

# SAINT MATTHIAS

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## EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Saint Matthias Messenger. Published Monthly

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**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](https://facebook.com/stmatthiaswhittier)

### HOPING FOR A NEW THING WE DO NOT SEE

Isaiah 43:18-19; I Peter 2:9; Romans 8: 22-27 (References)

Waiting can be a happy thing! During Advent, we waited expectantly for the Christ Child to be born in us anew. We anticipated the joys of celebrating a season of Love, giving and hoping with those whom we cherish. Because of the coming of Emmanuel, God with us, we have seen fulfilled the opportunity to recognize and adore God's Incarnation in all God's glorious mystery.

In the seeming blink of an eye we have entered another season, a time of waiting for God's "new thing". Having entered the gate of the chronological New Year, we also continue to move through the babyhood, or perhaps toddlerhood of the church year, now having entered Epiphany. Along with the spiritual Epiphany of the coming of the Magi as the first manifestation of Christ to the gentiles, we have Webster's dictionary definition of an epiphany as "an intuitive grasp of reality through something (such as an event) usually simple and striking" or "an illuminating discovery, realization or disclosure".

In Isaiah 43: 18-19, likely written when Israel was about halfway through the captivity in Babylon, God tells God's

people through Isaiah,

*"Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and springs in the desert."*

Clearly the message of hope to Israel is that of promised return to their homeland.

My question for us is, “How is God in the process of doing a new thing here among us, God’s beloved people at St. Matthias?”. Perhaps you recall the opening of the quote from Pierre Teilhard de Chardin on Patient Trust, “Above all, trust in the slow work of God.”. God’s thoughts and ways are not ours. (Isaiah 55:8-9)

Factually we know that we have been in transition for nineteen months, a bit more than a year and a half. We are in the company of more than forty-five other churches in the Los Angeles Diocese, also in transition.

It is not an easy place to be, but we are moving forward through the necessary steps and are nearing the beginning of our active search stage of seeking a new rector. As I reported before, we have completed the church profile and submitted it to the Diocese. Most members required to do so have completed the Safe Church training courses on video. We are in the process of completing our outside audit. Our auditor has been quite ill and is currently working as much as he can while in rehab. Our prayers for him are needed and appreciated. The audit must be well along in progress in order to move forward in the process. Our financial team, Mary Jean Christian and Liz Villalva are working diligently to stay in touch and work with him. Based on our budget for 2024, which will be completed and presented at the Annual Meeting on February 11, we will determine what compensation package we can offer prospective priests. This will be the final step to complete before our Search Committee can begin their formal search. As I stated in my first article as a point of perspective, our interim period before hiring Fr. Bill Garrison was two and one half years!

In the meantime, how then shall we live? The writer of I Peter encourages the early church by exhorting them to “*like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood*” (Ch. 2: vs 5) “*But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.*” (Ch. 2: vs. 9) We are the ones through whom God is working today. With or without a hired priest, we are the church. God has begun a good work in us and is faithful to complete it. (Paraphrase of Philippians 1:6)

Each week we have received special benediction from our visiting priests. On December 3<sup>rd</sup>, the first Sunday of Advent, Fr. Rob Bethancourt gave a most inspiring and instructive message on interpreting scripture on readiness for the coming of the Lord. The allegorical interpretation helps us to see the vivid description of the second coming as metaphor that encourages us to keep doing the loving thing. Fr. Rob referenced Stephen Covey, author of several books on success in life in the quote, “any successful venture begins with the end in view”. Yes, we hope to hire a new priest. But is that our ultimate goal? We have named ourselves “an address for the Kingdom of God”. We thrive on maintaining and building on that identity. The reign of God in our midst is built on every act of love, large or small, that we do.

We are called to declare the praises of the One who calls us to the light of doing that loving thing. Is there a newness that we can hope for, perhaps even before we have a new priest? There is much that we hope for that we do not yet have. Is God wanting to do a new thing in us individually?

