

# 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

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

Russ Morey, Senior Deacon

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

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

[jbbelle@comcast.net](mailto:jbbelle@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: 10:00AM

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

Pre-recorded Mass on-line Sundays by 8:30AM

[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 10:00AM to 2:00PM.** 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).

### Sanctuary and Altar Candles Donation for the month of January

*In Loving Memory of*

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

**From the Bucher Family**



### **CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST PRAYER INTENTIONS**

**Internet Mass, Sunday, January 24  
Dorothy Evers— Memorial**



### **CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST**

Our COVID safety team met recently via Zoom to evaluate our indoor and parking lot masses.

While all agreed that we are doing quite well in keeping our parishioners safe, we have decided to suspend all in-person masses until February 21. We will reevaluate that decision on February 1st. We did talk of continuing drive-in masses; however, with the precariousness of the winter weather and snow removal, we decided against this, at least for the duration of the winter.

This decision comes after much discussion of the current state of the pandemic, the number of cases in Marlborough and neighboring towns, along with the age and number of parishioners coming to mass. While this decision may be difficult for some who have been coming regularly, we see the safety of all parishioners as part of our mission to be Christ for one another.

Cardinal O'Malley has left decisions such as this up to the local pastors. I am grateful for this allowance. We will continue to record mass during this time and post it on social media.

My sincerest thanks to the members of our COVID Team and to all of you for your leadership within our parish family.

May the spring see us in a better position to gather as a community once more.

### **Annual Report to Parishioners for Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2020**

#### **A Note from the Finance Council**

Dear Parishioners,

The Finance Council presents to you, on our website, [stmattpar.org](http://stmattpar.org), a report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020. The Parish ended the year with a surplus of \$92,498.

Actual revenues were up relative to budget by \$61,292. The Weekly Offertory was below budget by (\$6,323). On the positive side was the Grand Annual where total donations of \$76,330 exceeded budget by \$11,330. Parish Maintenance collections of \$36,693 exceeded budget by \$3,093.

The parish received a very generous gift of over \$44,000 from the estate of a former parishioner. This amount along with donations made in memory of deceased parishioners resulted in Donations Other exceeding budget by \$56,887.

Actual expenses were below budget by \$21,879. Compensation was below budget by \$5,896 as an office position was eliminated with remaining staff assuming additional responsibilities. With the position elimination was a corresponding decrease in Benefits Expense of \$3,259.

Facilities Expense was under budget by \$7,333 as some maintenance projects were deferred when the Covid virus came upon us in the spring. Office expenses were under budget by \$3,245.

Pastoral/Liturgical was below budget by \$3,538 due to a decrease in weekend masses in the spring, and the overall decrease in funeral masses, as a result of the Covid pandemic restrictions. Note that the Diocese assessment expense was over budget by \$1,807 as the Parish came up short in meeting its Catholic Appeal assessment.

For the current fiscal year ending June 30, 2021, we are anticipating some minor heating repairs, roofing repairs, and other facilities repairs. We are expecting to break even in this fiscal year, assuming there are no major unforeseen expenditures. We have planned for a Grand Annual goal this fiscal year of \$70,000.

We would like to thank the parishioners for their financial support particularly in the way that the Grand Annual was supported in this past fiscal year, and for the parishioners ongoing support of the Parish in the midst of the Covid pandemic. May God bless you and your families.

Sincerely,

The Finance Committee

**Please note the full report for the Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2020 is available on the St. Matthias Parish Webpage: [www.stmattpar.org](http://www.stmattpar.org).**

## FROM FR. FRAN

Sometime last fall, a young elementary school teacher read that one of her favorite movies, the Disney-Pixar production *Ratatouille*, was being turned into an attraction at Disney World. Being excited about the announcement, she started composing and humming a little tune about the main character, Remy the rat (yes, rat! I kid you not). She decided to turn her impromptu composition into a brief video on the social media platform TikTok. After posting the little tune she forgot about it, until weeks later when she noticed that it was becoming a “viral” hit.

