

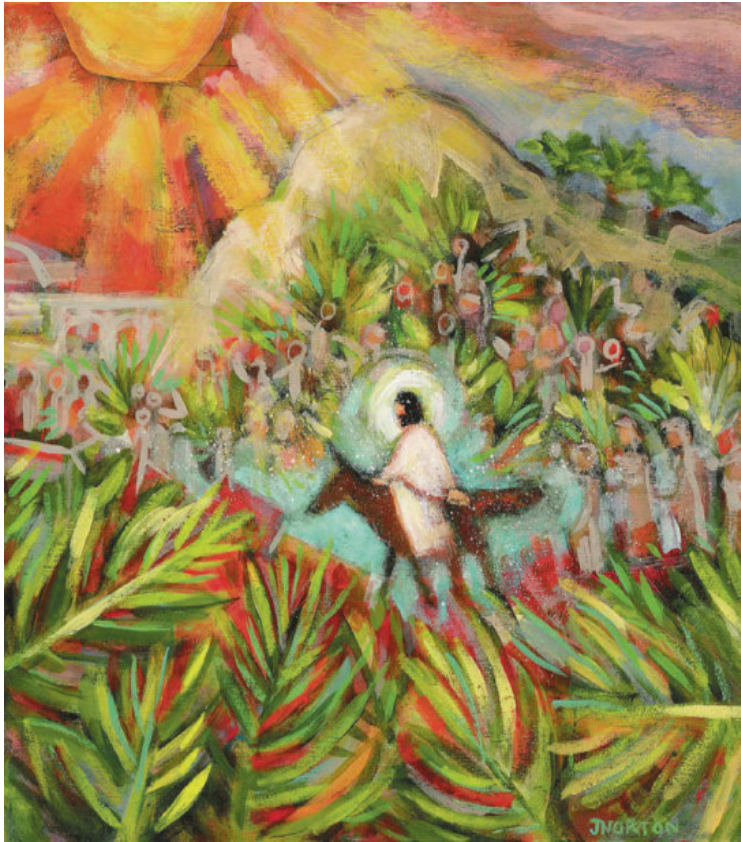
# *Saint Matthias Parish*

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

Doug Peltak, Senior Deacon

Paul G. Coletti, Deacon

Russ Morey, Senior Deacon

Theresa Salafia, Faith Formation Director

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

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

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

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

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

Peter Brockmann, Music Director

April Lowe, Office Manager

Darleen Doona, Bookkeeper

David Resendes, Maintenance

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

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

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

## **Celebrations of the Eucharist**

Pre-recorded Mass on-line Sundays by 10:00 AM at  
[www.stmattpar.org](http://www.stmattpar.org) and facebook: [@stmattpar](https://facebook.com/stmattpar)

### **Weekend Masses in the Church**

**Saturdays 4:00 PM**

**Sundays 10:00 AM**

### **Weekdays in the Conference Room Chapel**

**Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays 9:00 AM**

**Holy Days: 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 currently celebrated 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.

**For HELP: St. Vincent dePaul Society**  
**tel. no. 978-493-3037**

# ST. MATTHIAS PARISH

## PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Week of April 2, 2023



**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, April 1, 4:00p.m**

Frank Ponterella — Birthday Memorial

**Sunday, April 2, 10:00a.m.**

Antonio Barcinas — Memorial

**Saturday, April 8, 8:00p.m**

The Communities of St. Matthias and St. Michael

**Sunday, April 9, 9:00a.m.**

Memorial

John & Laura Sousa and John & Deolinda Roque

**Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion**  
**April 1 and April 2**

*Procession:* Matthew 21:1-11  
*First Reading:* Isaiah 50:4-7  
*Second Reading:* Philippians 2:6-11  
*Gospel:* Matthew 26:14-27:66

**Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday**  
**April 8 and April 9**

*First Reading:* Acts 10:34a, 37-43  
*Second Reading:* Colossians 3:1-4  
*Gospel:* John 20:1-9

## THIS WEEK AT ST. MATTHIAS

**Saturday, April 1**

**Celebration of the Eucharist**

Church, 4:00p.m.

