

Saint Matthias Parish

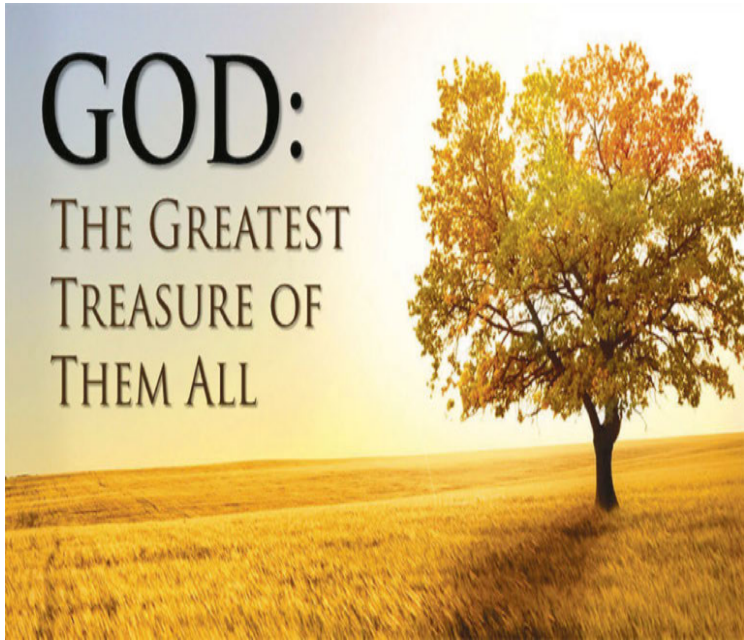
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Marlborough, MA 01752

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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

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Theresa Salafia, Faith Formation Director

tsalafia@stmattpar.org

Peter Brockmann, Music Director pbrockmann@stmattpar.org

April Lowe, Office Manager

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Darleen Doona, Bookkeeper

ddoona@stmattpar.org

David Resendes, Maintenance

Paul G. Coletti, Chair, Finance Council



Celebrations of the Eucharist

Weekend Masses in the Church

Saturdays 4:00 PM

Sundays 10:00 AM

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

Weekdays in the Conference Room Chapel

Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays 9:00 AM

Holy Days: 9 AM in Church or as announced

Confessions: Saturdays 3:15 PM

If you are in need and/or are suffering, please call our St. Matthias St. Vincent dePaul Society volunteers at:

978-493-3037

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 during Saturday or 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.

St. Matthias Parish



PARISH OFFICE HOURS Week of July 30, 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
or leave a voicemail at **508-460-9255**.

INTENTIONS OF THE EUCHARIST

Saturday, July 29 — 4:00 p.m.

Salvatore Ponterella — Birthday Memorial

Sunday, July 30 — 10:00 a.m.

Eleanor and Rosemary Tillman — Memorial

Saturday, August 5 — 4:00 p.m.

Paul Murphy — Memorial

Sunday, August 6 — 10:00 a.m.

Janet Landers — 5th Anniversary Memorial

THIS WEEK AT ST. MATTHIAS

Saturday, July 29

Celebration of the Eucharist

Church, 4:00 p.m.

School Supplies Drive—Return

Sunday, July 30

Celebration of the Eucharist

Church, 10:00 a.m.

School Supplies Drive—Return

Monday, July 31

Funeral Mass — Christine Carey

Church 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday, August 1

Celebration of the Eucharist

Conference Room Chapel, 9 a.m.

Friday, August 4

Celebration of the Eucharist

Conference Room Chapel, 9 a.m.

Saturday, August 5

Celebration of the Eucharist

Church, 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, August 6

Celebration of the Eucharist

Church, 10:00 a.m.

Music for Celebrations of the Eucharist

July 29 and July 30

Gathering Song: The Reign Of Our God
Booklet #12

Preparation: The Love Of The Lord
Hymnal # 680

Communion: Deep And Lasting Peace
Booklet # 1

Recessional: Bring Forth the Kingdom
Hymnal #640

Weekday Masses for the Week of July 30

Tuesday and Friday

**9:00 a.m.— Downstairs Conference Room
Chapel**

**Mass updates are posted on the
website and updated on Parish**

Readings for Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 29 and July 30

First Reading: 1 Kings 3:5, 7-12

Second Reading: Romans 8:28-30

Gospel: Matthew 13:44-52

Readings for Transfiguration of the Lord

August 5 and August 6

First Reading: Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

Second Reading: 2 Peter 1:16-19

Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9

FACEBOOK AND WEBSITE RECORDED OR LIVESTREAMED MASS

Pre-recorded Mass can be found posted online by Facebook
post Sundays by 10:00 AM. Just search **@stmattpar** OR Visit
our website on your favorite browser at **www.stmattpar.org** to
view the recorded Mass from our homepage.

