

# *Saint Matthias Parish*

*409 Hemenway Street*

*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

dcncoletti@stmattpar.org

Russ Morey, Deacon

Theresa Salafia, Faith Formation Director

tsalafia@stmattpar.org

Judy McManus, Director of Music Ministry, Emerita

jmsweetums@aol.com

Joyce Belliveau, Choir Director

jbbelle@comcast.net

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 tel. no. 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., Downstairs Chapel

### **Holy Day**

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

### **Easter Sunday**

9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.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, November 30 — 4:00 p.m.**

Francis Kane — 1st Anniversary Memorial

**Sunday, December 1 — 10:00 a.m.**

Jean Marie Peltak — Memorial

**Saturday, December 7 — 4:00 p.m.**

Edward Surprenant — Birthday Memorial

**Sunday, December 8 — 10:00 a.m.**

Claire Skrzypzak — Memorial

## Weekday Masses for the Week of December 1



**Weekday Mass  
Monday and Tuesday**

**9:00 a.m. — Downstairs Conference Rm.**

(No Mass on Friday due to Christmas  
Bazaar Set-up)

For Mass updates, please check the website and voice  
message on the Parish Office phone at 508-460-9255.

## Office Hours for the Week of December 1

**Monday, Tuesday and Thursday**

**9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.**

*Parish Office is closed on  
Wednesday and Friday.*



## CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST MUSIC NOVEMBER 30 AND DECEMBER 1

<b><u>Gathering Song</u></b>	<b><i>Your Saving Grace</i></b> Booklet # 1
<b><u>Preparation Rite</u></b>	<b><i>Our Winter Song</i></b> Booklet # 2
<b><u>Communion</u></b>	<b><i>Bread Of Life From Heaven</i></b> Hymnal # 803
<b><u>Recessional</u></b>	<b><i>The King Shall Come</i></b> Hymnal # 347

The Worship Booklet for the Advent Season contains  
Mass responses as well as our musical selections. Please  
return the booklet to the book rack at the conclusion of  
Mass.

## THIS WEEK AT ST. MATTHIAS

**Saturday, November 30**

- **Celebration of the Eucharist**  
Church, 4:00 p.m.
- **Giving Tree—Gift Return**  
Please place gifts by trees at the front entrance

**Sunday, December 1**

- **Faith Formation Grades 1 through 5**  
Classroom, 8:30 to 9:45 a.m.
- **Celebration of the Eucharist with Liturgy of the Word  
for Children**  
Church, 10:00 a.m.
- **Coffee Social**  
Parish Hall, following the 10:00 a.m. Mass
- **St. Vincent dePaul Meeting**  
Parish Hall, following the 10:00 a.m. Mass
- **Giving Tree—Gift Return**  
Please place gifts by trees at the front entrance

**Wednesday, December 4**

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

**Thursday, December 5**

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

**Saturday, December 7**

- **Christmas Bazaar**  
Parish Hall, 9:00 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.
- **Celebration of the Eucharist**  
Church, 4:00 p.m.
- **Marlborough Community Cupboard**  
Collection bins at church entrances

**Sunday, December 8**

- **Faith Formation Grades 1 through 5**  
Classroom, 8:30 to 9:45 a.m.
- **Celebration of the Eucharist**  
Church, 10:00 a.m.
- **Coffee Social**  
Parish Hall, following the 10:00 a.m. Mass
- **Faith Formation Grades 9 and 10**  
Parish Hall, 6:00 p.m. — 7:15 p.m.
- **Giving Tree—Gift Return**  
Please place gifts by trees at the front entrance
- **Marlborough Community Cupboard**  
Collection bins at church entrances

FROM FATHER FRAN

**Advent: Bah, Humbug!**

Advent is really a nuisance. Just when the world around us is going full tilt toward Christmas, the Advent season calls us to put on the brakes and prepare our hearts and lives for Christmas, in a deeply spiritual way. Who has time for that, when we've got stockings to stuff, halls to deck, and presents to wrap? Well, if we take the time to flow with the rhythm of Advent, we might just find ourselves more centered and less frenzied as we prepare for Christmas, or better yet, as we prepare for *Christ*.

So how do we discover the rhythm of Advent? By coming here to the Eucharistic table, of course! Our Advent liturgies, and especially the scriptures chosen for the season, reveal to us what Advent is all about, namely, celebrating the *two* different comings of Christ.

Jesus first came to us wearing our human face and form. He will come again, at the end of time, as the Christ of God, leading all things to their fulfillment. The rhythm of Advent then is the rhythm of eternity as it plays itself out through Christ's presence with us now and forever.