It is not my job to answer these questions for you. I can, however, ask you to join me in asking God, through the help of the Holy Spirit who prays for us even when we don't know how to pray, to show us the way of continuing to truly do the loving thing and not grow weary! Might there be an epiphany in our near future?

In glorious hope,

*Kathy Underwood* Co-Sr. Warden

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**FORGET THE FORMER THINGS: DO NOT DWELL ON THE PAST. SEE, I AM DOING A NEW THING! NOW IT SPRINGS UP; DO YOU NOT PERCEIVE IT? I AM MAKING A WAY IN THE WILDERNESS AND STREAMS IN THE WASTELAND.**

**These words of encouragement were written to Israel as they were captives in Babylon. Perhaps we feel captive to a strange and uncomfortable situation. What new thing might God be doing in our midst?**





*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!

We concluded Our Rooted in Abundance Stewardship Campaign 2023 at the end of December. We set extremely ambitious goals for our Campaign with the clear objective of solidifying our financial position to maintain and enrich our current ministries and prepare a compensation package to offer a full-time Rector. Though we fell short of our targets and as a result will have to come up with alternative strategies for the requisite funding, we were able with your support to collect pledges at the same or slightly better levels than our 2022 Campaign. For this we are very grateful.

We want to thank each of you for your pledged contributions of time, talent, and/or treasure. Every pledge you made counts in whatever form it takes. Everything you do, everything you offer, everything you give strengthens our Saint Matthias Community and helps us build and rebuild, imagine and reimagine, create and recreate a Divine Community responding with Love to the World.

In sincere gratitude,

Christopher Lavagnino  
Stewardship Campaign 2023 Chairperson



The Stewardship campaign has come to a finish and we have all made our pledges for 2024. Please be aware that if you have increased your pledge, and you use Vanco to submit your pledge, you should be aware that your pledge amount **will not** automatically be increased. You must go into your Vanco account and increase to the new pledge amount. If your pledge amount stays the same you do not have to do anything. Conversely if you had to reduce your pledge you must go into your Vanco account and make the change. If you have a problem making these changes please contact Stan Jamieson at [stan@stmatthiaswhittier.org](mailto:stan@stmatthiaswhittier.org).

**Life is....**

Life is an opportunity, benefit from it.  
Life is beauty, admire it.  
Life is a dream, realize it.  
Life is a challenge, meet it.  
Life is a duty, complete it.  
Life is a game, play it.  
Life is a promise, fulfill it.  
Life is sorrow, overcome it.  
Life is a song, sing it.  
Life is a struggle, accept it.  
Life is a tragedy, confront it.  
Life is an adventure, dare it.  
Life is luck, make it.  
Life is too precious, do not destroy it.  
Life is life, fight for it.

St. Teresa of Calcutta

**MUTHA'S CREAMY  
FRENCH DRESSING****Ingredients:**

1 can tomato soup  
1 or 2 slices onion  
1 clove of garlic, minced  
1/2 cup sugar  
1/2 cup vinegar  
1 cup oil  
Pepper to taste

**Directions:**

1. Mix all ingredients together in a blender.
2. Pour in bottle and refrigerate until cool.

***Yummy for the Tummy and Memories***

Sophie McIntosh, LaVerne Edmunds and I were discussing possibly having a recipe corner in the Messenger. I offered to submit one to get the ball rolling. As I was searching through my recipe binder, I came across one that has special meaning to me. It is not the recipe for French salad dressing that is special, but it is the actual physical recipe. Shortly after Tim's mother passed away, we were cleaning out her home. I came across the recipe that was in her handwriting. Every time I see it I pause and smile and think about her. Consuelo used to call it Mother's Creamy French. But with three mischeivious sons, it eventually evolved to Mutha's Creamy French. I share that recipe here and pause as I write this to remember Consuelo placing the dressing on the table for dinner.

Everyone is invited (men, women, teens and children) to share a recipe. If you have a special memory or note connected to it, you are welcome to share that also if you wish.

