

To Know and Share God's Love

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

Third Sunday after the Epiphany
Sunday, January 26, 2025

VISION SUNDAY
VISION SUNDAY
VISION SUNDAY

ANNUAL MEETING & VESTRY ELECTION

VISION SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2 [STMMS.ORG/ANNUALREPORT2024](https://www.stmmts.org/annualreport2024)

It's time to reflect on God's faithfulness in 2024 and look ahead to all He has in store for 2025. **Vision Sunday will be held in two parts:**

- 1.) Fr. Rob's vision presentation and voting on the new member of the leadership team will take place during **all three Sunday services.**
- 2.) **Evening Zoom call** at 6:30PM to discuss the financial overview and 2025 budget, and then a time for Q&A at 7PM. The Zoom code can be found on the website above.

February 2 is also Tater Tot Day! Join us at 10:30AM for a tater tot bar with all the fixings!

**BIBLE
STUDY**

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.

We hope you'll join us on Wednesdays or Thursdays as we pause to take time to listen and discuss God's word.

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:

Teresa, 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, 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, Kaufman Family, Rinker Family, Blair Family, Colon Family, Suaib Family, Gonzalez Family, Omar, Mona, Tala, Bayan, Dima, Carter, Jean, Martha, Tony, Nancy, Clara, Elijah, Maria, and Doug.

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 • Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10	
Psalm • 19	
Second Reading • 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a	
Gospel • Luke 4:14-21	
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	

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, And of thine own have we given thee.</i>	
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 • Shelter

Song • Your Love is a Song

Gospel • Luke 4:14-21

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

Sanctus • It is You

The Lord's Prayer

Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

Song • Come As You Are

Closing Prayer (stand through dismissal)

Blessing

Closing Song • Love Found Me

Dismissal

11 AM SERVICE

The Word of God

Processional Hymn • #544 vs. 1, 2, 3, 5 Jesus Shall Reign	
Opening Acclamation	299
Gloria • S280	
Collect of the Day (Contemporary)	Insert
Lessons	
First Reading • Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10	
Psalm • 19	
Second Reading • 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a	
Gospel • Luke 4:14-21	
Sermon	The 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 Communion

Offertory Anthem • Make a Joyful Noise	
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 • #615 Thy Kingdom Come! On Bended Knee	
Post-Communion Prayer	365
Blessing	
Procession into the World • #594 vs. 1, 2, 4 God of Grace and God of Glory	
Dismissal	366



BREAD OF LIFE BOOK GROUP MONDAYS AT 7PM

This winter, 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@stmmts.org for the Zoom link if you'd like to join virtually.



BOARD GAME NIGHT! FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 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.



VOW RENEWALS SAT. FEBRUARY 15, 5PM

All married couples are invited to a special vow renewal ceremony. No sign-up needed—just come as you are and recommit to the love that brought you together! Whether you've been married one year or fifty, renew your commitment in a meaningful way. Friends & family are invited!



SUNDAY FUN DAYS!

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

Sun, Feb. 2: National Tater Tot Day

Enjoy a selection of tater tots and fixings—chili, taco, cheese and more!

Sun, Feb. 9: Jersey Day

Wear your favorite sports jersey and bring a tailgate snack to share.

Sun, Feb. 16: Valentine's Treats

Join us for a variety of Valentine themed goodies.

Sun, Feb. 23: Chili & Mac n Cheese

Bring your favorite crock of chili or mac and cheese to share.



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.

SNOW TUBING—TODAY

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.

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. As always, friends are welcome to join in the fun!

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 starts February 2! 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.



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 Hilary.Hultman-Lee@hrtsterling.org.



EPISCOPAL 101 JANUARY 29, 7PM-8PM

This week we wrap up our three part series on Episcopal 101 with an AMA (ask me anything – yes! we mean it!) session with Genevieve and Fr. Rob on Wednesday, January 29. Where did the Episcopal Church come from? What makes us unique? Are we Catholic lite? What's with all the funny costumes? You are welcome to submit questions for the AMA ahead of time at Office@stmtts.org or join us and ask your questions in person.



