

To Know and Share God's Love

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany
Sunday, February 2, 2025

VISION SUNDAY
VISION SUNDAY
VISION SUNDAY
ANNUAL MEETING & VESTRY ELECTION

VISION SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2 **STMTTS.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 at 7PM we'll discuss the 2025 Strategic Plan and take Q&A. The Zoom code can be found on the website above.

February 2 is also Tater Tot Day!
Join us at 10:30AM for tots n' fixins!

2025
YOUTH MISSION TRIP
Information Meeting

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 slight detour to spend our last day making magical memories and having big fun!

Join Ben for an informational meeting on Sunday, February 9th at 10:30 AM to hear all the details, ask questions, and see how YOU can be part of this life-changing trip!

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, 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, 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, Maria, Doug, and American Airlines flight 5342 passengers and their families.

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 • Jeremiah 1:4-10	
Psalm • 71-1-6	
Second Reading • 1 Corinthians 13:1-13	
Gospel • Luke 4:21-30	
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

(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 • You are So Good to Me

Song • Devotion

Gospel • Luke 4:21-30

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 • Your Royal Blood

Closing Prayer (stand through dismissal)

Blessing

Closing Song • All the People Said Amen

Dismissal

11 AM SERVICE

The Word of God

Processional Hymn • #376 vs. 1, 2, 3 Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee	
Opening Acclamation	299
Gloria • S280	
Collect of the Day (Contemporary)	Insert
Lessons	
First Reading • Jeremiah 1:4-10	
Psalm • 71-1-6	
Second Reading • 1 Corinthians 13:1-13	
Gospel • Luke 4:21-30	
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	Pulkingham
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 • #399 vs. 1, 2, 3 Deck Thyself, With Gladness	
Post-Communion Prayer	365
Blessing	
Procession into the World • #561 vs. 1, 2, 4 Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus	
Dismissal	366



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@stmmts.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.

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 TODAY—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@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.





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. Please contact Miriam in the church office if you are interested in carpooling.



FEBRUARY COFFEE HOUR

SUNDAY FUN DAYS!

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

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.



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!



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.



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.

Do you know a teen looking for service hours? We are actively seeking people or companies interested in hosting neighborhood or company food drives.

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



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.



JERSEY DAY SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9

Get ready for the 'Big Game' - wear your favorite sports jersey to church and enjoy refreshments in the parish hall during coffee hour at 10:30 AM.



CHILI & MAC N CHEESE—OH MY! SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 10:30AM

It's always a good time for Chili and Mac n Cheese, even 10:30 on a Sunday morning. Bring a crock pot of your favorite Chili or Mac n Cheese to share with all your St. Matt's friends.

Other helpful things to bring: an extension cord, serving spoon, and toppings that make your dish really pop (sour cream, onions, jalapenos, bacon, hot sauce, etc...) St. Matt's will supply tasting cups, bowls, spoons, napkins, and PRIZES!





4 EPIPHANY

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany



Revised Common Lectionary

Sunday, February 2, 2025

COLLECT

Traditional

ALMIGHTY AND EVERLASTING GOD, who dost govern all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of thy people, and in our time grant us thy peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Contemporary

ALMIGHTY AND EVERLASTING GOD, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 1:4-10

NOW THE WORD of the LORD came to me saying, “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.” Then I said, “Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.” But the LORD said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am only a boy’; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you, Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD.” Then the

LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the LORD said to me, "Now I have put my words in your mouth. See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant."

Refrain

My tongue will proclaim your righteousness, O God.

Psalm 71:1-6 *from the Book Common Prayer*

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; * let me never be ashamed. | 5 For you are my hope, O LORD GOD, * my confidence since I was young. |
| 2 In your righteousness, deliver me and set me free; * incline your ear to me and save me. | 6 I have been sustained by you ever since I was born; from my mother's womb you have been my strength; * my praise shall be always of you. |
| 3 Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe; * you are my crag and my stronghold. | |
| 4 Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked, * from the clutches of the evildoer and the oppressor. | |

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

IF I SPEAK in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

GOSPEL: Luke 4:21-30

JESUS BEGAN TO SPEAK in the synagogue at Nazareth: "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, "Is not this Joseph's son?" He said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Doctor, cure yourself!' And you will say, 'Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.'" And he said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's hometown. But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian." When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

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THIS WEEK AT ST. MATT'S

Sunday, February 2nd

- 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 - Classic Worship Service
- 6:30 pm - Vision Sunday Finance Zoom
- 7:00 pm - Vision Sunday Q&A Zoom

Monday, February 3rd

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

Tuesday, February 4th

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

Wednesday, February 5th

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

Thursday, February 6th

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

Friday, February 7th

- 8:00 pm - Compline (on line)

Saturday, February 8th

- 8:00 am - Men's Group
- 9:00 am - Women's Coffee Meet Up
- 6:30 pm - Alcoholics Anonymous
- 7:00 pm - Narcotics Anonymous
- 8:30 pm - Narcotics Anonymous

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- February 2nd: Luiz Gazoni
- February 3rd: Eliza Hayes, Danielle Rickard, Dawn Deaso, Katie Faist
- February 5th: Joyce Purks, Lisa Lintelman, Rick Breed
- February 7th: Paul Buitrago
- February 8th: Sebastian Lee

ATTENDANCE

January 26, 2025

Time or Place	Attendance Online	Attendance In-Person
8:00 AM	18	23
9:30 AM	38	168
11:00 AM	18	42
Faith Factory		32
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
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

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Office@stmmts.org

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Youth Ministry and Marketing Coordinator,
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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, Emory Henderson, Cheryl Gilligan, Lorenzo Martini

Lectors | Linden Sanders, Julie Kane, Sue Reier

Eucharistic Ministers/LEMs | Darrell Breed, Haley Elliott, Lisa Lintelman, Linda Merola, Gerry Wardell

Tellers | Dan Robertson

Altar Guild | Elly Hilz, Adrienne Miller, Sue Reier