



# THE KEY

## ST MATTHEW'S PARISH

### BEDFORD N.Y.



March

P A R I S H   N E W S

2024

## A Lenten Thought from the Rector

*"God has bound all people over to disobedience that He might have mercy on them all." (Rom 11:32)*



Lent always arrives on time. It is designed to pull us away from distraction. More than just putting down our phones for five minutes, Lent calls us home to ourselves, to our inner lives, into the uncomfortable reflections that surface when we first enter into contemplative silence.

Lent is like a mirror, it reveals truth, and the extent to which we have become inwardly unkempt. It requires of us the rudimentary experience of admitting that we are indeed sorry for the ways in which have gone astray in our daily lives. Trust me when I say that you do not want to be a person so hardened by this world that you have become incapable of making a simple apology from time to time.

Lent is like a cardio-thoracic surgeon, opening the heart cavity that we may return to proper rhythm and healing. Like patients on an operating table, we cling to the hope of aid from the position of need, and thereby prepare ourselves to appreciate the ameliorating mercy of God in Christ.

Lent teaches us that all of our failings have been accounted for, that they are not being held against us in the dance of life. Lent paves the way for acquittal and peace. It makes us honest, and affirms the comforting words of St. Paul: "If we are faithless, He will remain faithful" (2 Tim 2:13), for "God has bound all people over to disobedience that He might have mercy on them all" (Rom 11:32). Or to quote the Zombies: "It's the time of the season, when love runs high."

Grace & Peace,

## Lent & Easter Season

### 2024

#### At A Glance

Lenten Film Series at Bedford Playhouse	Every Sunday in Lent
Men's Lenten Breakfast	Every Saturday in Lent
Bedford Chamber Concert	Wednesday, March 13
Procession of the Palms	Sunday, March 24
Children's Holy Week Service	Thursday, March 28
Maundy Thursday Potluck Supper	Thursday, March 28
Stripping of the Altar	Thursday, March 28
Gethsemane Watch	Thursday, March 28
Good Friday Service	Friday, March 29
Holy Saturday Hike	Saturday, March 30
Easter Sunday Services	Sunday, March 31
Easter Egg Hunt	Sunday, March 31



## A SUPER Superbowl Bake Sale!

The Youth Group raised "\$672 for Hour Children. Thank you!"



## March 13: Bedford Chamber Concert Series Begins the Year with Reed Tetzloff Recital

The Berlin Philharmonie, the Laeiszhalle in Hamburg, Düsseldorf's Kunstpalast, the Allerheiligen Hofkirche at the Munich Residenz, the Great Hall of the Moscow Conservatory—and now, the Fellowship Room of St. Matthew's Church in Bedford. On Mar. 13, the Bedford Chamber Concert Series will host a recital for internationally acclaimed pianist Reed Tetzloff, who has excited audiences worldwide ever since 2012 when he made his brilliant debut at Alice Tully Hall in Lincoln Center.

Hailed as an "artist of broad musical tastes and individuality," (South Florida Classical Review), Tetzloff has been praised for his "richly communicative" performances (The Cincinnati Enquirer). Tetzloff studied at Mannes College in New York with Pavlina Dokovska. He since has gone on to win numerous coveted international competitions, including the Tbilisi International Piano Competition and the Cincinnati World Piano Competition.

Also, Tetzloff is an acclaimed writer as well, currently at work on a collection of essays. Fanfare Magazine praised his essay on Schumann for how it "explores (musical) intricacies deeper than any other pianist."

He will be performing four pieces:

**Newman:** Composers Sonata, two movements based on Debussy and the last movement of Mozart's 41st Symphony.

**Bach/Hess:** "Jesu Joy of My Desire" from Cantata, BWV 147

**Beethoven:** Waldstein Sonata, in C, Op. 53

**Schumann:** Piano Sonata #1 in F-sharp minor, Op. 11

On behalf of Artistic Director Tony Newman and the Bedford Chamber Concert committee, we invite you to join us to hear Reed Tetzloff's many gifts firsthand on Mar. 13 at 8 p.m. in the Fellowship Room. Tickets are \$45 (student rate: \$10) and available at [bedfordchamberconcerts](http://bedfordchamberconcerts).

