

# 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

[frobrien@stmattpar.org](mailto:frobrien@stmattpar.org)

Doug Peltak, Senior Deacon

[dcnpeltak@stmattpar.org](mailto:dcnpeltak@stmattpar.org)

Paul G. Coletti, Deacon

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Russ Morey, Senior Deacon

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Theresa Salafia, Faith Formation Director

[tsalafia@stmattpar.org](mailto:tsalafia@stmattpar.org)

Judy McManus, Director of Music Ministry, Emerita

[jmsweetums@aol.com](mailto:jmsweetums@aol.com)

Joyce Belliveau, Choir Director

[jbelle@comcast.net](mailto:jbelle@comcast.net)

April Lowe, Office Manager

[alowe@stmattpar.org](mailto:alowe@stmattpar.org)

Darleen Doona, Bookkeeper

[ddoona@stmattpar.org](mailto: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](http://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](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, January 3**  
**Susan and Michael Giugno — Memorial**

**In Person Mass, Sunday, January 3**  
**Niceas, Teresita and Al Barcinas — Memorial**

### Sanctuary and Altar Candles Donations

*In Loving Memory of*

**Frank and Leah Calore**  
**Joseph Calore**  
**Eleanor Laspada**

**From the Bucher Family**

*Happy  
New Year*

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](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 prior to Mass OR**

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

### REGISTRATION FOR IN-PERSON MASS

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 10, 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 between 9 AM and 2 PM on **THURSDAY, JANUARY 7.**

**Option 2: Online Registration** ([www.stmattpar.org](http://www.stmattpar.org)) do the following from **THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 9 AM** through **SATURDAY, JANUARY 9, 3 PM.**

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).d
- ♦ 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

**'Tis Still the Season!**

The Christmas Season is still in high gear with today's Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord. While the world around us may be packing up the Christmas paraphernalia and dreaming of a COVID free Christmas for next year, the church calendar tells us that today we are at the mid-point of the Christmas season as we celebrate the visit of the mysterious Magi from the East.

Epiphany commemorates not just the visit of these wise ones, but, in a theological sense, it celebrates the outsider *recognizing* and *being recognized by* the Christ child, born, not for a small circle of family and friends, but for all peoples of all times.

The word "*epiphany*" can mean manifestation, revelation, or illumination. When the early Christians celebrated the Epiphany, they were celebrating *all* of the following in one feast: the *Nativity*, when Jesus was revealed to the small band of shepherds in Bethlehem; the *Epiphany* when, through the visit of the Magi from the east, Jesus was revealed to people outside of the small Jewish nation; his *baptism*, when God revealed Jesus as "beloved Son"; and the *wedding feast at Cana*, when Jesus revealed the miraculous power of God working through him. Eventually, in the Western Church, these Epiphany themes evolved into what we know today as the Christmas Season.

For Catholic Christians, our mission is to keep alive the message that God has become one of us, and continues to call all people of the earth to live as *one* family.

This takes hard work, especially after experiencing a year when the human family seemed to be coming apart at the seams. It also takes some deep self-reflection. Not the kind where we bemoan our mistakes

and wallow in regrets, but self-reflection that invites us to take an honest, critical, yet loving look at ourselves, always from within the embrace of our compassionate and forgiving God.

Here are a few challenging questions to jump start our reflection. Hopefully they will lead us into bold action on behalf of Christ.

As Jesus welcomed and ministered to all sorts of people while he was on earth, how well do I welcome and reach out to others, especially those whom I define as "different" or "difficult"? As Jesus had no problem calling out actions that subjugated the poor and the weak, do I make it a point to advocate on behalf of those on the margins of society? As Jesus was, and is, the bearer of God's mercy and forgiveness, am I being merciful and forgiving to others through my words and actions? As Jesus called us not be fear but trust in God, have I trusted in God's guiding hand through life's difficulties? As the Magi brought gifts to Jesus which they valued greatly, what gifts will I bring to the Lord as he is present in stranger, foe, and friend?

