

# The Way

**The Newsletter of St. Matthew's  
Episcopal Church  
The Episcopal Church of Worcester**

## **St. Matthew's Church**

695 Southbridge St.  
Worcester, MA 01610

(508) 755-4433, office  
[stmatthewsworcester@gmail.com](mailto:stmatthewsworcester@gmail.com)

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Douglas J. Fisher  
Donald Irving, Organist/Choir Director  
Audrey Cronin, Parish Secretary

*I am about to do a new thing;  
now it springs forth,  
do you not perceive it?*

[Isaiah 43.19]

**February 2020  
The Season of  
Epiphany**

**Thoughts from your  
Interim Priest**

### **Worship:**

Wednesday 10:00am  
(followed by Coffee Hour & Bible Study)  
Saturday 5:00 pm  
Sunday 10:00 am  
Church School 9:45 am  
1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the Month  
8:00 am

Our website address is:

[www.stmatthewsworcester.org](http://www.stmatthewsworcester.org)



<https://www.facebook.com/St-Matthews-Worcester>

Dear Friends,

I am truly without words to thank you for your gracious and generous farewell. The music during the service was wonderful, the reception was extravagant and joyful, and your gifts were beautiful. Thank you, too, for the purse that you granted me. You have made it possible for Dale and I to enjoy some unanticipated vacation time together. I did not expect you to do so much, but I should not have been surprised. A year ago you welcomed me without hesitation, and throughout the past year we have walked and served together with open hearts and a clear vision. I was repeatedly surprised by the grace of St. Matthew's. In a strange and inexplicable way, I became a new priest with you and I will always be grateful.

In Christ, Mother Judith

## Stewardship

### Shining Our Light

*“You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden, nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your father in heaven.” Matthew 5:14-16*



“Building on what has been given me by God’s gift, and looking forward with hope

and faith, I pledge to offer my prayers for God’s mission at Saint Matthew’s Parish and for my own growth in love and discipleship.

Building on the generous work and ministry of others who have come before me at Saint Matthew’s Parish, I pledge to participate in the on-going ministry and work of the parish in the coming year.”

Did you know that this “Stewardship Statement” is on the back side of your pledge card? So, **actually**, the appeal is that we “pledge” in three different ways. First, on the front of the pledge card we are asked to pledge a monetary amount. But on the back side of the pledge card, we are asked to pledge to offer prayers for not only God’s mission at Saint Matthew’s but for our “own growth in love and discipleship”. We are being encouraged to pray, in earnest, that WE each exercise our spiritual muscles and realize the profound love WE are each capable of giving. Lastly, we pledge to participate in various ministries at Saint Matthew’s. WE each get to volunteer to help in concrete ways – joining a ministry that we were not involved with before or expanding our volunteerism where we are able to help.

Brother Eldridge Pendleton, Society of Saint John the Evangelist wrote...”our response can be to own the liberation offered us to live fully and give ourselves and what we have with bold generosity.” I feel like WE each exemplify this statement with each *pledge* that we make.

~Charlotte Townsend

## Episcopal Church Men

The Episcopal Church Men meet on the second Saturday of every month for breakfast, reflection on Scripture, and discussion of ways to serve St. Matthew’s and the wider community. At our



January meeting we removed the wooden desk from the Rector’s Office and replaced it with the

metal desk from Fr. Freeman’s Office. Books and kitchen materials were placed in the basement rooms. The next meeting will be on **Saturday February 8<sup>th</sup> at 9 am** at the Rectory, 17 Exeter Dr., Auburn to spruce up and clean the Rectory.

## The Women of St. Matthew’s

The Episcopal Church Women will meet on **February 15<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm** in the Parlor. We will be planning our agenda for the rest of the year. Our Indoor Yard Sale will be held on **March 14, 2020**.

