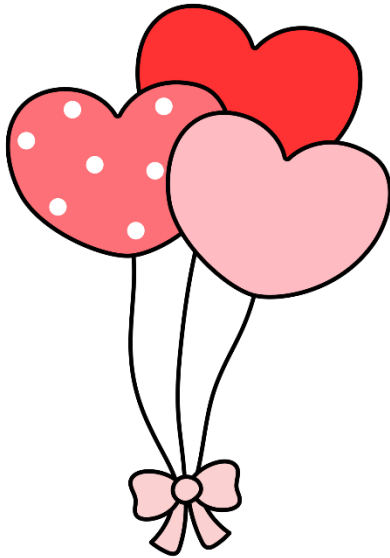


ST. MARY'S MESSENGER

FEBRUARY 2025

The First Valentine

By Brian Roush
of Excelsior Springs, MO



St. Valentine's Day
A time for love
And no more lonely hearts,
We're sending cards
That say, "Be mine,"
For some, a place to start.
But we forget
The story of
The world's first Valentine –

But not by mail
Did this one come.
By way of sacrifice
It wasn't words
But deeds of love
Of one who gave his life –

The one who died
With arms outstretched
And simply said, "Be mine."



FEBRUARY CALENDAR

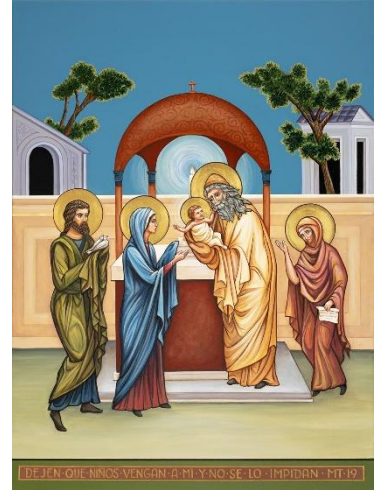
2nd The Presentation of our Lord

9th Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

16th Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

Bishop Mayer's visit

23rd Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany



*Presentation of the Lord
by Ruth Stricklin 2021*

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday

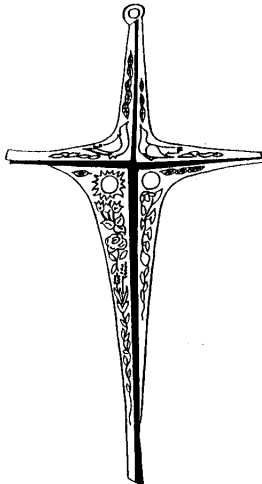
10:30 AM- Morning Service

Coffee Hour- Following the service

Wednesday

10:30 AM- Bible Study/Coffee hour

5:30 PM- Evening Prayer



BIRTHDAYS WISHES

11th Connie Fowler

27th Sophia DeLeon



ATTENTION ALL CHURCH MEMBERS!

ALTAR FLOWERS

If anyone is interested in furnishing the altar flowers,
please call the church office at 432-267-8201.

SERVING SIGNUP

At this time, we are looking for people who are willing to volunteer to serve during the Sunday morning service. There are several positions available for anyone who would like to help.

The positions are:

- Chalice- Serves the cup of wine.
- Lector- Reads the lessons and the psalms, and the Gospel during Morning Prayer.
- Acolyte- Carries the cross and the Gospel, and guards the front.
- Ushers- Welcomes people and direct them as needed

If you are interested, please call the church office or email the Parish Secretary at baileys.stmarys@gmail.com.

The church would also like to thank everyone who does volunteer!

VALENTINE QUIZ QUESTION 1

How did Protestant Reformer Martin Luther meet his wife Katharina in the 1500s?

- A.** She was a nun that he helped escape from a convent.
- B.** She was a parishioner in his church in Wittenberg.
- C.** She was a student in his theology course at the University of Wittenberg.
- D.** She was a cook and nurse he met during his stay at Wartburg Castle.

MATTHIAS THE APOSTLE- 24 FEBRUARY N.T.

BY JAMES KIEFER

The following article has been taken from [James Kiefer's Christian Biographies](#). This article is to highlight the importance of the Apostle Mathias, who we commemorate on February 24th.

After the Ascension of Our Lord, His followers at Jerusalem chose a replacement for Judas. The man chosen was Matthias, "and he was numbered with the Eleven." Apart from the information given in the first chapter of Acts, nothing is known of him. It would be a mistake to conclude from this that he was a failure and a bad choice as an apostle. We know as much as we do about Peter and Paul because Luke (a travelling companion of Paul) wrote extensively about them. About most of the other apostles (those belonging to the original twelve and later ones like Matthias) we know little after Pentecost on an individual basis.

Prayers (contemporary language)

O Almighty God, who in the place of Judas chose your faithful servant Matthias to be numbered among the Twelve: Grant that your Church, being delivered from false apostles, may always be ordered and guided by faithful and true pastors; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

VALENTINE'S QUIZ QUESTION 2

Who stayed married to the same woman for at least 130 years?

- A.** Adam
- B.** Methuseleh
- C.** Noah
- D.** Abraham

PRESIDING BISHOP ADDRESSES CHURCH'S ROLE IN MODERN SOCIETY DURING SEWANEE PANEL DISCUSSION

BY SHIREEN KORKZAN

POSTED JAN 28, 2025

The following article has been taken from [Episcopal New Service](#).

