



THE KEY

ST. MATTHEW'S PARISH

BEDFORD N.Y.



April

P A R I S H N E W S

2026

An Easter Thought from the Rector

Just recently, when the snow finally melted, I was greeted with a surprise in our back yard. Tons of little white flowers (I'm told that they're called snowdrops) had popped up all over the place. They provided a perfect image of Easter. From cold, hard soil, life emerges, fresh and jubilant. It is certainly no coincidence that Easter lines up with Spring.

Easter is about resurrection; it is about the hope that lies behind every heart-break. It speaks comfort to our flagging spirits, and tells of a dawn about to break on the horizon of our limited perspective. It reminds us that death is but a gate, and that mortality has been subsumed by Christ's immortality (1 Cor 15:54).

And resurrection means that there is always hope. Christians are not optimists who anticipate specific, positive outcomes, but, rather, faith means waiting for good things that we cannot possibly anticipate, because God is ultimately in the driver's seat. It means we trust that God will indeed surprise us. Christians do not presuppose; instead, we hope.

But what might this mean for us? It means that there is always more in store for us, more than we can ask or imagine. It means that every end is a beginning, and that bad things are forever being redeemed and refashioned. God is like a junk collector, who sees amazing potential for resale in the detritus that the rest of us have forsaken. God is like a bicycle repairman, who loves to refurbish the things that have been wrecked. You get the idea...

Who among us doesn't need to hear the promise of redemption, and the hope of things to come? No one, that's who.

Here's to hope and all things new, Happy Easter,

HOLY WEEK




Maundy Thursday, April 2nd

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

6:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Pot Luck Supper,
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.- 6:00 a.m. Gethsemane Watch
Please sign up in the Parish House

Good Friday, April 3rd

12:00 p.m. Good Friday Service
7:00 p.m. Good Friday Service



Holy Saturday, April 4th

10:00 a.m. Holy Saturday Hike

Easter Day, April 5th

7:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist
Chapel-in-the-Woods (weather permitting)
9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist with children's sermon
10:00 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt in the fields
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

CONFIRMATION

BISHOP SUFFRAGAN OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF NEW YORK
RT. REV. ALLEN K. SHIN PRESIDING
SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 2026 AT 10 A.M.
CONFIRMATION CLASS 2026

MICHAEL ATKIN ROBERTA BECKER PORTEUS CAMERON KNOX EAVES WILLIAM ESHOO JAMES GARTEN	STEPHANIE GERRY OLIVIA HAMBLETT AIDEN HOWARD BEATRICE KENNEDY BRODIE KENT MACKENZIE KENT POPPY MITCHELL	GEORGIA MURRAY HUDSON O'BRIEN AMANDA RAEZER RIELY RUSH REED RYAN EASTON STRUBLE
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ST. MATTHEW'S ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT



Easter Day, April 5th at 10 a.m.
(after the 9:00 a.m. service)

Presented by the Women of St. Matthew's

Preparing for Easter

As we individually prepare for Easter, so do God's helpers at St. Matthew's, whether folding palms for Palm Sunday, stuffing eggs for the fabulous Easter Egg Hunt, baking, polishing silver, arranging the Easter lilies for the altar and the scenes in the Children's Chapel, rehearsing the choir and so much more. Easter is glorious at St. Matthew's!



Folding crosses

MAUNDY THURSDAY APRIL 2

5:30 p.m. Family Holy Week Service, in the Children's Chapel
6:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Pot Luck Supper
(Sign up [HERE](#))
7:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar
8:00 p.m. - 7 a.m. (Apr. 3) Gethsemane Watch



Women of St. Matthew's fill eggs.



Palm Sunday

St. Matthew's celebrated Palm Sunday, marking the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, with our traditional procession through the churchyard.



Church School Gets Ready for Holy Week

Holy Moly! Now is a great time to come and see for yourself what's happening in Children's Ministry! We're learning about how questions and doubts fit into finding faith and what following Jesus looks like in everyday life and growing in community with each other. All children, Kindergarten – 5th Grade are welcome and invited to join the conversation at Church School anytime!

Holy Week Family Service (Thurs., Apr. 2) in the Children's Chapel at 5:30 pm. Experience the events of Holy Week as a family. Potluck dinner in the Fellowship Room will follow the service. Please bring something to share and register here for the dinner.