## New Bishop Installed

On Feb. 10, at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, The Rt. Rev. Matthew F. Heyd was installed as the 17th Bishop of New York as witnessed by the Clergy and Parishioners of the Diocese. To view this glorious and important event in the life of our Diocese, click here: <https://youtu.be/XP40Gf9e9qY>



## HOLY WEEK & EASTER

### Palm Sunday, March 24

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

10:00 a.m. Procession of Palms and Holy Eucharist\*

### Maundy Thursday, March 28

5:30 p.m. Children's Holy Week Service

6:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Pot Luck Supper, in the Parish House

Main Dishes & Salads welcome (no desserts)

*Please sign up in the Parish house*

7:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar\*

8:00 p.m. - 7:00 a.m. Gethsemane Watch

*Please sign up in the Parish House*

### Good Friday, March 29

12:00 p.m. Good Friday Service

*with Sacred Music at 11:45 a.m.\**

7:00 p.m. Good Friday Service

### Holy Saturday, March 30

10:00 a.m. Holy Saturday Hike

### Easter Day, March 31

7:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Chapel-in-the-Woods (weather permitting)

9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist with children's sermon\*

followed by the Easter Egg Hunt

11:00 a.m. Festival Holy Eucharist\*

*Childcare for up to 6 years of age in Nursery for 9:00 & 11:00 a.m. services*

*\*These services will be live streamed*



## Early Ashes

On Ash Wednesday, parishioners who couldn't make the Noon Service or 4 p.m. Children's Service could still get ashes "to-go" from 7 - 8 a.m. on the front steps of the church. Here, John and Drew pray and impose ashes with John Stockbridge.





## Another Great Year for Art Show: Bedford

Art Show: Bedford wrapped up another successful year, raising a whopping \$53,000. The show has continued for 51 years, under the leadership of a variety of committee members, but always with the same goal of raising money for local charities and highlighting the work of local artists. The party kicked off with a preview party featuring the music of Mark Weigel & Friends and tasty hors d'oeuvres from Happiness Is. The show continued for two more weekends. Patrons enjoyed a nice fire in the fireplace and a variety of nibbles as they looked at the beautiful creations on offer and chatted with the artists.

This year's show was dedicated in memory of Betsy Meyer, who served the committee with great devotion for many years. All the profits from the show go to support the following charities: A-Home, Boys & Girls Club of Northern Westchester, Community Center of Northern Westchester, Endeavor Therapeutic Horsemanship, Hope's Door, Hour Children, Midnight Run, Mount Kisco Interfaith Food Pantry, Neighbors Link and Rehabilitation through the Arts.

ASB charities are rigorously evaluated and re-examined annually to make sure they are still delivering services effectively. If you would like to suggest a local charity for inclusion in ASB's future outreach efforts, please write to [info@artshowbedford.org](mailto:info@artshowbedford.org).

## Congratulations, Sarah!

What a wonderful day for our parish! When Sarah Bonay was ordained on Feb.24, she was surrounded by a warm crowd of supportive St. Matthew's parishioners.



*Many thanks go to the hard-working team that made the show so successful.*



*And equal applauses go to our great group of Artists!*

# Lenten Film Series

6:00 p.m.

March 3rd:

"Green Light" (1937)

March 10th:

"Mrs. Miniver" (1942)

March 17th:

"Red Beard" (1965)

Discussion and Q&A with  
Rev. John Zahl,  
following each film!

Bedford Playhouse  
Tickets and info available at:  
[www.bedfordplayhouse.org](http://www.bedfordplayhouse.org)





## Church School: In the beginning....

The last few weeks in Church School we've been learning from the Old Testament. All superheroes have an origin story – and so does Jesus! Rev. Courtright introduced this idea to the children in Chapel a few weeks ago and we've been discussing what the stories that built the foundation of our faith can still teach us today.

