

ST. MATTHEW ORTHODOX CHURCH

From the desk of Father Eugene.....

Thank you for your help, patience and cooperation with our new liturgical routine. Moving from services with 4, then 10, and now 25 has been a challenge for a community our size. Though we have overcome most of the initial hurdles, I am still tweaking certain pieces and see additional issues on the horizon. Nonetheless, we have a somewhat workable schedule and are celebrating divine services.

Most important, in all that we do is that God is glorified! That being said, I have some very real concerns. Our services still have restrictions and limitations. I admit that I have been lenient in enforcing the letter of the law, deferring rather to its spirit. I believe, however, that we, as a community, can be more watchful. I am pained telling people that they may not attend services; yet, for now, that is a reality that we must endure. Our longings for a full choir, a half dozen altar servers, kissing icons, regular fellowship, Bible study...do not come from a concern for self, but from love for God and one another. Slowly increasing participation in services and fellowship can seem an unnecessary burden, but is also an expression of the same love for those who may not share our personal circumstances. I will try to do a better job communicating our limitations and their necessity. Please be patient, cooperative and pray for me.

God has and continues to bless our community at St. Matthew in extraordinary ways. While, on the one hand, I believe this to be true, on the other hand, I am keenly aware of how our personal circumstances may have veiled what God has done. I have said before that there is a need to see these times not from a limited technology-based view, but from a perspective of our own life in Christ and the life and experience of our community. Such insight is understandably difficult, particularly spiritually, and may also be painful. Asking 'why?' or admitting that there may not be a clear answer to an issue that is confronting us right now brings us face-to-face with humility; yet, it is not something new for any of us. Each time we experience angst or anxiety (or anger or pain or suffering), we cannot expect that it will be alleviated by God summarily. In that case, we would not have a life in Christ because we would not have a cross! We can, however, discover an inner peace and joy without limit, even in our somewhat limited liturgical rhythm.

(continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1)



What will our community look like thru the summer months and into the fall? While the short answer is that I cannot predict, I will say, first and foremost, we will continue to celebrate the sacraments, perhaps not yet with our previous frequency, but regularly nonetheless. Regardless of the situation, we can all anticipate the Great Feasts of Transfiguration and Dormition (the falling asleep of the Mother of God (Κοίμησις Θεοτόκου)) in August. The Dormition Fast begins on 1 Aug. As with all the major fasts during the liturgical year, let us plan to come to confession.

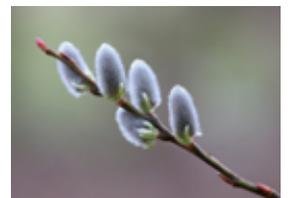
I think the need is great this year as many of you have been disrupted from regular confession by virus restrictions. It is my hope that we can celebrate upcoming feasts, their eves, and their special blessings. While I do not know in terms of numbers or services how this will play out, our life in Christ can and must continue through prayer, fasting and thoughtful engagement with the Scriptures. I also look forward to the possibility of fellowship after liturgy. Again, this will inevitably look different than it has in the past. Our coffee hours have been robust with a comparatively small fellowship hall. Rethinking how we can meet and greet one another while ensuring the comfort and safety of everyone will necessarily have to be revised. Let us pray for one another and work together as our Lord continues to be the guide and guardian of our souls and bodies.

With love in Christ,
Your unworthy priest,
Father Eugene

Lars and Nana Odman - 7/10
Greg and Ann Kaseno - 7/16
Jeff and Bonnie Zdrale - 7/26

Many Years!!

Father is planning to bless pussy willows during the Dormition Fast (the falling asleep of the Mother of God) in August. We have a nice crop of pussy willows this year and we look forward to handing them out in August.



Greetings All Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As you know, there is a pandemic going on which makes it so we haven't been able to all worship together. Thankfully, we are beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel. With the expected reopening of the church in a limited capacity, we are beginning the discussion about, not only the new cleaning procedures, but also the cleaning rotations as well. If you are currently on the list of church cleaners, I will be sending out a new rotation soon that will work in conjunction with our current worship schedule. If you are not yet on the list of church cleaners but would like to be, please contact me!