Easter Service and Egg Hunt (Sun., Apr. 5) Come experience Easter with us! Attend service as a family at 9 a.m. and join the Easter Egg Hunt at 10 a.m. hosted by the Women of St. Matthew's.

How to Talk to Your Kids About Faith Series (Sun., May 3 at 5:30 – 7 p.m.) Join The Revs. John Zahl and Matt Rossi for a fireside chat about parenting and faith in 2026. More info to come! This is the first in a new Faith Formation series offering classes and workshops for parents and families!

Please reach out to me with any questions!

Melissa Torres, Children's Ministry Coordinator



Lenten Film Series

The fourth Lenten film series was again hosted at the Bedford Playhouse. The five films brought parishioners together to experience themes of grace, repentance, forgiveness and renewal as only film can. John Zahl led with an introduction to the film and afterwards, closed with a discussion and Q & A. The photo below was taken at the end of the film, *The Gospel According to Matthew*.

Guiding Our Way – Our Vestry



Back row (l-r): Cesar Bryan, Sam Boe, Jenny Convery, Andi Ahrens, Rick Mast, Tom Eshoo, Sam Polk

Front row (l-r): John Zahl, Tricia Swift, Matt Rossi, Scott Brown, John Walker, Mary Farley, Janet Schloat and Greg Gaynor (missing Chris Lacovara)



An Easter Prayer from Mr. Ketchum:

A Prayer Before Spring – O God, with Whom is no variableness or shadow of turning, grant that as the silence deepens we may hear Thee more clearly and as the days lengthen the sense of Thy presence may lighten more and more our darkened hearts. Teach us to know the certainty of a reality nearer than any distance and beyond all change. In time of waiting, give us the courage to believe that for all faith there is fulfillment, and a resurrection for every buried hope. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.


Preschool

March came in like a lion, and in true reflection of this winter, it continued to roar quietly. Safe and cozy in their classrooms, the children welcomed the promise of Spring by making rainbows and embracing the magic of leprechauns. The twos' glued colored strips on paper to create their own wonderful rainbow renditions. The threes' and fours' then tried to replicate a rainbow's color pattern while also playing with prisms and watching how they catch and cast-off rainbow light. As all leprechauns know, there is a pot of gold at the end of every rainbow. Leprechauns are sly and silly little fairies that sneak into classrooms, up end furniture, steal gold coins (when they can find them), nibble at special snacks, and seemingly always leave a trail of glittery dust behind. March 17, St Patrick's Day, is the day to trap a leprechaun! Every classroom was ready with traps set! Alas, those sneaky little fairies escaped again although Miss Peck did have a trail of green glitter on her shoe and swore she saw a flash of green run past her.



St. Matthew's Book Club

God, Literature, and You




Thurs., April 30, 3p.m.

The End of the Affair by Graham Greene

*Meeting will be held in the Vestry Room

Join Matt for a lively discussion over tea.
We'll consider what the book offers on the question:
What does it mean to be human?



ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH
BEDFORD, NEW YORK

Confirmation

Confirmation classes resumed in March covering the Lord's Prayer, the Apostles' Creed, and what it means to be Episcopalian (with a special emphasis on the Prayer Book). Attendance continues to be strong, and we are very much looking forward to Youth Sunday on April 19) and Confirmation Sunday (April 26) when Bishop Shin will visit to confirm our 19 Youth Confirmands.

John Zahl speaks at Yale Berkeley Divinity School



Quiet Day Retreat

On Mar. 21, Mary Zahl graciously came to St. Matthew's to lead a retreat focused on "Listening." She focused on the value of listening, how to listen to each other, to one's self and to God. At a time when the country seems so divided, wouldn't it be wonderful if we could all listen quietly to each other without interruption, interjection or distraction and— perhaps we would learn that we have more in common than what drives us apart. Following Mary's thought provoking talk, we gathered in the Fellowship Room for a beautiful spring lunch and a chance to discuss what we had learned about being better listeners and supporters for our family and friends. Many thanks to the Women of St. Matthew's for hosting this meaningful day.



Midnight Run

We had a banner turnout for Midnight Run this year, spearheaded by the wonderful Dan Moore. Twenty-four youth filled five cars loaded down with clothes and food which made four stops in Manhattan where almost every item donated was taken by someone. A huge thanks to all of those who donated and helped sort clothing and made and packed food, and to our drivers, Skip Beitzel, Dale Akinla, Gus Ahrens, and Brian and Jessica Inglis.



