



**Fr. Dexter, JoAnn and Karen at the 120<sup>th</sup> Diocesan Council in San Marcos.**

## St. Matthias' Episcopal Church

Worship God, Be  
Transformed by Christ,  
Change the World

# March 2024

## What's Happening

Fr. Dexter Lesieur

Wow! What a Holy Spirit filled Diocesan Council we had in San Marcos. I accompanied our two delegates, JoAnn and Karen, with other delegates from 87 Diocesan churches representing over 26,000 Episcopalians. They voted for board and committee members, the annual budget, and listened to ministry reports. I loved seeing Council through the eyes of JoAnn who attended her first Council. I couldn't hope to adequately explain to anyone what they would experience, until they see it in person. Her eyes were lit up, she had the biggest smile and just soaked in the loving experience being surround with hundreds of Christians. Karen was able to share our prayer shawl and bracelet ministry and even helped the military ministry turn 2000 feet of Paracord into 400 survival lanyards for our military and first responders. I gave the Small Church Ministry report to the delegates and a presentation for attendees of the small church dinner. Anyone can attend the Annual Council every February as guests and 2 members will be delegates. As we approach Easter, I pray you'll attend our Holy Week services and experience Jesus' Passion in these special and unique services.

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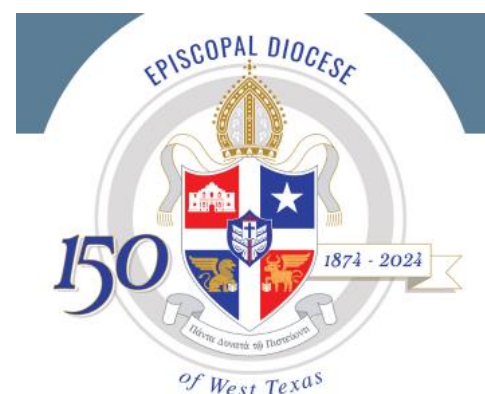
Your Tube: St. Matthias Devine

Contact Information

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(210) 385-7668

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(210) 758-3668

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



### Palm Sunday, March 24th, 10:30am

Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem and Jesus' Passion on the cross. Palm branches will be distributed and waved during the procession. The liturgy of the palms will start outside the church then we'll process into the church. For the Passion gospel, some folks in the congregation will have specific roles to read with the congregation taking the part of the crowd.

### Tenebrae, Wednesday, March 27th, 6:00 pm

The service is centered around psalms, readings from Lamentations, and responsories. There are fifteen lighted candles. One candle is extinguished as each of the fourteen appointed psalms is completed. The fifteenth candle, symbolic of Christ, is left lighted at the end of the final psalm. But it is carried away to be hidden, which signifies the apparent victory of the forces of evil. A sudden loud noise is made at the end of the service, symbolizing the earthquake at Christ's death. The lighted candle is then restored to its place, suggesting Christ's eventual triumph.

### Maundy Thursday, Thursday, March 28th, 5:00 pm

It comes from the Latin *mandatum novum*, "new commandment," from John 13:34. The ceremony of washing feet was also referred to as "the Maundy." Maundy Thursday celebrations also commemorate the institution of the eucharist by Jesus "on the night he was betrayed. Following this, the altar is stripped and all decorative furnishings are removed.



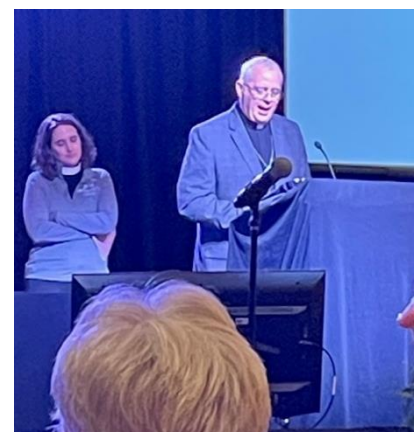
### Good Friday, March 29th, 12:00 pm

We'll commemorate the crucifixion of Jesus. It's a day of fasting and special acts of discipline and self-denial. The liturgy of the day includes John's account of the Passion gospel, a solemn form of intercession known as the solemn collects.



