

ADVENT

GUIDE TO A GREAT CHRISTMAS

Finding Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love



Fourth Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 22, 2024



CRAZY CHRISTMAS SWEATER & HOT COCOA BAR

Sunday is always a fun day at St. Matt's. Join us on Sunday, Dec. 22 at 10:30AM for our annual Christmas Sweater and Hot Cocoa Day. Put on your favorite holiday sweater and join us for a festive time with hot cocoa and lots of toppings!

Awkward family photo opportunities are optional, but highly encouraged!

If you'd like to learn more about our Sunday Fun Day planning, email Miriam at Office@stmmts.org



CHRISTMAS AT ST. MATT'S STMMTS.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

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, Remie, 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, Emmett, 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, and Tony.

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 • Micah 5:2-5a	
Canticle • 15: The Song of Mary (Luke 1:46-55)	
Second Reading • Hebrews 10:5-10	
Gospel • Luke 1:39-45	
Sermon	The Reverend C. Robert Merola, Jr.
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 •

Song •

Gospel • Luke 1:39-45

Sermon

The Reverend C. Robert Merola, Jr.

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 •

The Lord's Prayer

Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

Song •

Closing Prayer (stand through dismissal)

Blessing

Closing Song •

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 • Micah 5:2-5a

Canticle • 15: The Song of Mary (Luke 1:46-55)

Second Reading • Hebrews 10:5-10

Gospel • Luke 1:39-45

Sermon

The Reverend C. Robert Merola, Jr.

Nicene Creed

358

Prayers of the People

Confession and Absolution

393

Peace

360

Announcements

The Holy Communion

Offertory Anthem •

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Doxology • Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow

Great Thanksgiving • Eucharistic Prayer B

367

Sanctus • Holy, Holy, Holy • S114

The Lord's Prayer

364

Breaking of the Bread

364

Invitation to Communion

Communion of the People

Communion Hymn •

Post-Communion Prayer

366

Blessing

Procession into the World •

Dismissal

366



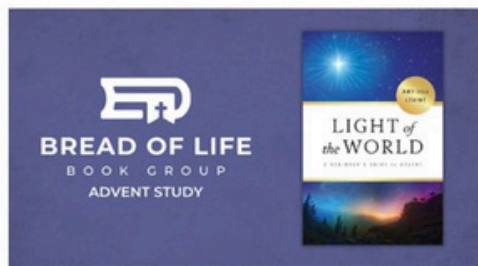
NATIVITY WATCH PARTY SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, 9:30AM

Our children have been working so hard to bring the nativity story to life on Christmas Eve, let's enjoy it one more time! Sunday, December 29 at 9:30AM, preschool and elementary aged children are invited to a Nativity Play Watch Party in classroom 1.



GAME NIGHT ON BLACK FRIDAY! FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27, 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.

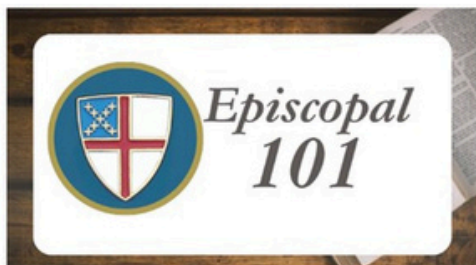


BREAD OF LIFE BOOK GROUP MONDAYS AT 7PM

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@stmnts.org for Zoom link if you'd like to join virtually.



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 both Genevieve and Fr. Rob on January 22.

Submit questions ahead of the AMA by emailing the church office at Office@stmnts.org



YOUTH GROUP

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

WINTER BREAK LOCK-IN

**Friday, December 27, 6 PM –
Saturday, December 28, 8AM**

Get ready for games, food, movies, and more! Our winter lock-in is one you won't want to miss.

Scan the QR Code to stay updated with all the youth happenings.



Save the dates for

January fun. Find more details and registration on the Band App:

BOWLING AT BOWLERO

Sunday, January 5, 12:30PM

SNOW TUBING

Sunday, January 26, 11AM–4PM

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.



CHILDREN'S NATIVITY PLAY

STMTTS.ORG/CHRISTMASPLAY

All children and youth are invited to participate in this fun retelling of the Christmas story. Register today using the link above. Rehearsals are held each Sunday at 11AM.

Teens are also needed to assist with tech, costumes, welcome team, song leading, and more.

Questions? Contact Hilary at FaithFactory@stmmts.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 stmmts.org/VBS





CHRISTMAS COOKIE DAY SUNDAY, DECEMBER 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 29th. Indulge in some favorite holiday treats while enjoying time with friends after worship. Do you have a favorite cookie? Bring some to share.



WOMEN'S MINISTRY MIDWEEK MINDFUL MOMENT

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



PARISH WORK DAY SUN., DECEMBER 22, 12PM

Join us as we help prepare the parish hall to welcome families and guests to St. Matthew's for a glorious Christmas celebration. We'd love to have your help setting up chairs and decorating trees.



YEAR END GIVING

Diapers cost just \$.24 each, but an average baby needs five per day. Now imagine Maria, a mom of **18-month-old triplets—that's a lot of diapers!** Thanks to St. Matthew's, Maria and other moms like her receive the help they need to care for their little ones. This vital support is made possible entirely by the generosity of members and friends like you.

