

# Saint Matthias Parish

409 Hemenway St.  
Marlborough, MA 01752

Phone: 508-460-9255

Fax: 508-480-8801



## Parish Leadership

Francis P. O'Brien, Pastor

frobrien@stmattpar.org

Doug Peltak, Deacon

dcpeltak@stmattpar.org

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

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, January 5 — 4:00 p.m.**

Susan DiAngelo — Memorial

**Sunday, January 6 — 10:00 a.m.**

Francis Thomas Whitcomb — Memorial

**Monday, January 7 — 9:00 a.m.**

Sr. Violanda Muia — Prayer of Healing

**Tuesday, January 8 — 9:00 a.m.**

Sr. Virginia Crowell — Prayer of Healing

**Saturday, January 12 — 4:00 p.m.**

Anne Thompson and  
Susan DiAngelo — Memorial

**Sunday, January 13 — 10:00 a.m.**

People of St. Matthias Parish

### Office Hours for the Week of January 6



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

**Wednesday**  
9:00 a.m. — 12:00 p.m.

### Weekday Masses for the Week of January 6

**Monday, Tuesday and Friday**  
9:00 a.m. in the  
**Downstairs Conference Room Chapel**



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

## **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.*

## THIS WEEK AT ST. MATTHIAS

**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

**Tuesday, January 8**

- **Our Father Table**  
New Hope Church — 204 Main Street, 4:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, January 9**

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

**Thursday, January 10**

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

**Saturday, January 12**

- **Celebration of the Eucharist**  
Church, 4:00 p.m.
- **Marlborough Community Cupboard Collection**  
Collection bins at church entrances

**Sunday, January 13**

- **Celebration of the Eucharist**  
Church, 10:00 a.m.
- **Coffee Social**  
Parish Hall, Following Mass
- **Marlborough Community Cupboard Collection**  
Collection bins at church entrances
- **Extraordinary Ministers of Communion Chat Session**  
Classroom to right of stage, following Mass



FROM FR. FRAN

Throughout the year we often sing the beautiful song by liturgical composer Bernadette Farrell entitled Christ Be Our Light. Today we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany when Jesus, through the visit of the astrologers from the East, was revealed as a light to the nations. We indeed pray that he will also be our light. And, in return, he commissions us to be light for each other.

The entire Christmas Season is a season of light, and in the northern hemisphere, it comes just in the nick of time, during the darkest days of the year. So too, one of our beloved American Christmas traditions, placing lights in our windows at Christmastime, has its origins in a very dark season in history.

The tradition originated in Ireland as a symbol of hospitality. It began when Roman Catholicism was banned throughout Ireland by the ruling English authorities. Catholic Churches were suppressed. Priests were not allowed to minister the sacraments. If a priest was found exercising his ministry, he would be deported. If he returned and resumed his ministry, he would run the risk of execution. However, many priests remained and continued to minister clandestinely to the faithful.

Masses were held in secret, often in caves, or in the forest at “mass rocks”, or behind hedge rows, where folks could quickly flee if the authorities came around. Priests also frequently celebrated mass and administered the other sacraments in private homes under the cover of darkness.

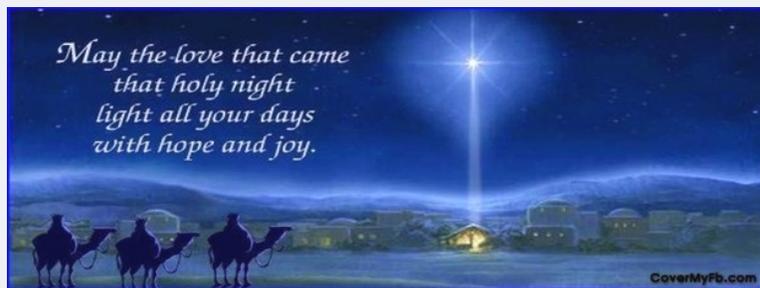
Many Irish families hoped that a priest would visit their

home on Christmas Eve and during the Christmas Season. They would leave the door unlocked and put a lighted candle in a window to indicate that theirs was a Catholic home, and that a priest was welcome. The Irish explained to the English authorities that they left their doors unlocked and candles lit in the windows to guide Mary and Joseph into their homes, letting the Holy Family know that they are welcome. The English thought nothing of this tradition and chalked it up to silly superstition.