JANUARY COFFEE HOUR EVENTS

TODAY-SUNDAY, JANUARY 26

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



2025 WOMEN'S MEET-UP SATURDAY, FEB. 8, 9AM - 11AM

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. (Ridgetop has a great play area for small children).



PODCAST NOW AVAILABLE STMTTS.ORG/PODCAST

Listen on Apple, Spotify, and Google.



3 EPIPHANY

Third Sunday after the Epiphany



Revised Common Lectionary

Sunday, January 26, 2025

COLLECT

Traditional

GIVE US GRACE, O LORD, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation, that we and all the whole world may perceive the glory of his marvelous works; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Contemporary

GIVE US GRACE, O LORD, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation, that we and the whole world may perceive the glory of his marvelous works; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

FIRST READING: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

ALL THE PEOPLE gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. And Nehemiah,

who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

Refrain

The statutes of the LORD rejoice the heart.

Psalm 19 *from the Book Common Prayer*

- 1 The heavens declare the glory of God, * and the firmament shows his handiwork.
- 2 One day tells its tale to another, * and one night imparts knowledge to another.
- 3 Although they have no words or language, * and their voices are not heard,
- 4 Their sound has gone out into all lands, * and their message to the ends of the world.
- 5 In the deep has he set a pavilion for the sun; * it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber; it rejoices like a champion to run its course.
- 6 It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it again; * nothing is hidden from its burning heat.
- 7 The law of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul; * the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the innocent.
- 8 The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart; * the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.
- 9 The fear of the LORD is clean and endures for ever; * the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

- 10 More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, * sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.
- 11 By them also is your servant enlightened, * and in keeping them there is great reward.
- 12 Who can tell how often he offends? * cleanse me from my secret faults.
- 13 Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me; * then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.
- 14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, * O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

JUST AS THE BODY is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member

suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But strive for the greater gifts.

GOSPEL: Luke 4:14-21

JESUS, FILLED WITH THE POWER of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

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.

THIS WEEK AT ST. MATT'S

Sunday, January 26th

- 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 - Youth: Snow Tubing at Harpers Ferry
- 11:00 am - Classic Worship Service
- 2:00 pm - Alcoholics Anonymous

Monday, January 27th

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

Tuesday, January 28th

- 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 - Sterling Playmakers
- 7:00 pm - Education for Ministry
- 7:00 pm - Vestry
- 7:00 pm - Band Rehearsal
- 8:00 pm - Compline (on line)

Wednesday, January 29th

- 12:00 pm - Alcoholics Anonymous
- 7:00 pm - Sterling Playmakers
- 7:00 pm - Episcopalian 101 with Genevieve
- 8:00 pm - Women's NA Group

Thursday, January 30th

- 9:00 am - All Ages Read Together
- 12:00 pm - Bible Study with Fr. Rob
- 6:15 pm - Girl Scouts
- 7:30 pm - Choir Rehearsal

Friday, January 31st

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

Saturday, February 1st

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- January 26th: Allison Lesser, Alex Davenport
- January 28th: Alyson Severino
- January 29th: Mason Turner (the elder)
- January 31st: Josh Kane

ATTENDANCE January 19, 2025

Time or Place	Attendance Online	Attendance In-Person
8:00 AM	28	16
9:30 AM	45	113
11:00 AM	22	45
Faith Factory		14
Youth Group		8

HELP SUPPORT

ST. MATTHEW'S MINISTRIES



GIVE ONLINE



stmtts.org/give



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@stmttssterling



CASH OR
CHECK

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

For more ways to give and information on automatic giving:

stmtts.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
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

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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, Michael Horrigan, Cheryl Gilligan, Lorenzo Martini

Lectors | Richard Henry, Carolyn Wright, Katie Robertson

Eucharistic Ministers/LEMS | Darrell Breed, Brian Bellamy, Heather Tomaszek, Pam Cooper

Tellers | Dan Robertson

Altar Guild | Richard Henry, Ann Lowden, Sue Reier