

Smatterings

Saint Matthew's
Episcopal Church
April 2023



Fr. Frank

What does Francis of Assisi have in common with St. Matthew's?

While the attribute may be disputed, St. Francis of Assisi is widely credited with the saying:

"Start by doing what is necessary, then what is possible, and suddenly you are doing the impossible."

It is a pretty impressive thing to say, but, what does it mean? At a basic level, it is a roadmap to achieving amazing things, but it begins in absolute simplicity. In one famous story, Francis was exploring the countryside around Assisi when he came upon the crumbling church of San Damiano, where he entered and knelt down in prayer, asking God for guidance. It was then Francis heard the voice of God respond, saying, "Francis, go and rebuild my church." Francis proceeded to repair San Damiano, along with a few other churches near Assisi. It wasn't until later that he realized a deeper meaning to the words God had spoken to him. He realized God was calling him to renew people's faith in Christ and to actually restore the Church.

What an amazing journey to go from feeling called to the humble work of a laborer to leading a spiritual renewal in the Church. And he did all of this by embracing a life of poverty! His life story demonstrates how all things are possible through simple acts of humility – by starting with what is necessary, and then, doing all that is possible and eventually find ourselves accomplishing the impossible.

Let me give you a more modern-day example. Daniel Miller is the founding creator of The Burnt Branch, which sells picture frames online. On the website Daniel admits that he is "a sucker for a good quote" and that he used to collect quotes to use for various occasions. He dreamed of ways to share this passion of collecting quotes with others. Eventually, he came up with an idea for "The Floating Quote." He said, "On a whim I bought some transparency film and threw them in my cheapo printer to see what would happen." The first few attempts did not turn out as planned, but he could still envision where he wanted to go with his idea. He kept the dream alive and after a period of time, it finally came together.



Friday April 7
12 Noon Stations
of the cross
7pm Good Friday
Service

Holy Week Schedule for Friday and Saturday

Saturday, April 8
8:30pm
The Great Easter
Vigil



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In the process of creating the Floating Quote Daniel saw a potential to expand this idea beyond just a framed quote and to incorporate them into picture frames. He calls them "Floating Frames." It is a picture frame with transparent film between glass with artwork embossed on the film. The rest of the frame is see-through. The result is that it creates a shadow effect when pictures are placed into the frame and hung on the wall.

As his company grew, Daniel's love of caring for the environment also found its way into the Floating Frames project. He realized that he could do more than just an individual effort. So, recently, his company teamed up with One Tree Planted – a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to global reforestation. For every frame or signed purchased through The Burnt Branch, a tree is planted. As Daniel says, "Multiple item orders plant multiple trees!"

He started by doing what was necessary to grow his passion for collecting quotes which eventually led to doing what was possible – creating the Floating Quote. This idea gave way to a bigger idea of floating frames, which opened him up to something he once thought was impossible – planting trees across the nation to help save the environment!

I am inspired by this as I think about our mission and ministry at St. Matthew's. Sometimes, for smaller congregations, the thought of doing something that really makes a difference seems impossible. But just look at our Food Pantry Ministry. There was a time when we collected canned goods once a month and dropped them at the ICAN Pantry. This grew to support both ICAN and COME Food Pantries – near east side and far east side in our city. By doing this faithfully, we now collect canned goods and paper items as part of our weekly offertory during worship and make deliveries to both of these pantries every week. Each week, several people and their children are helped because of your generosity. I don't know what will come next from this ministry, but I believe if we keep the dream alive and do what is necessary to support families in need, God will open new opportunities that may seem impossible for us in the moment!

Vestry to keep this quote in front of their eyes as they approach issues of our building and grounds, the kitchen, outreach ministry, education, and worship. What are the necessary things that we need to do? What might become possible for us? What might we accomplish that seems impossible?

One answer to this charge came through a proposal to grow our partnership with Warren Township schools. This year, the Vestry is working on a plan to send disadvantaged school children to Waycross for a week of camp! St. Matthew's has a long history with Waycross (several campers, family retreats, and Board presidents!) and shares a passion with Warren Township to help children in need. So, the idea of making it possible for some children to experience the wonders of Waycross summer camp was born! You will hear more about this in the weeks to come.

