

**ST. MATTHIAS PARISH, MARLBOROUGH, MA**

**INTENTIONS OF THE  
EUCHARIST**

**Saturday, December 19 — 4:00 p.m.**

Maureen Henry — Memorial

**Sunday, December 20 — 10:00 a.m.**

Rita Rembetsy - 14th Anniversary Memorial

**Monday, December 21 — 4:00 p.m.**

Mark Zaniewski — Memorial

**Thursday, December 24 — 4:00 p.m.**

Grace and Frank O'Brien — Memorial

**Thursday, December 24 — 7:00 p.m.**

Gilbert Myers — Memorial

**Friday, December 25 — 10:00 a.m.**

Joan Martin — Memorial  
Phyllis and Gene Balinski — Memorial

**Saturday, December 26 — 4:00 p.m.**

Rev. E. Corbett Walsh, SJ — Memorial

**Sunday, December 27 — 10:00 a.m.**

Alice Robertson — Memorial

**Weekday Masses for the Week of December 21**

Monday, December 21, 2015  
9:00 a.m. in the downstairs conference room.

**Christmas Vigil**

Thursday, December 24, 2015  
4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

**Christmas Day**

Friday, December 25, 2015  
10:00 a.m.



**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

You are encouraged to pray these readings at home during the week as you reflect on this Sunday's Word and prepare to celebrate next week's Eucharist.

**Readings for December 20, Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Micah 5:1-4a; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45

**Readings for December 27, The Holy Family of Jesus.**

**Mary and Joseph**

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14; Colossians 3:12-21; Luke 2:41-52

**THIS WEEK AT  
ST. MATTHIAS**

**Saturday, December 19**

• **Celebration of the Eucharist**

Church, 4:00 p.m.

**Sunday, December 20**

• **Faith Formation—Grades 1 — 5**

Classrooms, 8:30 a.m.—9:45 a.m.

• **Celebration of the Eucharist with Baptism**

Church, 4:00 p.m.

• **Christmas Mass Children's Choir Rehearsal**

Church, 11:15 a.m.

**Tuesday, December 22**

• **Christmas Mass Children's Choir Rehearsal**

Church, 6:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, December 23**

• **Shawl Ministry**

Downstairs Conference Room, 6:45 p.m.

**Thursday, December 24**

• **Christmas Vigil Mass**

Church, 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

**Friday, December 25**

• **Christmas Day Mass**

Church, 10:00 a.m.

**Saturday, December 26**

• **Celebration of the Eucharist**

Church, 4:00 p.m.

**Sunday, December 27**

• **Celebration of the Eucharist**

Church, 4:00 p.m.

**Office Hours — Week of December 21**



**Monday and Tuesday**  
9:00 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.

**Wednesday**  
9:00 a.m. — Noon

## FROM FR. FRAN



Well, we're in the homestretch! Time for many to complete Christmas wrapping and others to start thinking about buying presents. Everyone "does" Christmas in different ways! It's always great to hear stories of Christmas traditions unique to a family that involve all kinds of folklore and a tall tale or two. It's also great to share in traditions with friends from different cultures who broaden and deepen our experience of Christmas.

If you were a fan of Jerry Seinfeld's TV show you probably know about the "alternative" to Christmas called "Festivus" where you gathered around an aluminum poll, aired your grievances with one another and attempted feats of strength, namely mixing it up with a family member. While meant to be humorous, more than a few Christmas family gatherings sometimes include stressful moments more akin to "Festivus" than Christmas. Ah, human nature!

No matter where we find ourselves on the Christmas spectrum, if it truly is the "most wonderful time of the year", or it brings a twinge of sadness for Christmases past, if it means a house overflowing with

relatives and kids and pets and noise, or is a quiet time of reflection with a few friends or alone, if it welcomes the cries of new babies or produces tears for loved ones now gone, the one thing that we can all share at Christmas is "the reason for the season", and I don't mean just the birth of Christ in Bethlehem, I mean God being born in our flesh and blood. God, in Jesus, growing up to know what it's like to be human, sharing our joy and sadness, our hopes and fears. Wherever we are in life, whatever our emotions, I think we can safely say that Christ has been there before us and knows just how we feel.

On Christmas we will celebrate not only Christ's birth but his life and death and resurrection, it's an all-inclusive gift. So then, let's give him back a gift for his great love for us by being a gift for each other. No wrapping needed. Let's welcome Christmas just as we are, and embrace our relatives and friends just as they are. May Christ be born within us and continue his work of love, justice and mercy through the work of our lives.