Polar Bear Eucharist

We had a great crowd of around 20 men for our first annual Polar Bear Eucharist on March 14, and it was certainly memorable. It was a balmy 45 degrees at the Chapel-in-the-Woods as John preached a rousing homily on “suffering producing endurance, endurance producing character, and character producing hope” (Romans 5:3-4). After communion, conscript crucifer Christian Langalis led the men down to the stream, plenty deep and plenty cold from the recent melt, and 14 brave disciples (including your still-collared ministers) made their way into the 35 degree water for what can reasonably be described as like unto “being born again by water and the Spirit.” Rich fellowship over ghost-pepper-spiced chili and warm drink followed. We report happily that no one is regretting plunging, and all are already looking forward to next year where we anticipate an even larger group!



GriefShare

Our GriefShare group began this month on March 23 and is off to a great start. We're so grateful to Ellie Sullivan for her leadership of this important ministry. If you've not joined yet there's still time, anyone dealing with grief and loss in our community is most welcome



Grieving a loss?

Find hope and healing after the death of a loved one.

Join us at **GriefShare**

Weekly grief support group

When: Mondays, 7:00-8:30 p.m.
Beginning March 23- June 15

Where: Fellowship Room

Contact: Rev. Matt Rossi
mrossi@stmatthewsbedford.org

Register: griefshare.org/findagroup

Evensong

St. Matthew's closed Palm Sunday with its third Evensong service, with the church filled by the glorious voices of our choir and Matt's sermon on the meaning of Hosannah in Hebrew, meaning God Save Us Now, chanted as Jesus entered Jerusalem.



How to Pray during Wartime

Matt Rossi wrote this piece at the time of the Iran War for the Youth and Family Newsletter, but it is universal in its message as a response to war. It is shared with the parish as we all look for hope and peace in an unsettled world.

What are Christians called to do in wartime? The Christian tradition is full of varying answers to that question. Should Christians ever engage in violence? If so, when is it justifiable? When should Christians support the state, and when should they choose to protest its actions? How, if at all, does Christian political responsibility change in a democracy where citizens have political power?

There is a breadth of answers to these huge and important questions in Christian theology, which are sometimes at odds (a prominent example being Christian pacifism and the “Just War” tradition), but at least one Christian wartime obligation is undisputed: **the necessity to pray**. In recent political discourse, prayer is often cast as a kind of “cop-out,” an example of Christian inaction and quietism in the face of an imminent threat. But a robust Christian understanding of prayer balks at such a characterization—only those who think prayer doesn’t actually “do something,” whose God is weak and ineffectual, could see the genuine prayer of faith as quiescence.

But how to pray in wartime? As bombs fall across the Middle East, as both demonstrably evil dictators and innocent school children are killed, as Iranians cheer for freedom and mourn terrible losses, as complex geopolitical questions loom, where do we find the words to pray adequately?

Here the Book of Common Prayer shines. In fact, the very first prayers written and compiled by Thomas Cranmer, the genius behind the first Prayer Book, were prayers specifically for times of tumult and unrest: a set of prayers called “The Great Litany.” Those prayers remain a (terribly underutilized) part of our current Prayer Book (on page 148). And while you may not pray the whole litany with your family, perhaps you might consider making the Supplication at the end a part of your family prayers every now and again during Lent. I’ve rendered it below in slightly modernized language for your use, and included another helpful prayer for your use. Whether your kids are aware of what’s happening around the world or not, modeling

prayer in the midst of fear and uncertainty is a great way to bring faith into your family life.

The Supplication (pg. 154 in the Book of Common Prayer)

O Lord, arise, help us; And deliver us for your Name’s sake.

O God, we have heard with our ears, and our ancestors have declared to us, the noble works that you did in their days, and in the old time before them.

O Lord, arise, help us; and deliver us for your Name’s sake.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

O Lord, arise, help us; and deliver us for your Name’s sake.

V. From our enemies defend us, O Christ;
R. Graciously behold our afflictions.
V. With pity behold the sorrows of our hearts;
R. Mercifully forgive the sins of your people.
V. Favorably with mercy hear our prayers;
R. O Son of David, have mercy upon us.
V. Both now and ever promise to hear us, O Christ;
R. Graciously hear us, O Christ; graciously hear us, O Lord Christ.

