



### 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

Peter Brockmann, Director of Music

pbrockmann@stmattpar.org

April Lowe, Office Manager

alow@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

Pre-recorded Mass on-line Sundays by 10:00 AM at  
www.stmattpar.org and facebook: @stmattpar

#### Weekend Masses

**Saturdays 4:00 PM**

**Sundays 10:00 AM**

**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 online at <https://www.stmattpar.org/parish-registration> or register at the parish office. We look forward to welcoming you to our parish community.

## ST. MATTHIAS PARISH

### OFFICE HOURS

**Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday**  
**9:00AM to 2:00PM**

During off-hours you may e-mail the office at  
any time at: [admin@stmattpar.org](mailto:admin@stmattpar.org)  
or leave a voicemail at **508-460-9255**.

### MASS INTENTIONS

**Saturday, March 5, 4PM**

St. Matthias Parish Community

**Sunday, March 6, 10AM**

**Memorial**

Howard Zerella

Gloria Zerella Mason

**Saturday, March 12, 4PM**

**Memorial**

James & Lillian Myers

**Sunday, March 13, 10AM**

**Memorial**

John & Laura Sousa

John & Deolinda Roque



### LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE

**FRIDAY, MARCH 25 AT 7:00 P.M.**

The Parish Community is invited to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation during the Lenten Penance Service held in the church. This service will include the First Reconciliation of the Faith Formation students receiving their First Holy Eucharist in May.



Pre-recorded Mass can be found posted online on Facebook post Sundays by 10:00 AM. Just search **@stmattpar!**

OR

Visit our website on your favorite browser at [www.stmattpar.org](http://www.stmattpar.org) to view the Mass from our homepage.

### THIS WEEK AT ST. MATTHIAS

**Saturday, March 5**

**Faith Formation Grades 9 and 10+**  
Church, 4:00 & Parish Hall/Conference Room,  
5:00 p.m.

**Celebration of the Eucharist**  
Church, 4:00 p.m.

**Sunday, March 6**

**Faith Formation Grades 1-5**  
Parish Hall/Conference Room/Classroom,  
8:30 a.m. — 9:45 a.m.

**Celebration of the Eucharist**  
Church, 10:00 a.m.

**Faith Formation Grades 6-8**  
Parish Hall, 6:00 p.m. — 7:10 p.m.

**Monday, March 7**

**Celebration of the Eucharist**  
Conference Room Chapel, 9:00 a.m.

**Parish Pastoral Council Meeting**  
7:30 p.m. / Conference Room

**Tuesday, March 8**

**Celebration of the Eucharist**  
Conference Room Chapel, 9:00 a.m.

**Saturday, March 12**

**Celebration of the Eucharist**  
Church, 4:00 p.m.

**Sunday, March 13**

**Celebration of the Eucharist**  
Church, 10:00 a.m.

### *Music for Celebrations of the Eucharist* *March 5 and March 6*

**Gathering Song:** Again We Keep This Solemn Feast  
booklet pg. 1

**Preparation:** Turn to the Living God  
hymnal # 408

**Communion:** Living Giving Bread, Saving Cup  
hymnal # 821

**Recessional:** *Instrumental*

## From Fr. Fran

### God be with the Ukrainian People

The people of Ukraine are utmost in our minds and prayers these days as they contend with the unspeakable horrors raining down upon them. Their determination and love for their country is incredible to witness. While we may feel helpless in the face of this evil, besides our continued prayers, there are some immediate ways to assist our sisters and brothers in Ukraine. Let me suggest two sources that are extremely reliable.

I encourage you to check out CRS, the Catholic Relief Services at [www.crs.org](http://www.crs.org). This page will direct you to how you can help provide shelter, hot meals, and transportation to Ukrainian families through your monetary gift. Another solid organization to check out and donate to is JRS, the Jesuit Refugee Service/USA at [www.jrsusa.org](http://www.jrsusa.org).

As Pope Francis reminded us this week, although our attention is focused right now on the Ukrainian conflict, there are many other places in the world that would also benefit from our assistance as they struggle through wars, famines, and results of climate change. During this Lenten season, a good spiritual exercise might be to become familiar with the needs of our sisters and brothers across the globe, pray about what we learn, and then ask the Holy Spirit to move us into action.

