

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

**INTENTIONS OF THE  
EUCHARIST**

**Saturday, January 30 — 4:00 p.m.**

Edward Mulvaney — Memorial  
Claudette Fisher — Memorial

**Sunday, January 31 — 10:00 a.m.**

Sr. Ann Roussel — Mass of Healing

**Saturday, February 6 — 4:00 p.m.**

Yvette Peltak — Memorial

**Sunday, February 7 — 10:00 a.m.**

People of St. Matthias Parish

**Office Hours — Week of February 1**

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



**Wednesday**  
9:00 a.m. — Noon

**CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST  
MUSIC**

Gathering Song:	<b>SING OF THE LORD'S GOODNESS</b> <i>hymnal #532</i>
Psalm 71:	<i>I Will Sing of Your Salvation</i> <i>hymnal #941</i>
Preparation Rite:	<b>FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE</b> <i>hymnal #609</i>
Communion Song:	<b>UBI CARITAS</b>
Recessional:	<b>GOD WHOSE PURPOSE</b> <i>hymnal #704</i>

**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 January 31, Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jeremiah 1:4-5, 17-19; 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13;  
Luke 4:21-30

Readings for February 7, Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 6:1-2a, 3-8; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11

**THIS WEEK AT  
ST. MATTHIAS**

**Saturday, January 30**

- **Celebration of the Eucharist**  
Church, 4:00 p.m.

**Sunday, January 31**

- **Faith Formation—Grades 1 — 5**  
Classrooms, 8:30 a.m.—9:45 a.m.
- **Celebration of the Eucharist**  
Church, 10:00 a.m.
- **Faith Formation—Grades 9—10**  
Mass, 10:00 a.m. / Classroom 11:15 a.m. — Noon
- **Faith Formation—Grades 6 — 8**  
Classrooms, 6:00—7:15 p.m.

**Wednesday, February 3**

- **Shawl Ministry**  
Downstairs Conference Room, 6:45 p.m.

**Thursday, February 4**

- **Choir Rehearsal**  
Church, 7:00 p.m.
- **Bereavement Group**  
Downstairs Conference Room, 7:00 p.m.

**Saturday, February 6**

- **Celebration of the Eucharist**  
Church, 4:00 p.m.

**Sunday, February 7**

- **Faith Formation—Grades 1 — 5**  
Classrooms, 8:30 a.m.—9:45 a.m.
- **Celebration of the Eucharist**  
**Liturgy of the Word for Children**  
Church, 10:00 a.m.
- **Burning of the Palms**  
Outside Front of Church, following Mass
- **Faith Formation—Grades 9—10**  
Mass, 10:00 a.m. / Classroom 11:15 a.m. — Noon

**Weekday Masses for the Week of February 1**

Monday, Tuesday and Friday

9:00 a.m. in the Downstairs Conference Room.



**FROM FR. FRAN**

The other day I was reading an article on a Catholic web site about Pope Francis' remarks to other Christian denominations on the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul, January 25. The Pope begged an apology for the way in which, over the centuries, Roman Catholicism has treated other Christian religions in a less than Christian fashion. On what was the last day of the international week of Christian Unity the Pope said: "We cannot undo what was done in the past, but we don't want to allow the weight of past sins to pollute our relationships." The Pope called division among Christians "an open wound in the Body of Christ."

This is just one of a number of speeches that Pope Francis has given in his pontificate concerning the reuniting of the Christian family. Just a few weeks ago, Lutherans and Roman Catholics celebrated the Eucharist together in Rome at the end of a conference. In significant ways we are seeing the fruit of many years' work to overcome differences and celebrate the commonalities of Christian denominations, rather than continue to embrace long held feuds and hurts.

After reading the article mentioned above, I was curious to see readers' reactions, so I scrolled down to the comments box. Big mistake! Many of the comments were anything but Christian. Some derided the Pope, saying that he shouldn't apologize for anything the church has done to those who hold beliefs that differ from Roman Catholicism. A few commenters said that if the Pope apologizes for anything, he should apologize for the harm that Vatican II has done to the church! To be sure there were positive comments as well. However, the level of incivility was striking.