We learned about how unexpected things happen, but God keeps his promises, even if we need to have a lot of patience and there are no immediate answers. We explored how the story of Abraham and Sarah is a sign of faithfulness and points us to Jesus as the fulfillment of the covenant made so many years earlier.

We've been discussing how God can, and does, use anyone, even people who have made questionable choices, for his glory. We explored that idea through the story of Jacob and Esau where, again, the theme of patience emerged. This story showed us how losing sight of our priorities (trading your birthright for a bowl of food!) can have unforeseen consequences. But that God is always with us and can still work in and through us to do great things.

We'll be continuing to dive into the Old Testament throughout March and again in May. All children, Kindergarten – 7th Grade are welcome and invited to join the conversation at Church School anytime!

### Looking Ahead

**Children's Holy Week Service**, Mar, 28, 5:30 p.m. in the Children's Chapel, followed by the all-parish Maundy Thursday Pot Luck Supper at 6 p.m.

*Melissa Torres  
Children's Ministry Coordinator*

## Pastoral Care Ministry

Our Pastoral Care team not only takes communion to parishioners who are homebound, but now has started regular visits to conduct special services at Meadow Ridge, a Continuing Care Retirement Community in Redding, CT.

Recently, Stephen Nicholas, Debbie Stiles and Susannah Leighton, all members of the Pastoral Care Team, led the eucharistic service for an appreciative group of current Meadow Ridge residents. Those pictured below all have connections to Bedford and St. Matthew's.



Back row: Susan Kroeger, Eleanor Cox, Debbie Stiles, Mary Anne Hyde, Jean DiMicco, Dee Edgar, Stephen Nicholas  
Front Row: Keith Kroeger, Richard Farrell and Pat Thompson



## Pancakes & Bingo for Shrove Tuesday

It was a snowy, cold day, but at St. Matthew's it was warm with friendship, food and bingo.







## Annual Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting of St. Matthew's was held on Feb. 4. Rector John Zahl and Senior Warden John Walker discussed the work of the church during the year 2023. Treasurer Mary Farley presented the 2024 budget. She noted that the church had a small operating surplus in 2023 and made a plea for parishioners who have not yet pledged to make their pledge for 2024. Clerk Bill Fagan presented the slate of Vestry members to the parish, which voted to approve the following:

- **Scott Brown** to his second two-year term as Junior Warden;
- **Mary Farley**, having completed the last two years of a three-year term, to her first three-year term as Vestry member;
- **Jenny Convery** to her second three-year term as Vestry member;
- **Tom Eshoo**, having completed the second year of a three-year term, to his third year of a three-year term as Vestry member;
- **Samuel Polk** to his first three-year term as Vestry member; and
- **Tricia Swift** to her first three-year term as Vestry member.

John Walker thanked retiring Vestry members June Blanc for her two terms of service and Stephen Nicholas for his one term of service. He also noted that Robyn McCree has agreed to serve as Co-Chair of the Bedell Committee, upon the retirement of Kathleen Brenner after her two terms of service (including 3 years as Co-Chair). He further noted that Tom Eshoo, having served two terms on the Bedell Committee, was stepping down and that Michael Deeks and Brooks Hamblett had agreed to serve on the Bedell Committee. He thanked Kathleen and Tom for their service.

At the conclusion of the meeting, John Zahl, with heartfelt thanks, saluted Tina Foster, a previous recipient of the Rector's Key, upon her retirement as Verger for her exceptional service to St. Matthew's in so many capacities over the years. He noted that Tina intends to remain engaged and active, including in her leadership role in the recently reconstituted lay



pastoral and eucharist group. He then presented the Rector's Key to June Blanc for her service to the church, including as Chair of the Communications Committee, Co-Chair of the Bedell Committee, Co-Chair of the Human Resources and Compensation Committee, and Chair of the Preschool Commission.