### Pandemic? What Pandemic?

Just kidding! But there *are* many hopeful signs of life advancing to a new normal. Our parish COVID Safety Team met recently to assess our COVID restrictions. With the substantial decrease in COVID cases over the last few weeks, face coverings *are now optional at all parish activities, including Mass*.

The COVID Team continues to advocate the wearing a face mask if you are immunocompromised, not fully vaccinated, or not yet comfortable being in church without a mask on. For the time being, the right side of the church (parking lot side) will continue to be socially distanced and parishioners sitting on that side are asked to wear a face mask. The left side of the church (parish office side) will be mask optional.

### Cyber Security

This week the Archdiocese of Boston sent a memo out to the parishes concerning the growing number of internet scams and cyber-attacks. As I have mentioned many times now, if you ever get an email or instant message from someone claiming to be me and asking for gift cards, a favor, or for a phone call, *it isn't from me*. Unless you want to engage the scammer and drive them batty, *please don't respond*. The only e mail address I use for parish business is [frobrien@stmattpar.org](mailto:frobrien@stmattpar.org). And for the rest of our staff, if the address doesn't contain @stmattpar.org, it isn't from any of them.

Some of the helpful tips in the archdiocesan memo on cyber security included: ensure all your devices are running the latest security updates; don't click on links and open attachments that are unexpected or look suspicious; be cautious when searching for news on the situation in the Ukraine, sticking to trusted news sites. While these tips may seem like commonsense, it's very easy to fall into a cyber criminal's trap, especially if a bogus email looks just like the real page of your bank or credit card company.

## From Peter Brockmann, Music Director

Now is a good time to examine each of our music ministries here at St Matthias. One of the most reliable and visible is the CANTOR MINISTRY.

### What exactly is a cantor?

At St Matthias there are two primary Cantor responsibilities. Song leader-announce and lead the assembly in the singing of hymns and songs. Psalmist - sing the responsorial psalm for the liturgy.

Most of the cantor's duties are performed from the cantor stand on the right side of the altar near the St Joseph shrine. However, the responsorial psalm is sung from the ambo, where all the readings from sacred scripture are proclaimed. The psalm is one of those and so belongs at the ambo.

Cantors use time-honored gestures and short phrases to welcome and encourage the assembly's participation at the right time in the Mass.

Cantors have the availability to select the Mass that is convenient for them so there is always coverage. Occasionally, there are cantor rehearsals reviewing psalms and music for the coming weeks allowing time to prepare musically and to plant the seed of the spiritual dimensions of the sacred songs.

These fine people prepare and lead the musical dimensions of our worship, each week as well as occasional funerals and weddings. Their dedication and skill are unmatched in the area and probably in the archdiocese. I am blessed to have the opportunity to work with Katie Broach, Jeanine Hinterneder, Cathy Lajeunesse and Geralyn Strella. Thank you for sharing your gifts with all of us each week.

Have you ever had the thought that you might become a Cantor at St Matthias? Come talk or email me, [pbrockmann@stmattthias.org](mailto:pbrockmann@stmattthias.org) to learn more. I'll set up a private time to talk and listen and hear how this could be a fit for you and St Matthias. Frankly, I see it as a rewarding and Spirit-filled sharing.

March 6, 2022

First Sunday of Lent

## FAITH FORMATION GATHERINGS

Faith Formation meetings for **Sunday, March 6** are as follows:

**Grades 1-5** 8:30 - 9:45 a.m.

**Grades 6-8** 6:00 - 7:10 p.m.

**Confirmation I (Grade 9) and Confirmation II (Grade 10+)** will participate in **4:00 p.m. Mass on Saturday, March 5.** **Following Mass meetings** for both groups will be held in the conference room with Deacon Paul and parish hall with Mrs. Salafia.

**No Faith Formation meetings on Sunday, March 13.**

In-person meetings will resume **Sunday, March 20.**

**Grades 1-5** 8:30 - 9:45 a.m.

**Grades 6-8** 6:00 - 7:10 p.m.

Confirmation I and II will meet **Saturday, April 10.** Mass at 4 p.m. followed by meeting with Deacon Paul and Mrs. Salafia.

