

ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Spirit of St. Matthew's

167 Spring Valley Road, Paramus, NJ 201-262-5286
stmatthewsparamus.org

November 2020

Welcome Back! St. Matthew's has resumed community worship! The Feast of St. Matthew was celebrated on Sunday, September 20, 2020.

All diocesan precautions were observed including face masks, social distancing, and hand sanitizing. There was no procession to the altar, and all readings were done from behind the altar rail, to reduce the number of people moving around the sanctuary. Organ music was played but there was no singing with the exception of Owen, who is a beautiful soloist. The Communion was distributed by the Celebrant standing at the altar. Communicants lined up single file to receive it, and then carry it back to the pew to lift their mask and consume it.

The congregation was very happy to be able to worship together again. Those who wish to remain at home for a while longer may view the service live on YouTube by going to www.stmatthewsyoutube.com Previous Sunday worship services may also be viewed there.

George Hahn, our senior warden, has been very busy at the church since our last service in early March until our re-opening on September 20th. Here is an update of what he has accomplished since we were last together.

✦ The alarm panel in the parish hall which was damaged from the storm in July has been replaced. The sign in front of the church was also destroyed during that storm and a new one has been ordered. Footings will be prepared and the sign will be installed by the end of the year.

✦ The trees and shrubs in front of the church and along the driveway were cut down, bundled up and discarded in preparation for the new landscaping project.

✦ The doors, the benches and the trim outside were all given a fresh coat of red paint.

✦ The front of the church was scraped and painted in preparation for the new cross. George could be seen up on scaffolding scraping and then painting the front of the church in preparation for the cross.



✦ George and some of his co-workers then built the new cross, which represented a savings of thousands of dollars. It was painted red and LED lighting was installed behind the cross to replace the flood lights in front on the lawn.



Installation of the cross was quite an undertaking. A bucket truck was rented and the cross was lifted up and installed on the front of the church. You can see George up in the bucket during the painting and the installation.

The bell was refurbished and received a new coat of gold paint and new white pull cords.



The new cross was blessed by Rev. Liz Golub after the St. Matthew's Day Eucharist celebration on September 20.



✦ Sprinklers were donated and installed in front of the church and along the driveway in preparation for the new landscaping project. Thank you Jim Albro, for this wonderful donation.

✦ The Adopt-a-Plant landscaping project was a tremendous success. A large assortment of plants were selected to landscape the front and side of the church. All of the plants have been adopted by friends and family of St. Matthew's. Spring will be a beautiful time when everything blooms!



✦ The church was wired for broadcasting live Sunday worship services on YouTube. This involved four cameras, a computer and a control panel. You can view the Sunday services on YouTube at www.stmatthewsyoutube.com. Subscribe to St. Matthew's on YouTube and you can see all previously broadcast services if you wish.

✦ The new St. Matthew's Website is up and running. Thank you to Shawn Herrick for many hours of work to update this and make it happen. Visit us at www.stmatthewsparamus.org

✦ The broken exhaust fan from the basement of the church has been removed and will be replaced at a later date.

**Thank you George, for this enormous list of accomplishments.
The amazing work you do is a gift and a blessing to St. Matthew's.**

Other Parish News

Vestry meetings have continued monthly by Zoom. Quarantine has prevented meetings in person, but the business of the church needs to continue and Zoom has been a successful substitute.



October 4 was the celebration of the Feast of St. Francis. Due to the virus precautions, pets did not attend the service. However pictures of them were raised and given the blessing during the service. After worship Deacon Jacques was available for pets to be driven by the church to receive their blessing.

On Sunday, October 25, Whitney Scarlett O'Connell, granddaughter of George O'Connell, received the Sacrament of Baptism. The Rev. Liz Golub presided. Whitney's parents and godparents observed social distancing at the altar, while family members joined the celebration from the pews. Congratulations Whitney, and welcome to your spiritual life in Christ.



Medication disposal kits are available if you find that you have old or unused medication. Contact Linda LoPresti

Looking Forward

We will continue our Sunday Eucharist celebrations with all precautions as stated above. We have been fortunate to have The Rev. Elizabeth Golub with us for a number of alternate weeks between now and Christmas. Our Deacon Jacques Girard will continue to celebrate using the pre-consecrated elements on the other weeks.

Stewardship season is now upon us. We will be hearing from the Stewardship committee shortly. This difficult time has prevented many of us from attending worship services, but please try to complete your pledges for this year. Remember to make use of Online Giving which can be found on the front page of the new website.



Save the date, January 17, 2021 for our annual meeting. It is as yet undetermined whether we can observe social distancing and conduct it in the parish hall, or if it will take place on Zoom. Watch for more information.

Lay readers are needed now more than ever because some members of our church family are not quite ready to join in group services yet. This is an opportunity to step up and volunteer to try a new way of participating in our services. See Linda LoPresti if you are interested in reading the scripture possibly one Sunday per month.

The ECW Mitten Tree will be appearing in the church very soon. Please bring donations of scarves, hats, gloves, mittens and toys for children at the Holley Center and St. Paul's Church, Paterson.

Calendar for November

- 1** **All Saints Sunday** Holy Eucharist 10 am
Daylight Savings time ends
Celebrant and Preacher: The Rev. Liz Golub

- 8** **Pentecost 23** Holy Eucharist 10 am
Celebrant and Preacher: The Rev. Liz Golub

- 15** **Pentecost 24** Holy Eucharist 10 am
Celebrant and Preacher: The Rev. Jacques Girard, Deacon

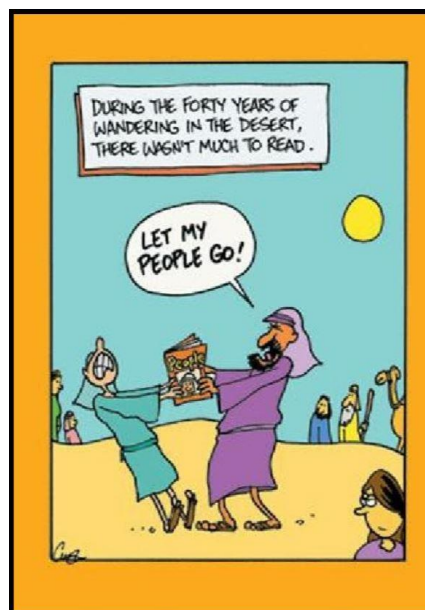
- 22** **Last Sunday after Pentecost/Christ the King** Holy Eucharist 10am
Celebrant and Preacher: The Rev. Jacques Girard, Deacon

- 26** Thanksgiving Day

- 29** **Advent 1** Holy Eucharist 10 am
Celebrant and Preacher: The Rev. Liz Golub

November Birthdays

3~Evelyn Cheringal
3~Andrew Godleski
4~Amanda Kulesza
16~Marcy Greenblatt
18~Ed Coohill
18~Richard Mark Evans
18~Brandt Rohdieck
19~Carolyn Mark
20~Richard Knapp
23~Kimberly Joosten
26~Thayer Woodcock



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Deacon: 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 help.