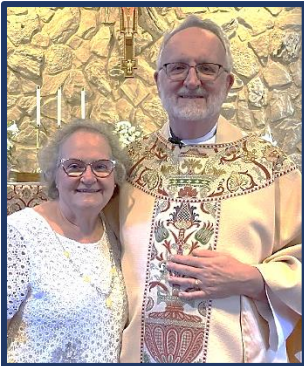


April 2024

The Messenger

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
9349 E. 65th Street
Raytown, Missouri 64133



Dear Church family,

Alleluia! Christ is Risen! I am very grateful for everyone who participated in the Lenten Wednesday evening Zoom meetings. I am always amazed at the great faithfulness of all those who led and attended our weekly Friday Stations of the Cross gatherings. I thought our Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services were especially meaningful for us before we arrived with rejoicing on Easter Sunday.

Patti McGill and the choir were especially anointed as they sang and helped lift our voices and hearts up to God in worship and praise. A huge thank you to our altar guild worked who tirelessly in preparing the nave for services and assisting in our Eucharistic meals.

As we begin our journey into Eastertide, I hope we can remember how Christ continued to meet with and encourage the disciples after His resurrection with special appearances. It's not hard to imagine the emotional state of the disciples after these events. Locked doors didn't keep Jesus from them. Thomas needed a little more proof of the resurrection and Jesus showed up to show him the nail prints in his hands (wrist) and the wound in his side. Peter and the disciples, perhaps in their uncertainty, decide to spend a night fishing with no success and Jesus guided them to a big catch of fish and cooked them a meal. Jesus lovingly let Peter reaffirm his devotion. A few disciples left the town discouraged that Jesus had died and met Jesus in disguise on the Road to Emmaus. As they complained to this supposed stranger, Jesus again explained the scriptures to them about who He was and then showed up as they broke bread. When God shows up, we begin to see with renewed faith. Please remember--Jesus desires to meet with us each Sunday in the holy Eucharist in the bread and the wine!

Be encouraged as you continue your life journey. In all the ups and downs of life, Jesus has already assured us His presence is with us forever even when our lives seem complicated. Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

Fr Jeff

St. Matthew's Staff

The Rev. William Jeff Hurst

Rector

Sherry Minzey

Admin. Assistant

Patti McGill

Music Director

Officers

Jason Brooks

Senior Warden

Carl Turlin

Junior Warden

Brenda Laney

Treasurer

Linda Gerding

Secretary

Service Times

Sunday Worship

Holy Eucharist Rite II

10:00 a.m.

Streamed on YouTube

HOLY WEEK & EASTER SUNDAY at ST. MATTHEWS

STATIONS OF THE CROSS 3/8/24

We were privileged to have Fr. Jeff and Brenda Hurst host the Friday night light meal for this Stations of the Cross. They brought vegetable lasagna and garlic bread, Mary Cease brought pasta salad, Linda Gerding Caesar salad, and Patti McGill made a delicious lemon cake. Fr. Jeff also led the readings for this 3rd Friday in Lent assisted by Linda Gerding and Patti McGill.

Linda Gerding-reporting

The 12th Station-Jesus dies on the cross.



Fr. Jeff, Linda Gerding & Patti McGill

The Last Stations

The meal for the last “Stations” was pizza provided by Zella Forsythe. Zella also brought potato salad and apple pie. Linda Gerding brought the “now traditional” Caesar salad, and Marci Turlin also brought two (Weight Watcher’s) strawberry chiffon pies.

Zella brought everyone a packaged cellophane bag that you pound on to have it inflate with a little ornament inside. The person whose bag inflated and popped open first got to be the first in line to eat. Like waiting for micro-wave popcorn, we all sat around waiting for our bags to pop! Zella got to go first, Patti McGill’s bag was defective, and I think Judy Taylor ‘s finally popped when it was time for dessert. It was a fun way to finish out Stations; also, with a nice group of 12 in attendance. Thanks, Zella!

Everyone waiting for their bags to pop!

Note inflated bags on table.

Judy Taylor with plate in hand waiting for the “pop”!

Linda Gerding – reporting



Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday service began in the sanctuary with Fr. Hurst blessing the palms.



The congregation processed around the parking lot and back into the church.



The choir led in singing
“All Glory, Laud, and Honor”.

Amen!
Linda Gerding-reporting

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Hand or Feet Washing

3/28/24



New Memorial linens on the Altar



Marci Turlin having her feet washed.



Linda Batson washing Charles Cease's hands.

Stripping the Altar



"The Watch"



Good Friday Noon Service



Fr. Jeff



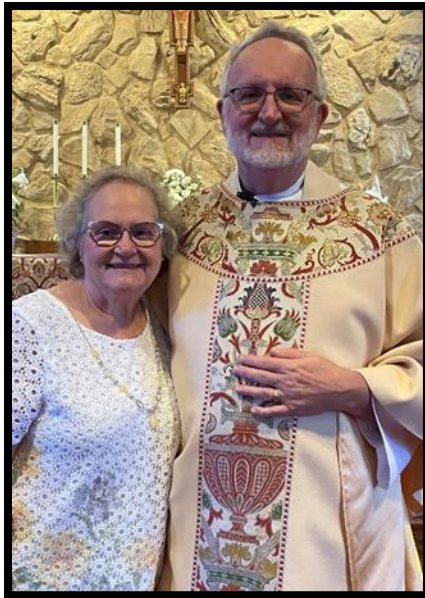
Special music from the choir.





