



May 2023

# The Messenger

ST. Matthew's Episcopal Church  
9349 E. 65<sup>th</sup> 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 Church family,

As I write this, the month of May is just around the corner. We are continuing our journey into the Easter season and have a number of Sunday celebrations after our worship services we surely don't want to miss. On **May 7<sup>th</sup>**, we will be having a special celebration after church for Tom, Stacey, and Alex and Jordan Wagstaff. The Tom and Stacy Wagstaff family have been in the middle of a transition for many months as they began building a specialized home that is more suitable for Tom's continuing physical rehabilitation. Another factor in this move to Texas is the nearness of Tom's family and relative. The Wagstaff family will be missed in the life of the church and in the hearts of many as many of you have watched Jordan and Alex grow up and mature into fine young adults. Stacey has been a faithful member of St. Matts including her membership in the Daughters of the King. Tom Wagstaff is a definitely a walking "miracle" as St. Matthew's parish has been an integral part of Tom's amazing recovery through your prayers and loving support.

Please remember that **May 14** is Mother's Day we are remembering our mothers and all the ladies of our church. Father Jeff and Brenda will be out of town for that Sunday and James Laney will be leading the service. Please remember that Dominic Brooks is graduating **May 21<sup>st</sup>** and we are having a short celebration after church since the graduation service will be observed in the early afternoon. Please consider honoring Dominic with your expression of well wishes and love on that day. **May 28<sup>th</sup>** is our celebration of Pentecost Sunday in

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the service and afterwards. Eastertide will culminate in our recognition of the descent of the Holy Spirit. Remember to wear something Red and bring something red to eat for our luncheon afterward.

Fr. Jeff

# HOLY WEEK & EASTER

## PALM SUNDAY April 2, 2023

It was a beautiful morning for St. Matthew's parishioners to gather in the Fellowship Hall, receive their palms blessed by Fr. Jeff, and carry them processing through the parking lot and in to the church singing "All Glory, Laud, and Honor".

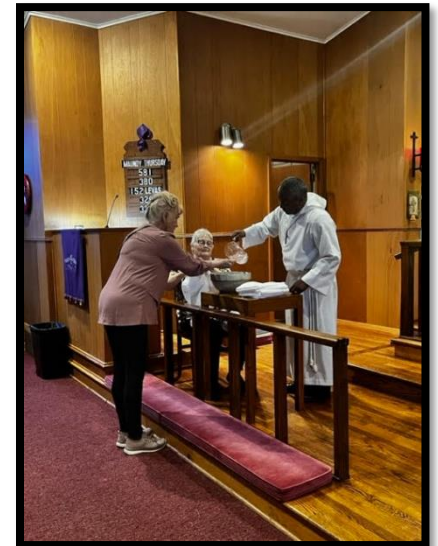
The Narrative of the Passion Gospel was read by several assigned parishioners with the congregation at the end pro





## MAUNDY THURSDAY

Maundy Thursday service was April 6th at 6:00pm. It was well attended by St. Matthew's parishioners and Fr. Jeff offered the ceremony of foot washing and hand washing.



The St. Matthew's singers sang beautifully Under the direction of Music Director Patti McGill.



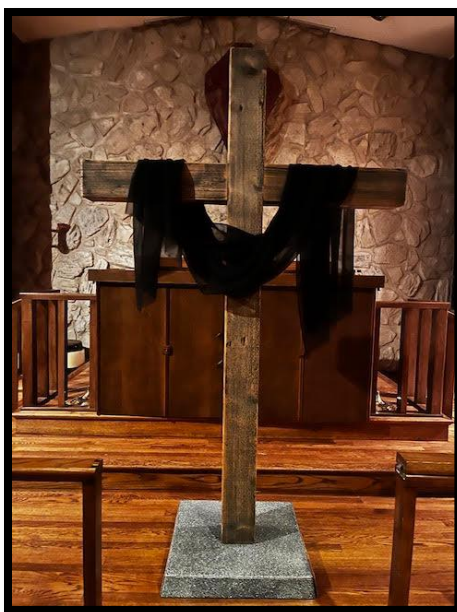
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Maundy Thursday continued.

Fr. Jeff processed to the Altar of Repose to place the veiled ciborium containing the reserve sacrament.

The Altar Guild performed the stripping and washing of the Altar as the congregation watched in silence.

Immediately following the service, the Watch began until 7:00am Good Friday morning.



Linda Gerding-reporting

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## THE WATCH

**“Could you not watch with me one hour?” ....Jesus of Nazareth**

This year, with no more COVID, the tradition of holding a vigil through the night, the “Watch”, after the Maundy Thursday service, was able to be held again in the Church. The Altar of Repose had been serenely prepared by the Altar Guild and Fr. Jeff placed the veiled ciborium with the reserve sacrament on that altar, during the Maundy Thursday service. The Watch was scheduled from 8:00pm to 7:00am on Good Friday.

