

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

# ***Spirit of St. Matthew's***

167 Spring Valley Road, Paramus, NJ

## **Christmastide 2021**

Christmastide, also known as Christmastime or the Christmas season, is a season of the liturgical year in most Christian churches.

For most Christian denominations, such as the Roman Catholic Church, the Anglican Church and the Methodist Church, Christmastide begins on December 24<sup>th</sup> at sunset or Vespers, which is liturgically the beginning of Christmas Eve. Most of December 24<sup>th</sup> therefore, is not part of Christmastide, but of Advent, the season of the church year that precedes Christmastide. In many liturgical calendars, Christmastide is followed at sunset on January 5<sup>th</sup>, known as Twelfth Night, by the closely related season of Epiphanytide.

There are several celebrations within Christmastide, including Christmas Day (December 25), St. Stephen's Day (December 26), Childermas, or Children's Mass, Feast of the Holy Innocents commemorating of the massacre of children in Bethlehem by Herod in his attempt to kill the infant Jesus (December 28), New Year's Eve (December 31), the Feast of the Circumcision of Christ or the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (January 1), and the Feast of the Holy Family (date varies). The Twelve Days of Christmas terminate with Epiphany Eve, or Twelfth Night (the evening of January 5).

During the Christmas season, various festivities are traditionally enjoyed and buildings are adorned with Christmas decorations, which are often set up during Advent. These Christmas decorations include the Nativity Scene, Christmas tree, and various Christmas ornaments. In the Western Christian world, the two traditional days on which Christmas decorations are removed are Twelfth Night, the Baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist, or Candelmas. Candelmas commemorates the ritual purification of Mary, 40 days after the birth of her son Jesus. The festivity also marks the ritual presentation of the baby Jesus to God in the Temple at Jerusalem. The festival is called Candlemas because this was the day that all the Church's candles for the year were blessed.

On Christmas Eve or Christmas Day it is customary for most households in the Christian community to attend a service or worship. During the season of Christmastide, in many Christian households, a gift is given for each of the Twelve Days or Christmastide, while in others, gifts are only given on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day or Twelfth Night, the first and last days of the festive season. The practice of giving gifts during Christmastide, according to Christian tradition, is symbolic of the presentation of the gifts by the Three Wise Men to the Infant Jesus. *(This bit of history courtesy of Wikipedia and Britannica Online)*

## St. Matthew's Celebration of Christmastide

The St. Matthew's family celebrated Christmas together with an in-person service on Christmas Eve. Covid protocols were observed with masks and social distancing. The Rev. Sharon Sheridan Hausman presided. Music was provided by our organist, Owen Davitt and a musical group including Erin Hahn on Viola, Meghan Hahn on Oboe, Carl Hausman on Cello, and Owen on Alto Clarinet. They played wonderful Christmas music with arrangements done by Owen. At the conclusion of the service, everyone processed outside to sing Silent Night by candlelight.

On Christmas Morning we worshipped with Rev. Dr. Yesu. The service was filled with beautiful Christmas music performed by Owen, highlighted by a wonderful sermon by the great preacher, Father Yesu.



The annual ECW mitten tree was a big success! The ECW wishes to thank everyone for their generous contributions of gloves, hats and toys to this annual event. Helen Chubb coordinates with the Paramus Women's Club who made a huge donation of mittens and hats and toys. These were donated to the children at the Holley Center in Hackensack. Helen and Linda Cherven delivered these items a week before Christmas week.

### Now that the "Holiday Season" is over,

we continue to search for and follow the real meaning of Christmas. Look at the following examples:

- \* Mary and Joseph *trusted* God.
- \* We are invited to *open* the door.
- \* The angel *spread the "good news* of great joy that will be for all people."
- \* A host of angels *praised* and *worshipped* God and *encouraged* "goodwill to all".
- \* We can also *worship together* and *spread goodwill* in many ways.
- \* Luke shows us the shepherds who *searched* for "what the Lord had told us about."
- \* The shepherds then "*spread the word* concerning what had been told about this child."
- \* Matthew wrote of the Magi, who were *seekers*.
- \* God provided the Magi *direction* with a star. Can we *see God* in His creation?