The rhythm of our Advent scriptures will begin with a focus on Christ's *second* coming, complete with visions of what might happen at "the end". These stories from our tradition aren't told to scare us, but to shake us into the realization that there is more to life than our daily struggles, that God has a master plan which includes our eternal life. As we travel on this road to eternity, we are to watch for the signs of God breaking into our world, especially in times when incivility, injustice, and self-preservation make it seem as if a dark apocalypse is upon us.

John the Baptist will then come to annoy us in the middle weeks of Advent. If we listen closely to what he

has to say, he will upset the rhythms of our daily lives with the rhythm of Advent. His cry to "prepare" won't be reminding us to decorate the tree or wrap all those gifts. No, John will be challenging us to prepare a pathway in the world *for Christ*. But, what does that mean? How will we accomplish that?

First of all, John wants to stop us in our tracks. He wants us to look inward in order to live our lives as outward signs of Christ's presence. The rhythm of Advent invites us to take John's challenge seriously. If we heed John's call to "repent", or turn our lives around where needed, we will inevitably be led to reach out to others in new and deeper ways. We might find ourselves being kinder, more openhearted, and more forgiving of others once we've worked on our own faults and sinfulness. The rhythm of Advent renewal helps us to "reboot" our discipleship.

As Advent comes to its end, we will begin our immediate preparation for Christmas by listening to the story of Joseph and Mary and how they prepared for Jesus' coming by saying a simple and profound "yes" to God. If we have been flowing with the rhythm of Advent, we too, will be ready to say our "yes" to God, and like Mary and Joseph, go in faith wherever that "yes" leads us.

As you can see, Advent challenges us to a much deeper season of preparation than we are used to or comfortable with at this time of the year. In reality, however, Advent doesn't ask us to take on anything *extra*. Advent simply invites us to become more of *who we already are*, beloved children of God, chosen in baptism to continue bearing Christ's love, mercy, and forgiveness to a world that is always in need. This is God's gift and plan for us. What will be our gift to God in return?

**Weekly Financials—Weekly Goal: \$4,000**

*Due to the early submission of the bulletin for the Thanksgiving Holiday, financial information for the weekend of November 23 and November 24 will be available in next week's bulletin.*

**October 2019 Budget Comparison**

Income:	\$28,763.47
Expenses:	\$24,323.50
Net +:	\$ 4,439.97

**December Special Collections**

Parish Maintenance	December 7 and 8
Clergy Retirement Fund	December 24 and 25

**2020 GRAND ANNUAL CAMPAIGN**



Thank you to everyone who has pledged or given to the 2020 Grand Annual Campaign. We are off to a good start.

Our numbers to date (no update since 11/21 due to early submission of the bulletin):

<b>Grand Annual Goal</b>	<b>\$65,000</b>
Total Received	\$16,300
Total to Reach Goal	\$58,900

To make your contribution, envelopes are located at the church entrance. You may also give on-line through our WeShare program. Thank you for your support to the parish community.

**FAITH FORMATION**

A blessed Advent season to our Saint Matthias family from the children and catechists in Faith Formation. As we journey through Advent the words of Pope Francis remind us that:

“The birth of Jesus brings the Good News that we are loved intensely and frequently by God.”

**Faith Formation gatherings for Sunday, December 1 are:**

Grades 1-5 8:30 – 9:45 a.m.

The Pot Luck Supper for participants in Grades 6 – 10 is cancelled for Dec. 1.

**Remaining Faith Formation gatherings in December are:**

Dec. 8 and 15 Grades 1-5 8:30 – 9:45 a.m.

Dec. 8 Confirmation I (Grade 9)  
Confirmation II (Grade 10)

Participants in these grades will attend 10:00 a.m. mass followed by coffee social and meeting until noon.

Dec. 15 Grades 6-8 6:00 – 7:15p.m.



*A little bit of mercy  
makes the world less  
cold and more just.*

Pope Francis

Embeddedfaith.org

**Christmas Giving Tree**



Through the generosity of many parishioners, Christmas joy is given to many Marlborough community children who need our help to make their Christmas brighter.

St Matthias Parish will once again partner with United Way of Tri County and the Marlborough Community Cupboard to identify families who are participating in the Giving Tree Program. **If you selected a Christmas Tag last weekend, please return your unwrapped gift this weekend**, with the tag attached. **Donations of wrapping paper, bows and tape will help greatly.**

**If you have forgotten your gift or were unable to purchase your gift yet, please feel free to drop off the item at the parish office during regular business hours this week only.**

Thank you to the Fettig Family for taking the time to organize this community outreach project. If you would like to help next year, please contact the Parish office. The Fettig family would like another family to become familiar with the program and will help in preparing them to be the organizers for the next Christmas season.