There's still time to make your 2024 gift! Year-end donations can be made anytime online at stmatts.org/give or by check. Tax-saving options, like IRA or stock donations, are also available. For details, please email



Eccce Virgo
concepit et
pariet
Filium

4 ADVENT

Fourth Sunday of Advent



Eccce Virgo
concepit et
pariet
Filium

Revised Common Lectionary

Sunday, December 22, 2024

COLLECT

Traditional

WE BESEECH THEE, Almighty God, to purify our consciences by thy daily visitation, that when thy Son our Lord cometh he may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Contemporary

PURIFY OUR CONSCIENCE, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

FIRST READING: Micah 5:2-5a

YOU, O BETHLEHEM of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

Refrain

My soul proclaims the greatness of the LORD.

Canticle 3: The Song of Mary

(Luke 1:46-55)

My soul doth magnify the Lord, * and my spirit hath rejoiced
in God my Savior.

For he hath regarded * the lowliness of his handmaiden.

For behold from henceforth * all generations shall call me blessed.

For he that is mighty hath magnified me, * and holy is his Name.

And his mercy is on them that fear him * throughout all
generations.

He hath showed strength with his arm; * he hath scattered the
proud in the imagination of their hearts.

He hath put down the might from their seat, * and hath exalted
the humble and meek.

He hath filled the hungry with good things, * and the rich he hath
sent empty away.

He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel, * as he
promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.

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 15: The Song of Mary

(Luke 1:46-55)

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices
in God my Savior; * for he has looked with favor on his
lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed: * the
Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his
Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him * in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm, * he has scattered
the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, * and has
lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, * and the rich he has
sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel, * for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
The promise he made to our fathers, * to Abraham and his children for ever.

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

Refrain

Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Psalm 80:1-7 *from the Book Common Prayer*

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; * shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim. | 4 O LORD God of hosts, * how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people? |
| 2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, * stir up your strength and come to help us. | 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; * you have given them bowls of tears to drink. |
| 3 Restore us, O God of hosts; * show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved. | 6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, * and our enemies laugh us to scorn. |
| | 7 Restore us, O God of hosts; * show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved. |

SECOND READING: Hebrews 10:5-10

WHEN CHRIST CAME INTO THE WORLD, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)." When he said

above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

GOSPEL: Luke 1:39-45, [46-55]

IN THOSE DAYS Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." [And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."]

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THIS WEEK AT ST. MATT'S

Sunday, December 22nd

- 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 - Christmas Nativity Play Rehearsal
- 11:00 am - Classic Worship Service
- 12:00 pm - Pageant Set-up

Monday, December 23rd

- 12:00 pm - Social Time with Candace
- 12:00 pm - Flower set-up
- 5:30 pm - Nativity Play Dress Rehearsal
- 7:00 pm - Bread of Life
- 7:00 pm - Pageant Usher & LEM Rehearsal
- 7:30 pm - Musician Rehearsal (5pm svc)
- 7:30 pm - Free to Live

Tuesday, December 24th

- 8:00 am - Flower Guild Set-up
- 12:00 pm - Alcoholics Anonymous Sober-a-thon
- 3:00 pm - Children's Christmas Pageant
- 5:00 pm - Classic Christmas Worship
- 6:30 pm - Alcoholics Anonymous
- 8:00 pm - Festival Christmas Worship
- 11:00 pm - Candlelight Christmas Worship

Wednesday, December 25th

- 1:00 am - Alcoholics Anonymous Sober-a-thon
- 10:00 am - Christmas Day Worship
- 12:00 pm - Alcoholics Anonymous
- 8:00 pm - Women's NA Group
- 8:00 pm - Mindful Ministry with Zorana

Thursday, December 26th

- 7:30 pm - Choir Rehearsal

Friday, December 27th

- 5:00 pm - Youth: Lock-in
- 6:00 pm - Game Night
- 8:00 pm - Compline (on line)

Saturday, December 28th

- 3:00 am - Youth: Lock-in
- 8:00 am - Men's Group
- 6:30 pm - Alcoholics Anonymous
- 7:00 pm - Narcotics Anonymous
- 8:30 pm - Narcotics Anonymous

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- December 23rd: Donna Gray
- December 25th: Mary Wardell
- December 27th: Isaac Chambers
- December 28th: Greg Johnson, Kate Keenan

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- December 24th: Cindy & Jeff Wallace

ATTENDANCE December 15, 2024

Time or Place	Attendance Online	Attendance In-Person
8:00 AM	17	27
9:30 AM	35	164
11:00 AM	17	86
Faith Factory		18
Youth Group		12

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
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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Office@stmtts.org

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Christian Turner

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Andrew Wright, Junior Warden
Craig Dubishar

Bob Henry

Julie Kane

Sharon Muniz

Stephanie Zebrowski

Service Volunteers

Ushers | Fred Brittain, Dee Carter, Michael Horrigan, Cheryl Gilligan, Sharon Ferguson

Lectors | Julie Kane, John Druva

Eucharistic Ministers/LEMS | Haley Elliott, Heather Tomaszek, Tom Leary, Gerry Wardell

Tellers | Dan Robertson

Altar Guild | Richard Henry, Ann Lowden, Sue Reier