Soon a young composer filled out the song and wrote an arrangement of it that he then posted on TikTok. Then others began taking this story of a Parisian rat who longed to be a famous chef (remember this is Disney after all) and wrote their own songs. People wrote songs for each character and each plot twist. Then others started to suggest that a full blown musical could be made out of the material.

Contributors of all ages and backgrounds from all over the world began to contribute ideas for costuming, stage settings, and all that goes into making a musical. Professional Broadway folk got wind of this and started to contribute to the project as well. Ultimately, an internet performance over Zoom was discussed and planned. A professional orchestra was hired to play the arrangements which were done by a number of composers. An “A” list of actors and singers from Broadway and TV signed on. Professional writers put together the narration, a professional director was tasked with creating a production that made it look like the actors and singers were in the same space, even though they recorded their parts in their bedrooms, kitchens, and living rooms.

On January 1<sup>st</sup> of this year *Ratatouille*, the TikTok musical made its debut on the internet. It was a smash hit as they say. To top it all off, the performance was a benefit for The Actors’ Fund, an organization that has been taking care of the needs of actors for many years and especially now during the pandemic when all theater venues are in lockdown. The performance raised over 1 million dollars. And all this happened because a young school teacher made up a fragment of a song about Remy the Rat and posted it on line.

When we hear so much about how the internet is a wasteland and social media does more harm than good, this is a very heartwarming, positive story. It is the polar opposite of the stories in the news where a politician or “influencer” posts something that gets

people’s blood boiling in dark ways, leading to acts like we saw at the Capitol building earlier this month.

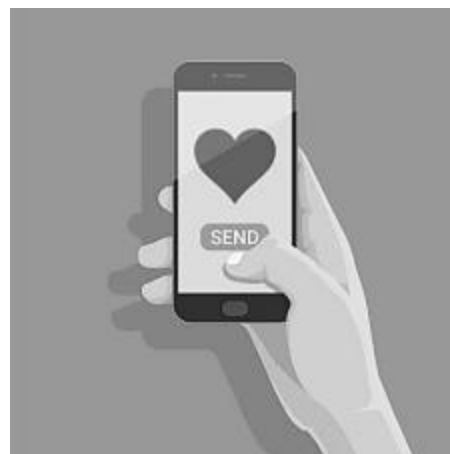
Most of us who are on social media, whether it be Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or one of the many other services, know that there are many people who use these platforms to start trouble, to spread lies, to foment prejudice and violence toward those labeled as “outsider”. The internet is a great place for like-minded people to organize from within their own bubbles. You can say whatever you want and rarely suffer any consequences, unless you cross the lines of the Terms of Service of the platform. And for the most part, those lines seem to keep moving.

As Catholic Christians living in this society and using these platforms, we bear a responsibility due to our baptismal call to love and serve the Lord and one another. Sadly, some of the most hateful and insensitive postings come from conversations on Catholic websites. Instead of living up to our calling, many feel that social media platforms exist outside of the realm of our faith.

Our Catholic faith is a 24/7 thing. We have the ability to make a positive impact wherever we are and through whatever we do. It’s very easy to fall into bad behavior on social media. Perhaps, before we hit that “send” button, we need to think carefully about what we are about to put out there into the world.

As is clear by the story of the young school teacher who started the ‘*Ratatouille – the Musical*’ phenomenon, what we post, even in a casual way, can make an impact greater than we could ever imagine.

So, will we be creators of compassion, sensitivity, and honesty, or creators of discord, gossip, and prejudice? The answer is always a few keystrokes away.



January 24, 2021

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

## FAITH FORMATION — THERESA SALAFIA

### FAITH FORMATION CLASS UPDATE:

After careful consideration of the insecurities surrounding COVID 19 and our ability to provide safety in social distancing and air purification in meeting areas used for Faith Formation, the decision is made to continue with remote learning for the remainder of the year. Updated calendars will be sent to families shortly. Dates for First Eucharist and Confirmation will be determined soon. If you have questions or concerns please contact Theresa Salafia, Faith Formation Director, at [tsalafia@stmattpar.org](mailto:tsalafia@stmattpar.org) or 508-460-9255.