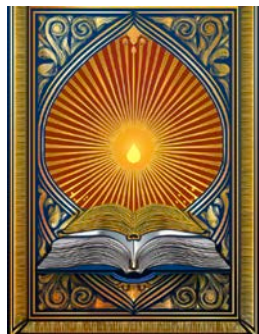
We humbly ask you, O Father, mercifully to look upon our infirmities; and, for the glory of your Name, turn from us all those evils that we most justly have deserved; and grant that in all our troubles we may put our whole trust and confidence in your mercy, and evermore serve you in holiness and pureness of living, to your honor and glory; through our only Mediator and Advocate, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Prayer for Peace

Almighty God, kindle, we beseech thee, in every heart the true love of peace, and guide with thy wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth, that in tranquillity thy dominion may increase till the earth is filled with the knowledge of thy love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Adult Ed

March saw the wrapping up of Matt’s adult class “Speaking Christian,” covering some of the most basic affirmations of the Christian faith in greater depth, and thinking about Christianity as a kind of “language” that enables us to conceptualize and communicate about the world and our experience of it. During Eastertide (six Sundays at 9 a.m. starting May 3 through June 7), John and Matt will teach a class on the 39 Articles of Religion, a hidden gem of the Prayer Book and the Anglican Tradition.



Comings & Goings

New & Returning Parishioners:

Mr. Anthony Hamelle and Mrs. Tempestt Jiwa-Hamelle
62 Upper Lakeshore Dr.
Katonah, NY 10536

Tina Winchester
413 Harris Road
Bedford Hills, NY 10507

Marissa Dent and Henry Davis
77 Todd Road
Katonah, NY 10536-2807

In Memoriam

In sure and certain hope

Martha Spofford, March 19, 2026



With Gratitude

The Vestry of St. Matthew's Church would like to thank those who have pledged or contributed financial support to our parish for 2026. We will continue to graciously accept financial gifts anytime

during the year. With your support, we are able to further the ministry of St. Matthew's and ensure a financially sound and well-maintained parish for all to enjoy.

