



# THE KEY

## ST. MATTHEW'S PARISH

### BEDFORD N.Y.

March

To know Christ and to make Him known

2019

### A Lenten Thought

Lent marks a decisive shift in the vibe of our Church's life. To the world, looking in from the outside, we might appear to be engaging in a somewhat counterproductive avenue of thought. It might seem like a "downer"...

But we mustn't get the wrong idea about Lent. It is not designed to rain on any parades. Nor should it be thought of as a "downer". The Lenten focus on repentance underscores the importance of honesty and self-reflection, and, as such, deepens our appreciation for the goodness of God.

Penitence is not about feeling bad. It is about honesty and self-reflection. The experience can be compared to that of looking at yourself in a mirror for the first time in a while. We are given to do it for our own good, and, as such, penitence is an avenue that ultimately edifies and enriches our lives.

Consider the probing insight of our Book of Common Prayer. There is perhaps no more insightful passage in the whole book than the prayer of confession. I sometimes marvel at how ably it cuts to the heart of lived human experience. Maybe you remember the version we find in the service of Morning Prayer: "We have erred and strayed from Thy ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts... We have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done." I have yet to meet the person who cannot identify, in some respect, with this sentiment. Who among us is a stranger to regret? Who among us has never needed to say they were sorry?

And yet we live in a world that is often quick to downplay the importance of this aspect of our inner life. Sometimes it seems like our attempts to "stay positive" have more to do with denial and

avoidance of the negative than with any genuine gratitude for our many blessings, like some kind of foolish counter-balancing act which touts that famous line from The Wizard of OZ: "Pay no attention to the man behind the curtain." Perhaps we have lost sight of the fact that denial and defensiveness are not Christian virtues.

Lent is designed to snap us out of the unreflective, rutted life that often permeates our day-to-day trudging. It questions our ineffective methods of coping.

Of course, we are not inclined to be transparent. Regardless of where this tendency originates – it might be cultural, it might be genetic, or it might be a combination of multiple factors – we all do make mistakes, and we do disappoint ourselves. The odd thing that we realize during Lent is that the Christian faith is predicated upon this fact. In our church, we are constantly emphasizing that God is forgiving. But how can that proclamation mean anything to us if we have no awareness of our need for forgiveness. The point I'm trying to make is that, in God we have permission to be frail.

We explore the flawed parts of our lives because, in so doing, our relationship with God deepens. Our appreciation for the One "whose property it is always to have mercy" grows accordingly. Consider the words of Richard Hooker:

My eager protestations, made in the glory of my ghostly strength, I am ashamed of; but those crystal tears, wherewith my sin and weakness was bewailed, have procured my endless joy; my strength hath been my ruin, and my fall my stay.



### March Key Dates

Sun., Mar. 3	9 a.m.	Rector's Class: "Grace in Downton Abbey"
	6 p.m.	Mardi Gras Party
Ash Wed., Mar. 6	10 a.m. & 7 p.m.	Holy Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes
	11 a.m.	Bible Study
Sat., Mar. 9 - Apr. 13	7:30 p.m.	Men's Lenten Breakfast
Sun., Mar 10 - Apr. 14	9 - 9:50 a.m.	Rector's Lenten Class "Stories of Grace" (babysitting provided)
Wed., Mar. 20	8 p.m.	Bedford Chamber Concert: Pianist Vladimir Feltsman

### Save The Date

Daffodils & Dancing, Apr. 12  
An Evening of Friendship & Fundraising




**Mardi Gras 2019**  
**Sunday, March 3 at 6 p.m.**

*Dixieland Jazz Band      Dancing      King's Cake*  
*Fun dress, masks and beads      Crafts and games*  
*Finger lickin' Pot Luck      Crowning of King and Queen*

You bring family and friends and a dish to share.  
We provide wine, beer, kid drinks, and entertainment.  
All have a rollickin' good time!

Sign up on Realm [HERE](#) or in the Parish House




## A Lenten Series: Stories of Grace with John Z.

A new series, Stories of Grace begins on Mar. 10 (running each Sunday through the end of Lent) from 9 a.m. to 9:50 a.m. in the Vestry Room.