Also being discussed are a few projects that are on the horizon: the exterior painting around the west side of the building, painting the stairwell, and replacing the damaged ceiling tiles. We anticipate both of these being finished by fall. One other project a little further out that we aim to get done, hopefully by Pascha next year, is new lighting in the nave. I am looking to get a group of people together to discuss options for these lights, as I am not well-versed in lighting that is traditional to Orthodox churches. If you are interested in being a part of this group, please let me know. I hope to see you all before long as we gather together in worship.

Yours in Christ,
Matt Tomac, Parish Council Vice President

Happy Birthday to.....

Happy belated Birthday to **Chuck Bayerl** on June 16...you were accidentally missed in the June newsletter.

.....and here are the July birthdays.....

Andreas Schweiner - 7/1

Paul Holzman - 7/5

Peter Nassios - 7/10

Svitlana Hereha Mykhaylyuk - 7/11

Andrew Mykhaylyuk - 7/20

Dennis Petrick - 7/25

Kevin Brown - 7/31

Olivia Jeffers - 7/31

Many Years!!!!

Parish Council President's Perspective.....Paul Novak

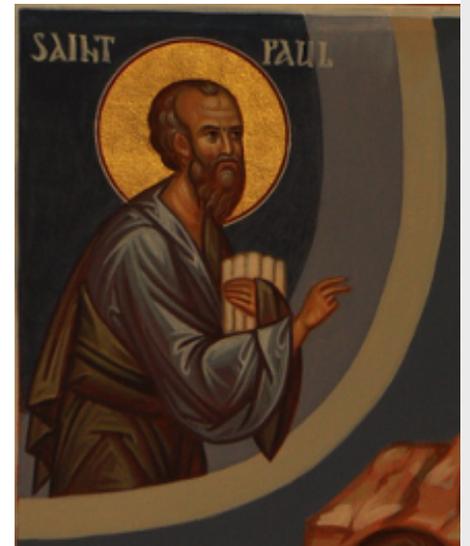
It was nice to see a lot of you as we expanded the number of people that could attend Great Vespers on Saturday and Divine liturgy on Sunday. It almost felt normal. We know that it's not and I would like to offer up some observations and suggestions as Covid-19 is part of our new normal. Let us be mindful of our social distancing guidelines. The church has plenty of room for all of us to have space between us. Come stand up front and enjoy a different view of the Church and our wonderful Iconography.

Like all of you, I like to catch up with those of you that I haven't seen in a while. As we have no coffee hour, we have had a tendency to gather and chat in the Narthex of our Church. Traditionally, the Narthex serves as a buffer between the world and the Kingdom as represented by the church building proper. There are also certain rites which are conducted in this part of the church, such as the exorcisms which precede the sacrament of Baptism, the betrothal at weddings, and in some Orthodox communities, the prayers of churching after birth. As such, we are still in Church and need to respect this space just as we do the Naive of our Church. I ask that we do our catching up outside of the Church building, especially as the weather is nice this time of year.

I know that some of these asks might be uncomfortable as we "follow the rules." I wish for us to follow the rules so that we can continue to open up the Church to all of us. The Right Reverend Alexis, Bishop of Bethesda and Auxiliary to the Metropolitan for Stavropegial Institutions wrote a lengthy article published on the OCA website on June 8th. His closing paragraph is I think a good summary of how we should treat this unusual time.

"Saint Paul asks that we do all things "decently and in order." It is right that we follow the directives now in good order, for "nothing builds up as much as good order, peace and love, just as nothing is more destructive than their opposites."¹ For the sake of good order, for the sake of peace, for the sake of love, let's seek what the Church is teaching us during these difficult times: to place our brother and sister first, to walk humbly before God, and to wait patiently for the day when our glorious Divine Liturgy will be celebrated exactly as it has been in ages past. That day will surely come. May it come quickly. Amen."

