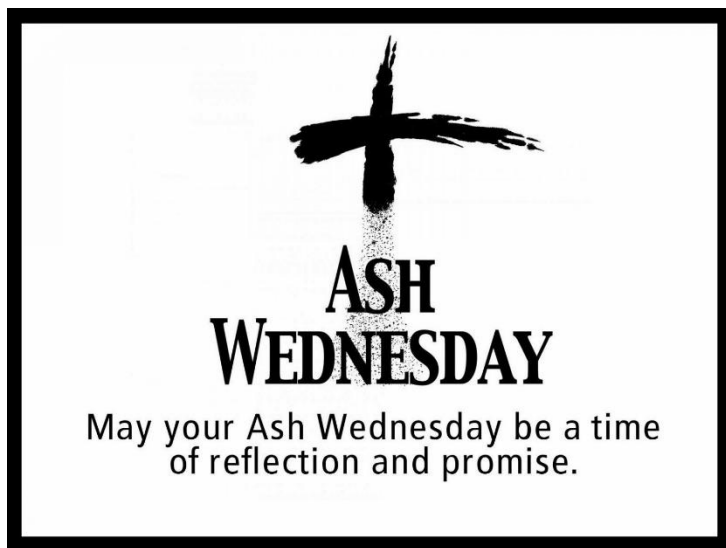


**Ash Wednesday is on Valentines Day this year, so we'll be having Imposition of Ashes during our Ash Wednesday service**

**at 12pm. If you are in the local area and unable to attend the service and would like ashes, please let us know. Our Lay Chaplain, Jo Ann or I will come to you.**



## St. Matthias' Episcopal Church

Worship God, Be Transformed by Christ, Change the World

# February 2024

## What's Happening

Fr. Dexter Lesieur

I pray everyone is enjoying the Epiphany season. We had a wonderful annual parish meeting with plenty of food. We announced Karen and Jo Ann will be our delegates for Council this year in San Marcos. On a sad note, we said goodbye to another church family member, Corey Walters. The love for Corey was evident as we had 160 folks in attendance for his Celebration of Life service. Please continue your prayers for the Walters family.

In addition to the prayer shawls and hugging teddy bears, we are also starting to make prayer bracelets. These are smaller and you can carry them with you (on your wrist even), to give to others who are in need of prayer. They can be a small reminder that people are not alone, that someone cares, and prayers are offered for them. Let us know if you would like to help make them and if you need some supplies.



St. Matthias' Episcopal Church  
901 N Teel Drive  
PO Box 682

Devine, Texas 78016  
stmatthias.devine@gmail.com  
www/stmatdevine.org  
facebook.com/stmatthias.devine

Your Tube: St. Matthias Devine

Contact Information

The Reverend Dexter Lesieur  
(210) 385-7668

Lay Chaplain: Jo Ann Eskilsen  
(210) 758-3668

Bishop's Warden: Karen Martinez  
(956) 975-6945



## A Different Kind of Fast

We've all heard that one is supposed to fast in some manner during Lent. The Wonder Years, an online "book" study group through the Diocese of West Texas, will begin a six week study of Christine Valters Paintner's new book, *A Different Kind of Fast*, on February 15, 2024, at 4:00 pm until 5:00-5:15.

The Wonder Years is a ministry of the Diocese created for those of us in the "last third" of our lives in order to learn from and fellowship with others in the same situation. As one person stated, "Just because my hair is gray doesn't mean that God is finished with me yet." He's not.

The Advisory Board of the ministry consists of Marjorie George, retired Communications Director for the Diocese, as the organizer; Carla Pineda, manager of St. Mark's Book Store, San Antonio; Julie Chalk from Canyon Lake; Judy Reilly from Oklahoma City, and Karen Martinez (me) from St. Matthias, Devine. We encourage active participation, but if you just want to listen, that is fine.

If you have questions, feel free to reach out to me. I invite anyone interested to join us for the upcoming Lenten study.



### Bingo! Chalupa! Oh My Gosh!

Saturday, January 27, 2024 St. Matthias hosted our first ever Loteria event in the parish hall. We had food, prizes, and so much fun! Javier Martinez started us off with calling out the cards, then Esme Eads took over, followed by Kaylynn Lesieur. Those of us who do not speak Spanish decided playing Loteria was the most fun way to start learning.

Keep your eyes open for the next fun-filled Loteria event!



# Why Do We Eat Pancakes Before Ash Wednesday?

Karen Martinez, Bishop's Warden

Ash Wednesday is February 14th this year. Another "holiday" is also celebrated on February 14th, but that is another article. Traditionally on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, Episcopal and Anglican churches serve pancakes for dinner to their congregations and communities. People usually ask, "Why pancakes?"