**Sunday, April 2**

**Faith Formation — Grade 2**

8:45 — 9:45 Conference Rm

First Eucharist Preparation

**Celebration of the Eucharist**

Church, 10:00a.m.

**Faith Formation — Grades 1 and 3 through 8**

Attendance at 10:00a.m. Mass

With Palm Sunday Procession

**Monday, April 3**

**Celebration of the Eucharist**

Downstairs Conference Room, 9:00a.m.

**Tuesday, April 4**

**Celebration of the Eucharist**

Downstairs Conference Room Chapel, 9:00a.m.

**Wednesday, April 5**

**Choir Rehearsal**

Church, 7:00p.m.

**Thursday, April 6 — Holy Thursday**

**Celebration of the Eucharist with Feet Washing**

Church, 7:00p.m.

**Friday, April 7 — Good Friday**

**Stations of the Cross**

Church, 3:00p.m.

**Celebration of the Eucharist**

Church, 7:00p.m.

**Saturday, April 8**

**Easter Vigil Mass**

Church, 8:00p.m.

**Sunday, April 9 — Easter Sunday**

**Celebration of the Eucharist**

Church, 9:00a.m.

**Easter Coffee Social**

Parish Hall, 10:00a.m.

**Celebration of the Eucharist**

Church, 11:00a.m.

## Weekday Mass — Week of April 2

Weekday Mass will be celebrated this week on

**Monday and Tuesday**

9:00a.m. Downstairs Conference Room



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 recorded Mass from our homepage.

## From Fr. Fran

### The Holiest Days of the Year

Today we begin once again the journey through Christ's passion, death, and resurrection. The Church calls this the "Paschal Mystery," and indeed it is a mystery. Why would we be celebrating this man of first century Palestine whose failed mission brought him a shameful death if this weren't the mystery of God living in our human frame, dying for our sins, and rising to bring us to new life? This is all something our minds cannot fully comprehend and that our science cannot explain.

Christ is inviting each one of us to take a journey into mystery this week. I would like to invite each of you personally to celebrate our Easter Triduum services on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Saturday's Easter Vigil and the Masses of Easter Sunday. Through coming together as a community to experience this mystery, we enrich the life of our parish and our own lives as we experience the love which God pours upon us.

### "The Jews" in the Gospels

Each Holy Week we hear two of the accounts of the Passion of the Lord, one on Palm Sunday, (this year from Matthew), and one on Good Friday, (always from John). In these accounts the writers pit Jesus against the Roman occupying force in the form of Pilate. They also place blame on the "Jews", in a seemingly sweeping condemnation of all Jewish people. This later false identification has allowed the ugliness of anti-Semitism to exist down through the ages. A closer look reveals a much more nuanced, if more complicated, reality. Let's look at the Gospel according to John, which we will hear on Good Friday.

At the time the gospel was written, around 90-100 AD, the Romans had decimated the Jewish people and destroyed the temple in Jerusalem. There were a number of factions among the Jews trying to rebuild from this disaster. Apparently, there was a lot of infighting among groups. St. John's attitude towards "the Jews" may have been directly influenced by this infighting.

Also, many of the early Christians who had come to follow Christ did not see the need to renounce their Jewish heritage. After all, they believed that Jesus, as a Jew, was the long awaited Messiah. For a time, these Jewish Christians continued attending Jewish places of worship until they were "thrown out". What this means is up for interpretation. They could have been given the ultimatum: either worship as a Jew or leave and follow

Christ.

In any event, when the Gospel of John was written there was much antagonism going on. This was reflected in how the gospel was shaped, especially in regard to "the Jews". Most scholars theorize that John was not talking about the whole Jewish people but a specific group, perhaps the religious leaders, or a sect of Judaism. Some have suggested that English translations of John's Gospel could be amended to speak of "the Jewish authorities" rather than "the Jews" in the passion narrative. Scholars agree that there is no basis for a Christian anti-Semitism here. John was speaking of a specific group of people at a specific moment in time.

