



Second Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 8, 2024



GIVING TREE 2024
GIFTS DUE BY DECEMBER 15

Thanks for participating in our annual Giving Tree.

- Choose an ornament from the tree
- **Drop off labeled, unwrapped gifts by December 15 (include school name and gift number).**
- Invite a friend to donate a Walmart, Food Lion or Safeway store gift card in the \$25-\$50 range or a specific item identified on an ornament.

More info: stmmts.org/givingtree



CHRISTMAS AT ST. MATT'S
STMSTS.ORG/CHRISTMAS

Invite a friend this Christmas!

Christmas Eve

3 PM - Children's Christmas Nativity Play and communion

5 PM - Classic Christmas Mass with soloists and strings

8 PM - Festival Christmas Service with live band

11 PM - Traditional Midnight Mass with choir and strings and oboe

Christmas Day

10 AM - Christmas Worship

www.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:

Sean, Sieg, Chuck, Lea, Bonnie, Arthur, John G, Glo, Deb, Teresa, Mel, Eric, Debbie, Marshall, Ruth, Rennie, Arianna, 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, 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, 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, and Jean.

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

Entrance	
Opening Sentence	109
Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.	
Thanks be to God.	
Lighting of Advent Wreath	
Lessons	
First Reading • Baruch 5:1-9	
Canticle • 16 – The Song of Zechariah (Luke 1:68-79)	
Second Reading • Philippians 1:3-11	
Gospel • Luke 3:1-6	
Sermon	Genevieve Zetlan
Nicene Creed	358
Prayers of the People, Form VI	392
Confession and Absolution	393
Peace	360
Announcements	

The Holy Communion

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings	
<i>(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)</i>	
<i>All things come of thee, O Lord,</i>	
<i>And of thine own have we given thee.</i>	
Great Thanksgiving • Eucharistic Prayer B	367
The Lord's Prayer	364
Breaking of the Bread	364
Invitation to Communion	364
Communion of the People	
Post-Communion Prayer	366
Blessing	366
Procession into the World	366

9:30 AM SERVICE

The Word of God

Welcome

Lighting of Advent Wreath and Prayer

Song • Join the Angels

Song • Glory

Gospel • Luke 3:1-6

Sermon

Genevieve Zetlan

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 • Light of the World

Closing Prayer (stand through dismissal)

Blessing

Closing Song • Make Way

Dismissal

11 AM SERVICE

The Word of God

Welcome

Opening Sentence 109

Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Lessons

First Reading • Baruch 5:1-9

Canticle • 16 – The Song of Zechariah (Luke 1:68-79)

Second Reading • Philippians 1:3-11

Gospel • Luke 3:1-6

Sermon Genevieve Zetlan

Nicene Creed 358

Prayers of the People

Confession and Absolution 393

Peace 360

Announcements

The Holy Communion

Offertory Anthem • How Brightly Shines the Morning Star J.S. Bach

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Doxology • Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow

Great Thanksgiving • Eucharistic Prayer B 367

Sanctus • Holy, Holy, Holy • S130

The Lord's Prayer 364

Breaking of the Bread 364

Invitation to Communion

Communion of the People

Communion • Hymn #60 vs. 1, 2, 3, & 6 Creator of the Stars of Night

Post-Communion Prayer 366

Blessing

Procession into the World • Hymn #57 vs. 1, 2, & 4 Lo! He Comes with
Clouds Descending

Dismissal 366

A graphic for Advent Bible Study featuring a dark blue background with a white Bible and a lit candle. The text "ADVENT BIBLE STUDY" is written in white, bold, sans-serif font.

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY

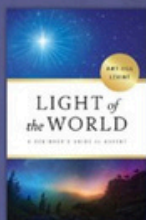
ADVENT BIBLE STUDY

Join Fr. Rob on Dec. 11 at 7PM or Dec. 12 at 12PM for a chance to explore the week's lectionary readings and reflect on their meaning during the season of Advent.

We also invite you to pick up a printed Advent devotional or enjoy online at stmmts.org/advent.



BREAD OF LIFE
BOOK GROUP
ADVENT STUDY



BREAD OF LIFE BOOK GROUP MONDAYS AT 7PM

This December, we invite you to explore the profound meaning of Advent through *Light of the World: A Beginner's Guide to Advent* by Amy-Jill Levine.

