

Saint Matthias Parish

409 Hemenway St.
Marlborough, MA 01752

Phone: 508-460-9255

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Parish Leadership

Francis P. O'Brien, Pastor

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Doug Peltak, Deacon

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Paul G. Coletti, Deacon

dencoletti@stmattpar.org

Theresa Salafia, Faith Formation Director

tsalafia@stmattpar.org

Judy McManus, Director of Music Ministries

jmsweetums@aol.com

Diane Balinski, Office Manager

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April Lowe, Communications Administrator/Receptionist

alow@stmattpar.org

Darleen Doona, Bookkeeper

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James Cannava, Maintenance

Joe Grimaldo, Co-Chair, Finance Council

Paul G. Coletti, Co-Chair, Finance Council

St. Vincent dePaul Society - 978-493-3037

Celebrations of the Eucharist

The Lord's Day

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 p.m.

Sunday: 10:00 a.m.

Liturgy of the Word for Children

Liturgy of the Word for Children is Celebrated at the 10:00 a.m. Mass on the 1st Sunday of the month (October through April)

Weekday

Monday, Tuesday, and Friday: 9:00 a.m.

Holy Day

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

Mission Statement

To live out the message of Jesus Christ and become, in fact and appearance, a true Christian community.

Faith Formation

Faith formation is a lifelong process: an ongoing interaction with God's creative goodness. We allow the Gospel to transform us and then bring transformation to the world. The Faith Formation Program at St. Matthias Parish provides opportunities to grow as individuals and as a community. We offer classroom sessions for children, a comprehensive Confirmation program, intergenerational learning in a variety of formats, and an adult enrichment program. For more information, contact Theresa Salafia (tsalafia@stmattpar.org).

Community Prayer Line

Our prayer line, coordinated by Marie Mangan (978-562-2891), offers prayers for you, your loved ones and friends. Requests may also be placed in the "Prayer Request" box at the rear of the Church. All requests will be kept confidential.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Those who are not baptized or have been baptized into another Christian community and are interested in learning more about initiation into the Catholic faith are invited to speak with Theresa Salafia (tsalafia@stmattpar.org).

Infant Baptism

Our parish celebrates the sacrament of Baptism for infants and children under the age of 7 at regularly scheduled Sunday Masses. Please call Deacon Doug at any time during pregnancy or at least two months in advance for information on baptismal catechesis and the choosing of godparents.

Adult Confirmation

Adults desiring to complete their Christian Initiation with the sacrament of Confirmation are encouraged to contact Fr. Fran

Reconciliation

This sacrament of God's infinite forgiveness, also known as Penance and Confession, is celebrated on Saturdays at 3:15PM or by appointment with Fr. Fran. Communal celebrations of the sacrament occur during Advent and Lent.

Anointing of the Sick

The Church encourages all who are ill, about to undergo surgery, or confined to their homes due to illness to be prayed over and anointed with sacred oil. This can take place at a parish Mass, in the home or in the hospital. Please speak with Fr. Fran for more details.

Marriage

Congratulations to engaged couples! Please contact Fr. Fran eight months to a year before your wedding to plan a program of marriage preparation.

Welcome New Parishioners!

We invite you to share in our life as a Eucharistic Community. Please complete a registration card found at the church entrances or register at the parish office. We look forward to welcoming you to our parish community.

St. Matthias Parish

INTENTIONS OF THE EUCHARIST

Saturday, December 22 — 4:00 p.m.

Janet Landers — Memorial

Sunday, December 23 — 10:00 a.m.

Francis Thomas Whitcomb — Memorial

Monday, December 24 — 4:00 p.m.

Grace and Frank O'Brien — Memorial

Monday, December 24 — 7:00 p.m.

Joan and David Martin — Memorial

Phyllis and Gene Balinski — Memorial

Saturday, December 29 — 4:00 p.m.

Gilbert Myers — Birthday Memorial

Sunday, December 30 — 10:00 a.m.

Rita Rembetsey — 17-Year Anniversary Memorial

**Gifts of Sanctuary and Altar Candles
for the month of December are
donated in memory of**

**Joan and David Martin
Phyllis and Gene Balinski**



Office Hours for the Week of December 23

Thursday

9:00 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.