From Fr. Fran

Thank you for your hospitality and generosity to Fr. J.B. Ndung'u, who was with us last weekend from Kenya. Fr. J.B. commented that he visits many different parishes for mission appeals, and he can tell right away what the character of a parish is. He found St. Matthias to be a very welcoming and caring community.

Fr. J.B. told me much about his work with seminarians in his home diocese where he teaches pastoral theology at Christ the King Major Seminary. He works primarily with the new students coming to seminary for the first time. Many of them are from small villages and his job is to get them ready for the rigors of academic and especially pastoral life. This year there will be over 360 men studying for the priesthood at his seminary. Even with that staggering number he said that there won't be enough priests to fulfill the needs of all the parishes.

This is such a different situation from where we find ourselves in the United States. In some respects, we have become "mission territory" due to the present shortage of priests. Many parishes in the U.S. are now staffed by priests from Africa and South America. While grateful for their ministry, there are great challenges for them and for the parishioners where they are assigned. Differences in languages and customs need to be negotiated so that parishioners and priests find themselves in healthy relationships. This takes time and a willingness to learn and change on the part of all involved.

Whenever we host or have a priest from another part of the world assigned to a parish, it gives us the opportunity to recognize that we are truly a "catholic", meaning universal, church. Our faith gathers people together from all over the world to unite at the table of the Eucharist as one family. Often, we see the Catholic Church only through the eyes of our home parish and our own diocese. We can become very insular and "parochial" in the worst sense of the word. I think that is why it's been so hard for so many in the Archdiocese of Boston to embrace the Pastoral Collaboratives and mergers of parishes. This represents a new way of life as a church community. Change is hard. There's no getting around it.

When our beloved home parishes become a part of a Collaborative, we might initially feel more loss than gain. Gradually a new sense of community will form, if the parishioners and staff members are open to it. And that is the key. Do we allow the Holy Spirit to help us through our feelings of loss, our uneasiness with change, and our fear of losing parish identity? Do we trust that the Holy Spirit will guide us into new ways of being church and lead us to new friendships and ministerial relationships? Or do we cultivate an unhealthy nostalgia for "the way it was"?

We are grappling with all this as we prepare to become a Pastoral Collaborative with St. Michael Parish. We've had so many starts and stops that it's been hard to keep a focus on the future. As you know, we were *sure* that our Collaborative would start on July 1st of this year. Then we found out that the diocese had delayed it once again. Perhaps this is all the work of the Holy Spirit teaching us patience and giving us some extra time to prepare for the day when the new collaborative adventure begins.

As you know, I will not be with you for the next part of the adventure. There will be a new pastor assigned to the Collaborative. We do not have a timetable for when our Collaborative will begin. So, until that time, we journey together. I hope that in the next few months, working with Fr. Jason Giombetti, the new administrator of St. Michael Parish, we will be able to move forward and prepare well for our Pastoral Collaborative.

Reminder

As you know, **the driveway** in front of the church is reserved for emergency vehicles. Please do not park your car in this area so that we can always keep that pathway open. You are welcome to drop off and pick up parishioners in that space just before and after mass. Thanks for your cooperation in helping us keep a safe environment for everyone.



St. Matthias Parish

Octoberfest — Planning Committee Invite

Sunday, August 13 — 11:15 AM

(During the coffee social)

St. Matthias Parish will be hosting Octoberfest in the Parish Hall in October.

The planning committee invites you to bring your ideas and enthusiasm to the planning meeting on Sunday, August 13 at 11:15 am, during the coffee social. Grab a coffee and a donut and meet with the group in the Parish Hall.

MARLBOROUGH COMMUNITY CUPBOARD COLLECTION

Saturday, August 12 and Sunday, August 13

Bins will be available at the church entrances for donations of food and personal hygiene items for the Marlborough Community Cupboard on the weekend of August 12 and 13.

COFFEE SOCIAL

Sunday, August 13

Parish Hall following 10:00 a.m. Mass

Please plan to join the parish community for friendship, conversation and coffee following Mass on August 13 in the Parish Hall.

