

To Know and Share God's Love

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany
Sunday, February 23, 2025



YOUTH MISSION TRIP 2025



2025 YOUTH MISSION TRIP STMTTS.ORG/YOUTHMISSION

Ages: Rising 6th - 12th graders
Dates: August 2 - 8, 2025

We're heading to Miami, 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 today using the link above
and make a \$150 deposit by **March
15** to reserve your space. Payment
plans and scholarships are available.

PANCAKE SUPPER TUES., MARCH 4, 6PM - 7:30PM

Celebrate Shrove Tuesday with
a festive Mardi Gras pancake
supper—great food, fun activities,
and a meaningful cause.

Enjoy a delicious meal featuring:

- Fluffy pancakes
- Breakfast meats

Plus, fun for the whole family

- Balloon animals from Super Kicks Karate
- Pancake art

All proceeds go to support the
Summer Youth Mission!

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:

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, Emmet, 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, 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, Bayan, Dima, Carter, Jean, Martha, Tony, Nancy, Clara, Elijah, 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 Prayer	
Acclamation and Collect for Purity	355
Gloria	356
Collect of the Day (contemporary)	Insert
Lessons	
First Reading • Genesis 45:3-11, 15	
Psalm • 37:1-12, 41-42	
Second Reading • 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50	
Gospel • Luke 6:27-38	
Sermon	Gabriel Oakes, 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

Welcome

Opening Prayer

Opening Songs (stand through the Gospel)

Song • Running Back to You

Song • Rest in the Father

Gospel • Luke 6:27-38

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

Sanctus • It is You

The Lord's Prayer

Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

Song • Thank You So Much Jesus

Closing Prayer (stand through dismissal)

Blessing

Closing Song • River of Life

Dismissal

11 AM SERVICE

The Word of God

Processional Hymn • #379 God is Love, Let Heaven Adore Him	
Opening Acclamation	299
Gloria • S280	
Collect of the Day (Contemporary)	Insert
Lessons	
First Reading • Genesis 45:3-11, 15	
Psalm • 37:1-12, 41-42	
Second Reading • 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50	
Gospel • Luke 6:27-38	
Sermon	Gabriel Oakes, 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

Offertory Anthem • Break Forth Into Singing	
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 Lord	
The Lord's Prayer	364
Breaking of the Bread	364
Invitation to Communion	
Communion of the People	
Communion Hymn • #304 I Come With Joy	
Post-Communion Prayer	365
Blessing	
Procession into the World • #398 I Sing the Almighty Power of God	
Dismissal	366



Ordination

of Kara Laughlin to the
Sacred Order of Deacons

ORDINATION OF KARA LAUGHLIN SATURDAY, MARCH 1, 10:30AM

God willing The Rt. Rev. Gayle Elizabeth Harris, Assistant Bishop of Virginia, will ordain Kara Laughlin to the Sacred Order of Deacons. This is the next step for Kara in her call to pursue a life of ordained ministry, and God willing she will be ordained as a priest in the summer of 2025. The ordination will take place at St. George's Episcopal Church in Arlington. Interested in carpooling? Contact Miriam at office@stmtts.org.



ASH WEDNESDAY AT ST. MATT'S STMTTS.ORG/LENT

The Ash Wednesday liturgy with imposition of ashes will be celebrated at 6AM, 12PM, and 7PM on **Wednesday, March 5**. The 7PM service will be livestreamed.

We welcome you to walk the Lenten journey with us at St. Matthew's. Visit the link above to find lots of resources: Bible studies, recipes, book and app recommendations, FAQ's, and the Lenten devotional. Printed copies of the devotional are also available by the front door.



FEBRUARY MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY WITH FR. ROB

Join Fr. Rob on Wednesdays at 7PM or Thursdays at 12PM as we dive into the Book of Romans and explore the question, *"How Shall We Then Live?"*

Each week, we'll spend one hour taking a look at the book of Romans, and focusing on a deeply practical chapter that guides us in living out our faith.



BOARD GAME NIGHT! FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 6-9PM

Do you love tabletop games? Uno, Machi Koro, Star Wars Deck Building, King of Tokyo, Tether, Forbidden Desert, Who Killed Dr. Lucky?

