

November 27, 2022

Saint Matthew Catholic Church

Welcome!

*We welcome into our parish community all visitors,
new members, old friends and those returning home to us.*

Visit us at StMat.org

*And Jesus said,
"Know that I am with you always,
until the end of time."*

Matthew 28:20

St. Matthew Catholic Church

9111 90th Avenue
Largo, FL 33777

Phone (727) 393-1288
Fax (727) 398-2683

Website: www.stmat.org
E-Mail: Info@stmat.org

Parish Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 9:30am-4:00pm
Friday 9:30am-12:00pm

Pastor

Rev. Jonathan Emery

Deacons

Deacon Tim Maloney
Deacon Tony Quattrocki

Mass Times

Saturday Vigil: 4:00pm
Sunday: 7:30am, 9:00am and 11:00am

Holy Days: Will be announced

Monday - Saturday 8:30am

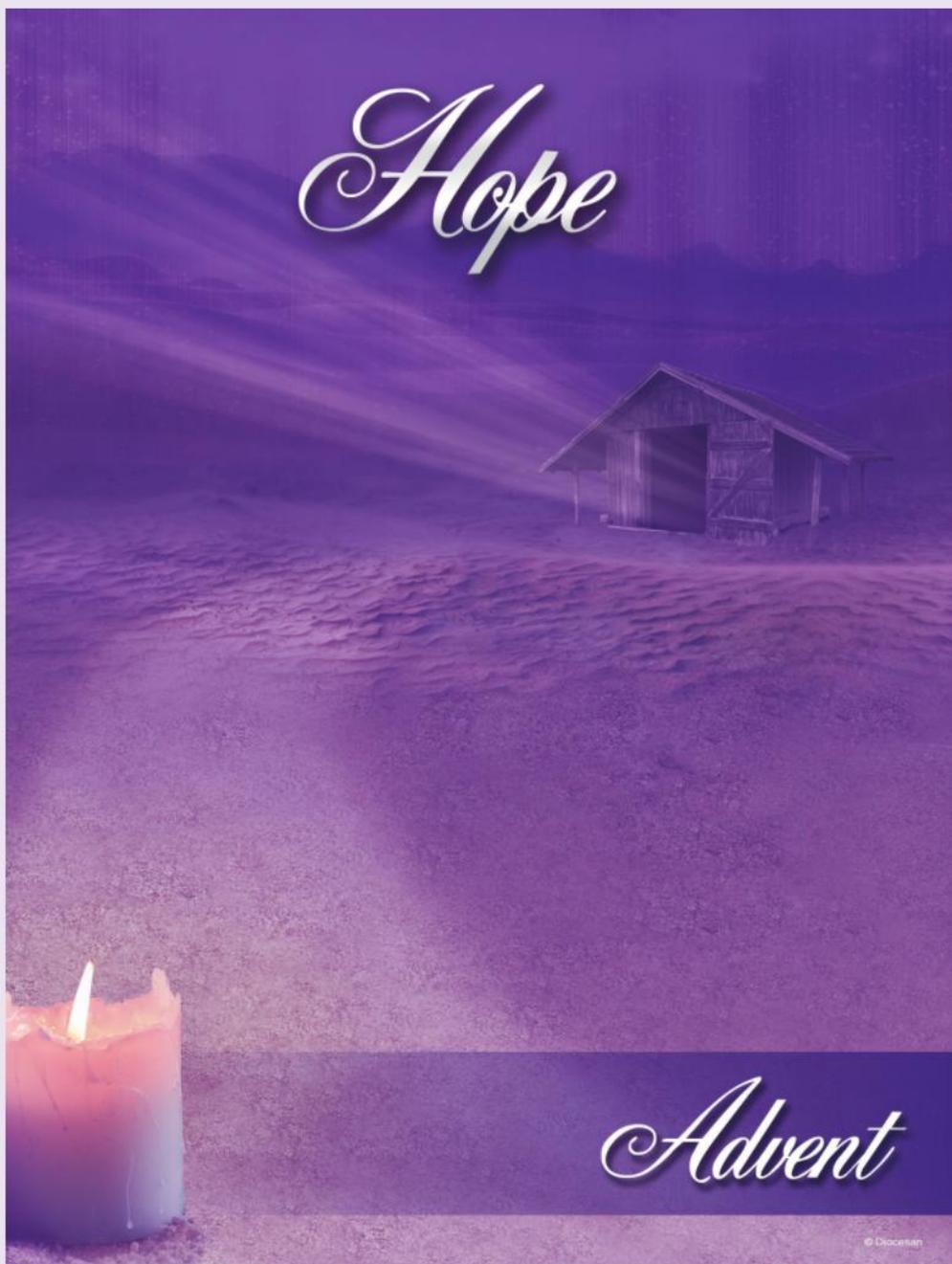
Rosary: Monday - Saturday 8:00am

Sacrament of Penance

Saturday 9am-10am
or by appointment through
the parish office.

Adoration

Saturday 9am-10:30am
First Friday 9am -10am



COURAGEOUSLY *Living the Gospel*

A Message from Fr. Jonathan



This is the first Sunday of Advent, the beginning of a new liturgical year and the preparation for Christmas. These next four weeks have a two-fold purpose. The first is to remember the state of the world before Jesus came. It was the most “humanist” time in the history of the planet. Where humans were left to our own devices with little divine influence. During that time, humans created murder, rape, abuse, slavery, rigid hierarchies, war, greed, to name the big ones. This prevented humans from achieving our true potential, for we were enslaved by our desires and sins. The Egyptians built the pyramids around 3,500 years before Christ was born. With all of their advanced technology, they stagnated and then declined. The people of the Indus Valley (in India) had running water in their cities around the same time. Great civilizations all over the world (Babylonia, Assyria, Han Dynasty, Parthia, Greek, Roman, Gupta Empire, Media, Akkadian, Aztecs, Incas; just to name a few of the bigger ones) they all arose, plateaued, and eventually collapsed, none of them surpassing the ancient standard. Despite having advanced ancient technology, philosophy, and learning (some for thousands of years); none of these cultures broke the ancient barrier. It was only “Christendom” that had what it needed to break through that barrier and push on to the Renaissance and the modern world. Jesus not only set us free from our sins, he also set us free of some of the damage that those sins caused.

