

Saint Matthias Parish

409 Hemenway Street

Marlborough, MA 01752

Phone: 508-460-9255 Website: stmattpar.org

Facebook: facebook.com/stmattpar



Parish Leadership

Francis P. O'Brien, Pastor

frobrien@stmattpar.org

Doug Peltak, Senior Deacon

dcnpeltak@stmattpar.org

Paul G. Coletti, Deacon

dcncoletti@stmattpar.org

Russ Morey, Senior Deacon

dcnmorey@stmattpar.org

Theresa Salafia, Faith Formation Director

tsalafia@stmattpar.org

Judy McManus, Director of Music Ministry, Emerita

jmsweetums@aol.com

Joyce Belliveau, Choir Director

jbelle@comcast.net

April Lowe, Office Manager

alowe@stmattpar.org

Darleen Doona, Bookkeeper

ddoona@stmattpar.org

Paul G. Coletti, Chair, Finance Council

For HELP: 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 8:30 AM

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

Weekday

Canceled until further notice.

Holy Day

As announced

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).

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

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.

CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST PRAYER INTENTIONS

Internet Mass, Sunday, December 27
Eduardo Perez – Special Healing Intention

Internet Mass, Friday, January 1
Mary and Tony Masciarelli — Memorial

Christmas Season Mass Times:

**Internet Mass, Feast of Holy Family,
Sunday, December 27
(No-In Person Mass)**

**Internet Mass, Solemnity of Mary
Friday, January 1
(No-In Person Mass)**

**In-person Mass, Epiphany of the Lord
Sunday, January 3 at 10:00 AM**

**In-person Mass, Baptism of the Lord
Sunday, January 10 at 10:00 AM**

Registration for the two above in-person Masses will be online the Thursday through Saturday before the Mass or by calling the office the Thursday before Mass. All Internet Masses are available online by 8:30AM on Sundays.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the obligation to attend Sunday Mass is suspended indefinitely. If you are part of the vulnerable population, not feeling well or just don't feel safe returning to Mass just yet, we encourage you to remain home and celebrate with us online.

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 and the facebook page: 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 prior to Mass OR**

you may use the on-line registration link on the St. Matthias Website.

REGISTRATION FOR IN-PERSON MASS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 3, 10AM

(Please be aware: The windows and doors to the church are kept open during the service to help with air circulation, so please dress appropriately.

Option 1: Phone Registration (508) 460-9255. Call anytime. Your call will be returned in confirmation of registration.

Option 2: Online Registration (www.stmattpar.org / Facebook page post(@stmattpar)).

Follow the **link** to our event in the registration system **EventBrite**.

- ♦ Click **Details** (If you would like to Follow our group to see future events, you may click the **Follow** button, otherwise this can be ignored).
- ♦ Click **Register**.
- ♦ One household member may sign-up for the reservation of a pew for his/her household. You are registering for a single pew not multiple seats, but seating is general admission (you will be shown to your pew).
- ♦ Each household will be seated on one side of the pew for safe distancing up to 3/4 people. We are able to seat households larger than 3/4 when alternating with a single parishioner in a pew. We are also limiting the number of people attending to 50-80.
- ♦ For each registration, you must answer COVID questions for ALL attendees in your pew (ie. the answers must apply to all as you will only be asked one time). Questions will be used for screening only and will be kept confidential.
- ♦ Enter the number of household members attending mass as well as list his/her full name(s) and alternate contact information if necessary.
- ♦ Registrant will receive a confirmation email with additional instructions.

Guidelines:

- 1.) If you are sick, please do not register for a reservation to attend.
- 2.) Please arrive by 9:45 AM to allow time for parking and check-in. Parking will be in every other space to provide for safe distancing. Check-in will be in the front of the church building at the side entrance and will be marked for safe distancing.
- 3.) All attendees must be listed on the registration to enter.
- 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.
- 6.) Bring and use your own personal hand sanitizer.
- 7.) Observe physical distancing.
- 8.) Follow the directions of all ushers, volunteers, and staff.
- 9.) 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, temperatures will be taken prior to entrance.

FROM FR. FRAN

Bye, Bye 2020

Bye, bye, 2020. Let me escort you to the door! A feeling to which all can relate, as this most unusual and challenging year comes to an end. We have been tested greatly by the pandemic, incidents of social injustice, and political chaos. But through it all, God has been with us.