There are so many great games! Which is your favorite? Bring your favorite game and a snack to share, as we hang out and try new games.

LENT WEDNESDAYS



Lenten Discussion Series
Healing in Divided Times

Activities for all ages

WEDNESDAYS STARTING MAR. 12 STMTTS.ORG/LENT

Join us for a weekly Lenten discussion series as we explore themes of love, healing, and connection from **Gregory Boyle's Cherished Belonging**.

Starting at 6:30PM we'll enjoy a light soup supper, engaging discussions for all ages, and a peaceful Compline service to end the evening.

Programming for children and youth will be offered, and nursery will be available.

Purchase a copy of the discussion book from your favorite retailer or books for purchase for \$15 at church.



2025 WOMEN'S MEET-UP SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 9AM

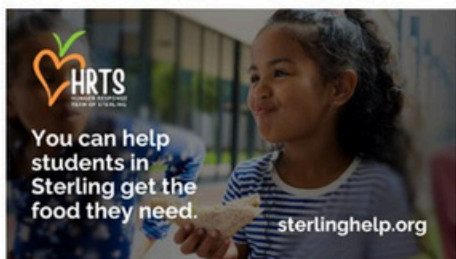
Join us for a delightful morning of coffee and fellowship! All women are invited to meet at Ridgetop Coffee and Tea, at 21631 Ridgetop Circle in Sterling for a casual morning of hot coffee/tea, conversation, and connection. Kids are welcome.



OUTREACH MEETING SUNDAY, MARCH 2, 2PM

Outreach is one of the hallmarks of our shared life together at St. Matt's, and one of the many ways we share God's love. We have lots of ways to participate and lead. Will you prayerfully consider how you might be called to serve?

Please join us on Sunday, March 2 at 2PM at the home of Kristin Drummond to share ideas and make plans for an incredible year of loving our neighbors. Please **RSVP** at STMTTS.ORG/MARCHOUTREACH



BACKPACK BUDDIES STERLINGHELP.ORG

Backpack Buddies (HRTS) continues packing 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.

Learn more about feeding children in our community by visiting the link above or contact Hilary at



YOUTH GROUP

Activities, connection, conversation designed specifically for our middle and 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.



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.

TREE OF LIFE DINNER PREP Sunday, Feb. 23, 4:30–7:30PM

Meet at church to prepare dinner for 70 people at the weekly Tree of Life dinner. Help our local neighbors by providing a warm, delicious meal.

PANCAKE PREP Sunday, March 2, 12PM–2PM

The youth are leading our annual pancake supper as a Mission Trip Fundraiser. Join Ben on Sunday after church to prep pancakes and fruit for the Tuesday dinner.

KIDS SUNDAY FAITH & FUN

This February, join us at 9:30 AM Faith Factory as kids explore God's Call—how He calls people for a special purpose! Through Bible stories like Jeremiah's calling and Jesus calling the disciples, kids will learn how God chooses, guides, and calls us to serve, use our talents, and live out our faith daily. Plus, a NEW preschool class for ages 2-4! Stay after service for fun and games at Kids Coffee Hour, 10:30 AM.

Learn more about Faith Factory and activities for kids by contacting our Faith Factory Director, Hilary at FaithFactory@stmtts.org



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.



7 EPIPHANY

Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany



Revised Common Lectionary

Sunday, February 23, 2025

COLLECT

Traditional

O LORD, who hast taught us that all our doings without charity are nothing worth; Send thy Holy Ghost and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of charity, the very bond of peace and of all virtue, without which whosoever liveth is counted dead before thee. Grant this for thine only Son Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Contemporary

O LORD, you have taught us that without love whatever we do is worth nothing; Send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts your greatest gift, which is love, the true bond of peace and of all virtue, without which whoever lives is accounted dead before you. Grant this for the sake of your only Son Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

FIRST READING: Genesis 45:3-11, 15

JOSEPH SAID TO HIS BROTHERS, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep

alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.’” And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

Refrain

Put your trust in the LORD and do good.