Mr. & Mrs. Andrea Ahrens	Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Foster, III	Mr. & Mrs. Piers Macdonald	Mr. Kristian Salovaara & Mrs. Carol Matthews
Mr. & Mrs. Dale Akinla, II	Mr. & Mrs. Jefferson Freeman	Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Macgill	Mr. & Mrs. Camillo Santomero, III
Mr. & Mrs. David Alexandre	Mr. & Mrs. Robert Galvin	Mr. & Mrs. Ian MacLean	Dr. & Dr. Paul Sasso
Mr. Matt Andrews & Ms. Amanda Thurston	Mr. & Mrs. Gregory Gaynor	Mr. & Mrs. Michael Mast	Ms. Marcia Saunders
Mr. & Mrs. David Andryc	Mr. John Glusman & Mrs. Emily Bestler	Mr. & Mrs. Richard Mast	Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Schiro
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Aronstein	Mr. & Mrs. Jose Gonzalez	Mr. & Mrs. Paul Matthews	Mrs. Janet Schloat
Ms. Jan Barrows	Mr. & Mrs. William Gourd	Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Maybank	Mr. Aron Schor & Mrs. Melissa Atkin
Mrs. Marilyn Beck	Mrs. Mary Grandy	Mr. Kevin McAvey & Mrs. Amanda Olberg	Mr. & Mrs. Leslie Scott
Mr. & Mrs. Skip Beitzel	Mr. Loren Griffin & Mrs. Traci Toll-Griffin	Mr. & Mrs. David McCree	Ms. Caroline Shepherd
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Bell	Mr. & Mrs. David Grubb	Mr. & Mrs. Stephanie Metro	Mr. Geoffrey Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Martin Bernstein	Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Guard	Mr. & Mrs. Tyler Miller	Mr. & Mrs. Eckert Snyder
Mr. & Mrs. Albert Betteridge, III	Mr. & Mrs. Peter Guernsey, Jr.	Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Miserandino	Mr. Albert Stickney, III
Mr. & Mrs. Ian Bickley	Mr. & Mrs. Brooks Hamblett	Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Moore	Ms. Deborah Stiles
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Billingsley	Mr. & Mrs. Charles Hill	Ms. Kimberly Morella	Mr. & Mrs. John Stockbridge
Mr. & Mrs. Roger Blanc	Ms. Andree Hussar-Izzo	Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Morley	Mr. & Mrs. Paul Sturz
Mr. & Mrs. Roy Boe, Jr.	Mr. Michael Jackson	Mr. & Mrs. John Morris	Mrs. Eleanor Sullivan
Mr. & Mrs. Jeremiah Bogert	Mr. & Mrs. Ted Jacobi	Mr. & Mrs. M Murphy	Dr. Thomas Sullivan & Mrs. Shirley Lindefeld
Mrs. Robbin Bongiorno	Mr. Steven Jennings	Mr. & Mrs. Grant Murray	Mr. & Mrs. Peter Sutton
Mr. & Mrs. Steven Borner	Dr. Cynthia Jerome & Mr. Eric Bergman	Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Neeck	Mrs. Maryellin Swan
Mr. & Mrs. Philip Bowers	Mr. & Mrs. Robert Jones	Dr. Stephen Nicholas	Mr. & Mrs. Steel Swift
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Brenner	Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Jorgensen	Mr. & Mrs. John Nolon	Mr. & Mrs. Harold Talbot
Mr. & Mrs. Scott Brown, Jr.	Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Joyce	Mr. & Mrs. Ronald O'Neil	Mr. & Mrs. John Talty
Mr. & Mrs. Caesar Bryan	Mrs. Janet Jussel	Mr. & Mrs. Femi Otelaja	Mr. Larry Tamaccio & Dr. Betsy Seng
Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Burdick	Mrs. William Kast	Mr. & Mrs. Eric Parsons	Mrs. Amoret Thissell
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Cady	Mr. & Mrs. Wilmot Kidd, III	Mr. Luther Peacock & Mrs. Julie Bacon	Mr. & Mrs. William Thorn
Mrs. Helen Chace	Mr. & Mrs. Loring Knoblauch	Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Peek	Mr. & Mrs. George Thurston
Mr. Michael Citro & Mrs. Laura Blau	Mr. & Mrs. Keith Kroeger	Mr. & Mrs. Brian Pellegrini	Mrs. Marilen Tilt
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Clymer, III	Mrs. Sally Kroll	Mr. & Mrs. Clark Petschek	Mrs. Dookie Tingle
Mr. & Mrs. John Convery	Mr. & Mrs. Eric Kronenberg	Mr. Michael Phillipppo & Ms. Anne Benefico - Phillipppo	Mrs. & Mr. Bonnie Tisi
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Cummings, III	Mr. Christopher Lacovara & Mr. Sam Green	Dr. & Mrs. John Pinckney	Mr. & Mrs. Conor Tochilin
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Dailey	Mr. Kevin Lahart & Dr. Mary Chisholm	Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Polk	Mr. & Mrs. Roger Vincent
Mr. & Mrs. Pajton Dauer	Mrs. Heather Lamb	Mr. & Mrs. James Raezer	Mr. Roger Vincent, Jr. & Mrs. Melissa Vincent
Ms. Christian Daviron	Mr. & Mrs. Christian Langalis	Mrs. & Mr. Diane Rapp	Mr. & Mrs. John Walker
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Deeks	Mr. & Mrs. John Lange	Mr. & Mrs. Eric Reimer	Mr. & Mrs. John Warden
Mrs. Gracemarie Dell Angelo	Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Langham	Mr. & Mrs. Jamies Renwick	Mrs. Elizabeth Wattles
Marissa Dent & Henry Davis	Ms. Margaret le Comte	Mr. & Mrs. James Renwick	Mr. Mark Weigel & Ms. Dyllan McGee
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Dwyer	Mrs. Unni Lindefeld	Mr. & Mrs. Michael Rice	Mr. & Mrs. Ingo Wersborg
Mr. & Mrs. Blake Dwyer	Mr. & Mrs. Nelson Long	Mr. & Mrs. Geoff Robertson	Mrs. Aimee Whitman
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Eshoo	Mr. & Mrs. John Louras	Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Robinson	Ms. Christina Winchester
Mrs. Evelyne Estey	Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Louras	Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Robinson	Mrs. Nancy Wise
Mr. & Mrs. William Fagan	Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Lovering	Rev. & Mrs. Matthew Rossi	The Rev. & Mrs. John Zahl
Mrs. Mary Farley		Mr. Will Runyon	The Rev. & Mrs. Paul Zahl
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Ferguson		Mr. & Mrs. John Ryan	
Ambassador April Foley			
Mr. & Mrs. Gifford Foley			

St. Matthew's also recognizes those who give freely of their time and talent and thank them for their generosity of spirit. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this list and we apologize if any have been omitted. If you are not included above and have made a financial commitment to St. Matthew's this year, please contact the parish office so that we may recognize your contribution next time.