

Saint Matthias Parish

*409 Hemenway St.
Marlborough, MA 01752
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Parish Leadership

Francis P. O'Brien, Pastor

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Doug Peltak, Deacon

dcpeltak@stmattpar.org

Paul G. Coletti, Deacon

dcoletti@stmattpar.org

Theresa Salafia, Faith Formation Director

tsalafia@stmattpar.org

Judy McManus, Director of Music Ministries

jmsweetums@aol.com

Diane Balinski, Office Manager

dbalinski@stmattpar.org

April Lowe, Communications Administrator/Receptionist

alowe@stmattpar.org

Darleen Doona, Bookkeeper

ddoona@stmattpar.org

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 29 — 4:00 p.m.

Gilbert Myers — Birthday Memorial

Sunday, December 30 — 10:00 a.m.

Rita Rembetsey — 17-Year Anniversary Memorial

Tuesday, January 1 — 10:00 a.m.

Mary Masciarelli — Birthday Memorial

Saturday, January 5 — 4:00 p.m.

Susan DiAngelo — Memorial

Sunday, January 6 — 10:00 a.m.

Francis Thomas Whitcomb — 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 30

Wednesday, January 2

9:00 a.m. — 12:00 noon

Thursday, January 3

9:00 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.

The office will be closed Monday and Tuesday in
observance of the New Year.

Weekday Masses for the Week of December 30

Tuesday, January 1, 2019

Solemnity of Blessed Mary

10:00 a.m. in the Church

Monday, December 31 and Friday, January 4, 2019

Weekday Mass

9:00 a.m. in the downstairs conference room

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



THIS WEEK AT ST. MATTHIAS

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

Monday, December 31

- **Parish Office Closed**

Tuesday, January 1

- **Parish Office Closed - Happy New Year**

Wednesday, January 2

- **Rosary Recitation**
Church, 6:00 p.m.
- **Shawl Ministry**
Downstairs Conference Room, 6:45 p.m.

Thursday, January 3

- **Choir Rehearsal**
Church, 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, January 5

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

Sunday, January 6

- **Celebration of the Eucharist with
Liturgy of the Word for Children**
Church, 10:00 a.m.
- **Coffee Social**
Parish Hall, Following Mass
- **St. Vincent dePaul Society meeting**
Parish Hall, Following Mass

CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST WORSHIP BOOKLET

The Christmas 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

A Season to Celebrate!

Many thanks to all who gave of their time and talent in preparation and celebration of our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day liturgies. The beauty of song, environment, and all of our liturgical ministries working together made for wonderful and prayerful celebrations.

Christmas day is, of course, just the start to the Christmas Season in the Church. There are more feasts to celebrate! They constitute the 12 Days of Christmas. Each celebration widens the circle of those who discovered Jesus at his birth and thereafter.

With today's **Feast of the Holy Family**, we celebrate the core circle of people in Jesus' life, his parents. It was from them that he learned all the things that each child learns. We celebrate the unconditional love, patience and even forgiveness that was part of the Holy Family. We ask God to make this part of our own family life, whatever the shape and size.

And perhaps most importantly this year, let us pray for those families who have left their homelands seeking asylum in our country and so many other western nations. Can we see in them the embodiment of the Holy Family fleeing into Egypt to escape from King Herod's wrath?

The Christmas Season moves forward on New Year's Day to celebrate **Mary as the Mother of God**. While we continue to reflect upon Jesus' birth in the manger, we now bring into focus his relationship to Mary, a relationship which opens wide the doors of discipleship for her and in turn for all of us. Her willing "yes" to the angel at the Annunciation began that discipleship. As the New Year's resolutions which we may make in the waning hours of 2018 will inevitably fade and disappear, perhaps it would be better to resolve, like Mary, to listen for the voice of God and follow where we will be led by the Holy Spirit in 2019.

The apex of the Christmas Season comes with the **Feast of the Epiphany**. Up until this point in the season, only a select few folks in Bethlehem have witnessed the miracle of God becoming one of us. Now, with the visit of foreigners from the East, Jesus is seen as coming, not just for his own people, but for the whole world, and for anyone who would recognize him as brother and Savior. We might pause on this feast to realize that, while people may profess to worship God in many different ways through many different faith traditions, there is, after all, one God who has brought the entire human family to birth. Every person on earth belongs to the same family.

