



St. Matthew's Church

695 Southbridge St.
Worcester, MA 01610

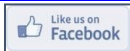
(508) 755-4433, office
stmatthewsworcester@gmail.com

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

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

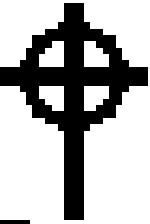
Our website address is:

www.stmatthewsworcester.org



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

The Way



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

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

[Isaiah 43.19]

**March 2020
The Season of Lent**

**Thoughts on the
Journey**

Dear Saint Matthew's,

Every year this season of Lent beautifully reminds us in its scriptures and in its disciplines of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving of the life we are called to live here and now in Christ. As the years of our lives go on, and our memories of Lent deepen, we can become aware that all through life we are being called always to something 'more.'

What is this 'more'? First of all, it is a joyful recognition that God always wants to give us more than we are yet ready to receive. More love. More inspiration. More energy to serve. More understanding of the Gospel of Christ. Always more. The second part of our 'more' is that there is always more to do. More service. More care. More adjustment to new times. More community. A more focused life of prayer.

So the 'more' embraces both being and doing. For the 'being' part, to recognize and receive what God wants to give us in divine generosity, we need above all more trust. More trust that God is constantly aware of our needs and what is best for us, and constantly offering us all that is necessary. We simply are invited to trust God more. For the 'doing' part, the prescription is the same! Our need is to grow in trust, to deepen our faithful certainty that God will provide us with the intelligence, the love, the strength that we need to 'do' more.

I am quite obviously very new to this community. I just arrived! I am looking around and seeing all the good that you are and that you are doing. I rejoice in what I have seen in this short time. But I rejoice as well that in the days ahead we will be able to recognize together the 'more' that our God calls us, and enables us, to be and to do. 'More' lies ahead for us. It will be as good as our God and as possible as our trust.

May Lent bless you more than ever this year,
Father John

Episcopal Church Men



On Saturdays, February 8 and 23, the men of the parish cleaned the Rectory, washed its windows and removed multiple, unused scrap metal from the parish and church basements. The metal was recycled with a local scrap metal vendor resulting in \$28.00. This money was donated to the 150 Capital Campaign Fund. We wish to acknowledge that Tim Rossi, Dennis Wilson, Bengh Albinson, George Gailor, Joe Chilton, Emmanuel Ndebeh, Andy Gilbert, and Stephen Smith volunteered their time and muscle to these efforts.

The next ECM meeting will be on Saturday, March 14 at 9:00 A.M. The ECM will meet for prayer, a light breakfast and tackle the cleaning of the ceiling and ceiling pipes in the Parish Choir Room. We hope that all men will volunteer for this project. See you then.

Submitted by Stephen Smith

The Women of St. Matthew's



Our Indoor Yard Sale will be held on March 14, 2020. The cost of a table is \$20. If you would like to donate items without buying a table, there will be a St. Matthew's table available.

Thank you. Millie Cummings

Monastic Musings: Fr. John Julian OJN Being Divine and Human

The Lenten Relationship: Monastic Musings
from Fr. John Julian OJN

One of the real dangers in the marriage relationship is that the couple in the marriage begins to take each other for granted and begin to think of their mates as “part of the furniture.” When that happens, it is important for the couple to bring themselves up short, to re-examine their relationship, and to set out intentionally and clearly to show the love and affection which has tended to lose its original force and power. A frequent marriage counselor's suggestion, for instance, is to begin courtship all over again with candlelight

dinners, gifts, flowers, physical intimacy and the like.

One's relationship with one's God can run the same danger of becoming ordinary. Just as the insensitive husband responds, “Of course, I love you; I pay all the bills and sleep with you, don't I?”, so the insensitive Christian can say, “Of course I love God; I pay my pledge and go to Church, don't I?” But there is something important missing in both of these relationships, and that is – in a way – what Lent is about! It is the time when one brushed off the dust and cobwebs from one's Christianity and stops taking it for granted. It is the time for renewal, commitment and revitalized practice. It is the time when one actually thinks about one's relationship with God, and resolves to handle it more intentionally and more adequately.

In a sense, then, one chooses in Lent to do all those things one would perhaps like to do on a regular basis, but has tended to let slip. One recalls oneself to the original commitments and examines how poorly one has done after the “high” of original commitment has aged (i.e., after Baptism, Confirmation or Christian marriage.)

The ideal Lenten Rule, then, involves the addition of one's life of things which – all things being equal – would be ideal as ordinary fare. It involves a clarification of one's life priorities. “Extra” things are certainly acceptable, too, since one aspect of Lent is that one is using it to prepare for the joy and hope of Eastertide. That means that one will move from self-examination and decision to make a special obligation to God during this time in order to be ready for the Queen of the Feasts.

Finally another aspect of Lenten life is the examination of available resources one has overlooked or not paid much attention to; courses, weekday services, volunteering at Church School or visiting shut-ins, etc. Lent is a good time to share one's apathy and undertake a commitment to one of these good things that are available in the ordinary life of the parish. At least do something to strengthen the Lenten relationship.

Submitted by Stephen Smith

The South Worcester Neighborhood Center



*"If you can't
feed 100 people, then feed just one." Mother
Teresa*

Thank you! St. Matthew's Members are so very generous with weekly donations of cereal, canned goods, soap, shampoo, and toothpaste. These donations are delivered weekly to the S.W.N.C.

Thank you once again.
Sincerely,
Robin Chenarak

Parish Secretary's Notes

Just a Reminder that Daylight Savings Time starts this Saturday.