The world before Christ was a barbaric and dark one. Most people didn’t even realize how bad they actually had it. Only the Israelites had been shown by God that there was a better way. God began the process of healing the world, by selecting a chosen people and then preparing them to accept the Messiah. The one who would save them from sin and death. So they waited in expectation of that Messiah’s coming!

Advent reminds us of that time. How much we have to be thankful that the Kingdom of God is already being built on earth (universal human rights, hospitals, universities, the scientific method, and oh so much more), as well true freedom from sin and death! However, as we look around our modern world, we may recognize that evil is still very present, which is the second part of Advent. For not only are we remembering Christ’s first coming, but we are anticipating His second coming. The same longing for the Messiah that overwhelmed the Israelites, should be coursing through us! I want Christ to come! Not just looking forward to Christ coming at the end of time, but also I want Him to come into my life! I want Him to be a part of my day to day. I want Him to permeate every aspect of our culture. For the greatest explosions of human growth have always been during times when we are closest to Christ! Let us yearn for Christ as if our whole existence depends on it, for it does!

God bless you,
~ *Fr. Jonathan*



Readings for the Week of November 27, 2022

Sunday

First Sunday of Advent

Is 2:1-5; Ps 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9; Rom 13:11-14; Mt 24:37-44

Monday

Is 4:2-6; Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9; Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday

Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday

Feast of Saint Andrew, Apostle

Rom 10:9-18; Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11; Mt 4:18-22

Thursday

Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1 & 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a; Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday

Is 29:17-24; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Mt 9:27-31

Saturday

Memorial of Saint Francis Xavier, Priest

Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8

Sunday

Second Sunday of Advent

Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Rom 15:4-9; Mt 3:1-12

First Sunday in Advent



Mass Intentions

Saturday, November 26

4:00pm Florence Boc +

Sunday, November 27

7:30am Joan Miritello +

9:00am Rosie Streifel +

11:00am People of the Parish

Monday, November 28

8:30am Bill Montbleau +

Tuesday, November 29

8:30am Brenda Pinkerman +

Wednesday, November 30

8:30am Jose & Grace Caringal+

Thursday, December 1

8:30am Diana Perry +

Friday, December 2

8:30am Sandra Terry +

Saturday, December 3

8:30am Thomas Kusan +

4:00pm People of the Parish

Sunday, December 4

7:30am Diane F. Martinez +

9:00am Spec. Intent. of Francis
& Pilar Navales

11:00am Ann Walker +

The Deacon's Corner



I was wondering if we truly appreciate the many gifts we have been blessed with living here in this great country of ours?

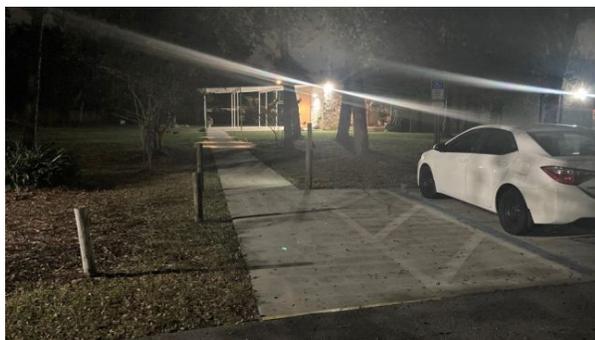
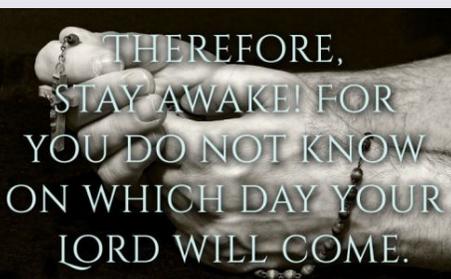
Appreciation leads to thankfulness and thankfulness leads to gratitude. As Christians we should always reflect on thanks and gratitude. As we look back over the past year and longer, we give thanks to God for the special moments that have blessed our lives. If we are more spiritually mature, we are also able to thank God for the moments and experiences that challenged us and helped us to grow. When we recognize how much we have been blessed from our first breath of life to our present moment, God can easily take possession of our hearts, giving direction to our souls, making us channels of His Love.

Yes, we have and will continue to experience sadness and loss along our journey. Our prayers might not be answered the way we think or want, but rest assured our loving Father always blesses us with what we need. and we should be thankful to know God loves us with mercy and an everlasting passion. If anyone doubts God doesn't answer our prayers, here is an old prayer I had on file that can help put your doubts to rest...

“I asked God for strength, that I might achieve; I was made weak that I might learn humbly to obey. I asked for health that I might do greater things; I was given infirmity that I might do better things. I asked for riches that I might be happy; I was given poverty that I might be wise. I asked for power that I might have the praise of all; I was given weakness that I might feel the need for God. I asked for all things that I might enjoy life; I was given life that I might enjoy all things; I got nothing that I asked for; but everything I had hoped for” (author unknown)

May God continue to bless you along your journey,

Deacon Tony



Lighting Project

Thank you to the Knights of Columbus for funding the new lights at the Annex building and thank you to Ged for installing them. The parking lot and sidewalk have been brightened up for safety.

Catholic Ministry Appeal Weekly Update

Thanks to those who have turned in their Commitment Envelopes and donations, we are over our goal! Your stewardship supports the many ministries of the Diocese of St. Petersburg.

Goal: \$83,051.00
Pledges: \$101,679.25
Donations: \$98,574.25
of Families: 700
of Pledges: 266
Avg. Pledge: \$382.25

Parish Weekly Giving Summary

Due to an early publishing deadline this week, we are unable to publish the offertory collection for 11/20/22. Our reports of the Weekly Giving Summary will resume next week.

Thank you for your generous donations!



Online Giving: Visit
www.stmat.org/donate or scan the QR code below for online giving. It's simple and convenient!