FAITH FORMATION

Faith Formation meetings will resume in September. Registration information will be forthcoming in August. If you have questions regarding Faith Formation please contact Theresa Salafia, Faith Formation Director, at 508-460-9255 or tsalafia@stmattpar.org. *Have a safe summer.*

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF COMMUNION — TRAINING SESSION

For our new and returning Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, a training session will be held on Saturday, August 12 and Sunday, August 13 following Mass. If you are interested in joining this ministry, please speak with Fr. Fran.

PARISH COMMUNITY PICNIC BRUNCH

Sunday, September 24—11:00 AM

Welcome Back! St. Matthias Parish is hosting a picnic “Brunch” after mass on Sunday, September 24. Please mark your calendars and join your parish family for food and conversation.



Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 1 - 12:00 Noon

The Blessing of the Animals will be held Sunday, October 1 in celebration of St. Francis.

Refreshments will be served for *all* in attendance.



Hear Our Prayer, O Lord

Alice Cox	Richard Desjardin	Marge Shea Burke
Joseph Cox	Rachael Goulet	Jane Walsh
Conor Canavan	Rosalie Green	Lydia Whitcomb
Aline Desjardin	Keith Morey	

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

A NOTE FROM OUR MUSIC DIRECTOR PETER BROCKMANN

Our recessional hymn this weekend is the same as last weekend “BRING FORTH THE KINGDOM”, 640 in Gather 2 by Marty Haugen. It’s ok to sing the same song, because the gospel is also about building the kingdom. Besides, it’s the summer time and with the same Gathering song as last weekend, it feels familiar (but not boring).

The structure of Bring Forth the Kingdom is unusual, especially for a recessional hymn (among the reasons I like this song): cantor - RESPONSE - cantor - RESPONSE - refrain (all).

You may have noticed last week that I played the cantor part quietly and really bumped up the volume on the intermittent RESPONSE part. Great fun. Last weekend Jeanine did a great job of showing you when you need to provide the RESPONSE too by raising her hands up at the response and refrain.

Hopefully, this combination of audio signal and visual indication will help you sing this song as it was meant to be sung. Kind of a single voice being the seed, and then the assembly responds, another seed and fuller response and everyone enjoying the refrain.

Let’s do the same this weekend - Lisa will expertly provide the physical signal (hand gestures) on your (the assembly’s) part, and I will provide the appropriately full sound on the piano when you’re to sing along.

Let us sing,



Tools for School Backpack Drive

Donations due July 29 and July 30

Drop off in the Office on Monday, July 31.

St. Matthias parish will be helping the United Way of Tri-County with their Tools for School Backpack Drive. Each year the United Way collects backpacks filled with school supplies to donate to local agencies that support homeless children (elementary, middle and high school) or those in need. **OTHER WAYS YOU CAN HELP:**

Visit <https://www.uwotc.org/backpack> to:

1. **Donate \$:** For each \$25 donation, United Way volunteers will purchase the supplies and backpack and assemble it themselves **or**
2. **Sponsor A Child:** Click on the **Sponsor A Child** link and choose a one or more children to sponsor. Purchase the items on the list and a backpack to match the child’s description **or**
3. **Volunteer:** Lend a hand as volunteers sort and assemble backpacks for each child on their list **or**
4. **Donate Supplies on Amazon Wishlist:** Purchase back to school supplies on Amazon and they will ship them directly to UWOTC.

PARISH FINANCES

Offertory Collection Weekly Goal \$4,000.00

Offertory Collection — July 23 and July 24

Mass Attendance: 182

Collection	\$ 1,711.00
WeShare	\$ 1,150.00
	\$ 2,861.00*

***\$ 1,139.00 Deficit to the weekly goal**

Mission Collection for the Propagation of the Faith
Collection: **\$1,017.00**

AUGUST SECOND COLLECTIONS

Parish Maintenance	August 12 and August 13
Parochial School Tax	August 26 and August 27

St. Matthias Parish

Fiscal Year 2023—Annual Financial Report

The Finance Committee is in the process of completing the FY23 Annual Financial report and it will be available for the community within the next few weeks. *Thank you.*



JOIN WESHARE IN 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 visit wesharegiving.org/app/giving/stmatt.

SCAN ME



During the summer months, signing up for WeShare is a great way to ensure your donations to support the parish continue when you are on vacation or celebrating summer events. *Thank you.*

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.



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