Unfortunately, misinterpretations and literal readings of John's gospel have led many to believe to this very day that these passages justify calling all the Jews "Christ killers".

In our present time, when civility is in short supply, it's not surprising that we see old prejudices and hatreds rearing their heads again. Acts of Anti-Semitism are increasing alarmingly in our country. Just last week a study came out showing a 72% increase in hate incidents over the previous year in our Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Many of these incidents were against Jewish people and organizations. As Catholic Christians we need to do whatever we can to support our Jewish sisters and brothers in rooting out hate that attempts to be justified by an incorrect interpretation of the scriptures.

Most scripture scholars will say that the blame for Jesus' death is upon the Romans and a narrow band of leaders of the Jewish people. But, when it comes right down to it, are we not all complicit in the death of Christ when we wound with our words and actions, when we taunt each other, put each other down, or make life miserable for people we don't like.

Jesus was killed because of God's great love for humanity shown forth in his forgiving and healing ways. Because his radical love was seen as a threat to the status quo, many people in power wanted him gone. Perhaps in this age of incivility his radical love is still seen as a threat, especially when he comes to us in the poor, the immigrant, the stranger and in anyone whom we perceive as outside our own comfort zone. We are called to recognize the presence of God within every human being. That's quite a challenge but that's what being a disciple of Christ is all about.

### CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST WORSHIP BOOKLET

You will receive a Worship booklet from hospitality as you enter the Church. This booklet contains Mass responses as well as our musical selections. Lift your voices in celebration.

After use, please return the booklet to the basket at the entrances to the church.  
*Thank You.*



April 2, 2023

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

### FAITH FORMATION

Sunday, April 2 meetings:

**Faith Formation — Grade 2**

8:45 — 9:45 Conference Rm.

First Eucharist Preparation

**Faith Formation — Grades 1 and 3 through 8**

Attendance at 10:00a.m. Mass with

Palm Sunday Procession

Thank you, participants, and helpers who attended the Stations of the Cross and Simple Lenten Supper on Friday, March 24. Families of Faith Formation children from grades 6 to 8 provided the Lenten Supper.

### ST. MATTHIAS YARD SALE

SATURDAY, MAY 6, 2023—PARISH HALL

*SPRING IS ON ITS WAY* .....and with that comes Spring cleaning. St. Matthias Parish will be holding an indoor yard sale; a perfect opportunity to drop off your gently used clothing, household items, sports equipment etc.

It's never too early to step up and offer your time to help make this a smooth running fundraiser for the parish.

More details to come in future bulletins.

**Please call the office 508-460-9255 to sign up to volunteer to help or for additional volunteer information.**



### ST. VINCENT DEPAUL CLOTHING DRIVE

MAY 13 AND MAY 14

St. Vincent dePaul Society will be hosting a clothing drive the weekend of **Saturday, May 13 and Sunday, May 14**. A truck will be parked in the parking lot for your donations. Start checking those closets for gently used clothing and shoes!

### *Hear Our Prayer, O Lord*

Donna Anastas

Phil Anastas

William C.

Conor Canavan

Brittney Chiasson

Stephen Chiasson

Paul Cote

Aline Desjardin

Richard Desjardin

Andrea Durant

Craig Fallon

Michelle F.

Alfred Giancola

LeAnne Gogel

Raechel Goulet

Rosalie Green

Brian Hendrix

Tyler Hendrix

Derek Ledoux

Maura McGuinness

Debra Natoli

Dennis Natoli

John O'Malley

Jennifer Reis

Steve S.

Raymond Sotek

Rick Smith

Joseph Sousa

Muriel Swenor

Linda Thomasino

Jane Walsh

Lydia Whitcomb

### HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Thursday, April 6 — Holy Thursday

**Mass of the Last Supper with Feet Washing**

Church, 7:00p.m.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Parish Hall, Following Mass until 9p.m.

Friday, April 7 — Good Friday

**Stations of the Cross — Church, 3:00p.m.**

**Celebration of The Passion of the Lord with Adoration of the Cross Church, 7:00p.m.**

Saturday, April 8 — Easter Vigil

**Celebration of the Resurrection of the Lord**

**Baptism of the Elect and Renewal of Our Baptismal Promises**

Church, 8:00p.m.