Thank you. Millie Cummings

## MISSIONS OF THE MONTH The 30-hour famine

*LOVE GOD. SERVE THE HUNGRY. DO THE FAMINE. Every year, hundreds of thousands of students in the U.S. and around the world unite to do the Famine. Join them, and your group will learn about hunger, raise funds to help the hungry, and then go hungry yourselves for 30 hours. World Vision sponsors this event and prepares materials for reading and prayer.*

This month we will prepare to participate as a parish in the 30-hour Famine (10pm Friday February 28<sup>th</sup> – 8 am Sunday morning March 1st). Only youth in 6<sup>th</sup> grade and above will participate in activities at the church beginning at 10 am on Saturday February 29<sup>th</sup>, but all families will have the opportunity to participate remotely through prayer, fasting, and reflection. Each Sunday we will accept financial donations to support World Vision hunger programs. (Please make checks payable to St. Matthew's with *30-Hour Famine* on the memo line.) In order to hold the youth programs at the church we will need additional adult chaperones to serve for 3-hour shifts on Saturday and overnight. Watch for more information.

### The South Worcester Neighborhood Center



*. In the Lord's Prayer, the first petition is for daily bread. No one can worship God or love his neighbor on an empty stomach.*

Woodrow Wilson

## FOOD AND PERSONAL ITEMS

Thank you for your continued donations each week of food and personal items. **CEREAL** is still top priority. Personal items include soap, toothpaste, and shampoo.

Thank you once again!

Sincerely,  
Robin Chenarak

### RenewalWorks



30-Hour Famine: 10 pm Friday February 28 – 8 am Sunday March 1st

*LOVE GOD. SERVE THE HUNGRY. DO THE FAMINE. Every year, hundreds of thousands of students in the U.S. and around the world unite to do the Famine. Join them, and your group will learn about hunger, raise funds to help the hungry, and then go hungry yourselves for 30 hours. World Vision sponsors this event and prepares materials for reading and prayer.*

The 30-Hour Famine is a long tradition of youth ministry at St. Matthew's. Every year, our youth (grades 6 & above) have gathered at the church for an overnight of activities, prayer, reflection; joining with youth groups throughout the country, they have fasted from 10 pm Friday night until 8 am Sunday morning, when adults prepare a breakfast for them. As in past years, The youth will give a presentation during the 10 am service on Sunday March 1st.

This year, your Spiritual Formation Committee is working with the youth group mentors (Staci and Kelly MacGregor) to make this a parish-wide practice. While no children younger than 6th grade will participate in the youth activities at the church, we will have materials for families to take part in the fast and the prayers at home. To learn more, go to [30hourfamine.org](http://30hourfamine.org). This is a very meaningful way to begin Lent and to welcome your new Rector, Fr. John McGinty, to begin ministry this weekend.

#### All Parish Read:

Before we can surrender ourselves we must become ourselves. No one can give up what they do not possess. [Thomas Merton]

The Spiritual Formation Committee and the Sconeheads have selected *The Desert: An Anthology for Lent* by John Moss (Morehouse Publishing, 1997) for our all-parish read for Lent. This is a collection of daily meditations from Scripture and spiritual writers that guide each of us in the spiritual practices of simplicity, solitude, and silence. The SFC will order books to be available for borrowing or purchase by February 23rd. The coffee hour discussion will be held on Sunday, March 29th.

*In thanksgiving for our ongoing journey,*

The Spiritual Formation Committee

Liz Kilpatrick & Cathy Goodwin, co-Chairs;

Linda and Ben Albinson, Paula Buonomo,

George Gailor, Festus Konneh, Kelly

MacGregor, Wendy Piscitelli, and Nancy Smith

**Deadlines in February:  
February 20th - March issue of  
The Way**



*Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.*

[Hebrews 13:2]

Our January 26<sup>th</sup> Friendship Dinner was a joyful celebration, led by the Baldwin Family singing songs from popular American musicals. We welcomed a large group of volunteers from Holy Cross who helped with serving, hospitality, and kitchen cleanup.

