

# Saint Matthias Parish

409 Hemenway Street

Marlborough, MA 01752

Phone: 508-460-9255 Website: [stmattpar.org](http://stmattpar.org)

Facebook: [facebook.com/stmattpar](https://facebook.com/stmattpar)



## Parish Leadership

Francis P. O'Brien, Pastor

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Doug Peltak, Senior Deacon

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Paul G. Coletti, Deacon

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Russ Morey, Senior Deacon

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Theresa Salafia, Faith Formation Director

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Judy McManus, Director of Music Ministry, Emerita

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Paul G. Coletti, Chair, Finance Council

St. Vincent dePaul Society tel. no. 978-493-3037

## Celebrations of the Eucharist

### The Lord's Day

Sunday: 10:00 AM

Indoor/Outdoor by Reservation (Phone In or On-Line)

Pre-recorded Mass on-line Sundays by 10:00 AM

[Stmattpar.org](http://Stmattpar.org) and [facebook@stmattpar](https://facebook.com/stmattpar)

(October through April)

### Weekday

Canceled until further notice.

### Holy Day

9:00 AM 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 grade school 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](mailto: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](mailto: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

### St. Matthias Parish Office Information

**508-460-9255**

Though the Parish Office is currently closed to visitors, you may call the office on **Monday and Thursday from 10AM to 2 PM.** with questions, requests for documents or to make an in-person appointment with a staff member. You may also e-mail the office at any time: [admin@stmattpar.org](mailto:admin@stmattpar.org).

### CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST PRAYER INTENTIONS

#### Internet Mass, Sunday, December 13

**Gerald Spratt Jr. – Memorial**

#### In Person Mass, Sunday

**December 13, 2020 at 10 AM**

**Niceas, Teresita and  
Al Barcinas — Memorial**

*The internet version of the Weekly Celebration of the Eucharist is published each Sunday by 10AM on the St. Matthias Parish homepage: [www.stmattpar.org](http://www.stmattpar.org) and the facebook page: [facebook.com/stmattpar](https://facebook.com/stmattpar).*

*Celebration of the Eucharist is held Sunday Mornings at 10:00 AM with prior registration.*  
**Phone Registration (508) 460-9255.**  
Call between 9 AM and 2 PM  
on **Thursday, December 17 OR**  
you may use the on-line registration link on the St. Matthias Website.

### 2020 ADVENT GIVING TREE — *STILL TIME*



The Marlborough Community Cupboard still needs help from a few more Elves to fulfill Christmas wishes.

If you would like to sponsor a child or know of anyone who would like to, please direct them to the United Way UWOTC Hope for the Holidays page:

**[www.uwotc.org/hope](http://www.uwotc.org/hope)**

You can mention you are donating as a member of St. Matthias in the sign-up.

The deadline for dropping off packages has been extended to **Wednesday, December 16.** Drop off Monday through Wednesday 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Walker Building on Main Street.

### REGISTRATION FOR DRIVE-IN MASS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20 — 10:00 a.m.

Please register in either of the following ways:

**Option 1: Phone Registration** (508) 460-9255. Call between 9 AM and 2 PM on **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17.**

**Option 2: Online Registration** ([www.stmattpar.org](http://www.stmattpar.org)) follow these instructions from Thursday, December 17, 9 AM through Saturday, December 19, 3 PM.

- Follow the link to the event registration system EventBrite.
- Click Details (You may choose to *Follow* our group to see future events, or this can be ignored).
- Click Register.
- Each vehicle will need a reservation. Select your arrival time (9:30 or 9:45 AM). Reservations are general admission with staggered arrival times to allow time for check-in, and safe parking.
- For each car reservation, all members driving together will need to answer all COVID questions for contact tracing purposes. Questions will be used for screening only and will be kept confidential.
- Registrants will receive a confirmation email.
- Walk-ins will be directed to a meeting spot and will be seated once all cars have arrived.

**Note:** Your safety and the safety of your fellow parishioners is our utmost priority.

#### **Guidelines:**

- 1.) If you are sick, please do not register for a reservation to attend.
- 2.) Arrive at reserved time (9:30 or 9:45 AM for a 10:00 AM start) to allow time for check-in and parking.
- 3.) All vehicles/attendees must have a reservation to attend.
- 4.) Please check our website, Facebook or call our parish office for updates, cancellations, etc.
- 5.) Please bring and wear your own mask unless there are health issues that prevent you from wearing a mask. Children under 2 are not required to wear a mask. You must wear your mask when approached for communion.
- 6.) Bring and use your own personal hand sanitizer.
- 7.) Observe physical distancing.
- 8.) Walkers: Bring your own chair or blanket as well as water and sun covering if needed. Don't forget to dress warmly as we enter the colder months.
- 9.) Follow the directions of all ushers, volunteers, and staff.
- 10.) You will be asked several questions at the time of registration and at the entry point regarding your exposure to COVID. If Marlborough is in a 'Red zone', we will take temperatures upon arrival as per Archdiocese of Boston directives.