1. Saint John Chrysostom, Argumentum Epistolae Primae Corinthios, 37.4 PG 61.318b





Choir Notes from Jeff Zdrale



By now, most of our people know that we are on a “once every three week” schedule for attending Liturgy services. The choir for the time being is....me. You may have read that singing in a group is one of the most infectious things to do. I’m looking forward to all of us singing together, but for now, we have a choir of one. Father Eugene also needs to keep the service as brief as possible because we are not to be in the building for extended periods of time. So he and I really “move it” in terms of his petitions and my responses as a representative of the people.

I mentioned that I would love for the choir, and anyone else interested, to sing some church music via the computer. Pedro, who knows a lot more about this than I do, told me that ZOOM is not the best vehicle for this. The reason—the lag time. I found this to be true when we all sang Happy Birthday to my three-year old granddaughter the other day. There was definitely a lag in singing that I don’t have when I teach my grammar class to English language learners. Talking works better than singing. I’m hoping that Pedro will figure another way for us to sing together via the computer.

I also want to stress that having just me as the “choir” does not mean that the people in attendance can’t sing along. Most of what I am doing will be familiar to all of you. So even with our limited numbers, let’s raise our voices to the Good Lord as best we can.



Dear Cheerful Givers,

Your SMOC Treasurer has two very different topics to discuss this month, but first let me again say thank you to all of our parish for your faithful giving and support of SMOC. We are truly blessed with an abundance of faithful givers both financially and through the talents that God has given us all. Several folks have given some or all of their government stimulus check balance to our ministries. What a great way to use taxpayer funds that they didn't want or need.

Giving to our ministries. SMOC supports four ministries regularly. House of Hope Green Bay, IOCC/OCMC, Fox Valley Food Pantries and the SMOC Benevolence fund are allocated funds as part of our missions budget. I want to encourage you to give to at least one of these ministries monthly so we can continue to reach beyond ourselves to touch the lives of others in our community and support missionary service worldwide. Please write the name of the ministry you choose to bless with an offering on your offering envelope each week/month. Our Ministry Team gives us updates nearly weekly on how these funds are disbursed and used to God's glory. I consider this category of alms giving our greatest calling.

Retirement of our parking lot debt. As I have told many of you personally, I believe our Lord provided us with a solid church building at an incredible price six years ago. It has needed a lot of TLC and we still have some important projects to complete. The parish council is asking any and all of us to give specifically to the reduction of the loan we acquired to repair our parking lot. As a church body we are looking for an additional \$500-\$600 a month to retire this debt in the next three to four years or sooner. Any gifts above and beyond your pledge and P42 giving would be really important toward this effort. Many of the beautification projects we wish to accomplish will be on hold until we can retire or restructure this loan. Please pray and consider what you can do to make this happen. I believe we can do this if we all are willing to make this a community goal.

Your servant,
Tom Julian

***"Let the brightness of the Lord our God be upon us,
and direct the works of our hands to do good.
Guide the works of our hands." PS 89***

The Ministry Team: Keeping You in the Loop

Your Ministry Team is back after a little pandemic break! We met on June 20th and discussed many projects.

The two dinners St. Matthew provided for St. John's Shelter and for House of Hope went well. Many thanks to Nana, Sara and Deb! More to come.

We are collecting warm clothing for Warm the Children for a few weeks yet. Socks, hats, gloves, sweaters and sweatshirts larger than size 6 are needed.

The 40 Day Walk for Life will be from September 23 to November 1. Please consider walking and praying with us. See Nana, Melissa or Mary.

Please remember our Ministry Team focus for July is our food pantries. Bring your non-perishables and leave them on the MT table.

Thank you for your support and please pray for us, that He will guide us as we look to serve.



A Note From the Petrick's.....

We so much appreciated the love and fellowship of friends at St. Matthew Orthodox Church in Green Bay. It has been a great blessing and a pleasure to know each and every person, with special mention of Father Eugene and his beautiful family. Suzanne, Anthony and I will miss all of you deeply, and we hope to be with you all in Heaven. Isn't that a wonderful thought! A grand fellowship together, so much more than any weekly Divine Liturgy and what Paul Novak calls "The Coffee Hour!"

