



February 2023

The Messenger

ST. Matthew's Episcopal Church
9349 E. 65th Street, Raytown, MO 64133

St. Matthew's Staff

The Rev. William Jeff Hurst
Priest-in-Charge

Sherry Minzey
Admin. Assistant

Patti McGill
Music Director

Officers

Judy Taylor
Senior Warden

Carl Turlin
Junior Warden

David Macey
Treasurer

Linda Gerding
Secretary

Service Times

Wednesday Zoom
Evening Prayer 7:00 p.m.

Sunday Worship
Holy Eucharist Rite II
10:00 a.m.



Dear St. Matthew's church family,

I can't believe we are already headed into the Lenten season! We just concluded a successful Annual Business meeting this past Sunday the 29th and we are preparing once again to enter a most holy Season. Please take note of a few articles that are presented in the newsletter that are informative about Lent.

I won't recap all the business of the Annual Meeting but I wanted to express my gratitude to the vestry for discussing my role as your priest in the last Vestry meeting. I was pleasantly surprised that it was unanimously affirmed that the vestry (church) decided to offer me an indefinite term as your Priest-in-Charge. When Judy Taylor announced the church was welcoming me and **BRENDA** back minus a term contract it was a celebrative moment. I tell Brenda at times that we are a package deal and has been since I began pastoring churches in 1977. I think at first, some people at St. Matts thought Brenda was ordained too since I have often said, "Brenda and I" in conversation. May I say, Brenda felt wonderfully affirmed and loved! When she was gone helping with her mother, I kept teasing her she would be missed more than me if I was gone since everyone asked about her so much while she was away.

On Christmas Eve I did receive a phone call from a church family to see if I had anywhere to go on Christmas day. Of course, I did not and hadn't pondered it. I was so delighted for the invitation to share a wonderful meal in the warm and loving home of Carl, Nico, and Marci Turlin and Marci's lovely extended family. If you've never tried Grandma's Christmas chicken you are in for a treat. This grace and love makes our decision to continue so easy!

Peace and Love,
Fr Jeff



The 2022 St. Matthew's Annual Parish Meeting was held Sunday, January 29th following the 10:00 a.m. service. Prior to the meeting, we enjoyed three kinds of soup, compliments of Christina Brooks, who brought beef vegetable soup and vegetable soup (both delicious) and Beth Cook, who brought chicken noodle soup (which I heard was delicious but everyone beat me to it!) After everyone had their fill, the annual meeting commenced with a prayer by Fr. Jeff Hurst. Last year's minutes were approved and Fr. Jeff presented his report as well as the parish statistics. Treasurer Dave Macey presented the annual financials and 2023 budget, which was approved by the congregation.

The Sr. Warden made her report and announced that Fr. Jeff, whose contract expires at the end of February, has been offered a new, open-ended contract, which he accepted. The Sr. Warden also welcomed two new members: Lorrie Taylor and Peggy Sutherland, and set forth her goals for the coming year. The first goal for 2023 is to bring internet downstairs into the parish hall so that online attendees can come to coffee hour and attend programs in the parish hall. The second goal is to improve the online experience by ensuring that those who attend from a distance (Sherry and Jim Minzey, Lorrie Taylor) and those who travel out of town or stay home due to illness or other reasons have communion kits. Kits have already been sent to Sherry and Jim, Lorrie Taylor, and Dave and Francis Macey. Everyone was encouraged to have a couple of kits on hand in case they had to travel or stay home due to illness.

The Nominating Committee, led by Christina Brooks, presented three nominees to serve a two-year term: Carl Turlin, Linda Gerding, and Rick Roberts. All three agreed to serve. The remainder of the meeting featured reports from committee chairs, ministry commissions, and leaders of other parish activities. We closed the meeting with an invitation to the new vestry to attend an organizational meeting immediately following the annual meeting, and Fr. Jeff closed us out with a prayer.

Judy Taylor

Sr. Warden



ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

The 2023 Vestry met immediately following the annual meeting for a brief, organizational meeting to select and approve new officers, committee chairs, and ministry commission leaders. The following officers were elected:

Judy Taylor, Sr. Warden

Carl Turlin, Jr. Warden

Linda Gerding, Secretary

Dave Macey, Treasurer

Other vestry members include Christina Brooks, Letisha Arroyo, and Rick Roberts. The following committee chairs were elected:

Clerk of the works, Jason Brooks

Properties, Carl Turlin

Finance committee, Christina Brooks

Stewardship, Judy Taylor

Evangelism committee, Rick Roberts

Worship commission, James Laney

Hospitality committee, Christina Brooks and Zella Forsythe

Lay delegate to Diocesan council, Zella Forsythe (ongoing- not part of meeting)

Convention and Deanery delegates, Zella Forsythe and Jason Brooks

Alternate Delegate - Christina Brooks

A tentative date for commissioning vestry members was set for March 26th. The meeting was concluded with a prayer.

