

ST. MATT'S KIDS

Messy Church **Pancake Day** February 10, 2024

Shrove Tuesday/ Pancake Day

For some fun facts about Shrove Tuesday we made Fortune Tellers of pre-printed "cootie catchers"- the name is from the shapes used as a pincer to play-act catching imaginary germs. This usage has also inspired the design of a similarly shaped gripper in soft robotics.

Ash Wednesday

A dry palm branch was waved it made a rustling sound. Did Jesus hear that sound along with shouts of **Hosanna** when he rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday? Rev. Sherri showed us last year's dried up palm crosses and some burned ones that will be made into the ashes for the service on Wednesday night.

Alleluias "buried"

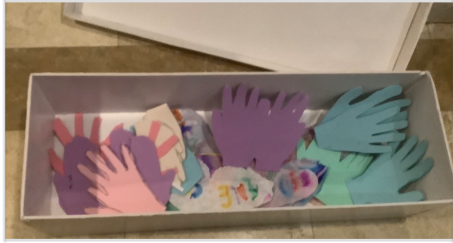
Our filter paper alleluias will be hidden on Ash Wednesday. We used pipettes to drop water onto the washable marker designs for them to spread.



Lent is early this year.

St. Matt's Messy Church Epiphany party was cancelled as it was so cold on Jan. 20/24. We had prepared for Christmas during the 4 weeks of Advent We celebrated Christmas for 12 days and then it was the Epiphany season which lasted until Feb. 11. At Messy Church (MC) we got ready for Lent by having a MC Pancake party. We had our Mardi Gras pancakes on **Saturday Feb. 10** at 11 am. We all wore our name tags, put on some necklaces and started the crafts right away before our pancakes and fruit kebobs. Some of us may fast during Lent or donate things such as new socks to the Angel Trunk for patients at St. John's Rehab Hospital started by the Sisters of St. John the Divine. We processed into church singing "He's got the whole world in his hands". We then used whistles for one verse making lots of noise to celebrate **Pancake Day /Shrove Tuesday** before the serious time.





Praying hands

Pastel foam was used to trace one hand on a folded edge and then it was cut out to create 2 hands folded in prayer. These will be "buried" on Ash Wednesday with the **Alleluias**. The box will be hidden away until the Easter Vigil. We will sing and say Alleluia many times at Easter. In fact **Easter is pure celebration** for 50 days until Pentecost. I wonder how many times Alleluia will be said this year after **Lent? Now** is the time to watch and pray for good and bad things.

- The gingerbread boy ran away just like the Prodigal Son ran away. But the son was sorry for making poor choices and his father welcomed him home . Jesus told this story to show how God always loves ❤️ us and no matter how far away we go or how we make poor choices God always cares for us.
- Lent is a time when we can pray to God to forgive us our sins and to help us make good choices 🙏

Lent is a serious time.

It takes many weeks to get ready to enter the Mystery of Easter.

It is a time to know more about the **One who is Easter.**

Every family received a little booklet "Watch and Pray Lent Journey for Children" (church of England): "Meeting God in darkness & quiet, wisdom & hope"

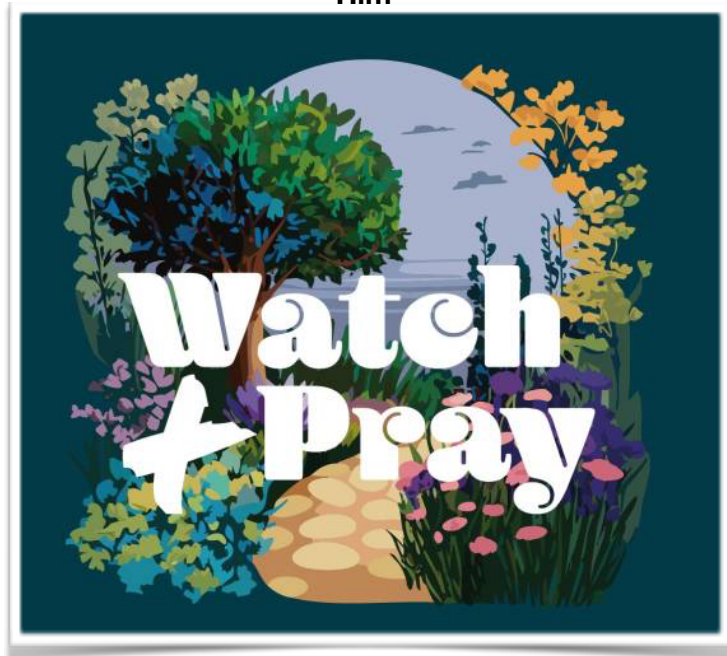
Lent is longer than Advent.

The mystery of Easter is an even greater mystery than the Mystery of Christmas, so it must take longer to get ready.

Jesus died on the cross but somehow he is still with us. That is why Easter is not just sad. It is also wonderful.

(Phrases from the Children's Liturgy Lent Godly Play Resource)

In the garden Jesus asked the Disciples to Watch and pray when he went to pray for God to be with Him



All are welcome to Messy Church Saturday March 23 at 11am for **Holy Week**. The Stations of the Cross will be on **Good Friday** at 1pm