

Pulpit Announcements for the First Sunday of Lent February 18, 2024

Welcome to all who are here today on this
First Sunday of Lent.

Whoever you are or wherever you find yourself on the journey.
Know that here at St. Matthias, ALL ARE WELCOME!

- You are welcome to attend the Stations of the Cross at 7 pm every Friday during Lent. Different Ministries are leading this devotion with a different reflection each Friday.
- ***Saturday Mass ONLY!***
It's not too late to join in on the Zoom Movie Night, tonight at 6:30. Our feature movie is John Lewis: Good Trouble. Grab your popcorn and favorite movie candy, settle in, and watch the film at 6:30 tonight. Stay afterward for a few reflection questions on his life's work. Visit the St. Matthias website for the Zoom link.
- Don't miss the annual St. Matthias Mass in celebration of Black History Month, next Sunday at the noon Mass. Our presider will be Fr. Alphonsus Kariuki from St. John the Evangelist in Dunellen. He will be joined by Fr. Gilles Njobam from Our Lady of Piscataway in Perth Amboy, and a guest deacon Rick Fortune from the Cathedral of St. Francis. Our song leaders for the Mass will be the Cameroonian Catholics. As a bonus, we will also be featuring the SMS Black History Month Contest winners. All are welcome!
- Adoration on Mondays will continue as usual from 6-8 pm.
- The Church and School will be closed for President's Day. There will be no Mass this Monday.

Temptation is a common experience for all of us. But today's gospel tells us about the temptations of Jesus, the Son of God. It is so consoling for us to know that Jesus shared our human lot and so he becomes an inspiration for us to overcome temptations as he did. Let us ask for his help as he comes to us in this Holy Eucharist...

Music for Our Assembly

February 18, 2024

First Sunday of Lent

*When he calls on me, I will answer him; I will deliver him and give him glory,
I will grant him length of days ...Psalm 91*

Gathering Hymn – Led By the Spirit

1. Led by the Spirit of our God, we go to fast and pray

With Christ into the wilderness; we join his paschal way.

“Rend not your garments, rend your hearts. Turn back your lives to me.”

Thus says our kind and gracious God, whose reign is liberty.

2. Led by the Spirit, we confront temptation face to face,

And know full well we must rely on God’s redeeming grace.

On bread alone we cannot live, but nourished by the Word

We seek the will of God to do: this is our drink and food.

3. Led by the Spirit, now draw near the waters of rebirth

With hearts that long to worship God in spirit and in truth.

“Whoever drinks the drink I give shall never thirst again.”

Thus says the Lord who died for us, our Savior, kin and friend.

4. Led by the Spirit, now sing praise to God the Trinity:

The Source of Life, the living Word made flesh to set us free,

The Spirit blowing where it will to make us friends of God:

This myst’ry far beyond our reach, yet near in healing love.

*Text: CMD; based on Joel 2:12–13; Matthew 4:1–4; Mark 1:12–15; John 4:5–42; Bob Hurd, © 1996,
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English Country Songs, 1893; adapt. by Ralph Vaughan Williams*

Prayer of the Faithful

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Our response is: “*Lord, in your compassion, we pray.*”

1. For Pope Francis and all bishops and faith leaders...May they be vessels preaching the Gospel message of salvation in Jesus Christ, and may it reach every person on earth, we pray. . .
2. For all those in positions of authority and power in our world...Inspire them to turn away from pride, greed, and worldly ambition, and learn your ways of justice, reconciliation, and peace for the good of all people, we pray...
3. For our catechumens and candidates as we celebrate the Rite of Sending...May their preparation to receive the Sacraments of Initiation bring them spiritual nourishment, we pray. . .
4. For all who are sick, sad, and suffering, especially for broken families... Let us offer gentle support to all those who are hurting, we pray . . .
5. For all the souls of all who have died, especially ***Carmen Skarl and Debbie Martell Rothstein***... lead them into your heavenly light and comfort those saddened by their loss, we pray . . .
6. For those prayers we hold in the silence of our hearts, . . . we pray

The presider announces the Mass intention and concludes.

Preparation Hymn – Lord Who Throughout These 40 Days

1. Lord, who throughout these forty days,
For us did fast and pray,
Teach us with you to overcome our sins,
And close by you to stay.

2. As you with Satan did contend,
And did the vict'ry win,
O give us strength in you to fight,
In you to conquer sin.

3. As you did hunger bear and did thirst,
So teach us, gracious Lord,
To die to self, and only live
By your most holy word.

4. And through these days of penitence,
And through your Passiontide,
Forevermore, in life and death,
O Lord, with us abide.

5. Abide with us that when this life
Of suffering is past,
An Easter of unending joy
We may attain at last!

Communion Hymn – Miracle of Grace

1. You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord, who abide in his shadow for life,
say to the Lord: 'My refuge, my rock in whom I trust!'

**And he will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.**

2. The snare of the fowler will never capture you, and famine will bring you no
fear:
under his wings your refuge, his faithfulness your shield

3. You need not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day;
though thousands fall about you, near you it shall not come.

4. For to his angels he's given a command to guard you in all of your ways;
upon their hands they will bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a
stone.

Coda : And hold you, hold you in the palm of his hand.

Closing Hymn – Change Our Hearts

**Change our hearts this time,
your word says it can be.**

**Change our minds this time,
your life could make us free.**

**We are the people your call set apart,
Lord, this time change our hearts.**

1. Brought by your hand to the edge of our dreams,
one foot in paradise, one in the waste;
drawn by your promises, still we are lured by the shadows
and the chains we leave behind.
3. Show us the way that leads to your side,
over the mountains and sands of the soul.
Be for us manna, water from stone,
light which says we never walk alone. And

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Responsorial Psalm – Psalm 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9.

Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.

Your ways, O LORD, make known to me;
teach me your paths,
Guide me in your truth and teach me,
for you are God my savior.

Remember that your compassion, O LORD,
and your love are from of old.
In your kindness remember me,
because of your goodness, O LORD.

Good and upright is the LORD,
thus he shows sinners the way.
He guides the humble to justice,
and he teaches the humble his way.

Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.