Beginning on January 6, The Feast of Epiphany, in New Orleans, Louisiana, Carnival begins. This is a time of celebration, merry making, and eating well. Carnival begins on January 6 and continues until the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday. Some years Carnival is almost two months long. This year it is only five and a half weeks. The word Carnival derives from Latin—carne levare—meaning "remove meat". The tradition comes from church expectations that determined what foods were not supposed to be eaten during Lent. People were expected to eat up all the meat in their freezers/storerooms.

Since Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, all the "good" foods had to be consumed by midnight on Shrove Tuesday. Shrove Tuesday is often overlooked, being considered "The Day Before Ash Wednesday", but Shrove Tuesday is important in its own right. It is a transitional day moving God's people from the season of Epiphany to the season of Lent. The word Shrove comes from the Old English word "shrift", meaning to confess one's sins. Churches would ring their bells on Tuesday evening letting people know that it was time to go to church to confess one's sins before Lent began. Not only did you have to confess your sins, but you had to consume all the foods not appropriate to eat during Lent.

But why pancakes? Different cultures celebrate with different types of high-fat breads made with eggs and milk. Mexico and Spain make what we call French toast. France celebrates with a King Cake. Germany and Poland serve doughnuts filled with cream or jam, while the Ukraine makes a thin pancake known as blini. In England and other parts of the United Kingdom they serve pancakes, which is why Anglicans/Episcopalians make pancakes, and eat them with butter, syrup, fruit, whipped cream, peanut butter, chocolate chips, whatever you like.

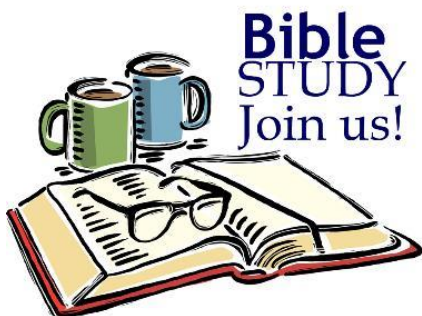
St. Matthias has found that it is easier to celebrate Shrove Tuesday by serving pancakes after church on Sunday instead of on Tuesday evening. That seems to work best for us.

So, on Sunday, February 11, 2024, right after church, be prepared to fellowship and, in the Anglican tradition, eat pancakes. **BUT WAIT!!! THAT'S THE DAY OF THE SUPER BOWL!!!**

Yes, it is, but the Super Bowl doesn't begin until 5:00/5:30, and pancakes will be done (clean-up and all) by 1:00. So, join us for some pancakes and fellowship.

## Bible Study

We'll be resuming our Sunday Bible Study, February 11<sup>th</sup>, in the Parish Hall. For folks not able to join in person, we will also be on Zoom. Just let us know if you would like to join us and we'll add you to the Zoom invite.





# St. Matthias' Episcopal Church

Worship God, Be Transformed by Christ, Change the World

901 N Teel Drive

PO Box 682

Devine, Texas 78016

stmatthias.devine@gmail.com

www.stmatdevine.org

facebook.com/stmatthias.devine

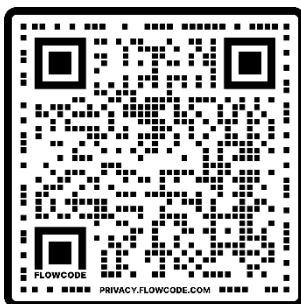
Your Tube: St. Matthias Devine

## GIVING LINKS

We've added an online giving link on our St. Matthias Web Site and Facebook pages. Your support is greatly appreciated.

<https://www.fellowshiponegiving.com/App/Form/d9b59938-5252-4e7f-8828-75939fd5be8c>

On the back of our contact cards is this QR code. When scanned these are the links you can access



VISIT US ELSEWHERE

Donations: [Fellowship Giving](#)  
 Website: [St. Matthias' Episcopal Church](#)  
 YouTube: [St. Matthias Devine](#)  
 Facebook: [St. Matthias' Episcopal Church, Devine, TX](#)

# February 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 Bible Study 9 am HE 10:30 am Evan Eads (BD)	5	6	7 EP 6:00 pm	8	9	10 Meg Lesieur (BD)
11 Bible Study 9 am HE 10:30 am Pancake Breakfast	12	13	14 Valentine's Day Ash Wednesday Service 12:00 noon	15	16	17
18 Bible Study 9 am HE 10:30 am Noisy Offering	19	20	21 EP 6:00 pm	22	23	24 Tom Gill (BD)
25 Bible Study 9 am HE 10:30 am	26	27	28 EP 6:00 pm April Lesieur (BD)	29		

Legend: Legend: HE = Eucharist, EP = Evening Prayer, BD = Birthday, A=Anniversary