Judy Taylor

Sr. Warden



From the Music Director

Happy New Year! I want to thank the Vestry and the congregation for the Christmas gift. I greatly appreciate it and plan to use it toward music that I can use for preludes, interludes and postludes. I keep looking for music that I think all will like so this gift will be very helpful.

Speaking of voluntary instrumental music: I want to help you understand why preludes are common at Sunday services. A prelude is a musical piece that helps to prepare ourselves for worship. It's like an introduction for something that is about to happen which of course is the service. It's usually played on an organ or piano and sometimes there will be a singer to listen to. It is sometimes very hard to get ourselves calm and quiet so that our hearts and minds are open to God's presence, so the music is planned to allow us to make that happen.

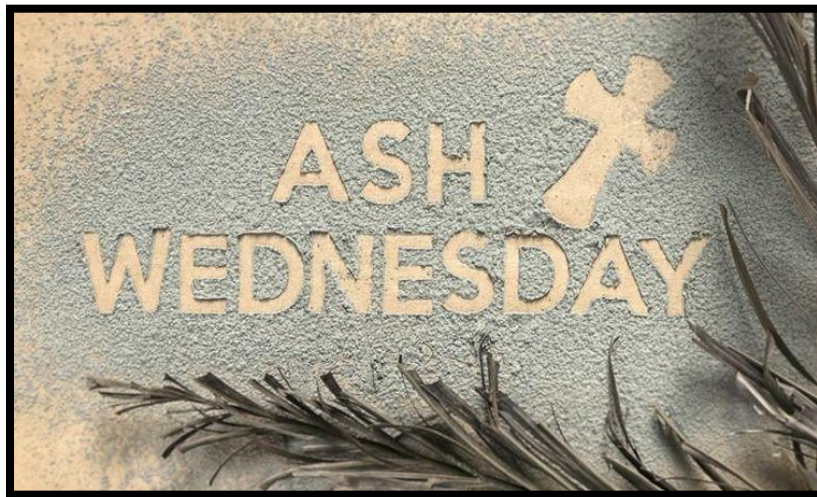
I guess it may be obvious that I'm headed to a request. Whenever we are in a position to hear a prelude all visiting and commotion should stop, allowing for all to be ready to participate in the service so that we are ready to absorb the lessons of the day, the hymns that support the readings and prayers, the sermons that give us much to think about and the gift of communion.

On the subject of the hymns, I am going to be choosing more hymns that are familiar to most of the congregation, so sing your heart out with joy! I'm aware that many hymns aren't easy to sing, but I hope you know that they are always chosen to enrich everything we experience in our worship. The most important thing is that they are meant to praise God and show him our love and presence. "He who sings," said St. Augustine, "prays twice."

So, when you have questions or suggestions about our music please talk with me or with a choir member. We're open to suggestions, like your favorite hymn or least favorite! I always appreciate your support of me and of the singers who so faithfully volunteer their time and talent. Let us know what you think.

Yours faithfully, Patti

Make
a *Joyful* unto the
noise Lord
Psalm 98:4



DON'T FORGET ASH WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 22nd

This year St. Matthews would like to offer a NOON Ash Wednesday service that will not include music for those who might prefer a shorter service. The traditional 7 pm service will also be observed but will include music . Please note that both services will include a short homily followed by the Imposition of ashes. We hope to see many of you at either service.



As we get ready for the Lenten Season, I would like to draw our attention to our yearly participation in the weekly observance of the **Stations of the Cross**. We are blessed to have Linda Gerding, Patti McGill and Judy Roberts to lead us in this holy time. We will gather at 6 pm the first Friday after the 1st Sunday of Lent, March 3rd, and then have a light meatless dinner afterwards in the undercroft. We will observe the Stations throughout the Lenten Season each Friday through Good Friday on April 7th. We encourage everyone to attend as many of these services as possible.