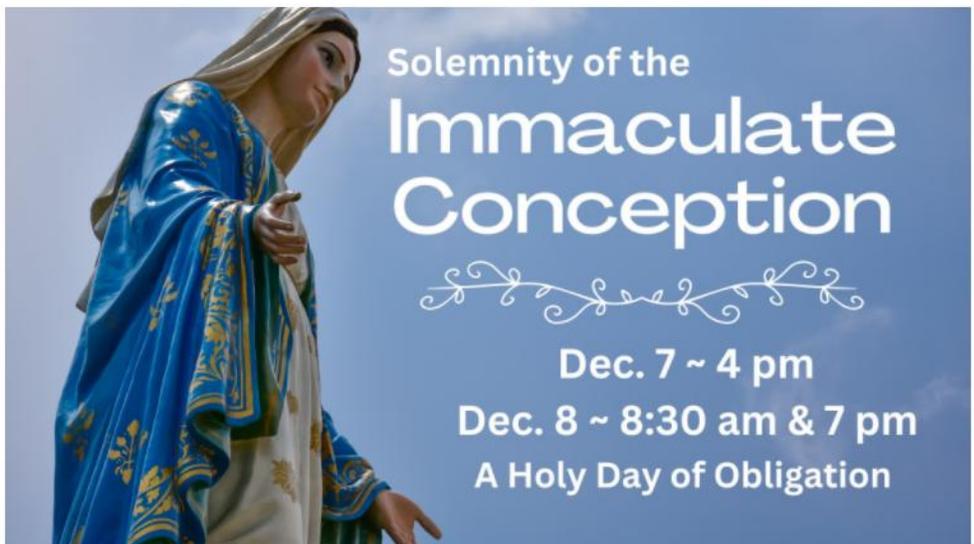
The Oasis

6 pm-8 pm
Wednesdays of Advent

- ✦ Eucharistic Adoration
- ✦ Reconciliation
- ✦ Private Conversation about Prayer

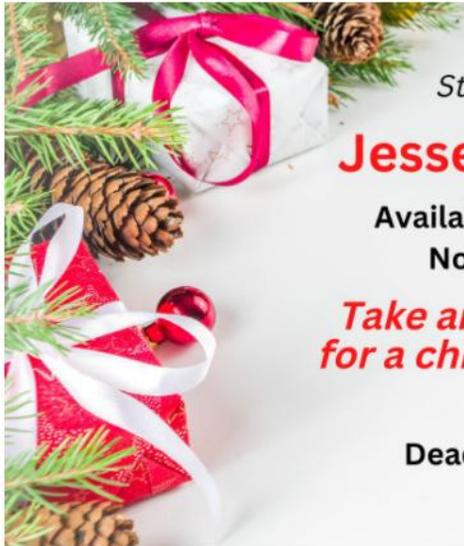
Wednesday Oasis

Wednesday Oasis returns for Advent from 6-8pm. It's an opportunity to come for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, the Sacrament or Reconciliation, and time for private conversations with Fr. Jonathan about prayer. The first Oasis is **Wednesday, November 30th from 6pm to 8pm** and the last one is Wednesday, December 21st. Come for one or come visit our Lord every week of Advent. You can stop by for a brief visit or stay the entire time.



Holy Day of Obligation

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is a Holy Day of Obligation. The Masses on Thursday, December 8th are at 8:30am and 7pm. The vigil Mass is Wednesday, December 7th at 4pm.
The office will be closed on Thursday, December 8th.



St. Vincent de Paul Society

Jesse Tree Ornaments

Available after all Masses starting
Nov 19/20 at all entrances

**Take an ornament & buy a gift
for a child who would otherwise
do without!**

Deadline for returning gifts is
Dec 5

Jesse Tree Ornaments

The deadline for returning wrapped gifts is December 5th. Be sure to hang your angel ornament on our Jesse Tree at the front of the church when you bring in your gift. Thank you in advance for your generosity from your St. Vincent de Paul Team Members here at St. Matthew Church.