## What's Been Happening at St. Matthew's Preschool

February was a month of giving, thinking about what is the true meaning of love and friendship and always learning in a fun and joyful way. All the children in the Preschool made Valentine's and get-well cards for patients at Northern Westchester Hospital. As you read what every class was up to, check how the teachers are incorporating fine motor skills, and math proficiency and expanding the children's knowledge of the world around them. It's magical to watch!

### 2's class

Our youngest students made Valentine Heart people out of glue, stickers, and pipe cleaners. They decorated their own Valentine's mailboxes and made a special gift for their families. The children have changed so much since the beginning of the year, with more interactive playing with their classmates. They are talking more and letting us know what they need and want; and we see big smiles and children bounding into their classrooms to greet and hug their teachers and friends. Our 2's are developing more self-help skills such as putting on their own jackets and backpacks and hanging up their coats. Some of the books that our 2's has been reading are "One Zillion Valentines," "Fancy Nancy," "Heart to Heart" and "Celebrating Valentine's Day-My Special Valentine."



### 3's class

The 3's are comfortable, confident, and settled. They are exploring new materials, using old materials and manipulatives in different ways, and finding new friends!

The teachers read "The Mitten" by Jan Brett and worked with the children to decorate their own mittens. This prompted a conversation about pairs and what things come in pairs. We created a "messy box" that had many things that needed to be organized into pairs...and the odd items "out" set aside.

The children also worked on a beautiful picture to add to our amazing winter bulletin. Other activities included completing a number "grid" in which they matched the correct number of sticker animals to the number. Our 3's class has been working on patterns, and when it came time to make Valentine's necklaces and hearts, the children created patterns with the beads without any prompting. This is an excellent example of play based learning!



### Prekindergarten classes

The Prekindergarteners were very busy in and outside their classrooms. They walked the St. Matthew's property looking for different animal tracks in the snow. They saw bird, rabbit, squirrel, fox and deer tracks.

This was very exciting for our four- and five-year old's and they were so excited to go home and look for animal tracks in their own backyards. PreK also learned about Chinese New Year. The children learned that there are twelve animal zodiac signs, and each year is named after a different animal. This year is the year of the dragon. The children made Chinese lanterns with a dragon on it and rattle drums.



*Leslie Thivierge, Director*



## Pilgrims visit Paris and Taizé

What do you get when you combine hundreds of teenagers, seventy-five monks, and the French countryside? Taizé! Known for its distinct style of music (which you have sung if you've been to our 5:00pm Evening Prayer service lately), Taizé draws tens of thousands of youth and young adult pilgrims annually. Pilgrims spend the week in simple communal living, praying three times a day, reflecting in small groups, doing chores to keep the place clean and the people fed, and experiencing Christian unity in this ecumenical monastery founded in 1940.

From February 15-25, Rev. Drew, Christian Kreutzer, and Hudson Lindsey, joined a group from Christ Church, Bronxville in their annual pilgrimage to Taizé. The group of twelve high school students and four adults began their trip as tourists, sightseeing Friday to Monday in Paris. We visited the Louvre and Musée d'Orsay, Chartres Cathedral and Montmartre, and enjoyed French cuisine and shopping opportunities. Then we became pilgrims, joining over 600 French teenagers and many more from various European countries and got into a rhythm of prayers, service, and fellowship from Monday to Sunday. Each prayer service was a combination of Taizé songs, scripture reading, prayer, and an extended period of silence. Each pilgrim experienced a deeper level of faith and we plan to go back next year over the Winter Break!



### Easter Lily Remembrances

To remember loved ones with memorial flowers and on the Easter memorial flower list in our bulletin  
Easter Day, please make your donation **by March 21st** through our website or using the Easter memorial envelopes provided in your bulletins. Please be sure to include the names of your loved ones with your donation.



### Comings & Goings

#### New & Returning Parishioners:

Samantha Biondi  
74 North Street  
Greenwich, CT 06830

Scott & Rochelle McKenna  
60 Mayfair Square  
Danbury, CT 06810

Marios Sjulsen and Chesley Andrews  
84 Old Post Road  
Mount Kisco, NY 10549