No single word better describes the heart of the Christian message than “grace.” It defines our relationship with God, and shapes our relationships with our neighbors. But it is also the case that life and people are not always gracious; sometimes our day-to-day experience can seem devoid of any charity.

Lent, as a season, wholeheartedly acknowledges the reality of life’s struggles, while simultaneously preparing us to appreciate and engage with the hope and possibility found in Easter. Lent is a time when we look up and out for God’s grace to break into our midst like a wonderful surprise. And so we do well to draw attention to concrete expressions of this dynamic as it plays out in the world. They remind us of the things in life that are most important, and point us back toward their spiritual point of origin.

In “Stories of Grace,” with the help of film clips, newspaper articles, and excerpts from literature, we will reflect upon some of these special instances. Childcare for all ages is provided in the nursery beginning at 8:55 a.m.

“The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you.” (1 Cor 16:23)

## Wednesday Lenten Bible Study – Colossians (a.k.a., Paul’s greatest hits)

Starting on Mar. 13, after the Wednesday Holy Eucharist service at 10 a.m. and running until Easter, we will be studying the book of Colossians. In this very accessible and short Epistle, St. Paul spells out the basics of the Christian faith. It contains within it all of the earmarks of Paul’s famous (and life-changing) train of thought, and summarizes the bulk of his teachings. Join us each Wednesday during Lent (11 a.m. in the Vestry Room), and we learn how our faith reorients the way we view our lives and the world at large. As always, we have coffee, baked yummys, and plenty of Bibles. But if you have a Bible, feel free to bring it (note: any translation is fine).

## Confirmation Class News

This month, we’ll be wrapping up our classes for this parish year over two consecutive Sundays. On Sun., Mar. 3 at 4 p.m. we’ll be studying the history of the Anglican Church and how we as Episcopalians fit into that history, followed by chapel at 5 p.m. and the parish-wide Mardi Gras celebrations at 6 p.m.! On Sun., Mar. 10, again at 4 p.m., we’ll be studying the Church seasons and the Book of Common Prayer. With these two classes finished, we’ll then look to April and May with a number of activities planned as we prepare for the visit of Bishop Shin for confirmation on Sun., May 19.

## Bedford Chamber Concerts presents Vladimir Feltsman, Mar. 20

To open the spring 2019 concert series of the Bedford Chamber Concerts, internationally renowned pianist Vladimir Feltsman will be the guest performer on Wed., Mar 20. Mr. Feltsman was born in Moscow in 1952 and quickly established himself as a keyboard player of international stature. Dissatisfied with the artistic restrictions placed on him by the government, he applied for an exit visa in 1979 and was rewarded with eight years of virtual banishment from the Russian musical scene. In 1987 he was allowed to emigrate to the United States and gave his first recital in the White House for President Reagan. Three months later he debuted at Carnegie Hall with a performance that established him as a major figure on the American classical music scene. Mr. Feltsman is, along with our own Tony Newman, one of the leading Bach scholars and performers in the world. He will be performing the Bach Partita No. 1, along with Chopin’s Three Nocturnes op 9, Nocturne op. 48 #2 and Ballade No. 3 in A flat major. Don’t miss this chance to see a piano virtuoso play Bach and Chopin up close and personal.



Tickets (\$40.00) can be reserved by phone at 914-522-5150 and paid for at the door, or ordered online at [www.bedfordchamberconcerts.org](http://www.bedfordchamberconcerts.org). Student tickets, which can only be purchased at the door, cost \$10. Families with younger children can attend rehearsals, starting at 6 p.m., for free. The concert starts at 8 p.m. in the Fellowship Room. Delicious treats are provided by the Music Committee at intermission.



## Attention St. Matthew’s Middle and High School Students, Mar. 9

St. Matthew’s middle and high schoolers are needed for important work to help the homeless on Sat., Mar. 9. Middle school girls and boys are asked to help organize donated winter clothes, soap and shampoo kits, and to prepare meals for distribution to homeless men and women. Middle schoolers should show up in the Parish House from 9:30 a.m. to noon on Mar. 9 to participate in this crucial part of the Midnight Run.