When the Irish immigrated to America, they brought with them this practice of placing lighted candles in the windows during the Christmas Season. And so the tradition spread throughout the United States.

Often the origins and deeper meanings of customs we have become accustomed to escape us or become lost to time. How often do we go from day to day and year to year kind of absentmindedly wrapped up in the task at hand. Dare I say that even when we come to celebrate the Eucharist we might be less than aware of the amazing thing God is doing here.

On this Feast of the Epiphany, is God calling us at this celebration of the Eucharist to a personal epiphany? Perhaps through the singing, the readings from scripture, the body and blood of Christ which we receive, and through the lives of the people with whom we worship, God is giving us guidance, speaking to our hearts, and giving us a gentle nudge to bring more light, more joy, more kindness, and more compassion into the world.



PARISH FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

**Due to the early submission of this bulletin financials for December 29 and 30 financials will be reported in the January 12 and January 13 bulletin.**

**January Special Collections**

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

2019 GRAND ANNUAL COLLECTION



If you are on our mailing list, please watch your mail this week for our Grand Annual Collection letter and pledge card as we begin our annual Grand Annual Pledge drive. If you are not on our mailing list, beginning next weekend, envelopes will be in the pews and at the entrances to the Church. Please take one and prayerfully consider pledging and donating to the Parish. For any questions, please contact the Parish Office at (508) 460-9255 or e-mail us at [admin@stmattpar.org](mailto:admin@stmattpar.org).

### FAITH FORMATION

As a reminder, Faith Formation meetings will resume in 3 weeks on **Sunday, January 27 as follows:**

Grades 1-5                    8:30 – 9:45 a.m.

Grades 6-8                   6:00 – 7:15 a.m.

Grades 9-10 (Confirmation I and II)

Participation in 10:00 a.m. Mass followed by coffee social and meetings until noon.



### EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER CHAT SESSION

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 13 — 11:00 A.M.**



Happy New Year to all our Eucharistic Ministers! There will be a chat session held on **Sunday, January 13** during the coffee social. Please grab a cup of coffee and join us in the classroom to the right side of the stage. Thank you.

*Joanne Litster and Marge Shea-Burke*

### 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.**

### NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Readings for the Baptism of the Lord

January 12 and January 13

Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7; Acts 10:34-38; Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

### 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 throughout the Christmas season. 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.



### 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](http://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.



## MARLBOROUGH COMMUNITY CUPBOARD NON-PERISHABLE FOOD COLLECTION

WEEKEND OF JANUARY 12 AND 13

The St. Matthias Parish monthly Marlborough Community Cupboard food collection bins will be placed at the church entrances next weekend **January 12 and January 13**, to support our Marlborough friends and neighbors.



Products such as tuna, peanut butter, cooking oils, sugar, flour and other canned goods are essential to providing nutritious meals. In addition to food items, the pantry requests personal hygiene items as well as baby diapers and formula. Donations are always welcomed and can be dropped off at the Walker Building off of Main Street.

### OUR FATHER'S TABLE

TUESDAY, JANUARY 8

NEW HOPE CHURCH — (204 MAIN ST.)

St. Matthias Parish community members will be hosting *Our Father's Table* on **Tuesday, January 8, beginning at 4:00 p.m.**

Our Father's Table is an ecumenical outreach program which feeds the poor and homeless in the Marlborough area. A meal is served three times each week at the New Hope Church on Main Street for approximately 50 people. Our parish is responsible for preparing and serving the meal the second Tuesday of every other month. Volunteers bake desserts and help serve, and one parishioner acts as lead chef.



For details or to volunteer, please contact Sue Dolesh via e-mail: [daledolesh@gmail.com](mailto:daledolesh@gmail.com).

### NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS WE CAN ALL KEEP



Be good stewards of God's great planet.

Be generous with your time.

Be kind and loving towards a stranger.

Be willing to forgive, including forgiving yourself.

Be patient even when it is difficult.

Be a beacon of God's light and love.