

SAINT MATTHIAS

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Saint Matthias Messenger. Published Monthly Volume 20 Issue 11–November 2023



Saint Matthias Episcopal Church
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Office Hours

Monday-Friday
10AM-4 PM

Holy Eucharist

Sundays at 8 AM

Holy Eucharist

Sundays at 10 AM

10 AM Services Streamed at
facebook.com/stmatthiaswhittier

November, the month of Thanksgiving, in which one day is designated for our nation to reflect on our lives & the lives of others and to **give thanks**.

The simple task can so easily be lost in this day and age just by the preparations alone. Shall we ditch any responsibility and take a vacation far away? Who shall we invite? All our family or just the ones with whom we're the closest and leave out old, drunk frumpy grumpy, Uncle Fred? He's always so obnoxious trying to kiss and hug all the females, which surely will be followed by his blistering political rants after dinner and dessert.

Who will help with moving all the chairs in the dining room out, and bring in the smaller folding chairs so we can seat 20 for a formal sit down dinner? We'll need some help dragging the portable table tops out of the garage & placing them on top of our regular dining table, bring in a patio table & also cover it with a 60" round top. Also need to be sure the tablecloths and napkins are clean and ready for use. We're unable to set the table early due to the cats very likely jumping on one (or both) of the tables and nest a small area(s) for some short 'cat naps.' Ohhh no, Aunt Edith is allergic to cats! Note to self: board cats and thoroughly vacuum all carpets, chairs, and couches so auntie doesn't have an asthma attack. We'll need to get out all 20 dinner plates, 20 salad plates, 20 bread plates, and 20 dessert plates we received as wedding gifts, and make sure the silver & crystal is sparking.

Let's hope some of our guests offer to bring a favorite (?) dish, or we can assign a dish. Right! Aunt Lynn always brings rolls she buys at Ralphs on sale, but never the butter or anything else, Cousin Laura and her family of 5 will probably want to bring a Costco pie (for 20? are you kidding?), Cousin Jennifer (an only child, now with a family of 5!) usually cons her mother into making mashed potatoes and sweet potatoes with marshmallows. Daughter-in-law might bring her favorite green bean casserole (when did that become a tradition... Mom served green peas!). Our son-in-law buys the turkeys, but because his wife only eats organically free-range turkeys, they end up spending \$70 + on the turkeys alone and he cooks them in a most tasty gourmet manner, bringing sliced delectable turkey for all... while bachelor Cousin Michael brings a can

of cranberries each year! Poor old grandpa has to get up from the table and sit in the living room because “The damn small chairs hurt [his gluteus maximus] “ after sitting for 20 minutes. During dessert, husband and his sister decide to have a canned whipped cream challenge in the dining room, who can hold the most whipped cream in their mouth – such a warm, loving refined example for the grandchildren! One grandpa and 2 grandmas are feeling the result of too many manhattans and begin head-bobbing during dessert. And.... So it goes.... OH! But there’s clean up afterward, and folks somehow just disappear into the woodwork!

The 2 days of preparations for Thanksgiving, followed by the actual day of Thanksgiving, followed by the 4th day of reversing all the prep of tables, chairs, tabletops, plates, etc., a feeling of complete exhaustion takes over my body. Funny how during those 25 years of having family & occasionally a friend or two, my husband and I only had 2 days off from work, Thursday and Friday, as vacation days. Now many schools and some businesses are out for an entire week!

Oh! There’s usually some surprise – not always appreciated... The year twenty-two year old 6’ Cousin Laura, formerly Miss Yorba Linda (go figure.... She lived in Fullerton!) wore her 3” spike heels to impress her 5’6” boyfriend by coyly walking on the back of her heels (missing heel caps) on our recently refinished wooden floors, making her mark in history on our formerly lovely floors. The area was so crowded with people, the numerous new dents weren’t noticed until Friday during the cleanup, putting away and reconstructing the dining room.

Back to reflecting on thankful. First of all, I am thankful the day(s) is done for another year! And, thankful for my family and friends, thankful for our health, thankful for the fun Thanksgiving memories, etc. etc. etc.

With the busyness of the season, the loud competitive sports, the even louder crises around the world, the difficulties our nation (and many countries around the world) are having, the horrible unsettling politics, immigration, homelessness, damaging weather and fires, etc. I need to simply **STOP** and be quiet and to be God centered... realizing so much of today’s world’s issues can be addressed by the prayer Jesus gave us. The meaning can be personal, or for our family, community, country, world, environment, encompassing however / whatever the person praying envisions.