High school boys and girls may participate on the run into New York City with adult chaperones to deliver the clothing, toiletries and food to the homeless. High schoolers need to show up at St. Matthew’s Church between 8:00 to 8:20 p.m. for departure at 8:30 p.m. sharp; students will return to St. Matthew’s at 1:00 a.m.

To sign up, please email organizer and parishioner Dan Moore [dmoore@cjs-securities.com](mailto:dmoore@cjs-securities.com). If you have any questions about participation in the Midnight Run, please contact Noriko Akinla [noriko.yokoi@gmail.com](mailto:noriko.yokoi@gmail.com), Inness Hancock [Inness@me.com](mailto:Inness@me.com) or Ian MacLean [iwm.smc@gmail.com](mailto:iwm.smc@gmail.com).

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



The entire St. Matthew's parish is invited to celebrate springtime together in an evening of Daffodils & Dancing right here at St. Matthew's. Join fellow parishioners on Fri., Apr. 12 starting at 6 p.m. for fellowship, delicious food, festive cocktails and light fundraising. Our special evening begins at the Rectory, the new home of the Zahl family, beautifully decorated by Deirdre. There we will enjoy a cocktail hour, graciously hosted by Deirdre and John. After cocktails, we will proceed to the candlelit Fellowship Room for a lovely seated springtime dinner, complete with a dinnertime playlist curated by DJ JAZ (a.k.a. John Zahl). After a short fundraising effort MC'd by our very own Cutler Whitman, the dance floor opens up as we dance the night away to Mark Weigel's amazing band, DogHouse. This is a party not to miss!

Daffodils & Dancing, organized by the St. Matthew's Festivities & Fundraising committee, will take the place of the Bedford Spring Antiques Show, which is on hiatus this year. Traditionally, this April party weekend has marked the beginning of the spring social and fundraising season in Bedford, so we are keeping our spot as the first party out of the gate. All proceeds generated from this evening will support the St. Matthew's operating budget.

Invitations will be emailed from our church office in early March. Stay tuned for information as the details unfold. In the meantime, please save the evening of Apr. 12 for St. Matthew's. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Meredith Pakman at [meredith@pakman.com](mailto:meredith@pakman.com).

## Super Bowl

For some, the big action was the Super Bowl between the Boston Patriots and the Los Angeles Rams on Sun., Feb. 3. However, at St. Matthew's, it was the Super Bowl Bake Sale with scrumptious treats and Connie Combes's amazing bacon, eggs and pancakes made of cake and icing.



## Children's Ministry

Thank you all for the fabulous response to the Bake Sale. We raised over \$600 to help our friends at Hour Children. If you would like more information about the work this unique and significant charity does, please don't hesitate to ask; there are many ways to get involved and help, not just buying cakes!



Lent in Church School – the mite boxes will be returning! These are little boxes that the children should try to fill up with coins (or notes) as an offering of love, teaching them the principle of giving to those in need. Please encourage the children to fill up their box with money and love and we will collect them at the end of Lent to give to Hour Children.

Our church school lessons will continue to look at Jesus's ministry – we have already learned about his childhood, baptism, choosing of disciples (and thought about how we need to be modern-day disciples) and some of His miracles. We will continue looking at more miracles and thinking about what they are supposed to mean for us. We are also starting to read parables and understand why Jesus taught by using parables.

## THE MOUNT KISCO Interfaith FOOD PANTRY

The Mount Kisco Interfaith Food Pantry (MKIFP) is a coalition of thirteen faith-based congregations, including St. Matthew's, dedicated to providing a crucial safety net for those in the greater Mount Kisco area who do not have enough nutritious food to feed themselves or their families. Each week, the Pantry provides households free grocery staples, including fresh produce, frozen meats/fish, non-perishable staples, milk, eggs and fresh bread.