## FROM FR. FRAN

**A COVID Christmas**

With the pandemic reaching new highs, the medical experts tell us that the safest way to celebrate the holidays is within our own “bubble” or cohort of people with whom we live or come into contact with on a daily basis. As difficult as this was for Thanksgiving, I know it will be even more frustrating for many of us at this time of year, when we look forward to gatherings of family and friends.

Not to be a Grinch about the whole thing, but as Catholic Christians it is a moral imperative to look out for each other and not put each other in harm's way. We have all heard the stories of small family gatherings or large weddings that have turned into super spreader events. Far from being a political thing, wearing a mask, keeping your distance, and washing your hands frequently is about following Christ command to love one another as we love ourselves.

This doesn't make the choices we will be making surrounding the Christmas holidays any easier. However, the sacrifices we make this Christmas will allow us to spend many future Christmases together. The absence of some of our usual family Christmas rituals may even help us appreciate our family and friends in a deeper way. As the old saying goes, “when life gives you lemons, make lemonade”.

Perhaps this most unusual Christmas will help us connect more with Mary and Joseph as they left all their comfortable surroundings to travel with uncertainty to Bethlehem. We now know what it's like to have your whole world uprooted and not know what's coming next. Perhaps our gift giving will not be as extravagant this year, helping us to see that the greatest gifts we can exchange with each other are the gifts of love, compassion and attentiveness. Perhaps we will feel a loneliness at Christmas we have not

experienced before. This will help us connect with those who struggle even in a good Christmas season to be “merry” when their life situation is challenging.

May I suggest that we all take some time and sit in prayer before God, expressing our emotions and expectations for this Christmas season. Then let God be God. Perhaps God's response will be to help us center ourselves not in all the things we won't have this Christmas, but with the great gifts that are always with us, namely Christ's presence in our lives through the joys and sorrows. For the true meaning of Christmas is that God loves us so intensely that God came among us in our form and frame. Christ took on our flesh and blood so that we could take on eternity. How shall we thank God for such a gift during this most extraordinary Christmas Season?

**Christmas Masses**

Please read the article in this bulletin about our schedule of Masses for Christmas. You must be registered to attend a Christmas Mass this year. In keeping with state and national guidelines, our seating capacity is very limited. Our 4PM Christmas Eve Mass is already at capacity. If Marlborough is in the red zone on Christmas, we will be taking temperatures at the door. If you are feeling even the slightest bit ill, please do not come to Mass. Remember, Cardinal O'Malley has lifted the obligation for Mass attendance indefinitely. The safest way for everyone to celebrate Christmas Mass with St. Matthias Parish is to watch our recorded Mass on either our webpage or on Facebook. Due to the continued severity of the pandemic, there is a chance that we may have to cancel our in-person Christmas Masses. If you have registered, please watch for news on our webpage.

**WEEKLY OFFERTORY : GOAL \$4,000.00****Offertory Collection for December 6**

Offertory Mail Week of 11/30	\$ 1,495.00
Offertory 10 AM Mass - Canceled	\$ 0.00
WeShare Offertory	\$ 930.10
	\$ 2,425.10

Attendees :

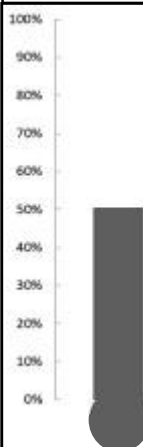
Parish Maintenance Mail Week of 11/30	\$ 455.00
Parish Maintenance 10 AM Mass	\$ 0.00
WeShare Maintenance:	\$ 195.00
	\$ 650.00

**2021 GRAND ANNUAL CAMPAIGN****Grand Annuals numbers  
as of December 6**

<b>Grand Annual Goal</b>	<b>\$70,000</b>
Total Received	\$ 35,285.00
Total to Reach Goal	\$ 34,715.00
Percentage:	50.4%
Families	80

You may donate on-line at [WeShare.com](http://WeShare.com) or mail your contribution to the parish office.