St. Matthew's vision and mission has from the beginning been to offer more than a warm meal to neighborhood guests. We are committed not only to sharing *our* time and gifts with our guests, but also to bringing together diverse partners from nearby schools, colleges, and organizations. It is not always easy to schedule entertainers or getting help with servers but that challenge is precisely what we have discerned to be God's call and purpose for St. Matthew's. We need everyone's help with organizing, inviting, and serving.

We are very excited about our plans for the Spring. Thanks to your generosity, we have enough pasta to serve through June. The freshly-baked desserts are always a big hit, and we welcome those every month. We also welcome help with setting up, serving, and cleaning up. Most of all, your presence with your family and friends mean the most.

Here is our spring schedule:

#### **February 23<sup>rd</sup> Mardi Gras**

Entertainment by the Clark Bars, an a capella group from Clark University, and volunteers from Holy Cross Black athletes

#### **March 22<sup>nd</sup> St. Patrick's Day**

Entertainment by Chuck Hamilton, Music Minister at Sacred Heart/St. Catherine of Sweden – Irish music

**April 26<sup>th</sup> Spring: Earth Day**

Entertainment by the South High School Band ensembles: a trumpet trio  
Volunteers from Worcester State University

**May 24<sup>th</sup> Memorial Day Weekend**

Entertainment by the Worcester Chorale  
Volunteers from St. Matthew's

**June 28<sup>th</sup> The Beginning of Summer**

Entertainment by musicians from the Liberian Community  
Volunteers from St. Matthew's

*Audrey Cronin* will be the administrative coordinator for publicity, volunteers, and performers.

*Cathy Goodwin* will be Project Manager. She and *Melissa Sock* will coordinate volunteers and logistics at each dinner

*Staci MacGregor* will coordinate the monthly shopping with *Ron LaFlash*, who will oversee safety certifications, equipment, and food purchases.

*Peter Green* will work with *Ron LaFlash* as our chef.

*Linda Albinson & Pam Wilson* will oversee the dessert table.

*Ben Albinson* will oversee the dishwashing.

*Kelly MacGregor* will be a "floating" member of the kitchen team.

*Lynn Ryan, Ellie Keohane, and Paula Buonomo* will do the setup and décor.

We are at the beginning of a wonderful journey, and we give thanks for your vision and faithfulness.

Bring a Friend . . .  
Meet a Friend . . .  
Make a Friend

**4 Corners Entertainment:**  
**February 23<sup>rd</sup>: Mardi Gras**  
**The Clark Cards: A Capella Group**  
**from Clark University**  
**March 22<sup>nd</sup> – St. Patrick's Day**  
**Irish Music & Humor**  
**with Chuck Hamilton**

### Parish Secretary's Notes

I will be updating the prayer list for March 1<sup>st</sup>. Please let me know the name of those you would like to keep on the list. All others will be removed. Thank you.

### BULLETIN BOARD

The Bulletin Board is finished!!!!  
Please add information to your respective section and keep the information current.  
THANK YOU to Robin Chenarak for supplying the materials and for both Robin and Vitaya for doing such a beautiful job organizing and preparing the board.

Also, the updated **Parish Directory** is ready to be printed. One on display on the Bulletin Board. Please check that your information is correct. If not, correct it in the Directory and it will be updated. Thank you.

*Audrey Cronin, Parish Secretary*

## Sunday School & Youth Group

Sunday School Classes

will meet every Sunday in February, and there will be no Family Service on February 1st. Our topic will be “Learning to do good.” We will be preparing for Lent and we will be preparing to welcome Fr. John as your new Rector on March 1st. We will also begin talking about the Bishop’s Visitation on March 15th.

For Lent this year every child will have a mite box for coins every Sunday. We will contribute our funds to the 4 Corners Friendship Kitchen, to purchase 2 high chairs/booster seats for our youngest guests.

We will plan with Fr. John to have a Holy Communion class for children later this spring.

Our Youth Group will be preparing for the parish-wide 30-Hour Famine to be held on February 29-March 1st. Youth Group meetings are suspended until later in 2020. We will be working with the Spiritual Formation Committee to prepare materials for families to fast, reflect on hunger, and pray together during this weekend.