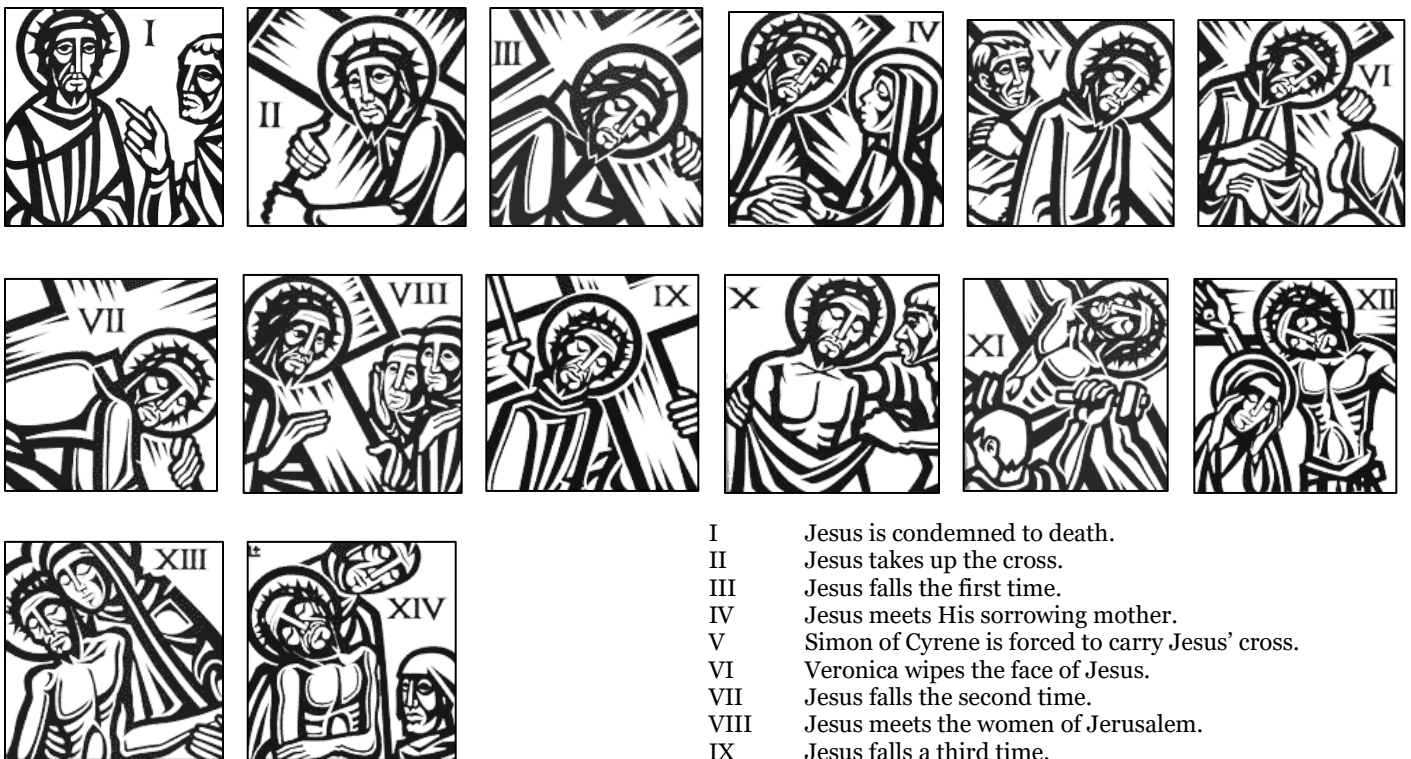
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The Stations of the Cross or the **Way of the Cross**, also known as the **Way of Sorrows** or the **Via Crucis**, refers to a series of images depicting Jesus Christ on the day of his crucifixion and accompanying prayers. The stations grew out of imitations of the Via Dolorosa in Jerusalem, which is a traditional processional route symbolizing the actual path Jesus walked. I was in Jerusalem in 1996 and walked part of that route and always wished to go there and walk it someday. The objective of the stations is to help the Christian faithful to make a spiritual pilgrimage through contemplation of the Passion of Christ. It has become one of the most popular devotions and the stations can be found in many Western Christian churches, including Lutheran, Methodist, Anglicans and a host of others.

As you can see in our church nave along the walls, a series of 14 images which are stations of small plaques with reliefs or paintings placed and arranged in numbered order along a path, along which worshippers—individually or in a procession—move in order, stopping at each station to say prayers and engage in reflections associated with that station. These devotions are mostly observed during Lent and are to inspire an attitude of repentance as one reflects on the sufferings and insults that Jesus endured during his passion. As a physical devotion it might involve standing, kneeling and genuflections as you feel comfortable.

We hope to see many of you there this Lenten season.

Fr. Jeff



- I Jesus is condemned to death.
- II Jesus takes up the cross.
- III Jesus falls the first time.
- IV Jesus meets His sorrowing mother.
- V Simon of Cyrene is forced to carry Jesus' cross.
- VI Veronica wipes the face of Jesus.
- VII Jesus falls the second time.
- VIII Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem.
- IX Jesus falls a third time.
- X The soldiers strip Jesus for crucifixion.
- XI Jesus is nailed to the Cross.
- XII Jesus dies on the Cross.
- XIII Jesus is taken down from the Cross.
- XIV Jesus is placed in the Tomb.



EPIPHANY





Flying Solo

Five of us went out for Flying Solo this month to see “A Man Called Otto” and to La Fuente Mexican Restaurant afterwards. A great movie and good food was enjoyed by all.

Mary Cease



**February 17th
March**



Messenger/Calendar



Deadline



Online Links

Online Giving Link:

<http://stmatthewsraytown.org/>

Facebook:

[St. Matthew's Episcopal Church | Facebook](#)

St. Matthew's Website:

[St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
\(stmatthewsraytown.org\)](http://stmatthewsraytown.org/)

ST. MATTHEW'S

SHROVE TUESDAY



PANCAKE SUPPER

FEBRUARY 21ST

5:00 PM TO 7:30 PM

ALL YOU CAN EAT!

PANCAKES

SAUSAGE

COFFEE

JUICE

CARRY OUT AVAILABLE



\$5 PER PERSON

Tickets at the door

or

Advance tickets available from church members.

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