

Saint Matthias Parish

409 Hemenway Street

Marlborough, MA 01752

Phone: 508-460-9255

Website: www.stmattpar.org

Facebook: facebook.com/stmattpar



23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have won over your brother." - Mt 18:15

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1989, 1979 CCD

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

dcnpeltak@stmattpar.org

dncoletti@stmattpar.org

dcnmorey@stmattpar.org

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Peter Brockmann, Music Director pbrockmann@stmattpar.org

April Lowe, Office Manager

alowe@stmattpar.org

Darleen Doona, Bookkeeper

ddoona@stmattpar.org

David Resendes, Maintenance

Paul G. Coletti, Chair, Finance Council

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 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.



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 of assistance, please call our St. Matthias St. Vincent dePaul Society volunteers at: 978-493-3037

St. Matthias Parish



PARISH OFFICE HOURS Week of September 10, 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, September 9 — 4:00 p.m.

William Bruce-Tagoe — Birthday Memorial

Sunday, September 10 — 10:00 a.m.

Memorial

John and Laura Sousa

John and Deolinda Roque

Saturday, September 16 — 4:00 p.m.

Mildred Ponterella — Birthday Memorial

Sunday, September 17 — 10:00 a.m.

Antonio Barcinas — Memorial

The Dolan and Newcombe families would like to extend a grateful thank you to those parishioners, friends and families who offered condolences and/or attended the recent funerals for their daughters. It was greatly appreciated during these difficult times.



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](https://www.facebook.com/stmattpar) OR Visit our website on your favorite browser at www.stmattpar.org to view the recorded Mass from our homepage.

THIS WEEK AT ST. MATTHIAS

Saturday, September 9

Celebration of the Eucharist

Church, 4:00 p.m.

St. Vincent DePaul Clothing Drive

Parking Lot

Marlborough Community Cupboard

Collection Bins—Church Entrances

Sunday, September 10

Celebration of the Eucharist

Church, 10:00 a.m.

St. Vincent DePaul Clothing Drive

Parking Lot

Marlborough Community Cupboard

Collection Bins—Church Entrances

Monday, September 11

Celebration of the Eucharist

Conference Room Chapel, 9 a.m.

Tuesday, September 12

Celebration of the Eucharist

Conference Room Chapel, 9 a.m.

Wednesday, September 13

Choir Rehearsal

Church, 7:00 p.m.

Friday, September 15

Celebration of the Eucharist

Conference Room Chapel, 9 a.m.

Saturday, September 16

Celebration of the Eucharist with Baptism

Church, 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 17

Celebration of the Eucharist

Church, 10:00 a.m.

Coffee Social

Parish Hall following Mass

Readings for Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary time

September 9 and September 10

First Reading: Ezekiel 33: 7-9

Second Reading: Romans 13: 8-10

Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20

Readings for Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary time

September 16 and September 17

First Reading: Sirach 27:30-28:7

Second Reading: Romans 14:7-9

Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

From Fr. Fran

Pope Francis has been in the news quite a lot lately. He truly is a person who tells it like it is, which often gets him into trouble when he speaks “off the cuff”. Recently, in response to a question about the US Catholic Church, he was quite frank in saying that there are elements in the church hierarchy that would rather go backwards than forwards. While in Lisbon for World Youth Day he acknowledged to a group of Portuguese Jesuits that there is “a very strong, organized, reactionary attitude” opposing him in the US with members of the hierarchy centering more on the political culture wars than on caring for the poor and the environment. He went on to say “I would like to remind these people that backwardness is useless” ... “Doing this, you lose the true tradition and you turn to ideologies to have support. In other words, ideologies replace faith”.

Throughout his papacy Francis has warned about a narrowing of focus to hot button political issues at the expense of the gospel imperative of compassion and welcome to all people. For example, in his 2018 Apostolic Exhortation *Gaudete et Exsultate* – On the Call To Holiness in Today’s World, Francis wrote that caring for the poor and the refugee is equally important as opposing abortion. He wrote: Our defense of the innocent unborn...needs to be clear, firm, and passionate. Equally sacred, however, are the lives of the poor, those already born, the destitute, the abandoned.” Francis has also frequently called upon the church to minister compassionately to the divorced, the LGBTQ community, and to tackle climate change as a moral issue.

It’s hard to believe that there are those opposing such a compassionate response, but we don’t have to look to far to see members of the hierarchy doing just that. Thankfully, our own archbishop, Cardinal Sean O’Malley, is truly a man of compassion and a steadfast supporter of Pope Francis and the reforms he seeks to bring to the church.

I do believe that Pope Francis is led by the Holy Spirit and that the path he is setting the church upon is not a heretical break with the past, as some of the hierarchy believe it to be, but a continuation of the work of the Holy Spirit which calls the church to reshape and reform itself in every generation.