Another answer to this charge came through an idea to invite small business associations to hold their monthly meetings (e.g., monthly breakfasts, or networking forums) at St. Matthew's. We are in the process of refurbishing the lower-level Parish Hall to make it more attractive to outside agencies. Partnering with these business associations through the use of our space is another way to build relationships in our community and from which, distant, far-reaching ideas may become possibilities! Yes, you will hear more about this as plans begin to take shape!

As a faith community, we do not do food pantry ministries, kids at camp, or business forums in our space with the idea of "growing our company." If the congregation grows by these efforts, that is wonderful! But growing our ministry is not a business scheme or a marketing plan. These ministries are born out of our call to become disciples with open hearts and caring hands in our communities.

Indeed, it takes planning, fortitude, and hard work, but most importantly our mission and

ministry is rooted in the realization that God has a grander plan for us than we could possibly know. In faith, we can abandon our cares to God and focus on the necessary tasks that have been put before us. And when we do all that God is asking of us, we find ourselves growing in faith, and talent,

Reports

VESTRY

March Vestry Recap

The Vestry met on Monday, March 20, 2023.

Members of The Table Vestry (a new parish seeking entrance into the Episcopal Church) were observing and introduced themselves and talked about the discernment process for their church becoming affiliated with the Episcopal Church.

Discussion Topics:

St. Matthew's is exploring the possibility of expanding our relationship with Warren Schools by identifying up to 10 students in grades 1-5 to attend Waycross summer camp this year. Andy, Fr Frank, and Courtney from the Warren Resource Center met to discuss this possibility. A draft plan was discussed among the Vestry.

CBCP Grant Spenddown: WiFi was installed so that the whole building has reception. Kevin Sterrett is working on prioritizing remaining grant dollars.

Small Business Forum and the Parish Hall: There is no update at this time, but the goal is to begin inviting small business associations by the fall.

Parochial Report: The 2022 Report was submitted and Father Frank made some observations about this year's

and expanding our abilities. We at St. Matthew's are called to effect the same renewal as St. Francis of Assisi by applying ourselves to the tasks set before us and the good we are called to accomplish each day.

Clergy Renewal Update: The Renewal Team continues to develop small group activities and other parts of the parish portion of the grant.

Reports:

Rector: the Website www.stmattsindy.org has been updated with a new tab for the Commercial Kitchen

Senior Warden: Joan reported on the Bishop's call with Wardens. It is a good network for Wardens across the diocese to network and support each other.

Junior Warden: There was a discussion about Andy's written report about recarpeting the office areas and having a fundraiser to pay for it. Will come back next month with a proposal.

New Business

Father Frank asked for volunteers to review St. Matthew's Bylaws to affirm we are following them and that they are consistent with the Diocesan Canons and if necessary, recommend changes. Joan Porter and Heidi Kauffman volunteered to review these documents.

Next Meeting will be Monday, April 17.

OUTREACH

One of the ways we at St. Matthew's respond to Jesus' charge to feed and serve those around us is by collecting each week canned goods for the ICAN Food Pantry in Irvington and paper products/toiletries for the COME Food Pantry in Cumberland.



Irvington Community Advocacy Network News

ICAN ASSISTED 97 Clients at the agency in March.

The ICAN FOOD Pantry served over 300 households in Q1.

Announcements

REMINDER

There is **NO** 10am service on Wednesday, April 12th.

OFFICE CLOSURE

The office will be closed starting the week after Easter from **April 10th-18th**.

PARISH ACTION SATURDAY

The next event will be on **May 20th**. You can sign up on line at this link— There is also a sign up sheet in the Narthex.

April Birthdays

April 18	Natalie Palmer
April 22	Andrew Lloyd-Jones
April 23	Lester Burkeen
April 23	Sylvia Robles
April 25	Carter Bell
April 28	Elaine Mattson



April Anniversaries

April 29	Frank and Susan Impicicche
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Coming Events

Butler Outreach Project



St. Matthew's has been invited to provide goody bags for students at Butler University as they prepare for final exams. Items for the bags include:

- *Granola bars, energy bars, fruit rollups
- *Chocolate - in any of its marvelous forms
- *Small bags of chex mix
- *Candy
- *Fidget spinners
- *A note of encouragement

Grace Unlimited, the Lutheran-Episcopal Campus Ministry at Butler

Please bring your donations to church on April 9!