**The office will be closed
Monday, Tuesday and
Wednesday in
observance of
Christmas.**

Weekday Masses for the Week of December 23



Weekday Mass is will be held

**Friday, December 28
at 9:00 a.m. in the Downstairs
Conference Room Chapel**

**There will be no morning mass on Monday,
December 24 and Tuesday, December 25.**

**Please see the Christmas Mass schedule under This
Week at St. Matthias.**

**For the most recent updates, please check the
website and voice message on the Parish phone.**

THIS WEEK AT ST. MATTHIAS

Saturday, December 22

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

Sunday, December 23

- **Celebration of the Eucharist**
Church, 10:00 a.m.
- **Coffee Social**
Parish Hall, Following Mass

Monday, December 24 — Christmas Vigil

- **Adult and Children's Choirs Christmas Performance**
Church 3:30 p.m.
- **Mass of the Nativity of the Lord**
Church, 4:00 p.m.
- **Mass of the Nativity of the Lord**
Church, 7:00 p.m.
- **Parish Office Closed**

Tuesday, December 25 — Christmas Day

- **Mass of the Nativity of the Lord**
Church, 10:00 a.m.
- **Parish Office Closed**

Wednesday, December 26

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

Saturday, December 29

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

Sunday, December 30

- **Celebration of the Eucharist**
Church, 10:00 a.m.
- **Coffee Social**
Parish Hall, Following Mass

CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST WORSHIP BOOKLET



The Advent Season Worship Aid can be found in the pews. This booklet contains Mass responses as well as our musical selections. Lift your voices in celebration.

After use, please return the booklet to the book rack located in the pew.
Thank You.

FROM FR. FRAN

Pot Luck Supper and Presentation

Many thanks to all who participated in last Sunday's great Advent event. Special thanks to all who prepared the evening and those who brought some great dishes for our Pot Luck Supper. Our presenters really helped us to focus in on the season, and on how, while each of us shares a unique journey through life, we are all united as one human family, sharing the same hopes, fears, and desires. Indeed there are no strangers or aliens, only family members we may not have met yet.

'Tis the Season – almost!

Countless hours of preparation go into our Christmas celebrations. A grateful thank you goes to all who have taken time out during this busy season to prepare us for a wonderful Christmas Season. Right now many parishioners are getting ready to put the finishing touches on decorations, music, liturgies, and all those things that go on behind the scenes. So, please keep them in your prayers as we move into the Christmas season.

The Masses of Christmas

Our 4 PM Mass on Christmas Eve is always jam packed. So, may I suggest that if you are coming to that Mass, why not arrive before 3:30pm to hear our children's and adult choirs present a wonderful program of music. The 7 PM Mass is less crowded. There is always a prayerful and peaceful quality to this celebration. And on Christmas morning we conclude our celebrations with another joyful celebration of the Eucharist.

End of Year Donations and Christmas Collection

If you would like to give an end of the year gift to St. Matthias Parish, please drop your donation into the

collection basket or mail it to us, and mark it appropriately, (end of year donation). You can do this any time before January 1st. The one exception is at the Christmas Masses, when all donations will go to the Clergy Fund Society of the Archdiocese of Boston. This annual Christmas Collection provides for the needs of the retired and infirm priests of the Archdiocese. Your generosity to this collection and to our parish is greatly appreciated.

Also, with our Five for Fall Campaign taking up the autumn months, we decided to move our most important fund raiser, our Grand Annual Collection, to the first months of 2019. Look for more information coming soon.

A joyful Christmas to all.

On Christmas we will celebrate not only Christ's birth, but his life, 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.

On behalf of our parish staff, may I wish you a wonderful Christmas. Wherever you find yourself, may the light of Christ glow brightly for you. May you know how much you are loved and blessed by God, and how much God wants *you* to help Jesus be born once again into our world.

CHRISTMAS MASSES—SPECIAL COLLECTION**ARCHDIOCESE OF BOSTON—CLERGY HEALTH AND RETIREMENT FUND**

At all of our Christmas Masses (December 24 and 25), 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 visit www.clergytrust.org.

PARISH FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Due to the early submission of the bulletin, December 15 and 16 financials will be reported in the December 22-23 bulletin.