We meet every Monday at 7 PM (in-person and on Zoom) for engaging discussions that inspire, challenge, and connect us in faith. Whether you're new to Bible study or a seasoned reader, you'll find this four-week journey a meaningful way to prepare for Christmas.

Email office@stmmts.org for Zoom link if you'd like to join virtually.

A graphic for December Coffee Hour Fun with a wooden background. It features a red and white candy cane, a green Christmas tree, and a red mug of hot cocoa with marshmallows. The text "DECEMBER COFFEE HOUR FUN" is in white, bold, sans-serif font.

DECEMBER COFFEE HOUR FUN

CHRISTMAS FUN - COFFEE HOUR

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

Today - Sunday, December 8 - Enjoy a Minter Wonderland with a selection of peppermint treats and then help pack for Backpack Buddies/HRTS!

Sunday, December 15 - Christmas Cookies!

Sunday, December 22 - Wear your favorite Christmas sweater & enjoy hot cocoa.

A graphic for Potluck & Christmas Sing Along with a dark red background and a pattern of musical notes. The text "POTLUCK & CHRISTMAS SING ALONG" is in white, bold, sans-serif font.

POTLUCK & CHRISTMAS SING ALONG

POTLUCK & SING ALONG

Celebrate the joy of the season with a potluck dinner and Christmas sing along. John and Susy Nixon invite you to their home on Saturday, December 14 at 5:30PM. They will provide baked ham, chicken, and mac and cheese. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. Children of all ages are welcome. Please RSVP to the church office at Office@stmmts.org and the address will be shared.

YOUTH GROUP EVENT AT SPORTROCK STERLING



YOUTH FA SPORTRO

Sun., Dec. 14
Ready for a fun afternoon of rock climbing, team building, and seasonal challenges? This is the perfect challenge for you!

WINTER B Friday, Dec 13 Saturday, Dec 14

Get ready for winter fun and more! Snow, sledding, and you won't want to miss it!

Scan the QR code to stay updated on the youth life events!

ALPHA! Su December 15 & 29

Join Ben at 10:30 AM for an enjoy dinner and conversation!

DONUTS & Sundays at 10:30 AM

Middle and High School are invited to sit down with a treat and a conversation. Alpha 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.



**CHRISTMAS COOKIE DAYS
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15 & 29**
Gingerbread, oatmeal chocolate chip, snickerdoodle, white chocolate cranberry, toffee, chocolate chip and more! Who doesn't love cookies during the holidays? Join us for coffee hour at 10:30 AM on Sunday, December 15th and Sunday, December 29. Indulge in some favorite holiday treats while enjoying time with friends after worship. Do you have a favorite cookie? Bring some to share.



MIDWEEK MINDFUL MOMENT WITH ZORANA ON WEDNESDAYS
Take a break from the hustle and join Zorana for a Mindful Moment. This is a peaceful 30-minute Zoom session designed to help you reconnect with God while enjoying meditation and a chance for women's fellowship – perfectly timed for midweek renewal. Bring your favorite cup of tea at 8PM on Wednesdays in December.
Zoom Meeting ID 747 4043 8363
Passcode: Stmatts



**CHRISTMAS DEDICATIONS
DUE: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15**
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 stmatts.org/flowers. Payment can be made online at anytime at stmatts.org/give – please indicate flowers in the memo line.



**PARISH WORK DAY
SAT., DECEMBER 21, 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!
We'll also be meeting at 12PM on Sunday, December 22 to set-up for the Christmas pageant. We'd love to have your help setting up chairs, decorating trees, and



PLAY NATIVITY

PLAYERS
You are invited to participate in the telling of the Christmas story today. Roles and characters are available for all ages. Reservations are M.

to assist with the production of the play.

at 10:30 AM on Sunday, December 15th and Saturday, December 14th.



THE NATIVITY 2025

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today or
stmatts.org/VBS





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2 ADVENT

Second Sunday of Advent



Revised Common Lectionary

Sunday, December 8, 2024

COLLECT

Traditional

MERCIFUL GOD, who didst send thy messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Contemporary

MERCIFUL GOD, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING: Baruch 5:1-9

TAKE OFF THE GARMENT of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on forever the beauty of the glory from God. Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God; put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting; for God will show your splendor everywhere under heaven. For God will give you evermore the name, "Righteous Peace, Godly Glory." Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height; look toward the east, and see your children gathered from west and east at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that God has remembered them. For they went out from you on foot, led away by their enemies; but God will bring them back to you, carried in glory, as on a royal throne. For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low and the valleys filled up, to make level ground, so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God. The woods and every fragrant tree have shaded Israel at God's command. For God will lead Israel with joy, in the light of his glory, with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

or

FIRST READING: Malachi 3:1-4

SEE, I AM SENDING my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

Refrain

Prepare the way of the LORD.