Maybe as a New Year's resolution we might resolve to take some time to review 2020's difficulties and frustrations in order to discern how God has been active through them all. It shouldn't be surprising to uncover that through the heroic efforts of front line workers, neighbors, and family members, God has been communicating an abiding presence.

I think most of us have learned a lot about our world, our country, our friends, and ourselves throughout this year's struggles. As the new year begins, it may be a good time to reflect upon what moved us closer to God and one another in 2020 and what divided us and caused estrangement among us. The things that we see bringing life and healing surely come from God. The things that bring discord, injustice, and self-righteousness do not.

While the year ahead will begin much like the year that is ending, can we enter it with a new spirit, a new resolve to bring more light, comfort, and joy into our darkened world? If we can, then we will have internalized the message of Christmas, that a light has shown in the darkness, the light of Christ.

As the year ends I would like to thank so many of our parishioners who are committed to keeping our parish light shining through the pandemic.

Thank you to: our COVID-19 Team members who continue dedicating themselves to keeping us safe as we gather for in-person worship; our sound technician, Mike Morrissey, who freely gave of his time and expertise at our outdoor masses; our liturgical musicians, Jeanine Hinterneder, Peter Brockmann, and Katie Broach, who week after week give voice to sung prayer at Eucharist; Dave Guigno, our videographer who has made our

internet Masses possible; our parish staff: Terry Salafia, Deacon Paul Coletti, Deacon Doug Peltak, Deacon Russ Morey and bookkeeper Darleen Doona, who have risen to the occasion, learning new internet skills and new ways of reaching out to parishioners during this difficult time; our office manager, April Lowe, who has done a wonderful job in coordinating all the various aspects of our COVID response; members of our Parish Pastoral Council and Finance Council for their wisdom and guidance through the pandemic and in preparation for our Pastoral Collaborative with St. Michael Parish, which will begin in June of 2022; and members of our Parish St. Vincent DePaul Society who have assisted many in our community who are struggling during this time.

A special thanks goes to all of you, the faithful parishioners of St. Matthias Parish. So many of you have said how difficult it is to be away from our church and our parish family. I too feel that loss. It's been great to see some of you at our in-person Masses, and thank you for your comments on our internet celebrations of the Eucharist. Your continued financial support has been a real blessing for us. Through weekly offertory and Grand Annual donations we have been able to keep our head above water. In a time when so many parishes are struggling financially, St. Matthias is doing okay, thanks to all of you.

I pray that as 2021 progresses with the reality of a vaccine at our doorstep, more of our parish family members will feel comfortable retuning to celebrate the Eucharist and to restart parish life. Until then, stay safe, look out for one another by observing COVID guidelines, and pray for each other and for our world. A blessed and happy 2021 to all. And... out you go 2020!

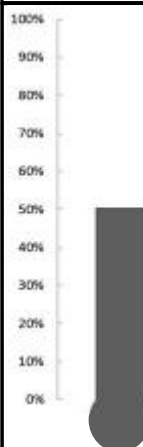
**WEEKLY OFFERTORY : GOAL \$4,000.00****Offertory Collection for December 13**

Offertory Mail Week of 12/7	\$ 1,575.00
Offertory 10 AM Mass	\$ 480.00
WeShare Offertory	<u>\$ 2,202.55</u>
	\$ 4,257.55
Attendees :	
Parish Maintenance Mail Week of 12/7	\$ 150.00
Parish Maintenance 10 AM Mass	\$ 79.00
WeShare Maintenance:	<u>\$ 595.00</u>
	\$ 824.00

2021 GRAND ANNUAL CAMPAIGN**Grand Annuals numbers
as of December 13**

Grand Annual Goal	\$70,000
Total Received	\$ 37,220.00
Total to Reach Goal	\$ 32,780.00
Percentage:	53.2%
Families	82

You may donate on-line at WeShare.com or mail your contribution to the parish office.



FAITH FORMATION — THERESA SALAFIA

Faith Formation meetings for 2020 are complete. Meeting schedules for 2021 will be planned based on the Archdiocesan guidelines for safety as well as Marlborough Board of Health directives. The 2021 Faith Formation calendar will be sent to all registered families, included in the weekly bulletin and on our parish website.

