanksgiving (stand through Communion)

Eucharistic Prayer

Sanctus • Kyrie

The Lord's Prayer

Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

Song • Thank God I Do

Closing Prayer

Blessing

Closing Song • Praise

Dismissal

# 11 AM SERVICE

Silent Entrance (Congregation Stands)	
Acclamation and Opening Sentences	351
Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins. <b>God's mercy endures for ever.</b>	
Confession of Sin and Absolution	352
Collect of the Day (Contemporary)	Insert
Lessons	
First Reading • Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18	
Psalm • 27	
Second Reading • Philippians 3:17-4:1	
Gospel • Luke 13:31-35	
Sermon	The Reverend C. Robert Merola, Jr.
Nicene Creed	358
Prayers of the People, Form I	383
Peace	360
Announcements & Welcome	
<b>The Holy Communion</b>	
Offertory Anthem • I Have Decided to Follow Anywhere	Fletcher
Doxology • #380 vs. 3 • Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow	
Great Thanksgiving • Eucharistic Prayer B	367
Proper Preface	379
Sanctus • Hymnal S130	
The Lord's Prayer	364
Breaking of the Bread	364
Invitation to Communion	
Communion of the People	
Communion Hymn #517 vs. 1, 2, 3, 4 • How Lovely is Thy Dwelling Place	
Post-Communion Prayer	366
Blessing	
Procession into the World Hymn #495 vs.1, 2, 4 • Hail, Thou Once Despised Jesus	
Dismissal	366





# 2 LENT

## Second Sunday in Lent



Revised Common Lectionary

Sunday, March 16, 2025

### COLLECT

#### *Traditional*

O GOD, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from thy ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of thy Word, Jesus Christ thy Son; who with thee and the Holy Spirit liveth and reigneth, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

#### *Contemporary*

O GOD, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

#### **FIRST READING:** Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

THE WORD OF THE LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness. Then he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from

Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.” But he said, “O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?” He said to him, “Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.” He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him. When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates.”

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### Refrain

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

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#### **Psalm 27** *from the Book of Common Prayer*

- |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
| 1 | The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear? * the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom then shall I be afraid? | 3 | Though an army should encamp against me, * yet my heart shall not be afraid;   |
| 2 | When evildoers came upon me to eat up my flesh, * it was they, my foes and my adversaries, who stumbled and fell.                     | 4 | And though war should rise up against me, * yet will I put my trust in him.  |
|   |   | 5 | One thing have I asked of the LORD; one thing I seek; * that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life; |

- 6 To behold the fair beauty of the LORD\* and to seek him in his temple.
- 7 For in the day of trouble he shall keep me safe in his shelter; \* he shall hide me in the secrecy of his dwelling and set me high upon a rock.
- 8 Even now he lifts up my head \* above my enemies round about me.
- 9 Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an oblation with sounds of great gladness; \* I will sing and make music to the LORD.
- 10 Hearken to my voice, O LORD, when I call; \* have mercy on me and answer me.
- 11 You speak in my heart and say, "Seek my face." \* Your face, LORD will I seek.
- 12 Hide not your face from me, \* nor turn away your servant in displeasure.
- 13 You have been my helper; cast me not away; \* do not forsake me, O God of my salvation.
- 14 Though my father and my mother forsake me, \* the LORD will sustain me.
- 15 Show me your way, O LORD; \* lead me on a level path, because of my enemies.
- 16 Deliver me not into the hand of my adversaries, \* for false witnesses have risen up against me, and also those who speak malice.
- 17 What if I had not believed that I should see the goodness of the LORD \* in the land of the living!
- 18 O tarry and await the LORD's pleasure; be strong, and he shall comfort your heart; \* wait patiently for the LORD.



## SECOND READING: Philippians 3:17-4:1

BROTHERS AND SISTERS, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

## GOSPEL: Luke 13:31-35

SOME PHARISEES CAME and said to Jesus, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

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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.



## 2030 TOP GOLF- SUN., MARCH 16

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 12:30 PM at Top Golf - 20356 Commonwealth Center, Ashburn. Bring spending money for lunch or drinks.



## SUNDAY FUN DAYS!

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

### TODAY: St. Patty's Treats

Festive treats, hot coffee, and a touch of Irish cheer!

### Sun, March 23: Chip & Dip Day

Celebrate National Chip & Dip Day with a festive spread. Snack, chat, and dip into some great fellowship. Have a favorite dip or chip? Bring it this Sunday to share.

### Sun. March 30: Pretzel Day

Celebrate National Pretzel Day with an assortment of pretzels.



## WEDNESDAYS IN LENT STMTTS.ORG/LENT

Join us for a weekly discussion series exploring themes of love, healing, and connection from **Gregory Boyle's Cherished Belonging**. The evening includes programming for adults, teens, and children, and nursery for our youngest members.

On Wednesdays starting at 6:30PM we'll enjoy a light soup and salad supper, engaging discussions for all ages, and a short Compline worship to end the evening. For all the details and to sign up to share a soup or salad one evening, visit [stmmts.org/lent](http://stmmts.org/lent).