## Altar Guild



Ash Wednesday is February 26<sup>th</sup> this year and begins the forty days of Lent which extends through Holy Saturday, omitting Sundays. Christians are invited “to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-

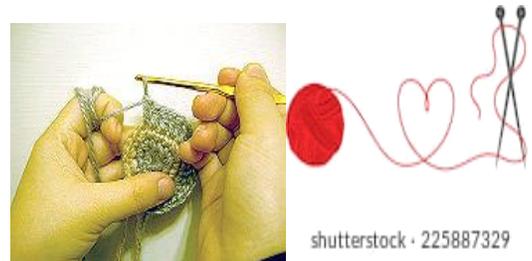
denial and by reading and meditating on God’s holy Word” (BCP pg. 265).

The colors at Saint Matthew’s are an off white, the color of Jesus’ burial garments, with a deep maroon crown of thorns. During Holy Week the colors of the priest’s robe, stole, and communion stack are solid maroon or deep red, symbolic of the blood of Christ.

Hope you’re enjoying learning about the Church Seasons – because I’m learning about them too!

~Charlotte Townsend

## Knitting and Crocheting Ministry



*“I make beautiful things with yarn.”  
Stitching Together*

We met on Saturday, January 2, 2020 from 10:00-12:00 in the Parish Hall. Most of us were knitting or crocheting Prayer Shawls. We also had wonderful conversations! We talked a lot about the 2019 Fair, discussing what were the top selling items. There was also some discussion about offering monthly craft projects, in addition to knitting and crocheting. As of this newsletter, no final decision was made. Please join us on Saturday, February 1, 2020, from 10-noon, (in the Parish Hall).

Sincerely,  
Robin Chenarak

**PLEASE CLIP AND SAVE,**  
**2020 Schedule**

**10:00 a.m. to noon in the Parish Hall**

Saturday, January 4, 2020  
Saturday, February 1, 2020  
Saturday, March 7, 2020  
Saturday, April 18, 2020  
Saturday, May 2, 2020  
Saturday, June 6, 2020

**We break for July and August!**

**Saturday, September 12, 2020, (in the Parlor)**

Saturday, October 3, 2020

**Saturday, November 14, 2020, (in the Parlor)**

Saturday, December 5, 2020

From local friends to those far away, we **Thank You** for all you have done! On Sunday, December 8, 2019, Mother Judith blessed winter clothing for the South Worcester Neighborhood Center, (SWNC). There were **431 items**. This included hats, scarves, mittens, gloves, slippers, socks, sweaters, buntings, skirts, shirts, onesies, pinafores and pajamas. It was so generous of all of you!

**Sconeheads**



There is more treasure in books than in all the pirate's loot on Treasure Island. - Walt Disney

The Sconeheads met on Wednesday, January 22, 2020 in The Parlor. We discussed the novel Still Life by Louise Penny. As always with this group, conversation, discussion, and food were abundant! Meat pie, cheese, olives, crackers, hummus, salmon pie, French apricot cake, homemade tomato jam,

bread, eclairs, delicate cream cookies, and I've probably missed a lot more. Sorry about that!! We said our good-byes to Mother Judith, thanking her for all she has done for St. Matthew's Church and for participating in this group. We will miss her presence and insight. The next book to be read is an All Parish read! The book chosen was: The Desert: An Anthology for Lent, by John Moses (Morehouse Publishers, 1997). This is a collection of brief daily reflections that guide us to spiritual renewal and simplicity. The Sconeheads discussion will be on Wednesday March 25th at 7 pm. The parish coffee hour discussion will be on Sunday March 29th.

We also chose our next novel to discuss after Easter: The Prayer Box by Lisa Wingate. Please join us! Thank you!!