Canticle 4: The Song of Zechariah
(Luke 1:68-79)

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, * for he hath visited and
redeemed his people;
And hath raised up a mighty salvation for us * in the house of
his servant David,
As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, * which
have been since the world began:
That we should be saved from our enemies, * and from the
hand of all that hate us;
To perform the mercy promised to our forefathers, * and to
remember his holy covenant;
To perform the oath which he sware to our forefather
Abraham, * that he would give us,
That we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies *
might serve him without fear,
In holiness and righteousness before him, * all the days of
our life.
And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest, *
for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to
prepare his ways;

To give knowledge of salvation unto his people * for the
remission of their sins,
Through the tender mercy of our God, * whereby the
dayspring from on high hath visited us;
To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of
death, * and to guide our feet into the way of peace.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: * as
it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

or

Canticle 16: The Song of Zechariah **(Luke 1:68-79)**

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; * he has come to his
people and set them free.
He has raised up for us a mighty savior, * born of the house of
his servant David.
Through his holy prophets he promised of old, that he would
save us from our enemies, * from the hands of all who
hate us.
He promised to show mercy to our fathers * and to
remember his holy covenant.
This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, * to set us
free from the hands of our enemies,
Free to worship him without fear, * holy and righteous in his
sight all the days of our life.
You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, *
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
To give his people knowledge of salvation * by the
forgiveness of sins.
In the tender compassion of our God * the dawn from on
high shall break upon us,
To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of
death, *
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:3-11

I THANK MY GOD every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

GOSPEL: Luke 3:1-6

IN THE FIFTEENTH YEAR of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

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THIS WEEK AT ST. MATT'S

Sunday, December 8th

- 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 - Christmas Nativity Play Rehearsal
- 11:00 am - Classic Worship Service
- 12:30 pm - Youth: Sport Rock
- 5:00 pm - Youth Group: Alpha

Monday, December 9th

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

Tuesday, December 10th

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

Wednesday, December 11th

- 10:30 am - Outside Book Group
- 12:00 pm - Alcoholics Anonymous
- 7:00 pm - Bible Study
- 8:00 pm - Women's NA Group
- 8:00 pm - Mindful Ministry with Zorana

Thursday, December 12th

- 9:00 am - All Ages Read Together
- 7:30 pm - Choir Rehearsal

Friday, December 13th

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

Saturday, December 14th

- 8:00 am - Men's Group
- 9:00 am - Choir Rehearsal
- 6:30 pm - Alcoholics Anonymous
- 7:00 pm - Narcotics Anonymous
- 8:30 pm - Narcotics Anonymous

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- December 8th: Reggie Mervine
- December 9th: Steve Sawyer, Aaliyah Jacoby, Avery Boone
- December 10th: Michael Mirda III
- December 11th: Brian Dodd
- December 12th: Peg Schrader, Ava Lesser, Thomas Dolan
- December 13th: Christy Hrozencik, Samantha Gomez
- December 14th: Margaret Kelley, Jackie Harbourne, Brent Harding

ATTENDANCE December 1, 2024

Time or Place	Attendance Online	Attendance In-Person
8:00 AM	25	30
9:30 AM	34	147
11:00 AM	14	63
Faith Factory		16
Youth Group		14

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

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VESTRY

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Andrew Wright, Junior Warden

Craig Dubishar

Bob Henry

Julie Kane

Sharon Muniz

Stephanie Zebrowski

Service Volunteers

Ushers | Fred Brittain, Zena Horabi, Michael Horrigan, Sharon Ferguson, Lorenzo Martini

Lectors | Linden Sanders, Kevin Fletcher

Eucharistic Ministers/LEMs | Martha Olson, Lisa Lintelman, Haley Elliott, Alexis Sather

Tellers | Dan Robertson

Altar Guild | Lisa Lintelman, Linda Merola, Anitrus Jones