



# THE KEY

## ST. MATTHEW'S PARISH

### BEDFORD N.Y.

April

To know Christ and to make Him known

2019

## A Blessed Little Thought

Currently, in our Wednesday morning Bible Study, we are reading Paul's letter to the Colossians. It's a small little letter, and one that is often forgotten. But Colossians is full of insight. In just four short chapters, he mentions the word, "Christ" 26 times, which is a lot. His primary concern for his readers is that they put God at the center of their lives.

Sometimes theologians draw a distinction between the vertical and the horizontal. The "vertical" refers to the side of our religious life that is found over and above us. Imagine looking up from your life, or rather, looking down upon your life, seeing it from God's vantage point. In many respects, this is the goal of our worship. We seek to connect with God in such a way that our perspective is reoriented. One of the things people who are new to the Episcopal Church sometimes comment on is that they love the verticality of our worship. The Book of Common Prayer does a wonderful job of re-framing our angle on life in this way.

The "horizontal," by contrast, refers to everything within our reach, to the things we see (on the ground) when we look to our left and our right. It includes our family, our friends, our neighbors, our concerns. It includes ethics, and every interest we have in the behavior of others.

I personally am of the opinion that the vertical aspects of the religious life are primary. They need always to be emphasized first, over and above the horizontal. This is because our relationship with God hugely influences our relationship with the world around us. A church that reverses this order becomes overly fixated upon morality, and can veer quickly into factions and legalism.

But I don't take this position because of the things it enables us to sidestep. No, I bed down in emphasizing the vertical, because I've seen how this plays out in the life of real people over and over again. Years ago, a parishioner tried to help his fiancée find a job. Every time they were together, he grilled her about her resume, her interviewing technique, her strategy... Poor girl! Needless to say, these efforts, albeit with the best of intentions, had a negative effect upon their relationship. By the time he got to my office, they were on the rocks.

I encouraged him to pray for her daily with serious intention, and then to turn his fiancée's employment over God. Not only did he soon find that he felt less anxious about the upcoming marriage, but through a remarkable string of events, she was soon working three jobs simultaneously! My friend came to see not only that he could trust God with his daily concerns, but that he was the lucky one in this marital equation. He couldn't believe someone so capable still wanted to marry him.

When people get straight with God, their lives fall into place. When people pray to God, they find courage, patience, and love from on high. The vertical properly orients the horizontal.

## St. Matthew's to Welcome Springtime at Daffodils & Dancing, Apr. 12

The Daffodils & Dancing party on Apr. 12 will usher in springtime at St. Matthew's with a festive evening of fellowship, delicious food and drink, fundraising and festivities. After enjoying an Aperol Spritz or a glass of wine during a lovely cocktail hour at the Rectory, we will proceed to a catered, candlelit dinner in the Fellowship Room. John Zahl is preparing a handcrafted dinnertime playlist, and after dinner we will dance the night away with Mark Weigel and his band, DogHouse. But first, everyone's favorite auctioneer, Cutler Whitman, will lead us in a brief fundraising effort. Don't miss these fabulous auction items:



- A week at Fairlight Hall, a castle in East Sussex, England for up to 13 people. Courtesy of Sarah Kowitz of Bedford Hills. It's impossible to be brief in describing this English countryside gem, replete with endless acres of gardens and sea breezes. Ask our senior warden, John Walker. He stayed there a few years ago with some fellow parishioners and absolutely loved this special spot.
- Three couples' getaway to Nantucket. Act fast! Spring 2019 only. Daffodil Festival Weekend is Apr. 26 - 28 and the Nantucket Wine & Food Festival is May 15 -19. Spring is a great time on Nantucket, especially in this brand new, chic, modern beach house with sea views galore. Courtesy of Patty and Skip Carpenter.
- 200 daffodils planted at your home - The official flower of new beginnings and friendship - how perfectly on theme! Fall planting for spring blooms. Courtesy of Win Ghriskey of NorthEast Properties.
- A round of golf and lunch for 3 at Sankaty Head Golf Club, Nantucket. The Atlantic wraps around 270 degrees and the famous Sankaty Head Lighthouse looms over the front nine. Need we say more? Courtesy of Paige Vincent and Arthur Gosnell, one of whom will be your fourth.
- Front Row Pew at the 4 p.m. Christmas Eve Service at St. Matthew's. T'was the night before Christmas, and all through the church, not a seat was left empty, no matter how hard I searched. Not anymore! Be your family's Christmas Eve hero!