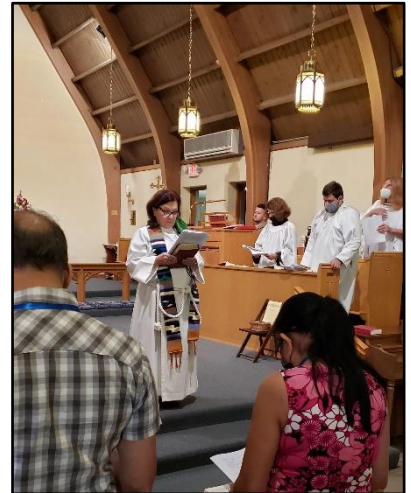
What would you add to this list?

As you reflect on the miracle of Jesus' birth, may you continue to seek and put into practice the true meaning of Christmas. Amen.

# Looking Back over 2021

It's been a difficult year observing Covid restrictions this year. When things seems to be improving we find reasons to go backwards again. In-Person services has been ongoing at St. Matthew's in addition to streaming on YouTube, thanks to George Hahn. We are so fortunate to have his technical talents to accomplish this every week.

We are also sharing our services with Church of the Annunciation, Oradell. They are welcome to worship with us here whenever they are without a priest and likewise, we are welcome to worship there. On occasion our priest will preside at their church and Owen provides his wonderful music there for those services. Here is a picture of Rev. Liz Golub reading the Gospel at Church of the Annunciation Church, Oradell. Owen is at the organ.



This year Halloween fell on a Sunday. Our celebrant that day was Rev. Sharon Sheridan Hausman who got right into the spirit of the day. She joined the rest of the attendees by wearing funny hats during the service.





## Parish News

The Diocese of Newark has issued an update to the COVID Protocol as of 12-10-21. According to New Jersey (NJ) – COVID Vaccine & Risk Tracker – Covid Act Now every parish is either red or dark red status. In light of the new variant, the Bishop strongly encourages the following COVID Protocol:

- Masks for all for the whole service.
- Communion: bread only
- Social Distancing
- Diligent hand sanitizing. Please use the provided hand sanitizer on the way into the church.
- No congregational singing even with masks. Only Owen will sing: this includes service music (i.e. Doxology, Sanctus).

**Sunday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, The First Sunday After the Epiphany** - Our worship service will be celebrated by the Rev. Deacon Jacques Girard via Zoom from his home in Florida. The invitation to join the Zoom is the following:

**Topic: 1/9/22 Zoom Service**

**Time: Jan 9, 2022 10:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86035229357?pwd=UWsrRTREUkZ5WEpGbzc4VDdISlhldz09>

**Meeting ID: 860 3522 9357**

**Passcode: 1234**

**One tap mobile**

**+13126266799,,86035229357#,,,,\*1234# US (Chicago)**

**+19292056099,,86035229357#,,,,\*1234# US (New York)**

**Dial by your location**

**+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)**

**+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)**

**+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)**

**+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)**

**+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)**

**+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)**

**Meeting ID: 860 3522 9357**

**Passcode: 1234**

**Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kdZeotAI2>**

**2022 Altar Flowers and Sanctuary Candles** - To reserve your desired dates for these please contact Linda Finnegan, manager of the calendar, at 973-928-5508 or 201-370-8192 or by email: [lfinn24@gmail.com](mailto:lfinn24@gmail.com). Checks should be made payable to St. Matthew's Church with "Altar flowers for (name and requested date)" or "Sanctuary candle for (name and requested date)" noted on the memo line.

**2022 Financial and time/talent Pledges** - Please don't forget to submit yours. Your support is crucial to the success of St. Matthew's. Extra cards are available at the back of the church.