In his (COVID time) Thomas Sunday, YouTube homily, Father Eugene said that all of us are always in some sort of transition, looking for a peaceful existence in this world ... sojourners .. always on the move... some more than others. My family is part of the "some more than others" group. We've moved so often that we're beginning to lose track, but this time the move seems more permanent, the end destination seems more final, and the sojourn feels like it's coming to a crescendo. I hope this is our last move!

My grandparents, Valent and Magda Petric, emigrated from Croatia (the former Austro- Hungarian Empire and later, Yugoslavia). They raised seven children, became American, and helped build our country. Since 1991, after Croatia gained independence, it's been a dream of mine to return and help to build Croatia into a stable, secure, Christian nation. We are very excited about the move, and my Croatian cousins are eager to meet us. Dear friends, if ever you have an opportunity, please make plans to visit us there. We will cook for you, of course!

May God bless you all!
Dennis, Suzanne and Anthony



*Delicious and fast-friendly recipes
from Judith Stuck.....*

RUSSIAN CABBAGE BORSCHT (Yield 4-6 servings)

1 1/2 cups thinly sliced potato
 1 cup thinly sliced beets
 4 cups water
 1-2 tbsp oil
 1 1/2 cups chopped onion
 1 scant tsp caraway seeds
 1 1/2 tsp salt
 1 stalk celery, chopped
 1 medium carrot, sliced
 3-4 cups shredded cabbage
 Freshly ground black pepper
 1 tsp dill
 1-2 tbsp apple cider vinegar
 1-2 tbsp brown sugar or honey
 1 cup tomato puree



1. Place potatoes, beets, and water in medium saucepan. Cover and cook until tender (20 minutes)
2. Heat oil in kettle or Dutch oven. Add onion, caraway seeds, and salt. Cook over medium heat, stirring occasionally, until onions are translucent (8-10 minutes)
3. Add celery, carrots, and cabbage, plus 2 cups of the cooking water from the potatoes and beets. Cover and cook over medium heat until vegetables are tender (8-10 minutes).
4. Add remaining vegetables including all the potato and beet water. Cover and simmer for 15 more minutes. Taste for seasonings. Serve hot, topped with Tofutti sour cream.

FLAX-BERRY PANCAKES (Serves 4)

- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 tbsp sugar
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 2 tbsp ground flaxseeds
- 1/4 cup water
- (**the flaxseeds and water are an egg replacement)
- 1 1/4 cup dairy-free milk
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 3/4 cup fresh blueberries or frozen, thawed

*More fast-friendly recipes
from Judith Stuck.....*

1. In a large bowl, combine flour, sugar, baking powder, and salt. Set aside
2. In a blender, combine flaxseeds and water. Blend until thick, about 30 seconds. Add the dairy-free milk and vanilla. Process until smooth.
3. Pour wet ingredients into the dry ingredients, mixing with a few swift strokes until just moist. Fold in berries.
4. Heat a lightly oil griddle or large skillet over medium heat. Ladle about 3 tbsp of batter onto hot griddle. Cook on one side until small bubbles appear on top. Flip pancake with spatula and cook until either side is lightly browned.

Coconut Curry Lentil Soup

- 1 tbsp coconut oil (or olive oil)
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tbsp fresh ginger, minced
- 2 tbsp tomato paste (or ketchup)
- 2 tbsp curry powder
- 1/2 tsp hot red pepper flakes
- 4 cups vegetable broth
- 1 - 15 oz can coconut milk
- 1 - 15 oz can diced tomatoes
- 1 1/2 cups dry red lentils
- 2 or 3 handfuls of chopped kale or spinach
- salt and pepper to taste
- garnish with chopped cilantro (fresh coriander) and/or vegan sour cream



1. In a stockpot, heat the coconut oil over medium heat and stir-fry the onion, garlic, and ginger until the onion is translucent, a couple minutes.
2. Add the tomato paste (or ketchup), curry powder, and red pepper flakes and cook for another minute.
3. Add the vegetable broth, coconut milk, diced tomatoes, and lentils. Cover and bring to a boil, then simmer on low heat for 20-30 minutes, until the lentils are very tender. Season with salt and pepper.
4. Before serving, stir in the kale/spinach and garnish with cilantro and/or vegan sour cream.