## CLERGY BENEFIT TRUST COLLECTION

At all our Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day our only collection will be to support the retirement, medical and financial needs of priests of the Archdiocese of Boston. On behalf of all of our priests, thank you in advance for your generosity. For more information, please visit [www.clergyfunds.org](http://www.clergyfunds.org).



## PARISH FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

**Weekly Offertory Goal: \$4,000.00**

Total Collection of December 12, 13..... \$4,186.42  
Of that amount ParishPay donations were..... \$ 561.42  
Parishioners celebrating December 12, 13..... 351

Offertory Goal Month of November..... \$16,000.00  
Total Offertory Month of November..... \$15,847.50  
Offertory **Deficit** for Month of November..... \$152.50

**NOVEMBER 2015 FINANCIALS**

Total Income for the Month of November \$64,670.00  
Total Expenses for the Month of November 27,465.32  
Net Income: \$37,204.73

**December Special Collections**

Parish Maintenance December 19/20  
Clergy Benefit Trust December 24/25

**Grand Annual**

**Goal: \$80,000.00**  
Total Pledged: \$37,275.00  
Total Received: \$29,170.00  
Total Number to Reach Goal: \$42,725.00  
Number of Families Pledged: 66

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### FAITH FORMATION

Merry Christmas to our Saint Matthias Community from the students, families and catechists in Faith Formation. May you experience the joy and peace of the Holy Family.

**Faith Formation gatherings will not be held December 27 or January 3.** Classes resume:

**Grades 1-5** Sunday, January 10, 2016

**Grades 1-5 and Grades 6-10** Sunday, January 24, 2016

Updates regarding Faith Formation are on our website: [www.stmattpar.org](http://www.stmattpar.org).



### CHRISTMAS ENVIRONMENT

One of the many delights of the Christmas season is the beautiful decorations. We are fortunate to have an extremely talented Art & Environment team who is busy with plans to bedeck the church in Christmas finery. You are invited to help make this possible with a contribution towards the Christmas Environment. You will find special envelopes in the pews and at the back of the church over the next few weeks. Please place your donation and the names of those you wish to memorialize in the envelopes. You may place the envelope in the weekly collection basket or return it to the parish office. If you choose to donate via ParishPay please be sure to send the memorial information to the parish office. Thank you in advance for your generosity.



### PRAY FOR THE HEALING OF THE SICK

#### *Please Pray For...*

*Donny Courteville, Connie Cyr, Mary Deibel, Clara Mae Dickerson, John Gifford, Joe Gillis, Pat Gowaski, Russ Hokanson, David Martin, Frank Mangan, Margaret McNeil, Betty Montgomery, and Jean Peltak.*

Please submit any names you wish to be included on the prayer list by calling the parish office 508-460-9255 or emailing [admin@stmattpar.org](mailto:admin@stmattpar.org). Thank you.

### EPIPHANY BREAKFAST

**Sunday, January 3 at 11:00 a.m.**

You are invited to join the St. Matthias Parish community on **Sunday, January 3, 2016 at 11 a.m.** for an **Epiphany Breakfast**. Hosted by Parish families, this event features many of your breakfast favorites, such as French toast bake, quiches, freshly baked muffins, eggs, sliced ham and other select goodies. Come enjoy a delicious meal and friendship with your fellow parishioners. If you are interested in helping or would like to share your favorite dish, please call the parish office at 508-460-9255. **Monetary Donations** for this event will be collected to support the **Our Father's Table** ministry. Everyone is welcome and we look forward to seeing you there!

*Our Father's Table* provides a warm welcome, hearty dinner, and pleasant conversation to support our neighbors, who may be experiencing financial difficulties. St. Matthias will host the next *Our Father's Table* on **Tuesday, January 12, 2016 at 4 p.m.** at New Hope Church, 204 Main Street in Marlborough.



### ADVENT PRAYER SERVICE POT LUCK THANK YOU

As proclaimed in the Third Sunday of Advent reading, "Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice!" Well these words rang through at the Advent Prayer Service and Pot Luck this past Sunday. The Faith Formation students, their families and many parishioners joined for a lovely prayer service presided over by the Packard Family with Matt Packard's humble words for reflection. As the reading continues, "Your kindness should be known to all," was truly evident with the clean up and camaraderie that closed the evening's festivities. Thank you to everyone for a wonderful joyous event. A special thank you to Donna Jensen, Cindy Roberge, and their families for co-chairing the event.

### SPONSORED COFFEE SOCIAL

**Sunday, December 20, 2015**



On Sunday, December 20 following the 10:00 a.m. Mass join us in the Parish Hall for a coffee social sponsored in memory of Rita Rembetsy. Come support the Rembetsy family and give thanks for the joy that Rita has brought to the lives of many.