Please go to [www.stmatthewsbedford.org](http://www.stmatthewsbedford.org) for more auction details and to buy tickets. Tickets on sale through Apr. 5, or until they sell out. Please feel free to contact Meredith Pakman at [meredith@pakman.com](mailto:meredith@pakman.com) with any questions. Hope to see you there!

Congratulations to St. Matthew's Preschool for being voted the best preschool in Bedford!



## Celebrated Guitarist at Apr. 10 Concert

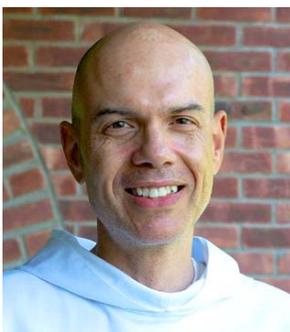
The Bedford Chamber Concert series continues its season with its Apr. 10 concert at 8 p.m. The main theme for the April concert will be the guitar, including Boccherini's Fandango Quintet, featuring internationally acclaimed guitarist Ben Verdery. A Professor of Music at Yale, Mr. Verdery has performed throughout the world. The concert will be presented in the Fellowship Room, which has excellent acoustics and is an ideal place to listen to a concert featuring the guitar. Also to be presented will be the debut performance of Tony Newman's Easter Quintet and his arrangement for chamber orchestra of Mozart's Prague Symphony.



Tickets for the concert may be purchased online at [www.bedfordchamberconcerts.org](http://www.bedfordchamberconcerts.org) or reserved at (914) 522-5150. Sumptuous refreshments are provided during the intermission.

## Confirmation News

We finished our 'academic' Confirmation classes in March – and we're now preparing for Confirmation Sunday on May 19. We'll begin by welcoming Brother Josep Martinez-Cubero from Holy Cross Monastery at 3 p.m. on Sun., Apr. 7 for a Prayer Workshop. Br. Josep lived in New York City for 18 years before joining the Order of Holy Cross in 2014, and among other things founded a children's theater company. We look forward to our time with him, and he'll be preaching at the 5 p.m. service that evening to round out his visit. We then meet on Sun., April 14 at 6 p.m. for our Sponsorship Dinner which will include the much-anticipated 'Stump the Rector.' It will no doubt be the first of many of these annual grillings for our new Rector John Zahl!



Rik

## Gift of Painting Hangs in the Fellowship Room

Two new parishioners of St. Matthew's, Peter and Marlene Saile, have made an extraordinarily generous gift to the Church of a painting by Omiros Chrisopoulos. The painting is entitled Pilgrims at Eamus and depicts the dramatic moment when Jesus offers bread to two of his Disciples, revealing himself with his gesture. The Disciples are beginning to stand in great astonishment after they recognize the risen Jesus. The painting portrays the scene in Luke 24:30: "While He was reclining at the table with them, He took bread, spoke a blessing and broke it, and gave it to them."



The Sailes with John Zahl

Omiros (1927-2010) was an Orthodox Christian who was born in Istanbul, Turkey. Pilgrims at Eamus, which was on display at Art Show Bedford, is hanging in the Fellowship Room of the Parish House. Please stop and see it. Other paintings by Omiros can be seen at the Atelier Omiros gallery on Court Road in Bedford Village.

## Children's Ministry

In Church School during April we will continue our journey through Lent, making palm crosses, learning about Jesus triumphant entrance into Jerusalem, the Last Supper and the events leading up to Easter Sunday. We look forward to our children's Easter celebration service and egg hunt on on Holy Saturday. Keep an eye on the weekly blast for more details.

St. Matthew's children's ministry is happy to be supporting Hour Children through this year's mite box collection. (Hour Children supports the families of women incarcerated in the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility.) If your child does not have a mite box, please let me know. It's never too late to start collecting and every penny counts! We also have a grown-up's mite box in the parish house for adult-sized donations – thank you for your support! Mite boxes should be returned to church on Sun., Apr. 28.

Tara Deeks

## Easter Is a Glorious Time at St. Matthew's. Don't Miss:

**Maundy Thursday Supper – Apr. 18 at 7 p.m.**

This supper is a tradition at St. Matthew's. Bring a salad or a meatless casserole and join parishioners for a meal together, before attending the 8 p.m. Holy Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar.

**Good Friday Services – April 19 at 7 a.m., noon, 7 p.m.**

**Holy Saturday Family Service – April 20 at 10 a.m.**

Followed by the Combes Family Easter Egg Hunt.