## FY 2022 GRAND ANNUAL

**Grand Annual Donations as of  
February 28, 2022**



**Grand Annual FY 22 Goal: \$75,000**

**Total Received (Thank you!): \$55,545**

**Total to Reach Goal: \$19,455**

Percentage of Goal: 74.1%

No. Families Contributing: 102

**We have extended our Grand Annual Campaign through the end of February, but please know you are still able to make contributions through June 30, 2022! We are closing in on our goal and as you know these dollars go directly towards the operating budget. If you haven't already, please prayerfully consider a donation online through WeShare, or drop into the Offertory Box. Thank you to those who have donated!**

## WEEKLY OFFERTORY GOAL \$4,000.00

### Offertory Collection February 19/20

Offertory Collection	\$ 3,525.00
WeShare Offertory	\$ 705.00
	\$ 4,230.00
Mass Attendance:	162
Support of the Church Around the World	\$ 107.00



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*Nick DiNitto*

*Chris O'Brien*

*John O'Malley*

*Ayn Paoella*

*Jennifer Reis*

*Raymond Sotek*

*Andrew Tivnan*

*Jane Walsh*

*Lydia Whitcomb*

**NOTICE:** If you would like to add a loved one to this prayer list, please email: [admin@stmattpar.org](mailto:admin@stmattpar.org).

## SISTERS OF ST. ANNE

### FOOD DRIVE COLLECTION SATURDAY

**MARCH 12 FROM 9:00 AM—1:00 PM**

**Food Drive By/Drop** - The Sisters of St. Anne are celebrating Catholic Sisters Week, March 8-14th, with a Drive By/Drop food collection to benefit the Marlborough Community Cupboard. Please donate by driving through the parking lot of the Alliance Health Center at Marie Esther at 720 Boston Post Road E, Marlborough on Saturday March 12th between 9:00 AM and 1:00PM (March 13 rain/snow date). The Sisters will meet your cars to receive the food. Thank you for joining us in this effort!

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

### Readings — First Sunday of Lent

March 5 and March 6

*First Reading:* Deuteronomy 26:4-10

*Second Reading* Romans 10:8-13

*Gospel:* Luke 4:1-13

### Readings — Second Sunday of Lent

March 12 and March 13

*First Reading:* Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18

*Second Reading* Philippians 3:17-4:1

*Gospel:* Luke 9:28b-36





### Our Lenten Journey

Join our faith community—and more than 12,000 Catholic communities across the United States—in a transformative Lenten journey with CRS Rice Bowl. During the 40 days of Lent, we will reflect on global hunger and take action to help our sisters and brothers impacted by this injustice. Visit [crsrice-bowl.org](http://crsrice-bowl.org) to learn more. **To take part:**

1. **Pick up your family's CRS Rice Bowl from the church entrances this weekend!**
2. **Join our Team at <https://mobilizecrs.donordrive.com/team/5913> and find the calendar and stories online at: [www.crsricebowl.org/families](http://www.crsricebowl.org/families)**



This past week, many of you may have received a letter from Cardinal Seán requesting your early support of the 2022 Catholic Appeal. Supporting the Catholic Appeal is the most effective way to carry out the work of the Church, both within and beyond parish boundaries. Our parish directly benefits from the ministries supported by the Appeal. Please prayerfully consider making an early gift by mailing back your pledge card, scanning the QR code or visiting [www.bostoncatholicappeal.org/donate-now](http://www.bostoncatholicappeal.org/donate-now) to make an online donation. Your gift will help put faith into action in countless and far-reaching ways. Thank you!

### Lenten Abstinence and Fasting Guidelines

**Abstinence** -- Catholics over 14 years of age are bound to the obligation of abstinence. Abstinence is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and on all Fridays of Lent. On days of abstinence, meat may not be used at all.

**Fast** -- Catholics over 18 and up to the beginning of their 60th year are bound to the obligation of fasting. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are the days of fasting. On these days, only one full meal is allowed. Two other meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids, including milk and fruit juices are allowed.



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