Sunday, April 9 — Easter Sunday

**Mass with Renewal of Baptismal Promises**

Church, 9:00a.m. and 11:00a.m.

**Easter Coffee Social — Parish Hall, 10:00a.m.**

### PETER BROCKMANN, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Passion Sunday, as noted last week, is that rare occasion where we have two gospels in one Mass. The first is the account of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. The second retells the Last Supper, the Lord's Passion and Death according to Matthew this year.

The Passion Acclamation is that musical prayer we sing together at certain milestones in the Passion. For this weekend it is "JESUS, REMEMBER ME", a simple and solemn musical prayer by Jacques Berthier, the composer known for his Taizé works.

On Good Friday, with the Passion according to John, we've chosen to sing "GLORY, WE GLORY IN THE CROSS OF CHRIST" as our Passion Acclamation. This musical prayer is quite different from the solemn Berthier work. Instead, it is triumphal and in the gospel-style. In fact, the composer's note states this is to be sung "Joyfully, with a bounce!". For many, this contrast, between the solemn and sorrowful canting of the co-crucified thief's prayer is quite stark and for some, will be quite uncomfortable.

Let us explore that discomfort for a moment. Consider the discomfort that Jesus' first disciples and apostles must have felt during those times when these trials and agonies were first experienced. Uncertainty. Apprehension. Guilt. Sorrow. Fear. Our discomfort certainly pales in comparison and gives us pause to reflect on Jesus' sacrifice. We should not be afraid of the cross. We can be joyful in the Cross of Christ only and precisely because of what Jesus' sacrifice brings to us all - Resurrection and eternal life.

I hope to hear you and pray with you and your family at our Holy Week celebrations - Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday next week. I encourage you to set aside the time and Glory with us and Jesus!

*Let us sing!*

**NOTICE:** To add a loved one to this prayer list, please email: [admin@stmattpar.org](mailto:admin@stmattpar.org) or call 508-460-9255.



## PARISH FINANCES

### WEEKLY OFFERTORY

#### Offertory Collection — March 25 / 26

Collection	\$ 2,039.00
WeShare	\$ 670.00
	<b>\$ 2,709.00</b>

**\$ 1,291.00 deficit to the weekly goal**

#### Parochial Schools Collection

**\$ 220.00\***

\*Only includes donations received week of March 20-26 or collected on weekend.

**Mass Attendance 197**

#### APRIL SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

**April 6, Holy Thursday — CRS Lenten Rice Bowl**

**April 7, Good Friday — Holy Lands**

**April 8 and 9, Easter Masses — Clergy Retirement Trust Fund**

**April 14 and 15 — Parish Maintenance**

**April 29 and 30 — St. Vincent de Paul**



#### JOIN WESHARE

#### JUST A FEW SIMPLE STEPS

To set up one-time or recurring donations to the Regular Offertory, using our online giving platform, WeShare by Ministry Brands, please use the QR-code or go to:

SCAN ME



## OFFERTORY GIFTS

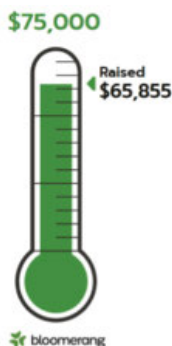
Please place your weekly or special collection offertory gifts in the Offertory box at the main entrance to the church. There will be no passing of the basket during Mass until further notice.



## GRAND ANNUAL CAMPAIGN FY 2023

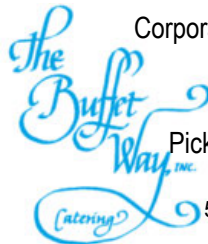
**St. Matthias 2023 Grand Annual Collection** is in full swing. This is our most important fundraiser of the year. Our goal this year is to raise \$75,000 dollars. All of which goes directly into our operating budget!

Donation Total:	\$65,855.00
Remaining to reach goal:	\$ 9,145.00
Percentage: towards goal	87.8%
Participating Families:	103



*Thank you for your contributions!*

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