I'm sure, regardless of the topic, you've probably read lots of nastiness in comment boxes on line. However, one would think that on a Catholic web site things would be different. Yet, I have read that some of the nastiest

comments out there regularly occur on "religious" web sites. How sad. The unity and mutual respect that Pope Francis and other leaders of faith are calling for seems not even to be an option on this platform where you can say whatever you want with no accountability.

We have seen all too frequently the anger, prejudice and fear which underlies such comments play themselves out in real time in our civic, political, religious and family life. In a healthy pluralistic society differences of opinion and differing ideologies are just a part of life. The challenge is to make things work for the common good, to unite rather than divide. This seems to be what Pope Francis is up to in regard to our relationships with our Christian sisters and brothers. Yet, what are we to make of this when we hear representatives of denominations use religion to justify hatred, exclusion, prejudice and even violence?

Truly, there is a lot of healing to be done before the entire Body of Christ lives and moves as one. Last week, in our second reading at Mass, we heard St. Paul say that we all have our roles to play as part of the Body of Christ, and that when any one member is hurting the whole body hurts. Perhaps as we look towards what we will do for Lent this year we can ask ourselves questions such as these: What do I do to help the Body of Christ heal? How do I respond to people whose outlook is different from mine? How do I choose a candidate to vote for when so much political rhetoric is divisive, mean and unchristian? How do I speak about other people whether in groups or on social media? At end of the day, have I done more to unite the Body of Christ or to wound it?

On the night before he died, Jesus prayed that all be one. As baptized believers it is our challenge to take up Christ's prayer and make it our own by the way in which we live our lives. Christ came to unite, not divide, and as his disciples, he calls us to continue his work on earth.

**PARISH FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP**

<b>Weekly Offertory Goal:</b>		<b>\$4,000.00</b>	<b><u>December Financials Cont'd</u></b>
Total Collection of January 23, 24.....	\$ 3,325.00	December Total Offertory	\$17,607 (\$1,607 above goal)
Of that amount ParishPay donations were	\$ 1,104.00	Christmas Bazaar Income:	\$ 9,692
Offertory shortfall.....	\$ 675.00	Christmas Bazaar Expenses:	<u>(\$ 1,430)</u>
<i>Correction:</i> ParishPay donations Jan 16, 17	\$ 978.00		<u>\$ 8,262</u>
Parishioners celebrating January 23, 24 .....	288		
Church in Latin America — January 23, 24...	\$ 252.00		
Of that amount ParishPay donations were	\$ 5.00		
<b><u>December Financials</u></b>		<b>2016 GRAND ANNUAL</b>	
Total Income for the Month of December	\$64,996	<b>Goal:</b>	<b>\$80,000.00</b>
Total Expenses for the Month of December	<u>\$37,015</u>	Total Pledged:	\$53,175.00
Net Income:	\$27,981	Total Received:	\$47,790.00
		Total Number to Reach Goal:	\$26,825.00
		Number of Families Pledged:	101

## FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### FAITH FORMATION

Faith Formation gatherings for **Sunday, January 31** are as scheduled:

Grades 1-5	8:30 - 9:45 a.m.
Grades 6-8	6:00 - 7:15 p.m.
Grades 9, 10	10:00 a.m. Mass attendance followed by class until 12:00 Noon.



Following the direction of the Archdiocese of Boston that safety lessons be included within the curriculum, we are grateful to and welcome Sgt. Mercedes Roman from the Marlborough Police Department who will speak with children in Grades 1-5 during class on **Sunday, January 31 at 9:00 a.m. in the parish hall**. Catechists will provide further discussion of personal safety and respect within their individual classes with children. Parents and guardians are welcome and encouraged to join with the children and Sgt. Mercedes.

### BURNING OF THE PALMS



Following the **10:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday, February 7**, all parishioners are invited to the front of the church for the *Burning of the Palms*. Collection bins will be at the church entrances the weekend of January 30, 31 and February 6, 7 for donated palms from last year's Palm Sunday celebration. The ashes from the palms will be used during the two Ash Wednesday Masses being held on **Wednesday, February 10, at 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.** in the church. The beginning of the Lenten season—a time to reflect on our spiritual lives.