**Thank You!**



## FAITH FORMATION — THERESA SALAFIA

**Confirmation II Grade 10+ will meet on Zoom on Sunday, December 13 at 11:30 a.m.** The focus of this meeting follows our discussion centering on the Beatitudes/ Works of Mercy given to us by Jesus in his Sermon on the Mount. Ms. Debra Mansfield, mother of Eli. Mimi and Bella and a worker in Wide Horizons for Children throughout the world will join our meeting. She joins many others throughout the world who strive to lift children and their families out of poverty. Through high impact, cost-efficient programming including child sponsorship, empowerment grants, education, school feeding and medical missions, over 50,00 children and their families have opportunities for a brighter future. Ms. Mansfield has first-hand experience in caring for others as taught by Jesus and his followers.

**For Confirmation II December 13 completes the first semester preparation for Confirmation to be held in the Spring. The 2021 calendar will be based on guidelines presented to us by the Archdiocese of Boston and the Marlborough Health department.**

Corrected Faith Formation schedule

**Years 2 through 5 will meet on Zoom Sunday, December 20 at assigned times.**

**Faith Formation dates and meeting times for 2021 will be determined after the new year begins. All schedules will be determined by Archdiocesan and Marlborough Board of Health guidelines.**

## CHURCH DISINFECTION

St. Matthias is grateful to parishioner, Mike Matros, founder of Redline Gear Cleaning Company located in Marlborough (<https://redlinegearcleaning.com/>) Mike has graciously donated his time and the company resources to disinfect our church after each indoor Mass during COVID times.

Here's a blurb from Mike's website: "Career firefighter and RedLine founder, Mike Matros has seen first-hand just how resource intensive properly cleaning gear can be for fire departments and municipalities.

As the founder of the Heroes Cup Foundation, Mike has spent years working with researchers to identify the risks associated with firefighters wearing contaminated turnout gear. With this knowledge, Mike knew there had to be a better way to clean gear that benefited the fire department *and* individual firefighters as well. Mike and his team spent more than a year designing what would become the first and only on-premise gear cleaning and inspection service in the world.

Today, RedLine Gear Cleaning operates our patent pending Mobile Extraction Units and deploys them to fire stations across the country to clean and inspect gear.

RedLine employs active and retired firefighters because we know how important clean gear is to the safety of our fellow firefighters and their family's."

PRAY FOR THE  
HEALING OF THE SICK*Please Pray For...*

*Richard Abraham, Donna Anastas, Cheryl LaJeunesse, Arsenault, Conor Canavan, William Connors, Carol Chatalian, Danielle and Melissa Chiasson, Steven Chiasson, Alice Cox, Joseph Cox, Adelbert Cyr, Richard Desjardin, Kent Dudley, Jason Fournier, David Giugno, Dicky Guild, Russ Hokanson, Debbie Jennings, Emma Johnston, Alice Kimball, Marie Leigh, Daniel Lopes, Fr. Mike MacEwen, Dave Mackenzie, Doreen Martin, Pat McNeil, Patrick Mauro, Maura McGuinness, Judy McManus, Marlene Mele, Michael Messom, Gene Moreau, Deborah Natoli, Jennifer Natoli, Mary and Bob O'Connor, Johnny Pellrine, Doug Peltak, Theresa Perry, Jennifer Reis, Andrew Tivnan, Pedro Torres, Trunfio Family, Ronald Vaudreuil, Vanessa Viega, and AnnMarie Walters.*

Third Sunday of Advent

*"Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." – 1 Thessalonians 5:16 - 18*

This scripture reading sums up Stewardship. "Rejoice always" means place your trust in God; He will provide all that you need. "Pray constantly" means prayer should be a running conversation with God throughout the whole day, every day. "Give thanks in all circumstances" means even in bad situations, thank God. Suffering a little bit helps build empathy for others in similar situations and shows our dependence on God.

## CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE AND REGISTRATION



You must pre-register for Christmas Mass due to physical distancing which limits the capacity of the church. We apologize but we will not be able to take any walk-ins at the church on Christmas Eve or Christmas morning.

### Christmas Mass Times:

**Thursday, December 24**

**4:00 PM**

**(currently full, but waitlist is available)**

**Friday, December 25**

**10:00 AM**

(There will be no mass on Sunday, December 27, but the pre-recorded mass will be available.)

Pre-registration for the 4PM and 10AM has been available since December 1.

Pre-registration is through EventBrite (find the link on our website at: <https://www.stmattpar.org/mass-times-1> under "Registration for Christmas Masses") or call the Parish office 508-460-9255 (if you need to leave a message, your call will be returned in confirmation of your registration).



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