**2022 Liturgical Calendars** are available at the back of the church. Thank you to the Vander Plaat Memorial Home for this annual donation.

**Our Third Bench has arrived**, thanks to the Trex Corporation's Community Recycling Program! A bench is awarded after recycling 500 pounds of plastic in a six month period. St. Matthew's has just completed its third collection. The benches are a welcome addition to the walkway.



**Bishop Carlye Hughes will be visiting St. Matthew's** on Sunday, January 30. This will be a joint visit for the congregations of St. Matthew's, Church of the Annunciation, Oradell and Church of the Atonement, Fair Lawn, hosted by St. Matthew's. Bishop Hughes will be celebrating the Eucharist and preaching, assisted by Rev. Elizabeth Golub. There will be a discussion period after the service where all parishioners from the three congregations can meet with the Bishop and discuss the needs and expectations of our churches.

**Other Diocesan News** - Bishop Carlye Hughes invites you to join a conversation with other members of the diocese, to reflect and consider what we, our churches, and our communities have learned and experienced during the first 22 months of pandemic.

On Thursday, January 13 at 7 PM we will hold a Lay Conversation with Bishop Hughes. Scheduled for 90 minutes, this Zoom conversation is open to all members of the diocese.

An email invitation will be sent Monday, January 10 to recipients of *The VOICE Online* with sign-in instructions for this Zoom meeting. This information will be shared by email to all parishioners.

To subscribe to The Voice Online visit <https://dioceseofnewark.org/publications>

## **Calendar**

Jan 9 - **First Sunday after Epiphany/Baptism of Our Lord** Rev. Jacques Girard, Preacher – via ZOOM

Jan 16 - **Second Sunday after Epiphany** Holy Eucharist 10 am Rev. Susan Schink, Celebrant and Preacher

Jan 23 - **Third Sunday after Epiphany** Holy Eucharist 10 am Rev. Liz Golub, Celebrant and Preacher

Jan 30 - **Fourth Sunday after Epiphany** Holy Eucharist 10 am Host Bishop's Visit (combined with Church of the Annunciation, Oradell and Church of the Atonement, Fairlawn)

February 4/5 - 148th **Diocesan Convention** (postponed until May)

Feb 6 - **Fifth Sunday after Epiphany** Holy Eucharist 10 am

Feb 13 - **Sixth Sunday after Epiphany** Holy Eucharist 10 am

Feb 20 - **Seventh Sunday after Epiphany** Holy Eucharist 10 am

Feb 27 - **Last Sunday after Epiphany** Holy Eucharist 10 am

March 2 - **Ash Wednesday**

March 6 - **Lent 1** Holy Eucharist 10 am

March 13 - **Lent 2** Holy Eucharist 10 am DST begins

March 20 - **Lent 3** Holy Eucharist 10 am

March 27 - **Lent 4** Holy Eucharist 10 am

### **Thank You Corner**

*This new feature of our newsletter is a place where we can send a thank you note to someone at church or to mention something we are thankful for in our lives. Please send your 'thank you' wishes to Linda LoPresti at LindaLoP@yahoo.*

I am thankful that we have learned how to use Zoom. Now we can see our friend Jacques and hear him preside over and preach at our worship even though he is miles away. – Linda LoPresti

# Birthdays & Anniversaries

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

3~Bruce Woodcock  
6~Judy Albro  
16~Brianna Greenblatt  
19~Tracy Joosten  
22~Duncan Greenblatt  
26~Barbra Joosten  
31~Nick Baccala

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

11~Laura Joosten Pantelides  
13~ Stephanie Evans  
18~Nancy Petrillo  
19~Clara Nagy  
20~Robert Chebba  
21~Ryan Coohill  
27~Ginny Marchut  
28~Richard Albro  
28~Mary Pinkerton

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

1~Stephanie Teng  
6~Kristina & Brian Lama  
6~Stacy Ullrich  
12~Nancy Newman  
14~Meghan Murphy  
20~Donald Higgins  
22~Erin Hahn  
23~Taylore Chacanis  
24~Gail Bornkamp  
25~Helen Chubb