Here in the Archdiocese of Boston we know how difficult it is to reshape the church. After years of scandal, reconfiguration, and the institution of Pastoral Collaboratives, we know that it is not an easy task to live up to the Holy Spirit’s desire for a faithful, welcoming, honest, and forgiving church. It’s only human and natural that mistakes are made along the way and that not everyone will be on the same page with the decisions that come down from “above”. In our parish we know of the patience we must cultivate as we wait for our Pastoral Collaborative with St. Michael to take shape.

Through it all I think that Pope Francis points us in the right direction, to be a church whose faith is in Christ, not in politics, culture wars, or personal preferences. Let us pray that as individuals and as a parish community we may reach out and welcome all who come through our doors searching for a place to find community, comfort, and the presence of Christ.

MARLBOROUGH COMMUNITY CUPBOARD COLLECTION

Saturday, September 9 and September 10

This weekend bins are available at the church entrances for donations of food and personal hygiene items for the Marlborough Community Cupboard.

COFFEE SOCIAL

Sunday, September 17
Parish Hall following the
10:00 a.m. Mass



Please plan to join the parish community for friendship, conversation and coffee following Mass September 17 in the Parish Hall.

If you have not submitted your Faith Formation Registration for 2023-2024, please join us on Sunday, September 17 during Coffee Social. Faith Formation volunteers will be available to answer questions you may have and provide forms to fill out.

FAITH FORMATION

Thank you to those who have already submitted their registration forms!

If you have not submitted your Faith Formation Registration for 2023-2024, please join us on Sunday, September 17 during Coffee Social. Faith Formation volunteers will be available to answer questions you may have and provide forms to fill out.

Registration forms were mailed to families who were registered for the 2022-2023 school year.

New families can find registration forms on our website: www.stmattpar.org and at the entrances to church.

The calendar of Faith Formation meetings is available online at stmattpar.org by clicking the Faith Formation button on the homepage.

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.



OUR FATHER'S TABLE

A few weeks ago, a notice in the bulletin indicated that St. Matthias Parish will no longer be hosting the Our Father's Table since no volunteers came forward to coordinate the bi-monthly meal and volunteers for our community neighbors in need of a meal. The Dolesh family was asked to continue until the end of the year, and Sue and Dale graciously agreed.

As of 2024, St. Matthias Parish will no longer be involved unless a coordinator and a core volunteer group comes forward to help the Our Father's Table organizing committee.

Anyone interested can take part in the final meals with Sue and the group and see what is involved. Please call the parish office 508-460-9255 or email admin@stmattpar.org for details.

A NOTE FROM OUR MUSIC DIRECTOR

PETER BROCKMANN

Our preparation song, MAKE ME A CHANNEL OF YOUR PEACE, Gather 2 - 721 - with words attributed to St Francis of Assisi (although they never appear in any of his writings), music by Sebastian Temple (1928-1997), is a well-known and well understood musical prayer. I remember singing this as a kid in elementary school, probably a few years after being first published in 1967. A simple melody, with a ‘bridge’ as the 3rd verse, is a structure that is consistent with the OPEN MY EYES, Gather 2 - 569. It is one of the most popular worship songs ever written and commonly considered as a fine example of Christian ‘folk’ music.

Sebastian Temple grew up in South Africa and eventually moved to the UK where he worked for the BBC. In 1958 he moved to the USA, converted to Catholicism and joined the Franciscan Third Order. While in Los Angeles, he began composing music, both secular and religious. He took great satisfaction in having this song sung at Princess Diana's funeral in 1997, dying shortly after.

This song is also the anthem of the Royal British Legion (the UK equivalent of Veterans of Foreign Wars).

Let us sing!

Music for Celebrations of the Eucharist September 9 and September 10

Gathering Song: God, We Gather As Disciples
Booklet # 14

Preparation: Make Me A Channel Of Your Peace
Hymnal # 721

Communion: Faith, Hope and Love
Hymnal # 609

Recessional: Go To The World
Hymnal # 469

Hear Our Prayer, O Lord

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

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

PARISH FINANCES

Collections

Due to the early submission of the bulletin for the Labor Day Holiday, the collections from September 2 and 3 will be published in the next bulletin.

SEPTEMBER SECOND COLLECTIONS

Parish Maintenance	September 12 and 13
Clergy Trust Fund	September 16 and 17

Thank you for your continued donations.

ST. VINCENT DEPAUL FRIENDS OF THE POOR WALK/RUN SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

Meehan Hall, Immaculate Conception School,
119 Washington Street

Registration for the walk will begin at 9:30AM
with the walk beginning at 10:00AM to continue
for 3 miles roundtrip on the scenic Assabet River Rail
Trail.

Registration to walk and/or to make a
donations visit:

www.MarlboroughFOPWalk.org.



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



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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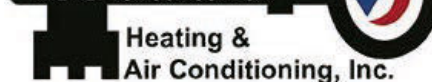
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