# ?? Bible Quiz ??

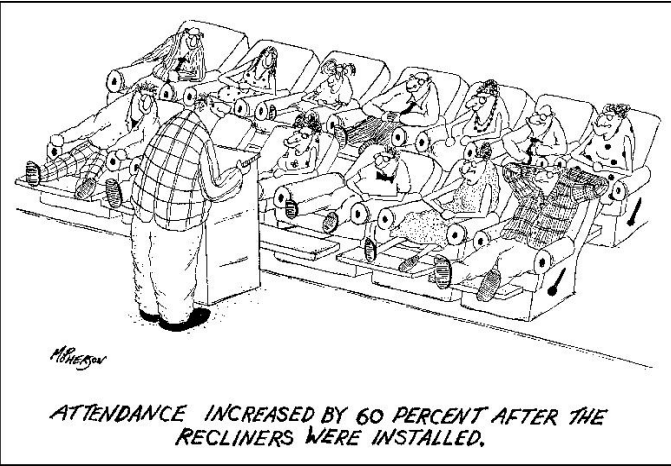
Use one word (perhaps in different forms) for all the blanks to complete this Scripture passage:

"Dear friends, let us \_\_\_\_\_ one another, for \_\_\_\_\_ comes from God. Everyone who \_\_\_\_\_ has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not \_\_\_\_\_ does not know God, because God is \_\_\_\_\_."

- A. believe
- B. help
- C. love
- D. forgive



Answer: C (See 1 John 4:7-8, NIV)



# HAPPY NEW YOU!

Changing the calendar each January is a reminder that God makes all things new.

Directions: Use the clues and the calendar code to complete 2 Corinthians 5:17, ESV.

JANUARY 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	God	night	word	in	love	Jesus
7	glory	therefore	speak	give	light	Christ
14	saw	beginning	anyone	waters	help	is
21	he	again	through	earth	made	while
28	new	if	and	creation		

- The second Monday \_\_\_\_\_
- The last Monday \_\_
- The 16th \_\_\_\_\_
- One day before the 20th \_\_
- The day before the first Friday \_\_
- The last weekday of the second week \_\_\_\_\_
- The day after the 20th \_\_
- The day after 18th \_\_
- The first day of the second weekend \_
- The last Sunday \_\_\_\_\_
- The last day of the month \_\_\_\_\_



## JANUARY 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)

**BIBLE STUDY/MORNING PRAYER:** Wednesdays 10am, Chapel

**MEN EATING BADLY:** Saturday, January 6th, 8:00 a.m. Greenleaf Café. Contact Tim Adams.

**OUR TIME:** Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup> 2pm. Contact Mary Jean Christian.

**VESTRY MEETING:** Tuesday January 9<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m. Chapel.

**STITCHERY GROUP:** Saturday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 a.m. Chapel. Contact Ellen Mykkanen.

**DAUGHTERS OF THE KING:** Sunday, January 21st, 1p.m. Chapel

**ST. ELIZABETH'S GUILD:** Thursday, January 18th. Noon, Contact Diana Jimenez.

**BIBLIOPHILES GROUP:** Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m.. On Zoom, Contact Charles Carrillo.

**EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN (ECW) SATURDAY,** January 27<sup>TH</sup>, 10A.M. Chase Room.



# CENTURY 21<sup>®</sup>

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# Sunday Worship at St. Matthias: November 2023

**January 7** Genesis 1:1-5, Acts 19:1-7, Mark 1:4-11, Psalm 29

**January 14** 1 Samuel 3:1-10, 1 Corinthians 6:12-20, John 1:43-51, Psalm 139:1-5, 12-17

**January 21** Jonah 3:1-5, 10, 1 Corinthians 7:29-31, Mark 1:14-20, Psalm 62:6-14

**January 28** Deuteronomy 18:15-20, 1 Corinthians 8:1-13, Mark 1:21-28, Psalm 111

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.

JANUARY 2024



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