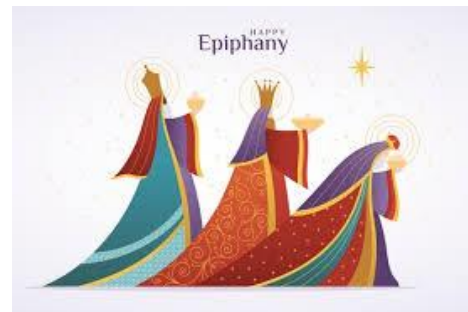
## DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

9~Rick & Nancy Newman



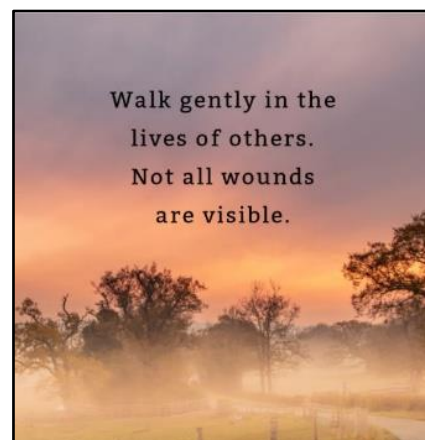
## JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

16~Robert & Karla Cheba



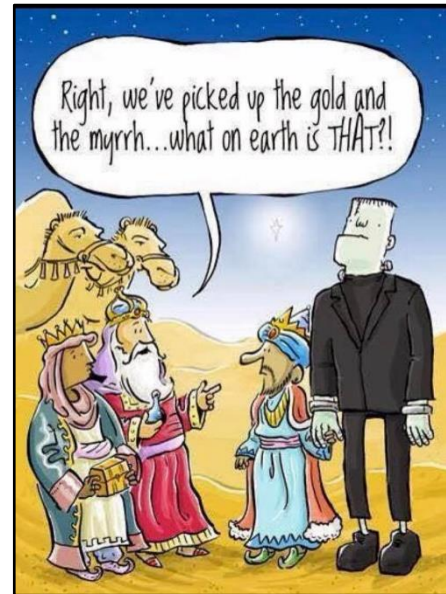
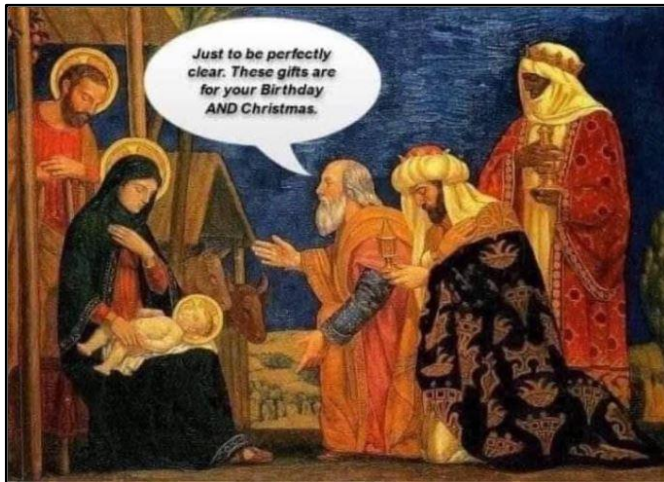
## FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

14~Ed & Laura Coohill  
25~Evelyn & Len Cheringal





# Just for Laughs . . .



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The Episcopal Church  
Welcomes You



**Senior Warden:** George Hahn

**Deacon Emeritus:** The Rev. Jacques Girard

**Parish Administrator:** Janice Walker

**Webmaster:** Shawn Herrick

**Newsletter Editor:** Linda LoPresti

*We, the Congregation of St. Matthew's, seek to know the gifts that Christ has given us, to use them as Christ would have us, in a ministry of love and encouragement to each other and the community, with God's*