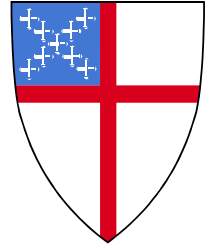


Saint
Matthew's
Episcopal Church



201 East Frederick Drive • Sterling, VA 20164

November 2015

FROM THE INTERIM MUSIC DIRECTOR

MARIA RONDINARO



“If music be the food of love, sing on, sing on!” – William Shakespeare

Saint Matthew's Friends,

I'm honored to be working as your Interim Music Minister. Singing in the Saint Matthew's Choir for the past seven years, I have always loved how high a priority having great music at St. Matt's is for you. Singing has always been a sacred experience for me, and it's my truest way of connecting with God. Music has a way of reaching people's souls and lifting them in ways words alone cannot.

It is my belief and experience that excellent music strongly influences a person's decision to make a particular church their home. As our church loses a Music Minister who had helped put Saint Matthew's top-notch music on the map, we

continue to have the opportunity and obligation to reach further into the community to work our mission. The Music Department is committed to using the talent and networking skills of our next Music Minister to expand our congregation, to grow our music program, and to conduct regular community events, always striving "To Know and Share God's Love."

In the meantime, I am excited to announce the return of our beloved soprano and friend, Ashly Townsend, to our choir family. Additionally, Anne Millen-Martini has offered her beautiful singing voice, adding even more depth to our already great sound. I continue to be touched by the commitment and love expressed by our choir each week! I am also deeply impressed by the talent, organization, and dedication of Matt Merola and our Contemporary Band serving God and the Church in both the Saturday evening AND Sunday 9:30 services!

Just a heads up . . . Christmas Eve is going to be awesome this year!! Not only will the Pageant be great, as usual, but we are also having "Mini Christmas Concerts" prior to the 6 and 8 p.m. services with our String Quartet! So, instead of arriving early just to get a good seat, you will get a SHOW! And the 11 p.m. service and volunteer choir will be a special and intimate treat! More information on Christmas will be coming soon!

One of the things I've already experienced while working in the Music Minister capacity these past weeks is the dedication and "behind the scenes" hard work that goes into making Saint Matthew's services and outreach events run so well. Being the month of Thanksgiving, November is a time to reflect on our blessings, to offer our help to the less fortunate, and to express our gratitude to others. I am so appreciative of the tremendous role that Saint Matthew's volunteers and staff play each and every day. This congregation does "Go Big" for it's members and community, and I am blessed to be a part of it.

See you Sunday,
Maria

Honor Our Veterans

Wednesday, November 11, 5pm

Join us on Wednesday, November 11th at 5pm for a special service honoring all who have served in the Armed Forces. We are honored to have John D. Thomas, Jr., Major General, US Army, (Retired) as our guest speaker for the evening. Service members are welcome to wear their uniforms if they desire. Immediately following the service will be a reception in the parish hall.

Veteran's are invited to email pictures to Miriam at Office@stmtts.org by November 3 to be included in a slide show.



Community Thanksgiving Lunch

Saturday, November 14, 12pm



Please join us on November 14th from 12pm - 2pm as we invite parishioners and friends from the community for a free Thanksgiving luncheon. There will be a full Thanksgiving meal with all the trimmings, children's crafts and activities, a rock display, books for the children, and music! Everyone is welcome – bring your friends and neighbors! If you'd like to volunteer, please contact Sandra Gentry at Sandra.Gentry1@verizon.net.

Parent's Night Out and Kid's Movie Night !!

Saturday, November 28, 6—8 pm

Drop your kids off at church so they can join us for a night of Christmas Classics while you get an early start on shopping or simply enjoy a night out! Have the kids bring a pillow and blanket and we'll provide snacks and movies. Please RSVP to Tracey@stmtts.org.

Movies are: Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, How the Grinch Stole Christmas, and A Charlie Brown Christmas.



This is only a small selection of our upcoming events. Read the weekly bulletin for the most up to date information. Can't make it to church, read the announcements online at www.stmtts.org. Look under "For Parishioners" in the left hand column.