Psalm 37:1-12, 41-42 *from the Book of Common Prayer*

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Do not fret yourself because of evildoers; * do not be jealous of those who do wrong. | give you your heart’s desire. |
| 2 | For they shall soon wither like the grass, * and like the green grass fade away. | 5 Commit your way to the LORD and put your trust in him, * and he will bring it to pass. |
| 3 | Put your trust in the LORD and do good; * dwell in the land and feed on its riches. | 6 He will make your righteousness as clear as the light * and your just dealing as the noonday. |
| 4 | Take delight in the LORD, * and he shall | 7 Be still before the LORD * and wait patiently for him. |

- 8 Do not fret yourself over the one who prospers, * the one who succeeds in evil schemes.
- 9 Refrain from anger, leave rage alone; * do not fret yourself; it leads only to evil.
- 10 For evildoers shall be cut off, * but those who wait upon the LORD shall possess the land.
- 11 In a little while the wicked shall be no more; * you shall search out their place, but they will not be there.
- 12 But the lowly shall possess the land; * they will delight in abundance of peace.
- 41 But the deliverance of the righteous comes from the LORD; * he is their stronghold in time of trouble.
- 42 The LORD will help them and rescue them; * he will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them, because they seek refuge in him.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

SOMEONE WILL ASK, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. As was

the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven. What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

GOSPEL: Luke 6:27-38

JESUS SAID, “I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you. If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

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THIS WEEK AT ST. MATT'S

Sunday, February 23rd

- 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 - Chili & Mac N Cheese Cook Off
- 11:00 am - Classic Worship Service
- 12:00 pm - Lay Eucharistic Minister Trng
- 2:00 pm - Alcoholics Anonymous
- 2:00 pm - On That Note Rehearsal
- 4:30 pm - Youth: Tree of Life Cooking

Monday, February 24th

- 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, February 25th

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

Wednesday, February 26th

- 12:00 pm - Alcoholics Anonymous
- 7:00 pm - Bible Study with Rob
- 8:00 pm - Women's NA Group

Thursday, February 27th

- 12:00 pm - Bible Study with Fr. Rob
- 6:15 pm - Girl Scouts
- 7:30 pm - Choir Rehearsal

Friday, February 28th

- 6:00 pm - Game Night
- 7:00 pm - Old Dominion Dancers
- 8:00 pm - Compline (on line)

Saturday, March 1st

- 8:00 am - Men's Group
- 10:30 am - Ordination: Kara Laughlin (St. George's Episcopal Church, Arlington VA)
- 6:30 pm - Alcoholics Anonymous
- 7:00 pm - Narcotics Anonymous
- 8:30 pm - Narcotics Anonymous

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- February 23rd: Tessa Overby
- February 24th: Tom Leary
- February 26th: Tony Solomon, AJ Glascock, Allison Gradich
- February 27th: David Bryson
- February 28th: Anthony Wallis, Brandt Zebrowski
- March 1st: Katie Robertson, Zach Greenlund, JQ Traum

ATTENDANCE February 16, 2025

Time or Place	Attendance Online	Attendance In-Person
8:00 AM	23	24
9:30 AM	37	145
11:00 AM	16	42
Faith Factory		16
Youth Group		10
Vow Renewal	10	13

HELP SUPPORT ST. MATTHEW'S MINISTRIES



GIVE ONLINE



stmmts.org/give



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@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

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

General Manager, Miriam Turner
Office@stmmts.org

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

Bookkeeper, Wendy Filler
Bookkeeper@stmmts.org

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Kevin@stmmts.org

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

VESTRY

Robby Stevens, Senior Warden

Andrew Wright, Junior Warden

Craig Dubishar

Bob Henry

Julie Kane

Alexis Sather

Stephanie Zebrowski

Service Volunteers

Ushers | Fred Brittain, Maria Palmer, Dee Carter, Sharon Ferguson, Regina McPhie

Lectors | Debbie Majewski, John Druva

Eucharistic Ministers/LEMs | Darrell Breed, Lisa Lintelman, Pam Cooper

Tellers | Dan Robertson

Altar Guild | Richard Henry, Lisa Lintelman, Sue Reier