December Special Collection

December 24 and 25 — Clergy Health and Retirement Trust

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

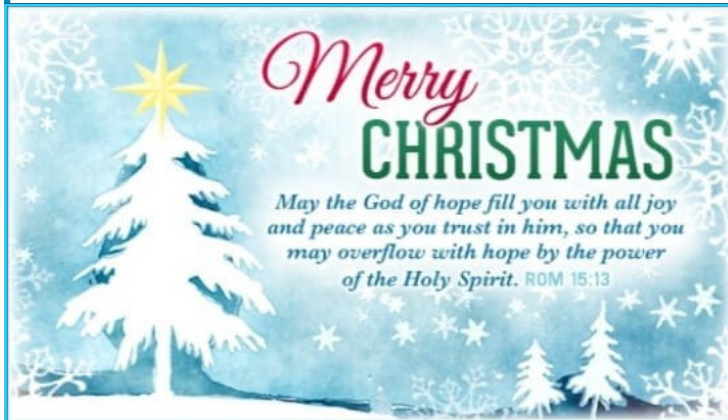
Readings for the Feast of the Holy Family of
Jesus, Mary and Joseph

December 29 and December 30

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

FAITH FORMATION

Christmas Blessings to St. Matthias families from our children and catechists in Faith Formation.



CHRISTMAS ENVIRONMENT

One of the many delights of the Christmas season is the beautiful decorations.



You are invited to help make this possible with a contribution towards the Christmas Environment. You will find special envelopes 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.

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

Every Sunday after the 10:00a.m. Mass, parishioners are all welcome to gather in the Parish Hall for coffee and conversation. The coffee social is an opportunity to connect with friends and fellow parishioners and to welcome new parishioners to our community. Take a little time this month to stop by, even for a few minutes, to say hello and enjoy some donuts and coffee.

While the Coffee Social is complimentary, your small donations and attendance, go a long way to ensure these gatherings continue to grow and be a meeting place for all.



See you on Sundays following the 10:00a.m. Mass.

CHILDREN'S AND ADULT CHOIRS CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24 AT 3:30P.M.

Please join family and friends before our Christmas Vigil Mass as our St. Matthias Children's and Adult Choirs will present a special program of music beginning at 3:30p.m. in the church. Let music fill your heart with the spirit of Christmas as we welcome in the Christmas season.

Please note, children performing in the choir are expected to arrive by 3:15p.m.

MASS, FAITH FORMATION, AND EVENTS WEATHER CANCELLATION POLICY

Information regarding cancellation of Mass, Faith Formation classes, and St. Matthias Parish Events will be published on our website's homepage (www.stmattpar.org). The Parish Office telephone voicemail message will also be changed to reflect any such cancellations.

In addition, Faith Formation class cancellations will be reported on WBZ (Channel 4), WCVB (Channel 5) and NBC CW56 7 News (Channel 56) as well as WBZ (1030) or WRKO (608) AM radio.

During the week, the general rule is that if Marlborough Public Schools are closed the office will be closed and there will be no morning Mass. If there is a delayed opening the office will be open, but morning Mass will be cancelled.



PRAY FOR THE HEALING OF THE SICK



Please Pray For...

Richard Abraham, Conor Canavan, Carol Chatalian, Joseph Cox, Adelbert Cyr, The Del Raso Family, Rita Dennison, W. Joseph Doyle, Stella Fettig, David Giugno, Russ Hokanson, Emma Johnston, Fr. Mike MacEwen, Dave Mackenzie, Kay McNeill, Mike Mauro, Michael Messom, Betty Montgomery, Theresa Morrill, Deborah Natoli, Jennifer Natoli, Theresa Perry, Johnny Pellrine, Jean Peltak, Andy Rivers, Kathleen Shine, Pedro Torres, Michael Trumfio, Ronald Vaudreuil and Jenny Weibel

*****Please let the office know if you would like our parish to pray for the health and support of your loved ones.***



**CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S
MASS SCHEDULE AT
ST. MATTHIAS PARISH**

Christmas Vigil Masses

Monday, December 24 at 4:00 p.m.

Monday, December 24 at 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Day Mass

Tuesday, December 25 at 10:00 a.m.

**The Holy Family of
Jesus, Mary and Joseph Masses**

Saturday, December 29, 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 30, 10:00 a.m.

Solemnity of Mary (New Year's Day) Mass

Tuesday, January 1, 10:00a.m.



**CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S
SPECIAL OFFICE HOURS**

Week of December 23rd

Monday, December 24 (Christmas Eve) – Closed

Tuesday, December 25 (Christmas Day) – Closed

Wednesday, December 26 – Closed

Thursday, December 27 – 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Closed Friday as usual.

Week of December 30th

Monday, December 31 – Closed

Tuesday, January 1 (New Year's Day) – Closed

Wednesday, January 2 – 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Thursday, January 3 – 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Closed Friday as usual.