Easter

he is risen



Easter



ST. MATTHEW'S COMMUNITY OF CHAPLAINS

Community of Chaplains had their March meeting hosted by Linda Gerding. In the theme of St. Patrick's Day table decorations were green with shamrocks and a little leprechaun. For brunch Linda brought breakfast pizza and oranges and Marci Turlin filled in with homemade Weight Watcher's cinnamon rolls (which were delicious). Readings for the day were a short bio of St. Patrick, the daily reading from *The Rule of Saint Benedict*, and the chapter on "Nostalgia" from Joan Chittister's *Gift of Years*.

Linda Gerding -reporting



SPRING YARD CLEAN-UP

On Saturday March 23, 2024 nine parishioners worked from 1:00-4:00pm to spruce up the property: Carl Turlin, Marci Turlin, Carlos Arroyo, Linda Gerding, Jim & Brenda Laney, Jason Brooks, Mary & Charles Cease. Lawn bags were taken to the Turlin's home to be emptied in the woods behind their home. Thanks Turlins! Linda Gerding Reporting



Mary & Charles Cease



Linda Gerding



Jason Brooks



Carlos Arroyo



Marci Turlin



Carl Turlin



Jim Laney power washing



**Before & after power washing:
black square is before.**



**12 lawn bags
(Brenda Laney not pictured)**



Flying Solo

On Saturday, March 16, our movie was Arthur the King, an adventurous, heartwarming true story, about a bond between a pro adventure racer and a scrappy street dog companion, that followed the team for 10 days and 435 miles. Very emotional, for me anyway, but good. Good ending!

Afterwards, we ate at Las Fuentes Mexican Bar and Grill on Douglas.

Mary



LADIES LUNCHEON

On Thursday afternoon March 7, 2024, Brenda Laney hosted a luncheon at her home for all the ladies of St. Matthew's Parish. Unfortunately, those who were still working were unable to attend, but the ten that were able to join in had a delightful time socializing.

Brenda had made chicken salad sandwiches for everyone and the ladies brought an array of salads, along with Janie Matson's deviled eggs, to add to the meal. Brenda had also baked two delicious cakes for dessert: a lemon cake, and the Williamsburg Orange cake, one of

Jim Laney's favorites. 😊

Thank you Brenda for your hospitality and being such a great hostess.

Linda Gerding -reporting



Being Fully Present is Invigorating

It can be so tempting to divide my attention, to try to do several things at once. But rather than increasing my efficiency, multitasking actually fritters away my energy and focus.

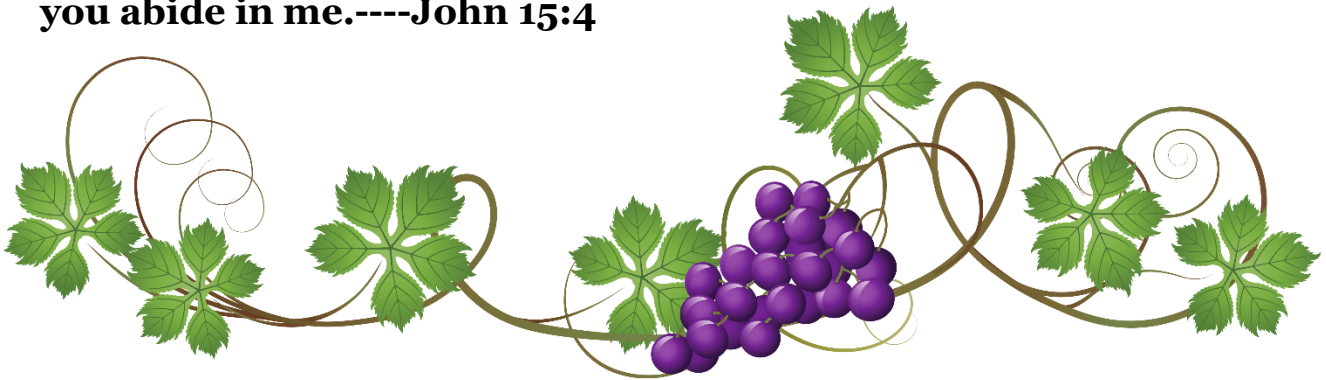
Today I give my full attention to all I choose to do. I find time expands and I move quickly through each task. My focus is sharp, and my energy builds until I feel invigorated.

This fresh, enlivening energy is divine life flowing through me. It is inspiration I feel when I am fully immersed in what I am doing. It is the zeal that inspires me to get started and the life that keeps me going.

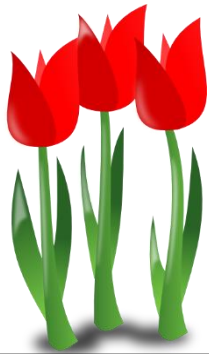
No longer struggling with divided attention, I am invigorated. I am focused, fully present, and energetic.

Teresa

Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me.----John 15:4



*Linda Batson
Daughters of the King*



April 24th

May



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)

St. Matthew's YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/@st.matthewschurchraytown2730>



"If telemarketers call, invite them to church."