



The Ivy Leaf

October 4, 2020

Welcome...

to St. Matthew's. We're delighted to worship with you this morning, whether this is your first time here or your thousandth. The Episcopal tradition values all parts of the human person—heart, mind, and soul. We believe that all three are gifts from God, and God both sustains them and invites us to use them in God's service. Our passionate emotions, our questions and searching, our yearning for something deeper—God values them all, because God values all of us. Wherever you are on your journey in life, we hope you find something in this community that feeds your soul and strengthens you to share in God's work in the world.

The Feast of St. Francis

Today we celebrate Francis of Assisi, born in 1182 to a prosperous merchant family. His young life was spent in harmless revelry and fruitless attempts to win military glory, but encounters with beggars and lepers pricked his conscience and he decided to embrace a life of poverty. Francis renounced all material values and devoted himself to serving the poor. He established the Order of Friars Minor, a name he chose to emphasize his desire to be numbered among the “least” of God’s servants. He is also the saint most closely associated with animals; he rejoiced in the value and beauty animals bring to creation.

Of all the saints, Francis is the most popular and admired, but probably the least imitated; few have attained to his total identification with the poverty and suffering of Christ.

Blessing of the Animals 2020

This **Sunday, October 4**, after our regular virtual worship service at 10:00 am, our clergy will move to the front lawn for the blessing of dogs, cats, and all other faithful household companions. Starting at **11:00 am** and continuing until 11:30 am, households are invited to find a place in our parking lot and then proceed with their pets to the front lawn. Clergy will observe safe social distancing and offer a blessing for your beloved household animals. Parishioners should wear

masks and follow the course of travel laid out on the lawn while adhering to safe social distancing.

During the parade of animals, Philip will play festive music, appropriate for the Feast of St. Francis, on our memorial bells.

Town Hall Meeting Sunday



Join us at **noon** via Zoom this **Sunday, October 4**, for an update about our Parish and School. We will provide an update of parish finances along with a review of the ways to engage with St. Matthew's online. Participants will have the opportunity to meet our Interim Head of School, Ralph Wales, and we will have the opportunity to share the state of reopening plans for both the Church and School. There will also be ample opportunity to ask questions. [Check the email carrying this newsletter for the Zoom link.](#)

Feast Of St. Matthew Scavenger Hunt Lives On!

Last month we announced an All Parish Scavenger Hunt to commemorate our patronal feast day. We have decided to give more people a chance to go on the challenging Scavenger Hunt!

Instructions and the Scavenger Hunt List are available here on our website: <https://episcopalstmatthew.org/2020/09/scavenger-hunt/>.

For those of you without a printer, there are extra copies in the phone booth by the Church Office door. Please wear a mask and socially distance from one another when you are on Church grounds and beyond.

A special thank you to Janine Gerzanics and Carol Kalb for adding the more challenging items to our list. We look forward to seeing your pictures—have a fabulous time!

Peace and many blessings,
Father Eric, Father Jay and Deacon Lauren

Phishing Alert

Email phishing scams continue to target clergy and parishioners nationwide. These scams typically come as emails falsely representing clergy and soliciting gift cards to assist people in need. Should you receive any email requesting gift cards or personal information, please treat it with caution. St. Matthew's clergy will never ask for your help this way. For any questions about a communication, feel free to contact the church office, Fr. Eric, or Fr. Jay directly to confirm.

UTO Ingathering in Pandemic Time

Our traditional Fall United Thank Offering ingathering won't be in person on a Sunday morning this year, but contributions to the good work UTO grants enable can be made via mail and online, by **Sunday, October 25**.

You can donate by using this link: <https://unitedthankoffering.org/give/> (in the "Diocese" box, write *California*, and in the "Parish" box, *St. Matthew's*); or, by mailing a check to St. Matthew's, made payable to the League for Service, with the memo line labeled "UTO". For more about UTO, see this month's *Tau Cross* newsletter: [The Tau Cross](#).

Book Group: *Little Fires Everywhere* for October

The St. Matthew's Book group will meet via Zoom on **Wednesday, October 28** at 7:00 pm to talk about Celeste Ng's novel, *Little Fires Everywhere*. All are invited to join. (A Zoom invitation will be emailed to all registered members of the group. If you don't already get these emails, contact the church office to ask for the Zoom invite.)

Blessings and Prayer List Additions

Names for blessings and prayers can be submitted by emailing or calling the church office: office@episcopalstmatthew.org or 650-274-0795.

Contributions and Pledges

Your generous financial support helps St. Matthew's fulfill its mission: to live God's love, to share the Gospel, and to grow spiritually. Thank you for continuing your giving during these times. Contributions and pledges can be mailed to the church or made online at: episcopalstmatthew.org/giving/donate-now/.

Food Bank Need Continues

As the COVID-19 crisis continues, Second Harvest Food Bank has seen dramatic increases in need. If you are able to provide financial support, donations can be made online here: <https://give.shfb.org/donatenow>.