Sincerely, Robin Chenarak

*The Lord gives wisdom;  
from his mouth come  
knowledge  
and understanding;  
He stores up sound wisdom  
for the upright;  
He is a shield to those who  
walk in integrity.*

*- Proverbs 2:6-7*



## **February Coffee Hour & Greeter Schedule**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Coffee Hour</b>	<b>Greeter</b>
2/2/20	Everyone	Pam Wilson
2/9/20	Everyone	Linda Albinson
2/16/20	Everyone	Vestry Member
2/23/20	Everyone	Lois Ann Cummings

### **Coffee Hour**

**This month we will return to the custom of individuals, families, and ministry groups signing up to host Coffee Hour on one Sunday before the end of June. Linda Albinson and Pam Wilson will provide guidance and help with serving.**

**Mark your Calendars:  
March 15, 2020  
The Bishop's Visitation:  
The Rt. Rev. Douglas Fisher**

**ATTENTION EPISCOPAL YOUNG PEOPLE**

Apply NOW for

**Bement/Waterfield  
Educational Grants**

deadline for completed application is  
**March 1st**

**Free Money!**

Download application forms from our website at:

**[www.diocesewma.org](http://www.diocesewma.org)**

Click on:

Documents and Forms—  
Grant Opportunities—  
Bement/Waterfield  
College Scholarship Grants  
Or

Write or call for application forms to:

Episcopal Diocese of Western MA  
37 Chestnut St.  
Springfield, MA 01103-1787  
(413) 737-4786



## Weekends in February –The Season of Epiphany

### Mission of the Month: 30-Hour Famine

#### **February 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>: The Presentation of our Lord, Jesus Christ in the Temple**

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>10am-noon</b>	Knitting & Crocheting Ministry – Parish Hall
	<b>5:00 pm</b>	Holy Eucharist in the Chapel – Reverend Canon Simpson -
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>8:00 am</b>	<b>NO 8:00 am SERVICE</b>
	<b>9:00 am</b>	Choir Rehearsal
	<b>9:45 am</b>	Sunday School classes meets
	<b>10:00 am</b>	Holy Eucharist – Rev. Canon Simpson – Celebrant and Preacher
	<b>11:30 am</b>	Executive Committee
	<b>Noon</b>	4 Corners Friendship Kitchen Planning Committee

#### **February 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>**

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>9:00 am</b>	Episcopal Church Men – meet at Rectory
	<b>5:00 am</b>	Holy Eucharist in the Chapel – Rev. J. Edgar Freeman – Celebrant and Preacher
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>9:15</b>	Choir Rehearsal
	<b>9:45</b>	Sunday School classes meet
	<b>10:00 am</b>	Holy Eucharist – Rev. Pamela Mott – Celebrant and Preacher
	<b>2:00 pm</b>	Epiphany Dinner hosted by St. Matthew's

#### **February 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>**

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>2:00 pm</b>	Episcopal Church Women
	<b>5:00 pm</b>	Holy Eucharist in the Chapel – Rev. J. Edgar Freeman, Celebrant and Preacher
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>	Holy Eucharist – Rev. Pamela Mott – Celebrant and Preacher
	<b>9:00 am</b>	Choir Rehearsal
	<b>9:45 am</b>	Sunday School classes meet
	<b>11:30 am</b>	Vestry

#### **February 22<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>th</sup>**

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>5:00 pm</b>	Holy Eucharist in the Chapel – Rev. J. Edgar Freeman, Celebrant and Preacher
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>9:15 am</b>	Choir Rehearsal
	<b>9:45 am</b>	Sunday School classes meet
	<b>10:00 am</b>	Holy Eucharist – Rev. Canon Simpson Celebrant and Preacher
	<b>4:00pm-6:00 pm</b>	4 Corners Friendship Dinner with performance