**CHRISTMAS BAZAAR**

**DROP-OFF TIMES**

**Basket:** Wednesday (4th) to Friday (6th)  
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**Baked Goods:** Friday (6th) 4:00 p.m.—6:30 p.m. and  
Saturday (7th) 8:00 a.m.—10 a.m.

**Soup/Chili:** Saturday (7th) 8a.m.—10 a.m.

**PRAY FOR THE  
HEALING OF THE SICK**

*Please Pray For...*

*Richard Abraham, Donna Anastas, Conor Canavan, William Connors, Carol Chatalian, Danielle and Melissa Chiasson, Steven Chiasson, Joseph Cox, Adelbert Cyr, The Del Raso Family, Fay DiNitto, W. Joseph Doyle, Kent Dudley, Stella Fettig, David Giugno, Hannah Gluck, Thomas Gluck, Russ Hokanson, Emma Johnston, Alice Kimball, Fr. Mike MacEwen, Dave Mackenzie, Doreen Martin, Pat McNeil, Patrick Mauro, Maura McGuinness, Judy McManus, Michael Messom, Theresa Morrill, Deborah Natoli, Jennifer Natoli, Mary and Bob O'Connor, Johnny Pellrine, Theresa Perry, Joan Russo, Kathleen Shine, Andrew Tivnan, Pedro Torres, Trunfio Family, Ronald Vaudreuil, AnnMarie Walters, Paul and Jenny Weibel.*

**Call the Parish Office add a loved one to the prayer list.**

**MARLBOROUGH COMMUNITY CUPBOARD**

Next weekend, December 7 and 8, collection bins will be available at the church entrances for food donations. With Christmas a few weeks away, many homes in the community are preparing for the holiday. To make the holiday special, please donate to the Marlborough Community Cupboard to ensure everyone has a festive feast. Please consider buying two of each item on your shopping list, so the family in need enjoys a banquet fit for our family. Christmas goodies such as cookies, candy canes and other holiday items will be a real treat. You may also drop off your donations at the Walker Building on Main Street.



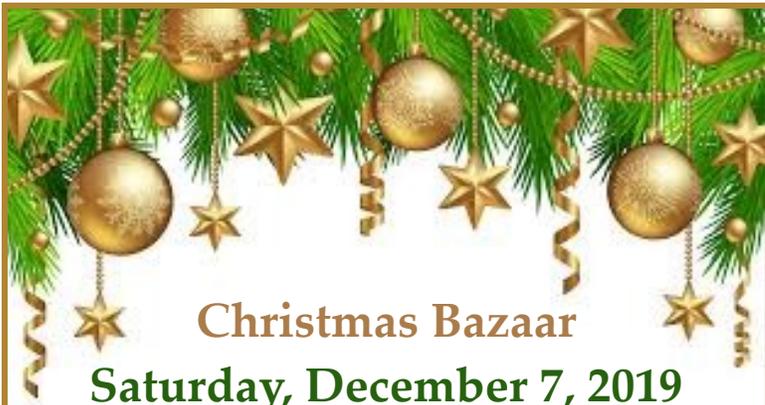
*Happy Holidays!*

**NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Readings for the Second Sunday of Advent,  
December 7 and 8**

First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10  
Second Reading: Romans 15:4-9  
Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12





## **Christmas Bazaar**

**Saturday, December 7, 2019**

**9:00 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.**

**Parish Hall**

**Over 20 Vendors displaying Unique  
Crafts for Christmas**

**Homemade Baked Goods**

**Hot Soup and Coffee**

### **Basket Raffles**

- ✿ **Chocolate Basket**
- ✿ **Italian Basket**
- ✿ **Lottery Tickets**
- ✿ **Bruins Basket with game tickets**

### **Great Grand Raffle Prizes**

- ✿ **\$\$\$**
- ✿ **Gift Cards**
- ✿ **Movie tickets and dinner**
- ✿ **Many more...**

**Grand Raffle Tickets on sale after Masses  
this weekend and at the Bazaar!**

### **Bruins Gift Basket Raffle**

**Including 2 tickets to the Winnipeg Jets at  
the Bruins on January 9, 2020 at the Garden  
in the Cross Insurance Boardroom.**

**Tickets only on sale at the Bazaar!**

**Generously donated from Cross Insurance.**