

December 13, 2022

Dear Family of St. Matthew's,

It is with great joy that I accept your call to be the new Rector of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church! The nativity window from the old church has always pulled at my heart. I was thrilled that it was reinstalled into the new church! It seems only appropriate that in this Advent/Christmas Season we begin this new journey together.

Houma has always been my home town. I attended Mrs. Odom's Kindergarten in the old school building, rode my bike to Scarlet Scoop, and dumped tons of beads on the crowd gathered around the church during Mardi Gras. However, I haven't had the pleasure of knowing you, the people of St. Matthew's Church or the children and teachers at school by name, but that is about to change! I'm even eager to know your pets by name!

What does God have instore for us? I pray that it is all about Jesus. If it is about Jesus, then we will stand on the sturdy foundation of St. Matthew's Church, built by others that have come before us and entrusted to us to "Keep the Faith". To "Keep it"- Alive, Vibrant, and Life-Giving! I also hope that we can have fun in the process!

Patience is not my best virtue. Know that I wish I could be with you this Christmas, but I must close my journey with the folks at St. Andrew's in New Orleans before I depart. I also want to take some time to pray and prepare for our new chapter together. So, on February 12<sup>th</sup>, in the midst of the joy of Mardi Gras, we will celebrate our first Sunday Eucharist together! (That's one way to make sure we start with a bang!!)

So, my future friends, let's keep each other in prayer. Let's dream about the possibilities before us and pray for the Holy Spirit to guide us!

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Jim Morrison