### Easter Sunday, March 31st, 10:30 am

Holy week culminates with the feast of Christ's resurrection. We will joyfully acclaim throughout the Easter Season, The Lord is risen, the Lord is risen indeed in celebration of the mystery and miracle of Easter. We will have a flowering of the cross and an egg hunt for the children after the service.



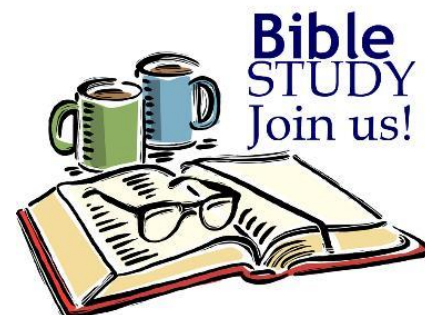


### Lay Chaplin's Corner

Good news and blessings. My name is JoAnn Eskilsen or Jo, I am the Lay Chaplin at St. Matthias. I graduated in December 2023 from the Community of Hope Program in San Antonio. If you or a family member would like a call or a visit my direct line is (210) 758-3668, I also visit nursing homes and hospitals. I look forward to meeting you. God Bless.

### Bible Study

During our Bible study at 9:00 am on Sundays, we do a deep dive into the Gospel reading for that day. Come join us!



### Bishop's Warden's Wanderings

by Karen Martinez

"Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim, till all the world adore His sacred name." This hymn (number 473), written by George William Kitchin (1827-1912), is the 2024 theme for the Diocese of West Texas. Bishops usually choose a verse from scripture as the annual theme, but Bishop Dr. David G. Read chose the opening line of a hymn. At first, I thought that strange but then as I looked at the hymn again and thought about the words, I found that he could not have chosen a better theme.

As Christians it is our responsibility to lift up the cross, an instrument of torture and execution that Jesus over came on Easter Sunday through his resurrection from the dead. The empty cross is a symbol of hope for us as it shows that death is not an end, but a beginning. As we Lift High the Cross for ourselves, we also lift it for others through our actions and words.

Our challenge is to find new ways St. Matthias can ensure that "all the world adore His sacred name." We have a suggestion box in the back of the church (thank you for the idea, Esme), and ideas will be met with, "How can WE make this work?"

Have a most blessed Lenten season as we make our way to Easter while discovering new ways we can Lift High the Cross.



#### Awesome Job! Honor Roll Students from St. Matthias

Congratulations to the following students on their academic achievement in the 3rd six weeks!

Jackson Hagdorn,	A-B Honor Roll
Brooke Walters,	A-B Honor Roll
Julie Rocha	A Honor Roll
Kaylynn Lesieur	A Honor Roll
Esme Eads	A Honor Roll

Congratulations to our students on their hard work and dedication! Your church family is very proud of you.

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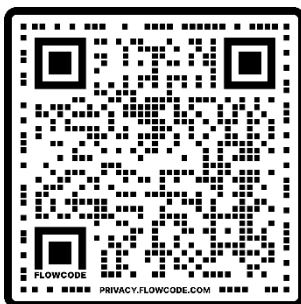
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## GIVING LINKS

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](#)

# March 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Fr. Dexter Lesieur (BD)	2
3 Bible Study 9 am HE 10:30 am Evan Eads (BD)	4	5	6 EP 6:00 pm	7	8	9
10 Bible Study 9 am HE 10:30 am	11	12 Pat Leece (BD)	13 EP 6:00 pm Joe & Karen Martinez (A)	14	15	16
17 Bible Study 9 am HE 10:30 am Noisy Offering St. Patrick's Day Luncheon	18	19	20 Stations of the Cross 6:00 pm	21 5	22	23
24 Palm Sunday HE 10:30 am	25	26	27 Tenebrae 6:00 pm	28 Maundy Thursday w/Foot Washing 5:00 pm	29 Good Friday Service 12:00 Noon	30
31 Easter Sunday HE 10:30 am Egg Hunt after the Service						

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