If you would like to sponsor a coffee social in memory of or in celebration of a loved one, please call the parish office for details 508-460-9255.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **Christmas Mass Schedule**

#### **Christmas Vigil**

Thursday, December 24, 2015  
4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

#### **Christmas Day**

Friday, December 25, 2015  
10:00 a.m.

### **Feast of Mary, the Mother of God**

Friday, January 1 at 10:00 a.m.

### **Epiphany Breakfast**

Sunday, January 3 following the 10:00 a.m. Mass

## **PARISHPAY©**

Looking for ways to reduce the stress in your life? One way is to *simplify your financial life* by signing up for up for ParishPay©, our on-line system of giving. ParishPay© affords you the opportunity to have monthly or weekly contributions automatically deducted from your checking or savings account or from a debit or credit card. By doing so, you eliminate the stress of scrambling to find your church envelopes or writing out a check on your way out the door for Mass.

ParishPay© also helps our parish better manage our finances especially during the cold and snowy winter months. If you have any questions, please contact the office at 508-460-9245 or [admin@stmattpar.org](mailto:admin@stmattpar.org).

Thank you so much for your continued support of St. Matthias parish.



## **SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

We welcome into our faith community  
through the Sacrament of Baptism

**Landon Thomas Logan**  
**Justin Roger Parente**

On Sunday, December 20, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. during the Celebration of the Eucharist. Let us keep Landon and Justin and their family in our prayers.



## **ST. MATTHIAS CHOIR CHRISTMAS EVE PROGRAM**

Thursday, December 24 at 3:30 p.m.

The St. Matthias Choir will present a half-hour of Christmas Choral music on Thursday, December 24 starting at 3:30 p.m. in the church. Let music fill your heart with the spirit of Christmas. This year children of the parish will join the choir as we welcome in the 2015 Christmas season.





## **St. Matthias 2015 Christmas Bazaar**

St. Matthias Parish community extends their heartfelt gratitude to all the volunteers and donors who contributed so generously to the St. Matthias Annual Christmas Bazaar. Thank you to all the wonderful crafters, the attendees who purchased raffle tickets, made donations and spread the word to family and friends, and the extraordinary bakers and cooks. Our bazaar was a success because of your generosity, hard work, dedication and faithfulness to the St. Matthias Parish.

### **Christmas Bazaar Volunteers**

Joan Abshire  
Dolly Armstrong  
Diane and Gene Balinski  
Susan Barcinas  
Mary Ann Berube  
Carol Bloem  
Joan Bucher  
Sister Pat Callahan  
Gillian Campbell  
Judy and Jim Cannava  
Kristin Cassetta and Jack  
Lorraine Chute  
Jinx Clancy  
Janet Cross  
Lillian DeBeaucourt  
Mary Deibel  
Tony DelRaso  
Fay DiNitto  
Grace Dizenzo  
Gerry Dolan  
Nathalie Dolan

Darleen Doona  
Murphy Doona  
Taylor Dudek  
Ann Marie Ebert  
Katherine English  
Claire Fallon  
Siobhan Gannon  
Vera Gazza  
Fritz Geisen  
Tracey Gilpin  
Lisa Gowaski  
Pat Gowaski & family  
Nicolas Grimaldo  
Rose Heffernan  
Stephanie Hooper  
Donna and Jessica Jensen  
Jane Jones  
Peg Keeler  
Paula Kelley  
Renee Kossuth

Mary Jane Kunycky  
Mary Leonard  
Joanne Litster  
April Lowe  
Laura LoVecchio  
Emily Mague  
Marie Mangan  
David and Doreen Martin  
Mary Ann Mauro  
Bernard MacKenzie  
Brenda Mazzola  
Meagan McLean  
Marlene Mele  
Deb Mockus-Estes  
Betty Montgomery  
Pat Murphy  
Mary and Madison Nannery  
Terry Paladino  
Diane Peterson  
Jillian Petrie

Joanne Petrie  
Bob Richard  
Abby Roberge  
Cindy Roberge  
Andrew Rumney  
Len Salafia  
Barbara and Bob Saragian  
Trish Scanlon  
Terry Sciore  
Kelly and Paul Skoog  
Pat Smith  
Ellen Teplitz  
Linda Thomasino  
Paige Wadas  
Jane Walsh  
Lydia Whitcomb  
Lynn Williams  
Austin Wise  
Josephine Wise  
Betty Zschau