Established in 1991, and then serving only eight clients, the Pantry has grown dramatically over the past two decades. Last year the Pantry served more than 40,000 clients, providing more than half a million meals. In addition, the MKIFP provides weekly home deliveries to homebound and elderly clients, training in nutrition, meal planning and food preparation, as well as assistance in registering for federal food aid programs. The Pantry is run almost entirely by a dedicated group of volunteers from its sponsoring congregations. Distributions occur on Tuesday afternoons (5:00-7:00) and Wednesday mornings (9:00-11:00) at the United Methodist Church in Mt. Kisco. St. Matthew's is "on" for a distribution about every six weeks, at which time we need 5 volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering at the Pantry or learning more, contact Missy Renwick at [missy.renwick@renwicksothebysrealty.com](mailto:missy.renwick@renwicksothebysrealty.com) or 914-325-9473.

## Art Show: Bedford

The second weekend of Art Show: Bedford featured a Collectors' Evening on Feb. 2 with Laura and Lewis Kruger giving their perspectives on collecting.



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

# March Church Calendar



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

## Last Sunday after the Epiphany, March 3

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

## First Sunday in Lent, March 10

- 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II**  
*Altar Guild: Mesdames Reed and MacDonald*  
*Ushers: Messrs. MacDonald and Reed*  
*Lay Reader: Mrs. Foster*  
*Lector: Mrs. Tilt*
- 10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer and Church School**  
*Ushers: Messrs. Burdick, de Menocal, Eshoo and Fooshee*  
*Lay Reader: Mr. Heath*  
*Lector: Mrs. Finn*
- 5:00 p.m. Come As You Are Eucharist, Children's Chapel**  
*Altar Guild: Mrs. Talty*

## Second Sunday in Lent, March 17

- 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I**  
*Altar Guild: Mesdames Reeder and Tilt*  
*Ushers: Messrs. Foster and Joyce*  
*Lay Reader: Mrs. Fagan*  
*Lector: Mr. Vincent*
- 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I and Church School**  
*Altar Guild: Mesdames Pinckney and Sturz*  
*Ushers: Messrs. Loving, MacLean, Maybank and McKenna*  
*Lay Reader: Mr. Jackson*  
*Lector: Dorothea Jorgensen*
- 5:00 p.m. Come As You Are Eucharist, Children's Chapel**  
*Altar Guild: Mrs. Walker*

## Third Sunday in Lent, March 24

- 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II**  
*Altar Guild: Mesdames Meyer and Scott*  
*Ushers: Mr. and Mrs. Reeder*  
*Lay Reader: Mrs. Foster*  
*Lector: Mrs. Talty*
- 10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer and Church School**  
*Ushers: Messrs. Mockridge, Moore, Robinson and Swift*  
*Lay Reader: Mrs. Thompson*  
*Lector: Mrs. Tilt*
- 5:00 p.m. Come As You Are Eucharist, Children's Chapel**  
*Altar Guild: Mrs. Borner*

## Fourth Sunday in Lent, March 31

- 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I**  
*Altar Guild: Mrs. Boe*  
*Ushers: Messrs. Boe and Bolen*  
*Lay Reader: Mrs. Foster*  
*Lector: Mr. Vincent*
- 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II and Church School**  
*Altar Guild: Mesdames Borner and Brenner*  
*Ushers: Messrs. Gaynor, Hancock, Kim and LaMotte*  
*Lay Reader: Mrs. Thompson*  
*Lector: Mrs. Tilt*
- 5:00 p.m. Come As You Are Eucharist, Children's Chapel**  
*Altar Guild: Mrs. Meyer*

## 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*

## Comings & Goings

### New or Returning Parishioners

Peter & Marlene Saile  
128 Hook Road  
Bedford, NY 10506

### Holy Baptism

Received into Christ's Holy Church  
Matilda Anne Louras – February 3, 2019



At the Annual Meeting, Dan de Menocal received the Rector's Key award in appreciation of his outstanding 13 years of service on the Vestry, including eight as Warden.

## THE KEY

The Key is the monthly publication of St. Matthew's Church, Bedford. Parishioners are encouraged to submit ideas for articles or photographs of Parish events. Articles and photographs should be e-mailed to [KeyArticles@aol.com](mailto:KeyArticles@aol.com) by the second Tuesday of the month.

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