The University of the South's [School of Theology](#) in Sewanee, Tennessee, hosted a panel discussion on the opportunities and challenges The Episcopal Church faces in a contemporary cultural landscape. Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe spoke alongside Western Louisiana Bishop Jacob Owensby, the university's chancellor, and Robert Pearigen, its vice-chancellor.

"The Episcopal Church is a tradition that has always valued learning, and in particularly in this time and in this season, we could use a bit more thinking and a bit more reflection, a little less reaction," Rowe said during the Jan. 26 panel discussion, which was held at the University of the South's Convocation Hall and led by Owensby.

About 150 people from the university and wider Sewanee community attended the event, where the panelists also discussed the university's role as an Episcopal institution.

The [University of the South](#) – which is owned and governed by The Episcopal Church's 28 southeast dioceses – continues to be rooted in that same tradition, which remains relevant in the 21st century as it's combined with Episcopal faith and morality, Pearigen said.

"That includes the integration of the mind and the heart – the integration of faith and reason in a way that is so important to who we are as an institution – that integration of faith and reason and service," he said, referring to the university's motto, [Psalm 133](#); "A commitment to the common good is at our core."

Even though The Episcopal Church and its affiliated institutions, like Sewanee, remain steadfast in upholding Anglican traditions and morals, Rowe stressed the importance of also adapting to broader cultural shifts while delivering a "grounded" Christian spirituality. This requires going beyond politics and partisanship to bring the "hope of a relationship with God."

Adapting and proclaiming Christ's message includes catering to the spiritual needs of people of all ages and backgrounds, including young adults and seminary students.

"I think what the church has to offer is a way of thinking about the world, a way of reflecting on life, particularly as you're beginning to form what is your own vocation and

call,” Rowe said. “I think that’s the joy of The Episcopal Church, because we all have a vocation to which God is calling us.”

Rowe highlighted the work [Episcopal Migration Ministries](#), or EMM, as an example of effectively and adaptively responding to the modern world. EMM [is one of 10 agencies](#) with federal contracts to facilitate refugee resettlement on behalf of the State Department. Through EMM, the church has helped resettle more than 100,000 refugees fleeing war and persecution since the United States created its federal resettlement program 45 years ago. The agency’s work was effectively [halted](#) last week when President Donald Trump signed an executive order that suspended all refugee resettlement in the United States and gave no clear indication when, if ever, it might resume. Despite uncertainty under the Trump administration, EMM is remaining focused on its mission.

“The program as we’ve known it will go away, but something new will emerge, and we’ve already been thinking about ways in which we can continue that commitment to refugees around the world,” Rowe said. “We’re learning how to adapt right now. We’re not going to give up.”

Regarding seminaries, specifically, Pearigen said offering a strong liberal arts education provides an environment that encourages exchanging ideas and asking questions. This foundation is applied to adaptive programming the University of the South’s School of Theology offers, including the [SUMMA Theological Debate Summer Camp](#) for high school students.

Adding to the discussion of faith and cultural adaptation, Owensby said Episcopalians tend to be able to inhabit spaces with people from different faiths and viewpoints without compromising their commitment to Jesus. Whether inside or outside academia, civil exchanges can be “enriching” and “enhancing.”

“You might not be Episcopalian. You might not even be a Christian; that’s fine,” Owensby said. “The point is ... we’re about making humans more human, and we believe that that involves this connection to the transcendent in some way that propels us to just keep asking.”

Some students who attended the webinar in person asked the panelists questions. One person asked Rowe how the church should maintain nonpartisanship in politics. Rowe said that politics is both important and inevitable, but ultimately Episcopalians should remember that their first allegiance is to God. For reference, he mentioned Washington Bishop Mariann Budde’s [plea to Trump](#) to show mercy to “the people in our country who are scared now” – specifically LGBTQ+ people and immigrants – during her sermon at Washington National Cathedral’s Jan. 21 post-inauguration worship service.

"This is about loving our neighbor and the fact that our first citizenship is in the Kingdom [of God]," Rowe said. "That's why we should be able to be united across parties, across political differences ... caring for the stranger."

Earlier in the day, Rowe preached during the university's All Saints' Chapel 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. worship services. The latter service was livestreamed.

VALENTINE QUIZ QUESTION 3

What did Adam say when he first saw Eve?

- A.** "Wow! Oh man! I'll call her woman [wow-man]."
- B.** "This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh."
- C.** "She shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man."
- D.** "She shall be called Eve, because she will be the mother of all the living."
- E.** B and C
- F.** B and C and D

Answers to the quiz questions will be published in the March 2025 issue.

ST. MARY THE VIRGIN EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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Treasurer: Sherri Anthony
Parish Secretary: Bailey Saffle
Organist: Jeanette Swain
Sexton: Lupe Ortiz

VESTRY

Sr. Warden: Bob Miller
Jr. Warden: Becky Henry
Jeri Stockton
John Moody
Connie Fowler (Deacon)

MISSON

Reaching out in Christ's love to our community and all God's creation
through faith, worship, and service.