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be THY Name,
THY kingdom come
THY will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day, our daily bread,
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us,
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil,
For **thine** is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen

By repeating the Lord’s Prayer (maybe several times, gleaning more from each repetition) and putting my trust in God, I feel more at peace and so full of thanks.

Now that our earlier generation of grandparents have left our planet and are with God, we (grandparents of the 2010s forward) have the large family and friends' Thanksgiving outside, using paper plates and cups, plastic 'silverware,' and watch the grand kiddos run around chasing each other, hiding, playing games, and making new memories of thanks for us all. Each family brings a crockpot full of a most delightful dish, be it a new recipe or an old family tradition. I truly am thankful for our loving God, my family, extended family, friends, church family, country, environment, world, health etc. etc. and pray for healing for so much & so many (country, family, world, environment etc. etc.) and I am thankful for you.

"Lord, I thank you for the countless blessings you have bestowed upon me. Thank you for the love and guidance you provide, and for the strength you give me to face each day. Thank you for the gift of life, and for all the experiences, both good and challenging, that have shaped me into the person I am today. I am forever grateful for your presence in my life, and I pray that I may always strive to honor and serve you." Amen (author unknown)

Susan Halliday



Finance/Treasurer's News

At the May Vestry meeting it was approved to engage PayPro payroll company to provide payroll services for our employees. Starting with October 1-14, 2023 pay period our employees will be on the PayPro system. Carol McCracken our longtime and faithful payroll manager will continue to manage payroll data entry and temporary worker payroll with assistance from our bookkeeper Liz Villalva.

The monthly financial reports are posted on the St. Francis Patio bulletin board for all to review. We are still running below pledged income so it would be helpful if all pledges could be brought "up-to-date" before the end of the year. We have 2 unexpected expenses due to the rain this winter. We had to replace/repair the sump pump that keeps St. Claire's Patio drained and as you may have noticed the church roof is leaking in several locations. We have received several bids to repair the roof and it looks like the repairs will run about \$8,000. Most of the roofing companies are overbooked so our repairs will not be scheduled until December 2023.

It is vital that you all participate in the stewardship campaign and make your financial contribution intentions known. To hire a fulltime rector we will need to be able to budget \$115,000-\$125,000/year for the position.

Thank you for all you do to keep St. Matthias thriving!

Mary Jean Christian, Treasurer



They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit. - Jeremiah 17:8

Fellow Saint Matthians!

By the time we are collectively enjoying this November Messenger anticipating the beauty of Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmastide, we have begun the home stretch of our Rooted in Abundance Stewardship Campaign 2023.

This journey we have taken together has been a complete pleasure for me.

During the Campaign, we have had the opportunity to candidly share our thoughts with each other on the current state of Saint Matthias, the viability of its future, and the evolving role it should play in the 21st Century. These interactions with you have shaped and re-shaped my perspectives on Saint Matthias and its future.

During the Campaign, we have enjoyed hearing from our fellow parishioners on the role Saint Matthias plays in their lives, the community, and the world. We have been treated to Chapel Talk presentations by Bill Geiger, Eileen Weiss, Glenn and Terry Dodd, J.D. Neal, and Jan Biby. Each of these speakers expressed in their own unique and inspiring ways what Saint Matthias and the Saint Matthias Community mean in their lives and how important it is to support the Saint Matthias mission.

During the Campaign, we have also dreamed together of a reinvigorated community, of an educational and theological center of excellence, of vibrant reading book discussions, of a Soup Hour with homemade soup and homemade bread for those in need as well as for the Whittier community at large, of a tranquil Saint Francis Patio offering a midday respite for uptown workers, and of a church life full of baptisms, confirmations, and weddings.

As I have conveyed in previous summaries, to sustain our vibrant ministries, cultivate new ones and secure a financial foundation for us to fund a full-time rector, we set aggressive financial and spiritual goals for our Stewardship Campaign 2023. Funding for such a full-time rector position is considerable and means that our financial pledges must grow from two-thirds of the operating budget to three-fourths. As such, we targeted for our campaign between 75 to 100 pledges totaling between \$350,000 and \$400,000 in income. At the time that we are reading this article, we will have a much better and perhaps much more sober understanding of how close we came to our goals.

For those of you who have already submitted your pledge, I want to thank you for your love and generosity for supporting Saint Matthias, its Gifts, Ministries, and Services, and the Divine Love it imbues in all of us.