As we put an exhausting and exasperating year behind us, let us begin a new journey of discipleship in 2021, resolving to be light, hope, and peace for one another. In the spirit of the Epiphany, may we illumine the world with the light of Christ.

**WEEKLY OFFERTORY : GOAL \$4,000.00****Offertory Collection for December 20**

Offertory Mail Week of 12/14	\$ 585.00
Offertory 10 AM Mass	\$ 330.00
WeShare Offertory	<u>\$ 1,192.55</u>
	\$ 2,107.55
Attendees : 40	
Parish Maintenance Mail Week of 12/14	\$ 580.00
Parish Maintenance 10 AM Mass	\$ 25.00
WeShare Maintenance:	<u>\$ 325.00</u>
	\$ 930.00

**2021 GRAND ANNUAL CAMPAIGN****Grand Annual Donations  
as of December 20**

<b>Grand Annual Goal</b>	<b>\$70,000.00</b>
Total Received	\$ 50,730.00
Total to Reach Goal	\$ 19,270.00
Percentage:	53.2%
Families	90

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

## FAITH FORMATION — THERESA SALAFIA

Faith Formation families, children and catechists wish our Saint Matthias families a blessed 2021 for safety and health.

The calendar for Faith Formation gatherings will be scheduled and sent to families the week of January 11, 2021. Gatherings will not take place January 10, 2021. In forming the 2021 calendar we must follow protocols promulgated by the Archdiocese of Boston and the Marlborough Health Department. Of great importance is the ability we must have to provide distancing and sanitation on the areas used by the children and their families. In preparation for the new year for Levels 1, 3-8, Gospel Weeklies packets will be mailed to families.

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.*

## 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](http://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	John D. Litster	Matt, Eleanor, Bobby & Mark
Katie Arnott	W. Joseph Doyle	John R. & Elizabeth Litster	Pendergast
Tom & Betty Arnott	Edward J. Fallon	Carmella Mauro	Christie Rembetsy
Niceas, Teresita	Emilienne Fallon	Ernest & Albina Mauro	Debie Robichaud
& Alfonso Barcinas	Michael J. Fallon	Ernest A. Mauro	Salafia Family
Mr. & Mrs. Bean	Antonino & Frances Ferrarra	Patrick Mauro	Timothy & Elizabeth Sheehan
William Bruce-Tagoe	Joe Fraine	Carolyn Metcalf	Shine Family
Laura & Leonard Bucher	George Gazza	Mr. & Mrs. Mondello	Julie Ann Slocum
Leah & Frank Calore	Margaret Gazza	Montgomery Family	Raymond G. StGermain
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Andrew & Frances Deibel	Bud Keeler	Florence Myers	Thomas Family
George & Mary Deibel	Kathryn Keeler	Gilbert Myers	
Mark Desveaux	Mr. & Mrs. Kenneally	Josephine Myers	
Bill Deveaux	Janet Landers	Lillian & James Myers	
Eugene Doiron	Mr. & Mrs. Larkin		



### A New Year's Prayer

May God make your year a happy one!  
Not by shielding you from all sorrows and pain,  
But by strengthening you to bear it, as it comes;  
Not by making your path easy,  
But by making you sturdy to travel any path;  
Not by taking hardships from you,  
But by taking fear from your heart;  
Not by granting you unbroken sunshine,  
But by keeping your face bright,  
even in the shadows;  
Not by making your life always pleasant,  
But by showing you  
when people and their causes need you most,  
and by making you anxious to be there to help.  
God's love, peace, hope and joy to you  
for the year ahead.

~Anonymous

[www.heartprintsofgod.com](http://www.heartprintsofgod.com)

**January 3, 2021**

### Epiphany of the Lord

*"...they fell down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh..." - Matthew 2:11*

Notice the order of events in the Magi's visit. First, they knelt before Jesus and prayed to Him. Then they presented Him with their gifts. We, too, must take time to pray before we present our gifts to the Lord. We never know what God may be asking us to share!

### 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. A Merry Christmas Season to all.



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