## BREAD OF LIFE BOOK GROUP MONDAYS AT 7PM

We invite you to join us as we begin our study of Dane Orland's *Gentle and Lowly*.

We meet on Mondays (in-person and on Zoom) for discussions that inspire, challenge, and connect us in faith.

Email [office@stmmts.org](mailto:office@stmmts.org) for the Zoom link if you'd like to join virtually.





## **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](mailto:mensgroup@stmtts.org).



## **BACKPACK BUDDIES STERLINGHELP.ORG**

Backpack Buddies (HRTS) continues packing 280 bags of food each week to feed local school children. Join us on Tuesdays at noon and the first Sunday of each month at 10:30 AM.

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



## **PODCAST NOW AVAILABLE STMTTS.ORG/PODCAST**



## **BAPTISM CLASS MAR. 30/APR 13 STMTTS.ORG/BAPTISMCLASS**

If you or your child would like to be baptized, or are interested in learning more about baptism, Seminarian Gabe Oakes invites you to join our Baptism Preparation Classes on Sunday, March 30 and April 13 at 10:30AM. Baptisms will be held, for those who so choose, on Sunday, April 27 at all three services.



## **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](http://stmtts.org/VBS).

Make a difference in the life of a child this summer. Adult and teen volunteers are needed to make VBS the best week of summer. Sign up today using the link above.

Documentation of service hours will be provided.



## YOUTH GROUP

Activities, connection, and conversation designed specifically for middle & 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@stmtts.org](mailto:Ben.Merola@stmtts.org).

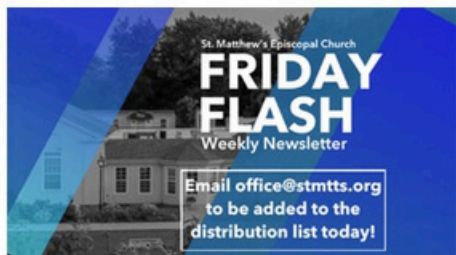


## DONUTS & DISCOVERY Sundays at 9:30AM

Students are invited to join us for donuts and engaging faith discussions tailored just for them.

## PALM SUNDAY PASSION

Middle and high school students are invited to participate in reading the Passion during services on Palm Sunday, April 13. Youth should confirm interest with our Youth Minister, Ben, and then attend practice at 10:30AM on Sundays, March 23, 30, and April 6.



## FRIDAY FLASH/NEWSLETTER

Email [Office@stmtts.org](mailto:Office@stmtts.org) to receive our weekly email, The Friday Flash, or monthly printed newsletter.

## EASTER EGG HUNT CANDY DONATIONS



## CANDY DONATIONS WELCOME

Help us prepare for the much anticipated Easter Egg Hunt by donating wrapped candy and small toys. Place donations on the cart in the back hallway, and then join us at coffee hour to help stuff eggs.



## KIDS SUNDAY FAITH & FUN

This March, join us at 9:30 AM Faith Factory as kids March Toward Easter—learning about Lent and the spiritual journey leading to the joy of Easter!

### March Memory Verse:

I tell you. You will not see me again until you say, "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord." ~Luke 13:35b

Three classes are now offered each Sunday for Preschoolers, Kindergarten – 2nd grade, and 3rd–5th grade. Stay after service for fun & games at Kids Coffee Hour.

Learn more about Faith Factory and activities for kids by contacting our Faith Factory Director, Hilary at [FaithFactory@stmtts.org](mailto:FaithFactory@stmtts.org).

## THIS WEEK AT ST. MATT'S

### Sunday, March 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  
2:00 pm - On That Note Rehearsal

### Monday, March 17th

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

### Tuesday, March 18th

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 - Naturalization Class  
7:00 pm - Band Rehearsal  
8:00 pm - Compline (on line)

### Wednesday, March 19th

12:00 pm - Alcoholics Anonymous  
6:30 pm - Lenten Soup Supper  
7:00 pm - Lent Book Discussion  
8:00 pm - Compline  
8:00 pm - Women's NA Group

### Thursday, March 20th

9:00 am - All Ages Read Together  
12:00 pm - Bible Study with Fr. Rob  
7:30 pm - Choir Rehearsal

### Friday, March 21st

8:00 pm - Compline (on line)

### Saturday, March 22nd

8:00 am - Men's Group  
10:00 am - 5:00 pm Parish Hall Reserved  
6:30 pm - Alcoholics Anonymous  
7:00 pm - Narcotics Anonymous  
8:30 pm - Narcotics Anonymous

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

March 16th: Richard Henry, Justin Warnick  
March 17th: Randolph Sta. Ana, Lacy Hurst, Madison Bryson, Emma Nelson  
March 18th: Tom Parrott  
March 21st: Carter Glascock  
March 22nd: Maria Palmer

## ATTENDANCE March 9, 2025

Time or Place	Attendance Online	Attendance In-Person
8:00 AM	23	23
9:30 AM	34	151
11:00 AM	20	47
Faith Factory		26
Youth Group		13

## HELP SUPPORT ST. MATTHEW'S MINISTRIES



WEBSITE



MOBILE



CASH/  
CHECK

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

For more ways to give and  
information on automatic giving:

[stmmts.org/give](https://stmmts.org/give)