The Christmas Season then comes to a close with the celebration of **Feast of the Baptism of the Lord**. The newborn in the manger has become the man beginning his public ministry of teaching and healing after being baptized by John in the Jordan river. Christ continues this work through us. How will we live out our own baptismal commitments to love and serve God in the year ahead?

So, there is the entire Christmas Season in a nutshell. The overarching story is that God loved us so intensely that God became one of us and slowly revealed this love to the nations as Jesus grew and preached, died and rose. God is still revealing this love for us in Christ today.

Whenever we encounter love, mercy and justice, we encounter Christ. Whenever we reach out to heal, to comfort, to embrace, and to welcome, Christ is being born anew through our own discipleship. So, as the decorations come down and the gifts are put away during the next few weeks, let's remember that the greatest gift of all keeps on giving, the gift of God with us in Jesus Christ.

**PARISH FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP****Weekly Offertory Goal \$4,000.00**

Offertory collection of December 15, 16	\$4,813.38
a surplus of \$813.38 over the weekly goal. Thank you.	
Of that amount WeShare on-line donations	\$1,630.88
Parishioners celebrating Mass	297

January Special Collection

January 12 and January 13 — Parish Maintenance
January 26 and January 27 — Church in Latin America

**NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURE READINGS**

Readings for the Epiphany of the Lord

January 5 and January 6

Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:2-3A, 5-6; Matthew 2:1-12

December 30, 2018

Feast of the Holy Family

FAITH FORMATION

Best wishes for a happy, healthy and peaceful 2019 from the 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 contribute towards the Christmas Environment using the special envelopes marked as "Christmas Flowers" available at the back of the church and in the pews 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 WeShare 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...

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.*

CHILDREN'S AND ADULT CHOIRS CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE THANK YOU

A heartfelt thank you to the beautiful music and songs performed by the St. Matthias Parish Christmas Choirs during the Christmas Masses. The spirit of the season rang throughout the church and enriched our Celebration of the Eucharist. Thank you to the children who participated and brought joy to all.

A Letter from Judy McManus

Sooner or later we all have to deal with the reality of time — it keeps getting away from us — there's not enough of it — and most of all it starts to run out. That is the position in which I find myself. I have reached the time when I must retire due to health considerations. Fr. Fran and I have had this conversation for a while, but now the reality is that my health won't let me continue.

I will miss this job as Music Director. I loved it and loved the people I worked for and with. I am very grateful to the choir, especially Katie, Jeanine, Geralyn, Cathy, Maria, my longtime friend Fritz, and most of all Joyce. I don't know what I would have done without Joyce. She has been my right arm this past year and got me through so many problems. Whenever I asked her for help, she was there for me.

The people who work in the rectory are a special group. Diane Balinski, April Lowe, Terry Salafia, Deacon Doug Peltak and Deacon Paul Coletti. They all go above and beyond for the people of this parish.

I am thankful for all of you, the congregation, who gave me so much support and positive feedback.

Most of all, I'm grateful to Fr. Fran. He has been a good friend to me since the day he arrived on the scene. There's no better way to learn how Sacred Music should be performed than by working for a prominent composer of Sacred Music.

And so we come to the end of my 31 years of service here at St. Matthias Parish. When I can, I will come in from time to time and help where I'm needed. In the meantime, my love and prayers to you all.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Respectfully,

Judith A. McManus





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

**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.

**NEW YEAR'S
SPECIAL OFFICE HOURS**

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.

All SOULS REMEMBRANCE

All Souls' Day, is a day for commemoration of all the faithful departed in our lives. Below is a supplemental list of loved ones' names, who were inadvertently left off the previous bulletin insert for this offering. Let us continue to offer our prayers to these loved ones and all our loved ones who have died.

Alphonse Claessens	Charles Claessens
Joseph Frane	Patricia Hewitt
Elizabeth McWilliams	Paul Murphy
John & Elizabeth Montgomery	John & Jeannie Montgomery
Maria O'Donnell	Family and friends of Theodor Huber

IN LOVING MEMORY