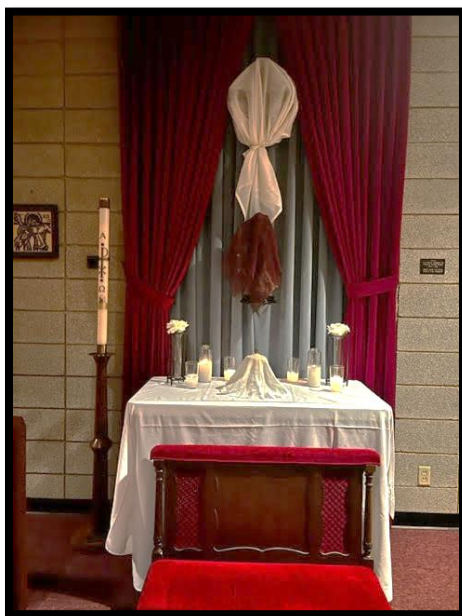
The Watch continued.

Every time slot was filled for the Watch, with some people doing double shifts (Carl Turlin and Zella Forsythe). We were happy that Dave and Linda Batson were able to “watch” after having to miss due to a fall by Dave in the parking lot after last year’s Maundy Thursday service.

Peace and gratitude to the following:

Fr. Jeff Hurst	Brenda Hurst
Dave Batson	Linda Batson
Janie Matson	Patti McGill
Janet Anderson-Brown	Judy Roberts
Brenda Laney	Jim Laney
Mary Cease	Charles Cease
Zella Forsythe	Carl Turlin
Linda Gerding	

Linda Gerding-Reporting





## GOOD FRIDAY

### April 7, 2023

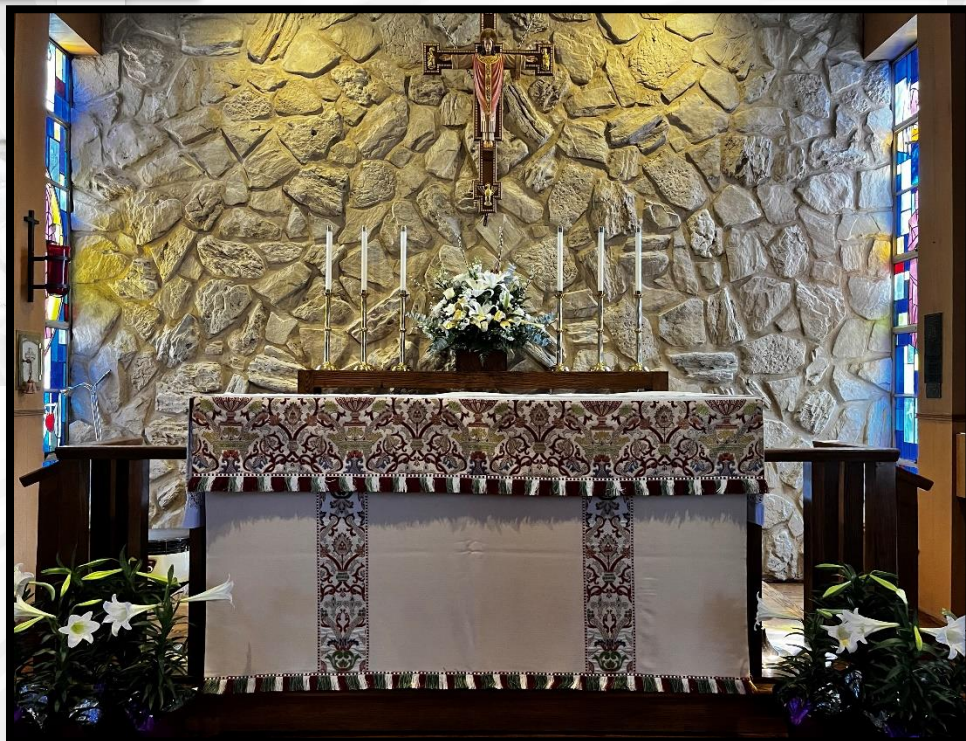
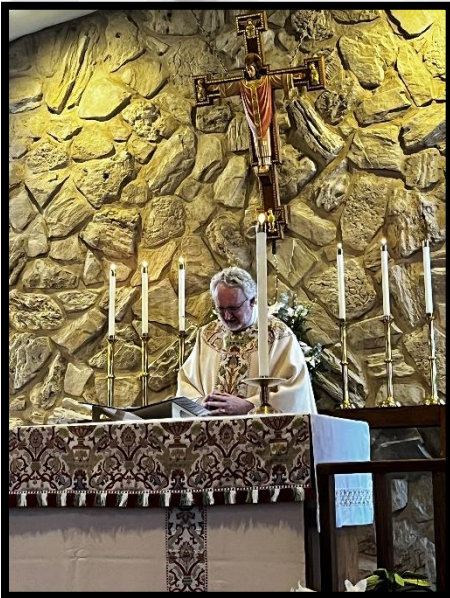
St. Matthew's observed two Good Friday services this year. The service at 12:00 noon was the traditional reading of the Passion Gospel along with solemn collects, psalms, and anthems. This service also included The Veneration of the Cross. "This is the wood of the cross, on which hung the Savior of the World."