Spring Men's Weekend Retreat at Waycross

May 5-7

Women's Retreat at Waycross

June 17-20 or June 20-24

You can learn more and register at this link

[Waycross Events—Waycross Camp and Conference Center](#)

Happenings



Palm Sunday
April 2, 2023



Tenebrae April 5, 2023



Maundy Thursday April 6, 2023



Happy Easter

Fr. Steve
March 26, 2023



Preparing for
Baptism
March 12, 2023



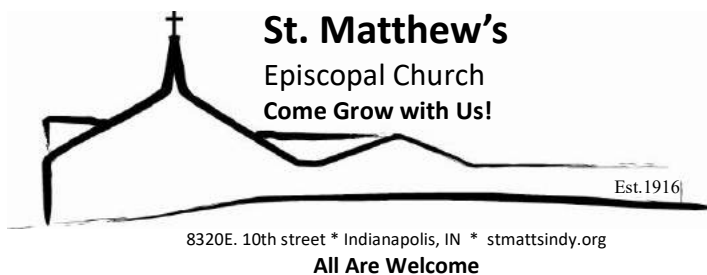
Parish Action Saturday
April 1, 2023



Sunday Ministry April 2023

Ministry Schedule	April	April	April	April	April
	2	9	16	23	30
	10:00 AM	10:00 AM	10:00 AM	10:00 AM	10:00 AM
Crucifer/ Server	Andy Wilkinson	Joe Weaver	Devon Teague	Donna Olsen	Melissa Kleine
Chalice	Donna Olsen	Heidi Kauffman	Melissa Kleine	Jon Robbins	Bonnie Godfrey
1st Reading	Vicki Mansfield	Missy Ellis	Joe Weaver	Jared Hancock	Heidi Kauffman
2nd Reading	Ellie Mattson	Linda Sykes	Catherine Davis	Marla Davenport	Jennifer Albrecht
Intercessor	Joan Porter	Andy Wilkinson	Kevin Sterrett	Michal Nugent	Steve Albrecht
	* plus 8 readers of the Passion below				
Ushers/ Greeters	Jody Breakell	Angie Wilkinson	Hal Olsen	Bonnie Godfrey	Kaye Palmer
	Wendy Blumenthal	Andy Wilkinson	Joan Porter	Natalie Palmer	Martha Livisay
Counters	Natalie Palmer	Missy Ellis	Heidi Kauffman	Terry Kee	Kevin Sterrett
	Jon Robbins	Dave Belisle	Angie Wilkinson	Hal Olsen	Jennifer Albrecht
Oblation Bearers	Sylvia Robles	Kaye Palmer	Dennis Teague	Greg Staab	Marla Davenport
	Melissa Kleine	Natalie Palmer	Susan Teague	Missy Ellis	Randy Davenport
Altar Guild	Team 1	Team 2	Team 3	Team 4	Team 5

If you are unable to serve, please find a substitute and advise the Parish Office. Thank you.



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Smatterings

April 2023

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The Revd. Frank Impicciche, *Rector*
Brianna Owens, *Parish Administrator*
Crystal Black, *Hand Bell Choir Director*
A. Paul Johnson, *Organist/Choir Director*

Services

- Sundays: Holy Eucharist Rite II
8:00am and 10:00am
- Wednesdays : Holy Eucharist 10:00am

Nursery available on Sundays starting at 9:45
Parish Office Hours: Mon. & Wed. 8am-2pm, Fri. 9am-1pm

St. Matthew's Mission Statement

The mission of St. Matthew's is
"to restore all people to unity with God and each
other in Christ."

We do this through worship of God,
education of ourselves and our children,
care for each other and outreach to others,
sharing faith stores with others,
and caring for all our resources (our time, treasure,
and talents).
Smatterings is published monthly except in the
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