# Saint Matthew's Parish Calendar

## February 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Office: Monday- Thursday</b> 9:30 am-noon						1 <b>10am-noon</b> Knitting & Crocheting <b>5 pm</b> Holy Eucharist
<b>2</b> <b>The Presentation of our Lord in the Temple</b> <b>10:00 am–Holy Eucharist</b> <b>11:30 am</b> Executive Committee	3	4	5 <b>10am – Holy Eucharist</b> with Prayers for Healing in the Chapel	6	70	8 <b>9:00 am</b> Episcopal Church Men <b>5pm</b> Holy Eucharist
<b>9</b> <b>5th Sunday after Epiphany:</b> <b>9:00 am</b> Choir <b>10:00 am</b> Holy Eucharist <b>9:45 am</b> Sunday School <b>2:00 pm – Epiphany Dinner</b>	13	11	12 <b>10am – Holy Eucharist</b> with Prayers for Healing in the Chapel	13 <b>6-9 pm</b> Laundry Love	14	15 <b>2 pm - ECW</b> <b>5 pm</b> Holy Eucharist
<b>16</b> <b>6th Sunday after Epiphany</b> <b>10 am</b> Holy Eucharist <b>11:30 - Vestry</b>	17	18	19 <b>10am – Holy Eucharist</b> with Prayers for Healing in the Chapel	20	21	22 <b>5pm</b> Holy Eucharist
<b>23</b> <b>Last Sunday after the Epiphany</b> <b>10:00 am</b> Holy Eucharist <b>9:45am</b> Sunday School <b>4-6 pm</b> 4 Corners Friendship Dinner	24	58	26 Ash Wednesday 10:00 am & 7:00 pm	27	28	29 <b>5pm – Holy Eucharist</b> Welcome Fr. John McGinty 30-hour Famine  <u><b>Office Hours:</b></u> <b>9:30 am – Noon</b> <b>Monday-Thursday</b>

## Monthly Lectionary

### February 2

#### The Presentation of our lord in the Temple

Malachi 3:1-4, Psalm 84,  
Hebrews 2:14-18, Luke 2:22-40

### February 9

#### Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany:

Isaiah 58:1-9a, (9b-12) Psalm 112:1-9  
1 Corinthians 2:1-12, Matthew 5:13-20

### February 16

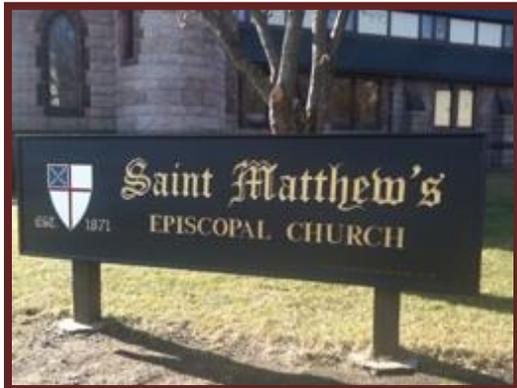
#### Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

Deuteronomy 30:15-20, Psalm 119:1-8  
1 Corinthians 3:1-9 Matthew 5:21-37

### February 23

#### The Last Sunday after the Epiphany

Exodus 24:12-18, Psalm 2  
2 Peter 1:16-21, Matthew 17:1-9



## Meetings at St. Matthew's

Sundays	6:30pm	Al-Anon (parish hall)
Mondays	7:30pm	AA (parish hall)
	10:00am	Al-Anon (parish hall)
Tuesdays	7:00pm	AA Young Beginners
	8:00pm	AA (parish hall)
Wednesdays	8:00pm	AA (parish hall)
Thursdays	8:30 am -3pm	Deaf Seniors (Parish Hall)
Fridays & Saturdays		No Meetings

### St. Matthew's Vestry

Festus Konneh, Senior Warden  
Tim Rossi, Junior Warden  
Rob Ermanski, Treasurer  
Helen Turano, Clerk  
Charlotte Townsend,  
Corresponding Secretary

### Vestry Members

George Gailor  
Debborah Symth  
Emmanuel Ndebeh  
Robin Chenark  
Stephen Smith  
Dennis Wilson

*Our Mission is to build on the past, while looking towards the future, and provide a Christian community for worship and fellowship that extends to others in joy, witness, and outreach*

*I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?[Isaiah 43:19]*