# EASTER SUNDAY

## “HE IS RISEN”





Easter Sunday continued.





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## Caring for kids KC



Is one of the many organizations that St. Matthew's has chosen to partner with to spread God's love throughout the community. I am our representative for our church. I attend monthly meetings and have undergone a background check so that I can volunteer at Robinson functions. The Daughters of the King have written notes of encouragement for the Robinson staff and the hospitality committee has graciously donated snacks and goodies for many occasions. I would like for us as a church family to also add the Raytown school district to our prayer life. The children and families of Raytown continue to need our support and encouragement.

Thank you  
Christina Brooks

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## Saying good-bye for now...

As most of you know Stacy, Tom and Alex Wagstaff are moving to Texas at the end of May. Stacy and I have been together as the boys have grown up from little boys to men. Stacy teaching and various artistic endeavors. Tom trained for various duties at the Police Department and even through his traumatic injury at work, all of us supporting this new journey. We have grown up together as a family, through the ups and downs and everything in between. Now, it is time for us to celebrate the gift that their fellowship, love and support brought us. We wish you the best, love, and support, even if it is in Texas.

Please join us in celebrating on May 7<sup>st</sup> after church. Sign-up sheet in the narthex.

Tearfully submitted by Christina Brooks



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## NEW KITCHEN FAUCET



Have you noticed the new faucet in the kitchen? Courtesy of Judy Taylor, who had a very nice chrome goose neck faucet with a pullout sprayer, that she donated to St. Matthew's. With approval of the Vestry, Sexton Dean Patterson installed the upgrade and it looks VERY nice. Check it out next time you put your coffee cup in the sink.

Linda Gerding-Reporting



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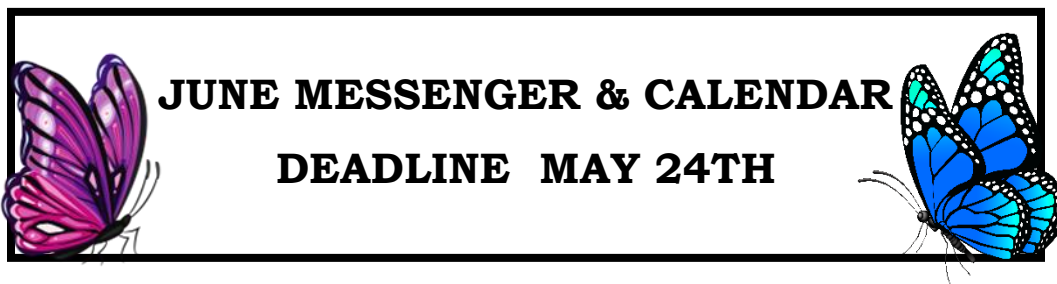
## COFFEE HOUR & DONUTS

Coffee Hour Hosts would like to acknowledge and shout out a big "Thank You" to Mary and Charles Cease who faithfully, most every Sunday, pick-up from Ridgewood Donuts the standing order, and deliver it to St. Matthew's. Mary drives and Charles delivers the yummy donuts for the Coffee Hour Host to get them placed on the tray for everyone's enjoyment after the service.

Thank you Mary and Charles for this much

appreciated Time and Talent service for your parish family!

Linda Gerding-reporting







## MY MOTHER KEPT A GARDEN

My Mother kept a garden,  
a garden of the heart,  
She planted all the good things  
that gave my life it's start.  
She turned me to the sunshine  
and encouraged me to dream,  
Fostering and nurturing  
the seeds of self-esteem...  
And when the winds and rain came,  
she protected me enough-  
But not too much because she knew  
I'd need to stand up strong and tough.  
Her constant good example  
always taught me right from wrong-  
Markers for my pathway  
that will last a lifetime long.  
I am my Mother's garden.  
I am her legacy-  
And I hope today she feels the love  
reflected back from me.

-Kelly Z.

**"Happy Mother's Day"**

Linda Batson, Daughters of the King



## ***Flying Solo***



Flying Solo went to see AIR on Saturday, April 15, and afterwards went to the China Dragon to eat. The movie was enjoyable and we were blessed to have Yael and Beci join us for dinner. It was fun to catch up with them.

Mary Cease

## **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)