**Easter Day, Sunday, April 21 – Services at 7:30, 9:00 and 11 a.m.**

WE ARE HEADING BACK AND ALL ARE WELCOME!

**ST. MATTHEW'S  
CHURCH RETURNS  
TO NEWBURGH FOR  
2019 MISSION TRIP**



**Tues, June 11 & Wed, June 12; Thurs, June 27 & Fri, June 28**



16 yr olds and older are able to work with Habitat for Humanity across all four days; and on June 27 & June 28 younger parishioners will have an opportunity to work at Downing Park Urban Farm. (7:45am to 3pm daily, incl. travel)

Contact Rik for more info and to book your spot!

## Easter Flowers

Envelopes for memorial flowers are available in church or from the office. Please return your envelope with the names of loved ones by Wed., Apr. 10 for inclusion in the church bulletin.



# Youth Impressions of the Midnight Run

On Mar. 9, Dan Moore and John Zahl led a group of adults and youth to New York City for the annual Midnight Run to distribute food and clothing to the homeless. The team departed at 9 p.m. and returned at 1 a.m. It took a village for the parish to organize the run. The team consisted of (a) donors who provided clothing, shoes, toiletries, and food, (b) volunteers who met in the morning to sort



through clothing and prepare sandwiches for distribution, (c) drivers who took the food down to the city and (d) the volunteers who helped with the distribution. Fifteen people participated in the actual run, the majority of whom were youth. For many, it was their first time on the run. Below are some first-hand accounts of their Midnight Run experience:

**Alexandra Griffin:**

The Midnight Run trip to New York City last week was a life-changing experience that I will always remember. I was amazed to see how much our small acts of kindness could change a person's life for the better. The gratitude that was displayed by the people who received something as simple as a t-shirt was mind-blowing. This event has allowed me to



recognize just how much actions, as small as giving a man a pair of socks, could alter how we look at our own lives and how others live. I now have experienced that what we might consider an old pair of pants that could no longer be worn, could mean so much to someone who has very little. I found that the way one community branched out to support another community was incredible. From our own



actions, we even inspired others who asked us how to donate. Perhaps they can do the same and contribute to Midnight Run projects in their communities or help others in another way. I highly recommend joining in the Midnight Run next year, or just volunteering in any way and anywhere you can. Through your



help, you will witness how your actions will shed new light on your everyday life. Additionally, you will see how your small acts of kindness can, and will, impact others in such a powerful way.

**Christian Kim:**

During the night of the Midnight Run, around 15 people and I drove out to New York City, and gave back to the homeless. This experience of giving back to the people felt very good and dare I say, heartwarming? Having experienced what it feels like to do community work changed me. It gave a new perspective on life and appreciation. I would love to do it again.

**Sebastian Akinla:**

"It was great being able to help people."

**Lily Moore:**

"This was an eye-opening experience that changed the way I look at things. When I came home that night to a house and a warm bed I felt so blessed and grateful for everything I have. I really enjoyed this experience and was so happy to help."

## Stories of Grace



Have you ever been the recipient of grace? Perhaps someone was kind to you when you knew you didn't deserve it. Or they forgave you when you thought for sure they were going to go for the pound of flesh. It's the most remarkable thing when it happens, and Christians call it: grace. It describes the angle of God's heart toward the world, and expressions of this dynamic almost always soften the human heart.

In *Stories of Grace*, we will look at concrete examples of gracious love. We find them in movies, television, in the newspapers and literature, in the office and on the field. Please join us any Sunday morning in the Vestry Room from 9:00 – 9:45 a.m. Childcare for all ages is now provided from 9 a.m. until after the 10 a.m. service.

## Have You Made Your Pledge?



### PLEDGE

It is our privilege and responsibility  
as Members of St. Matthew's

Midweek Holy Eucharist and Bible Study on Wednesday at 10 a.m.