Youth Ministry Christmas Market

Nov. 26 & 27 ~ Dec. 3 & 4
Before & After All Masses

Custom Rosaries
Christmas Candles
Ornaments
Much More!

Youth Ministry Christmas Market

Stop by our tables to shop for the perfect gift or for something special for yourself! The Youth Ministry will have beautiful custom rosaries, Christmas candles, ornaments and more unique items to choose from. Support our youth while doing your Christmas shopping! The Christmas Market is located outside on the south side of the church building. If you missed it this weekend, it will also be open December 3rd and 4th before and after all Masses.



Prayer for Priests & Future Priests

Eternal Father, We lift up to you these and all the priests of the world. Sanctify them, heal and guide them. Mold them into the likeness and holiness of your Son Jesus, the Eternal High Priest. May their lives be pleasing to you. In Jesus name, we pray. Amen.

- 11/27 • Rev. Felipe Gonzalez ~ 11/28 • Rev. Alexander Padilla ~
- 11/29 • Rev. Pedro J. Zapata ~ 11/30 • For Vocations to the Priesthood & Religious Life ~
- 12/1 • Rev. Anthony Astrab ~ 12/2 • Rev. Drew Woodke ~ 12/3 • Rev. John J. Blum ~

Thank you!

JOY of the Gospel Ministries wishes to thank all those parishioners for their generosity with supplies, funds, food, and prayers. We especially want to thank the Knights of Columbus, the Women's Ministry, Pinellas Hope group, and the Condolence Ministry for donating food for our use.

We are so grateful for your support in helping us feed the hungry. Peace and Blessings!

St. Matthew Catholic Church
Fall Benefit Concert
Annex Building
9111 90th Ave, Largo, FL

Sunday,
December 4th
1pm

Free Will Offering
Make checks payable to
St. Matthew Catholic Church

Thank You
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Lynn Bartolotta
Endowed Memorial Scholarship Fund
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Steve Bartolotta

Fr. Victor Bartolotta

2023 Tampa Bay Men's Conference

Save the date! The 13th annual Tampa Bay Men's Conference is scheduled for **Saturday, February 25, 2023**, in Higgins Hall, at St. Lawrence Catholic Church, Tampa.

Registration information for the Conference may be found on the following website: <http://suncoastcatholicministries.com/>.

Rekindle

Fr. Jonathan Emery will be celebrating the first Friday Mass on **December 2nd** at the House of Prayer in Clearwater. The evening begins at 6:30 with praise and worship music. Mass is at 7pm followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and the opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The House of Prayer is located at 711 South Bayview Ave in Clearwater.

Living Joy

Author and TV host Chris Stefanick will be speaking on "how to live a joyful life" at St. Jerome Catholic Church on Wednesday, **December 7th** at 7pm. Doors open at 6pm. Books will be available for sale. Following the talk will be time for a Q&A and book signing. There is no charge for this presentation. St. Jerome Catholic Church is located at 10895 Hamlin Blvd., Largo, 33774.



Society of St. Vincent de Paul

There is an Advent spirit in the heart of every human person. It is one of longing, of yearning for a fulfillment that somehow lies beyond ourselves as we long for the coming of the Lord.

By supporting the Society of St. Vincent de Paul with your prayers and financial support, your heart will discover the true meaning of Christmas as you help those who are suffering and poor to long for the coming of the Lord.



Sacraments and Ministries



BAPTISM of INFANTS:

The Sacrament of Baptism celebrates God's love and initiates us into the community of believers called the Church. We are the Church, and each baptism we perform or witness is a sign of our faith in Christ's power to renew the face of the earth. Baptisms are usually celebrated during the Mass. For Baptism preparation classes for parents, contact the parish office: (727) 393-1288. We recommend attending before the birth of your child.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK:

Call the office at any time in case of serious sickness. If you are hospitalized, the priest assigned to the hospital will administer the sacrament.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE:

Call the office a minimum of six months in advance. Participation in the Journey to Matrimony program is required.