### **Main Prize Raffles**

<b>Prize</b>	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Prize</b>	<b>Winner</b>
\$500.00 Grand Cash Prize	Claire Fallon	Owl Afghan	Katie Broach
\$100.00 American Express Gift Card	F. LaJennesse	Hairpin Lace shawl	R. Goulet
\$100.00 Stop & Shop Gift card	Leslie Gannon	Baby Blanket	Myrna Torres
\$50.00 "99" Restaurant gift card	Ellen Lowe	Sled wall hanging	Michael Fallon
\$40.00 gift card Floral Gallery	Fay DiNitto	Painting by Ana	Bernice Donelle
Mary Kay Satin Hands Gift	Lillian DeBeaucourt	Navy blue afghan	Bernice Donelle
Christmas Basket	The Popvichaks	St. Nicholas	Ayn Paoella
Wine tote	E. Montgomery	Patchwork Afghan	Ann Marie Meany
Ping Pong table	Joanne Tramontozzi	Wall Angel	Austin Wise
Table runner	Judy Goodwin	Multi color Afghan	Joanne O'Donnell
Decorative Wine bottle	Pedro Torres	Santa Pillow	A. Slattery
Snowman	Kevin Curry	Sweet Basket	Cory Hitzenbuhler
\$100.00 Mahoney Garden Center Card	Julie Welch		



## 2015 Basket Raffle Results

Basket	Donor	Winner
Spy Kids	The Skoog Family	Melissa Hart
A Tisket a Tasket A Little Wine Basket	David Martin	Gail Yosca
Sugar and Spice and Everything Nice	Friend of St. Matthias	Cecile Atchue
Taste of India	Gene and Diane Balinski	Brad Darrach
Lottery Ticket Tree	Marie Mangan, Betty Montgomery, and Renee Kossuth	Florence Elder
Crafty Kids	The Pelliccio Family	Jean Peltak
Cooking in the Stonewall Kitchen	The Lectors of St. Matthias	Jordan Litman
Linked In Consultation	Roger Perry	Carole Rich
Longaberger Basket with Chocolates	Anonymous	Enid O'Donnell
Legos, Legos and More Legos!	CJ and Katie-Rose Murphy	Rustun Kyle
Gone to the Dogs	Kristin Cassetta	Nancy Bradford
Chocolate Lover's Basket	The Choir of St. Matthias	Judy Hogan
Ring in the New Year	The Eucharistic Ministers of St. Matthias	Carla O'Malley
A Day at Grandma's	JoAnn Petrie	Bob Mulvaney
Trader Joe's Delicacies	The Shawl Ministry of St. Matthias	Stephanie Turner
A Day at the Spa	A Friend of St. Matthias	Daniel Pitary
Be Kind to Yourself	A Friend of St. Matthias	Janet LeDoux
David's Tea Set	A Friend of St. Matthias	Jean Peltak
Vera Bradley Travel Bag	JoAnn Petrie	Maureen Cofelice
Decking the Dining Room	The Staff of St. Matthias	Meagan McLean
Setting up for Spring	Friend of St. Matthias	Cindy Roberge
A Good Read	Roger and Maureen Perry	Enid O'Donnell
Chocolate Sampler	The Altar Servers of St. Matthias	Ed Beauchemin
Basket for a Special Girl	The Barrett Family	Maddie McLean
Basket for a Special Boy	Maryann Mauro	Mabel Belmore
Basket for a Special Boy	The Barrett Family	Terry Paladino
Basket for a Special Boy	Maryann Mauro	Janet LeDoux
Books and More	Maryann Mauro	Myrna Torres
Party for Two	Paula Kelley	Jean Peters
Napkins for Every Occasion	Rosalie and Ginger Green	Enid O'Donnell
The Handy Lady	Ed Beauchemin	Joan Abshire
Vintage Nativity Scene	The Estate of Anne Marie Maddox	Geralyn Strella
Private Party	St. Mathias Money Counters	Pat Hayes
Now You're Cooking	Mary Deibel and Mary Elizabeth York	Stephanie Hooper
Popcorn Factory Solider	St. Matthias Eucharistic Ministers	Cathy Bisol
Everything Star Wars	Lynn Williams	Fritz Giesen
Cheese and Crackers	Doug & Jean Peltak	Paula Kelley

## Special Thank You To Our Donors

Joan Abshire	Irene Beairsto	Darleen Doona
Anna Kirejczyk	Betty Montgomery	Noreen Martina O'Connell
Doug and Jean Peltak	Theresa Salafia	Buffet Way - Dan Mauro
Tolman Associates	Miranda Bread	Trombetta's