DEADLINE for THE WAY for April is March 26th



*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]

March 22nd St. Patrick's Day

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

April 26th Spring: Earth Day

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

May 24th Memorial Day Weekend

Entertainment by the Worcester Chorale

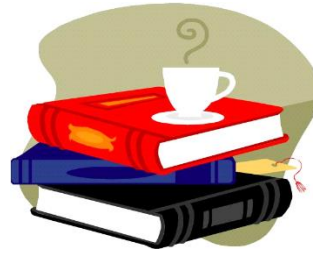
Volunteers from St. Matthew's

June 28th The Beginning of Summer

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

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

Sconeheads



“I do believe something very magical can happen when you read a good book.” J. K. Rowling

Knitting and Crocheting Ministry



We met on Saturday, February 1, 2020 from 10:00-12:00 in the Parish Hall. Through discussions, it was decided to also offer a monthly craft. Kim Rossi has volunteered to coordinate this effort! Thank you Kim!!!

The monthly craft she plans to feature can either be a make-and-take or it can be a craft that you decide to donate to The Fair! She will charge a small fee for the materials. We need to let her know in advance how many are interested in making the craft.

So, in addition to continuing with knitting and crocheting on a monthly basis, a craft will now be featured!

Our next get together was scheduled for Saturday, March 7, 2020 from 10:00 – 12:00 but due to the plumbing problems we will not be meeting.
Sincerely,

We will meet on Wednesday, March 25, 2020 @ 7:00 p.m. in the Parlor! The book we plan to discuss is: ***The Desert: An Anthology for Lent*, by John Moses, (Moorehouse Publishers, 1997)**. This is a collection of brief daily reflections that guide us to spiritual renewal and simplicity. Please join us for a lively discussion, wonderful company, and fabulous food!

This book is also an All Parish read! The additional discussion will be held on Sunday, March 29, 2020 during Coffee Hour. Again, please join us.

After Easter, we plan to discuss: ***The Prayer Box* by Lisa Wingate**. Once a date for that discussion has been determined, we will let you know. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Robin Chenarak

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



March Coffee Hour & Greeter Schedule

Date	Coffee Hour	Greeter
3/1/20	Everyone	No Greeter Needed
3/8/20	Everyone	Linda Albinson
3/15/20	Everyone	Vestry Member
3/22/20	Everyone	Lois Ann Cummings
3/29/20	Everyone	Pam Wilson

Coffee Hour

We have returned 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.

Weekends in March–The Season of Lent

Mission of the Month:

March 7th and 8th

Saturday

5:00 am Holy Eucharist in the Chapel

Sunday 9:15 Choir Rehearsal

9:45 Sunday School classes meet

10:00 am Holy Eucharist

March 14th and 15th

Saturday 9:00 am Episcopal Church Men

2:00 pm Episcopal Church Women – Indoor Yard Sale

5:00 pm Holy Eucharist in the Chapel

Sunday 10:00 am Holy Eucharist –

9:00 am Choir Rehearsal

9:45 am Sunday School classes meet

11:30 am Vestry

March 21st and 22nd

Saturday 5:00 pm Holy Eucharist in the Chapel

Sunday 9:15 am Choir Rehearsal

9:45 am Sunday School classes meet

10:00 am Holy Eucharist –

4:00pm-6:00 pm 4 Corners Friendship Dinner

March 28th and 29th

Saturday 5:00 am Holy Eucharist in the

Sunday 9:15 Choir Rehearsal

9:45 Sunday School classes meet

10:00 am Holy Eucharist –

Saint Matthew's Parish Calendar

March 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 First Sunday in Lent 10:00 am Holy Eucharist Welcome Father John McGinty	2 Office: Monday-Thursday 9:30 am-noon	3	4 10am – Holy Eucharist with Prayers for Healing in the Chapel	5	6	7 5 pm Holy Eucharist DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME Begins
8 Second Sunday in Lent 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am Holy Eucharist 9:45 am Sunday School	9	10	11 10am – Holy Eucharist with Prayers for Healing in the Chapel	12 6-9 pm Laundry Love	13	14 9:00 am Episcopal Church Men 9:00 am – Indoor Yard Sale 5pm Holy Eucharist
15 Third Sunday in Lent Bishop Fisher's Visit 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am Holy Eucharist 9:45 am Sunday School 11:30 am - Vestry	16	17	18 10am – Holy Eucharist with Prayers for Healing in the Chapel	19	20	21 5 pm Holy Eucharist
22 Fourth Sunday in Lent 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am Holy Eucharist 9:45 am Sunday School 4-6 pm – 4 Corners Friendship Dinner	23	24	25 10am – Holy Eucharist with Prayers for Healing in the Chapel 7:00 pm Sconeheads	26 Deadline for THE WAY	27	28 5pm Holy Eucharist
29 Fifth Sunday in Lent 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am Holy Eucharist 9:45 am Sunday School 11:30 am – All Parish Read Discussion	30	31	10am – Holy Eucharist with Prayers for Healing in the Chapel	27	28	<u>Office Hours:</u> 9:30 am – Noon Monday-Thursday

Monthly Lectionary

March 1

First Sunday in Lent

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7, Psalm 32
Romans 5:12-19, Matthew 4:1-11

March 8

Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 12:1-4a, Psalm 121
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17, John 3:1-17

March 15

Third Sunday in Lent

Exodus 17:1-7, Psalm 95
Romans 5:1-11, John 4:5-42

March 22

Fourth Sunday in Lent

I Samuel 16:1-13, Psalm 23
Ephesians 5:8-14, John 9:1-41

March 29

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Ezekiel 37:1-14, Psalm 130
Romans 8:6-11, John 11:1-45



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 Chenarak
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]