For those who have not yet carved out time to complete and submit your Pledge Cards, please realize that every pledge counts. Consider the void that would be left without our Saint Matthias Community. Amidst the turmoil of our contemporary life (the devastation of climate change on our world, world hunger and poverty, and rampant violence), it is my sincere belief that we need more communities like Saint Matthias instilling in ourselves and the world Divine Love and Compassion.

Thank you for your generosity and your prayerful consideration of your pledge to Saint Matthias.

In sincere gratitude,

Christopher Lavagnino
Stewardship Campaign 2023 Chairperson

P.S. The last Sunday of our campaign is Sunday, November 19, 2023. Please send or submit your gifts by that date so that we may gather them together and bless them.

On Sunday November 5th



Don't forget to set your clocks back!



Pastoral Committee News

The Pastoral Committee

Thank you to all that attended the Feast of Lights service November 5. A big thank you to the committee, Mary & Chuck Carrillo, Sophie McIntosh, Stan Jamieson, Bonnie and Alan Selmanaj, Carol McCracken and Larry Christian for providing the food, beverages and awesome decor!! This committee will continue to support the needs of our parishioners in times of stress and celebration. If you know of anyone that is in need of pastoral care, please let us know. In this time of transition we do not have access to clergy for day-to-day pastoral needs. The committee will do its best to provide support and comfort.

Mary Jean Christian, Pastoral Committee leader

?? ? Bible Quiz ? ?

Fill in the blank:

“Rejoice always, pray continually, give _____ in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”

- A. alms
- B. praise
- C. thanks
- D. offerings



Answer: C (See 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, NIV)



“Please bless these chops, these peas and these potatoes, both actual and couch.”

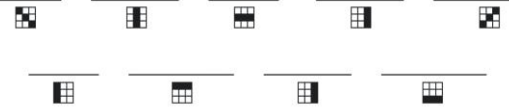


SEPARATION FROM SIN

David praises God for his love and compassion. What does God do for people who fear him?

Directions: Using each grid pattern marked below, find the word that appears in all three of those squares. Write the words in the spaces below to complete Psalm 103:12, NIV.

FROM as is can	NORTH from far	at the EAST FROM
is South AS	do far EAST	the THIS up as
WEST THAT is East	far down WEST	THE be AS West



... so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

PSALM 103:12, NIV

Answer: As far as the east is from the west



NOVEMBER SERVICES, EVENTS, & SMALL GROUPS

SUNDAYS AT 8:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist (in-person only)

SUNDAYS AT 10:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist (in-person and streaming live at [facebook.com/stmatthiaswhittier](https://www.facebook.com/stmatthiaswhittier))

BIBLE STUDY/MORNING PRAYER: Wednesdays 10am, Chapel

MEN EATING BADLY: Saturday, November 4th, 8:00 a.m. Greenleaf Café. Contact Tim Adams.

OUR TIME: Tuesday, November 14th 2pm. Contact Mary Jean Christian.

VESTRY MEETING: Tuesday November 14th, 7:00 p.m. Chapel.

STITCHERY GROUP: Saturday, November 18th, 9:00 a.m. Chapel. Contact Ellen Mykkanen.

DAUGHTERS OF THE KING: Sunday, November 19th, 1p.m. Chapel

ST. ELIZABETH'S GUILD: Thursday, November 16th .Noon, Chapel, Contact Diana Jimenez.

BIBLIOPHILES GROUP: Thursday, November 16th , 6:30 p.m.. On Zoom, Contact Charles Carrillo.

ECW POTLUCK: Saturday November 18th, 10:00 a.m. Chase Room. Contact Kathy Adams.

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CENTURY 21[®]

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SUNDAY NOVEMBER 5th

Sunday Worship at St. Matthias: November 2023

- November 5** **All Saints** Revelation 7: 9-17; Psalm 34:1-10, 22; 1John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12. And Set your clocks back!
- November 5** **Feast of Lights 5pm** Isaiah 25:6-9; Psalm 149: 2-9; 1Corinthians 15:50-58
- November 12** **Proper 27** Amos 5:18-24; Psalm 70; 1Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13
- November 19.** **Proper 28** Zephaniah 1:7,12-18; Psalm 90:1-8, (9-11), 12; 1Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30
- November 26.** **Proper 29** Ezekiel 34: 11-16, 20-24; Psalm 95:1-7a; Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46

We look forward to offering our worship services on more than one platform for streaming in the near future. We are awaiting new equipment that will allow us to do so. So please be patient and stay with us till that happens.

NOVEMBER 2023



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