### January 2021 start dates for Zoom meetings:

Sunday January 24 Level 2 to 5	8:30 – 9:30 a.m.
Sunday January 24 Level 6, 7 and 8	6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Sunday January 24 Confirmation 1	11:30 – 12:10 p.m.
Sunday January 31 Confirmation 2	11:30 a.m. – 12:10 p.m.

A complete calendar of Faith Formation meetings will be sent to families shortly.



## 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.



## PRAY FOR THE HEALING OF THE SICK



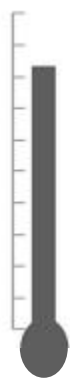
*Please Pray For...*

*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.*

## 2021 GRAND ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

### Grand Annual Donations as of January 17, 2021

100%  
90%  
80%  
70%  
60%  
50%  
40%  
30%  
20%  
10%  
0%



**Grand Annual Goal: \$70,000.00**

Total Received (*Thank you.*): \$58,360.00

Total to Reach Goal: \$11,640.00

Percentage of Goal: 83.4%

No. Families Contributing: 109

Our campaign is still ongoing through the end of February so please donate on-line at [WeShare.com](http://WeShare.com) or mail your contribution to the parish office.

## WEEKLY OFFERTORY: GOAL \$4,000.00

### Offertory Collection for January 17

Due to the Martin Luther King holiday, the finances for the week of January 17 will be posted in next week's bulletin.

*Thank you.*

## January 24, 2021 — 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

*"Follow me and I will make you fishers of men." - Mark 1:17*

Jesus' call to "Follow me" is a call to all Christians! The call is in the here and now, in our present circumstances, not when we think we are "ready" or have everything in order. Good stewardship of our God-given gifts means that things aren't always going to go according to our schedule and that God has a much better plan in store for each of us.

## END OF YEAR DONATION STATEMENTS



As we bid 2020 farewell, we review our finances and look toward tax season! If you would like a copy of your end of year donation statement mailed or emailed to you, please call or email April Lowe at 508-460-9255/ [alowe@stmattpar.org](mailto:alowe@stmattpar.org). Statements will not be automatically sent out to parishioners, but will be sent out upon request only. For those who donate to the parish through WeShare, you should receive a year-end report from WeShare, but you may also request a report from St. Matthias as that information is included in our parish database. Thank you for your generous contributions to support St. Matthias in 2020.



## CARDINAL O'MALLEY STATEMENT FOLLOWING VIOLENCE IN WASHINGTON DC

[BostonCatholic.org](http://BostonCatholic.org)

**January 7, 2020**

"The beginning of the Prayer of St. Francis is familiar to most of us: *"Lord, make me an instrument of your peace"*. And it is peace we need in our nation today, united by the common good of our people. The violence witnessed in our nation's capital yesterday serves only to inflame our divisions and pit citizen against citizen at a time we need to be united. We reject all forms of violence including the acts of those who stormed our Capitol. We pray for those who lost their lives and for their loved ones and for the injured. We live in a divided nation and the challenges our nation faces are significant.

Our recovery from yesterday's assault will require the best talents of our civic leaders. Very soon President-elect Biden and Vice President-elect Harris will be sworn in to lead our country. In the spirit of what makes America a beacon of light and democracy for the entire world we must set aside our divisions and together go about the work of helping to lift people out of poverty, healing the sick, welcoming the immigrant and address systemic racism, and many other tasks.

Let us heed the words of St. Francis' simple prayer: *"where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy."*

## Share your Faith

Support the Collection for the Church in Latin America



On January 24, 2021 we will take up the Collection for the Church in Latin America. For many in Latin America and the Caribbean, a rising secular culture, difficult rural terrain, and a shortage of ministers all present obstacles to practicing the faith.

Your support for the collection provides lay leadership training, catechesis, priestly and religious formation, and other programs to share our Catholic faith with those who long to hear the Good News of Christ. To learn more about how your gifts make a difference, visit [www.usccb.org/latin-america](http://www.usccb.org/latin-america).

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