On this **Feast of the Holy Family** we pray for all our children and families:

Holy Family of Nazareth, make our family one with you. Help us to be instruments of peace. Grant that love, strengthened by grace, may prove mightier than all the weaknesses and trials through which our families sometimes pass. May we always have God at the center of our hearts and homes until we are all one family, happy and at peace in our true home with you. **Amen.**

The Missionaries of the Holy Family

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 McMamus, 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.

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.



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.

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."

Christmas Collection Clergy Health & Retirement Trust

On behalf of our priests in good standing, thank you for your support of the Christmas collection for the Clergy Health and Retirement Trust. If you missed the collection, you can still make your donation.

Donate on-line: clergytrust.org or scan to make a payment via applepay, googlepay or paypal.



CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIAL DONATIONS

Christmas flower donations have been lovingly made in honor or in memory of the following:



Johnny Arnott	Dolan Family	Mr. & Mrs. Larkin	Josephine Myers
Katie Arnott	W. Joseph Doyle	John D. Litster	Lillian & James Myers
Tom & Betty Arnott	Edward J. Fallon	John R. & Elizabeth Litster	Matt, Eleanor, Bobby & Mark Pendergast
Mr. & Mrs. Bean	Emilienne Fallon	Carmella Mauro	Christie Rembetsy
William Bruce-Tagoe	Michael J. Fallon	Ernest & Albina Mauro	Debie Robichaud
Laura & Leonard Bucher	Antonino & Frances Ferrarra	Ernest A. Mauro	Timothy & Elizabeth Sheehan
Leah & Frank Calore	Joe Fraine	Patrick Mauro	Julie Ann Slocum
Curley Family	George Gazza	Carolyn Metcalf	Raymond G. StGermain
George J. DeBeaucourt	Margaret Gazza	Mr. & Mrs. Mondello	Rhea M. StGermain
&rew & Frances Deibel	Julia Jurkiewicz	Montgomery Family	Mr. & Mrs. Telles
George & Mary Deibel	Bud Keeler	Paul Murphy	Thomas Family
Mark Desveaux	Kathryn Keeler	Richard & Genevieve Murray	
Bill Deveaux	Mr. & Mrs. Kenneally	Florence Myers	
Eugene Doiron	Janet Landers	Gilbert Myers	

WORDS FROM DEACON DOUG



With the advent of the corona virus vaccine our celebration of Christmas though still, very different from what we are accustomed, becomes brighter and more hopeful. Just yesterday (December 14,) a New York nurse, who had volunteered to do so, in a public manner, expressed that her reasoning was to "lead by example" like she always does. How refreshing is that when someone who has been overwhelmed by darkness and death, steps out in the light. As a nurse who is black and female somehow it seems so appropriate that she gives birth to this new life, just as another woman we revere who simply said; "Let it be done to me according to your will."

As I am compelled to reflect, upon the dark and difficult times I have experienced in the recent past, I am in awe that Jesus, never fails to lead me, a frequent doubter, to the light. Never has it been more apparent from whence my strength comes. Let me assure you, my stocking which hangs by the chimney with care, will only be full of heartfelt gratitude for the opportunity I have been given, to witness to the light. I know full well, that as has been said "to whom much is given much is expected," so I pen these words, born of the need to lead by example.

I am humbled by the very people I have had the opportunity to minister with. You the people of our staff who willingly give so much, as well as fellow parishioners I have come to know as companions on the journey, inspire me. In the many ways you have touched my life I have become aware of the constant presence of Jesus, the gift that keeps on giving. So, to the one who lights the way, who has come and will come again may we together, lead, by example and follow that light wherever it leads us.

Yes, our Christmas will be very different this year. Certainly, we will not count it amongst our merriest for many reasons, yet in real terms, that is, in ways that truly matter it must go down as one of the best.

Christmas Flower Collection

Christmas season flowers and decorations will be enjoyed by in-person mass attendees as well as those who view the Mass on-line from the comfort of their own homes both near and far. Let's continue the tradition of beautifying the church this season through a Christmas Flower donation. Contributions may be in memory of a loved one or as a special intention and all names will be published in a future bulletin. You may make a donation through Weshare on the St. Matthias webpage or with the Christmas Flower envelope mailed to your home. Envelopes can be mailed to the office, or dropped off during office hours. The Merriest of Christmas to all.



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