# April Church Calendar



**St. Matthew's Church**  
John A. Zahl, Rector  
382 Canitoe Street P.O. Box 293  
Bedford, N.Y. 10506  
(914) 234-9636  
[www.stmatthewsbedford.org](http://www.stmatthewsbedford.org)

## Fifth Sunday in Lent, April 7

- 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II**  
*Altar Guild: Ms. Morella and Mrs. Reeder*  
*Ushers: Messrs. Foster and Vincent*  
*Lay Reader: Mrs. Reeder*  
*Lector: Philip Bolen*
- 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I and Church School**  
*Altar Guild: Mesdames Borner and Brenner*  
*Ushers: Messrs. Akinla, Belknap, Borner and Brown*  
*Lay Reader: Mr. Brown*  
*Lector: Elizabeth Deeks*
- 5:00 p.m. Come As You Are Eucharist, Children's Chapel**  
*Altar Guild: Mrs. Sturz*

## Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday, April 14

- 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I**  
*Altar Guild: Mesdames MacDonald and Reed*  
*Ushers: Messrs. MacDonald and Reed*  
*Lay Reader: Mrs. Fagan*  
*Lector: Mrs. Tilt*
- 10:00 a.m. Liturgy of the Palms and Holy Eucharist, Rite II**  
*Altar Guild: Mrs. Brenner*  
*Ushers: Messrs. Burdick, de Menocal, Eshoo and Fooshee*  
*Lay Reader: Mrs. Foster*  
*Lector: Mr. Soderberg*
- 5:00 p.m. Liturgy of the Palms Eucharist and Passion Reading, Children's Chapel**  
*Altar Guild: Mrs. Talty*

## Maundy Thursday, April 18

- 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Supper**
- 8:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar**  
*Ushers: Messrs. Fagan and Foster*  
*Lay Reader: Mrs. Foster*
- 9:00 p.m. Gethsemane Watch through the night**

## Good Friday, April 19

- 7:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit**
- 12 & 7 p.m. Good Friday Service**

## Holy Saturday, April 20

- 10:00 a.m. Holy Saturday Family Service followed by Easter Egg Hunt**  
*Ushers: Mr. & Mrs. Akinla; Mr. & Mrs. Kent*

## Easter Day, Sunday, April 21

- 7:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist Easter Service**  
*Altar Guild: Mesdames Fagan and Tilt*  
*Ushers: Messrs. Bowers and Foster*  
*Lay Reader: Mrs. Fagan*  
*Lector: Mrs. Tilt*
- 9:00 a.m. Festival Holy Eucharist**  
*Altar Guild: Mesdames Pinckney and Sturz*  
*Ushers: Messrs. Inglis, Keller, Kent and Ketchum*  
*Lay Reader: Mrs. Tisi*  
*Lector: Mr. Gale*
- 11:00 a.m. Festival Holy Eucharist**  
*Altar Guild: Mesdames Borner and Brenner*  
*Ushers: Messrs. Gaynor, Hancock, Kim and LaMotte*  
*Lay Reader: Mrs. Foster*  
*Lector: Elizabeth Deeks*

## No 5:00 p.m. Service

## Second Sunday of Easter, April 28

- 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I**  
*Altar Guild: Mesdames Meyer and Scott*  
*Ushers: Mr. & Mrs. Fagan*  
*Lay Reader: Mrs. Reeder*  
*Lector: Mr. Freeman*
- 10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer and Church School**  
*Ushers: Messrs. Lovering, MacLean, Maybank and McKenna*  
*Lay Reader: Mrs. Thompson*  
*Lector: Dorothea Jorgensen*
- 5:00 p.m. Come As You Are Eucharist, Children's Chapel**  
*Altar Guild: Mrs. Walker*

## Third Sunday of Easter, May 5

- 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II**  
*Altar Guild: Ms. Morella and Mrs. Reeder*  
*Ushers: Mr. & Mrs. Reeder*  
*Lay Reader: Mr. Kim*  
*Lector: Mr. Bolen*
- 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I and Church School**  
*Altar Guild: Mesdames Borner and Brenner*  
*Ushers: Messrs. Mockridge, Moore, Robinson and Swift*  
*Lector: Mrs. Finn*
- 5:00 p.m. Come As You Are Eucharist, Children's Chapel**  
*Altar Guild: Mrs. Borner*

## Comings & Goings

### New or Returning Parishioners

Ms. Christine Biddle 46 Ebenezer Lane Pound Ridge, New York 10576	Jason Colvin & Elizabeth Krajewski 59 Davids Hill Road Bedford Hills, New York 10507
Dr. Ted Curtis 268 Cherry Street Katonah, New York 10536	Mr. Peter Channing Wells 3005 Lasuen Drive Carmel, California 93923

### In Memoriam

*In sure and certain hope*

Abram Claude, Jr. – February 28, 2019

Patricia Keesee (Ketchum Society) – February 24, 2019

## It was a Merry, Merry Mardi Gras!