SACRAMENTS FOR ADULTS:

R.C.I.A. is for adults and unbaptized teens wanting to be Catholic Christians. Please contact Lisa Limberger at (727) 393-1288 ext. 204.

SACRAMENTS FOR TEENS:

CONFIRMATION for baptized teens wanting to receive this Sacrament. Please contact Youth Ministry, Lisa Limberger at (727) 393-1288 ext. 204.

SACRAMENTS FOR CHILDREN:

First Communion and Reconciliation for baptized children ages 7 and older. Please contact Marissa Miranda at (727) 393-1288, ext. 207.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS:

The Knights of Columbus St. Matthew Council #11226, extends an invitation to all Catholic men to join our council. The council meets the First Tuesday of the month. If you are interested in hearing more about the Knights of Columbus, please contact Ben Kristoff at 727-218-7729.



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

SOCIETY: Assistance to the needy. Calls are monitored and returned daily. Phone 727-592-1960.

PROJECT HUNGER: Bring your non-perishable food item donations for the interfaith food pantry we help.

CENTERING PRAYER:

Centering Prayer is a form of silent contemplation practiced both as a part of a group and in our daily lives. We meet in the church for silent prayer and a short video. We meet on Tuesdays at 6:30pm. Please feel free to come join us. Contact Judi Valori through the parish office if you have any questions.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY:

Meets at 6:30pm the third Tuesday of every month September through May. We welcome new members!

SICK OR INCAPACITATED:

Please contact the parish office if you, or a family member, would like to be included in our weekly prayer list. If you are unable to attend Mass, let us know if you would like to schedule a visit from a Eucharistic Minister.

VOCATIONS:

Contact Fr. Chuck Dornquist for more information at (727) 345-3452 or spvocation@dosp.org.

As a convenience for our parishioners, we have a free notary public available to you in the parish office.

Dr. Lori Puterbaugh Counseling

Dr. Lori Puterbaugh, Licensed Mental Health Counselor and Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, is available for individual, couple and family counseling on a sliding scale fee basis at Espiritu Santo Catholic Church Mondays and Tuesdays, and at St. Matthew Catholic Church Wednesdays and Thursdays. Dr. Lori has been in private practice since 1999 and commissioned by the Lay Pastoral Ministry Institute of our diocese. Her background includes Catholic school counseling, and work with several Diocesan ministries. Specialty areas are anxiety, depression, grief, parenting, marriage/relationship, life stage/phase issues and stress. To set an appointment, please call 727-559-0863.

Have You Registered as a Member of St. Matthew?

To register as a member:

1. Online at www.stmat.org
2. New Member Info Packets are by the exits of the church.
3. Come to the Parish Office, weekdays and fill out a form.
4. Call the parish office at (727) 393-1288 to register.

Parish Staff

Clergy:

Rev. Jonathan Emery (ext. 205)

FrJonathan@StMat.org

Deacon Tony Quattrocki (ext. 203)

Deacon.Tony@stmat.org

Coordinator of Faith Formation:

Marissa Miranda (ext. 207)

Marissa.Miranda@StMat.org

Youth & Family Ministry:

Lisa Limberger (ext. 204)

Lisa.Limberger@StMat.org

Music Ministry: Chantal Ward

Office Manager:

Mandy Rose (ext. 201)

Mandy.Rose@StMat.org

Bookkeeper:

Bill Slatik

bookkeeper@stmat.org

Maintenance Staff:

Joe LaFrazia

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Dr. Lori (Dolores) Puterbaugh, LMHC, LMFT

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Licensed Mental Health Counselor

Commissioned in Lay Pastoral Ministry, DOSP

St. Matthew Catholic Church, Seminole & Espiritu Santo Catholic Church, Safety Harbor

727-559-0863
DrLoriPuterbaugh@Earthlink.net
DrLoriPuterbaugh.com

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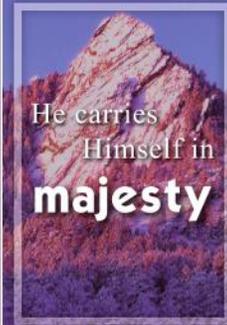


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