### COFFEE SOCIAL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY



The coffee social is an opportunity to connect, enjoy coffee and conversation with one another. The parish is seeking people to help with this event. The set-up preparation usually starts around 9:00 a.m. and clean up typically ends by noon. Please consider taking a few hours of your time to help. If you would like to help with this social activity, or to get additional information, please call the parish office at 508-460-9255. We greatly appreciate your consideration.

### PRAY FOR THE HEALING OF THE SICK

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

*Donny Courteville, Connie Cyr, Clara Mae Dickerson, John Gifford, Joe Gillis, Pat Gowaski, Russ Hokanson, Kathryn Keeler, 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.

### ST. VINCENT DEPAUL SOCIETY

On January 19th we took our first step toward forming a St. Vincent dePaul conference through the St. Matthias Parish. We had an informational meeting with the presidents of the Sudbury and Hudson conferences. These Vincentians gave us a brief organization of the Boston Archdiocese. The St. Matthias chapter would be in the Metro-West district, which has 9 conferences. They also gave us a brief overview of a typical meeting agenda and gave us some ideas of how they assist the needy.

The mission of the SVDP society is to give food, clothing, housing, healing and help to individuals and families in our community who have nowhere else to turn for help. At the same time, it is an ideal opportunity for the Vincentians to grow spiritually. Jesus said what we do for the least of his children we do for Him! The Sudbury conference (Our Lady of Fatima) also has an extensive resource guide which will help us immensely as we start.

Our next step is to have another informational meeting with a representative from the SVDS central office. This agency, located in Stoughton, MA coordinates all parish SVDP Society Conferences in the Archdiocese of Boston. Here we will learn what we need to do to obtain a conference at St. Matthias. We will need people to help behind the scenes and also people to contact the needy who call for help and set up visitations to analyze their needs. If you are interested, please contact the parish office and give them your contact information. If you are not sure, please attend the next meeting which will be noted in the bulletin when it is scheduled.

God bless all those who already have expressed an interest and if nothing else, please pray for our success on this journey.



## UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

### **Burning of the Palms**

Sunday, February 7 following 10:00 a.m. Mass

### **Ash Wednesday**

Wednesday, February 10

Mass 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

### **Marlborough Cupboard Collection**

Saturday, February 13 and Sunday, February 14

Collection bins at the church entrances

### **Lenten Simple Suppers**

Friday Evenings

February 26, March 4, March 18

6:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall

### **CORI Processing**

March 5 and 6

March 12 and 13



## **TRIDUUM 2016 NEEDS YOU!**

Despite the blast of winter we are experiencing, Spring will soon be here and with it so will the Paschal Triduum. Triduum is the most important liturgical event in our Catholic Christian year. It is the three day celebration of the Paschal mystery of Easter. Together, as a faith community, we walk the journey that took Christ from his last supper with his apostles to his suffering and death on the cross, to the culmination of Christ's glorious resurrection on Easter.

Triduum here at St. Matthias is an intensely beautiful experience but it takes *many people* and much preparation to make it such an exquisite spiritual celebration. We would like to extend a special invitation to each of **YOU, especially those who may not have taken part in the past as well as those who haven't taken an active role in recent years**, to join us on this spiritual journey.

We have a very dedicated team of people working on Triduum but are *in need of new members to help* us out. If you would like to enrich your spiritual life here at St. Matthias by helping out at Triduum, please contact Patricia Fischer at either [patfischer60@comcast.net](mailto:patfischer60@comcast.net) or 508-485-5473 or Diane Balinski at [dbalinski@stmattpar.org](mailto:dbalinski@stmattpar.org).

## **CONTRIBUTION REPORTS**

The 2015 contribution reports were mailed this week. If you have not received your report, please contact Diane Balinski at [dbalinski@stmattpar.org](mailto:dbalinski@stmattpar.org) or 508-460-9255.