

**Saint Matthias Parish**  
**409 Hemenway Street**  
**Marlborough, MA 01752**  
**Phone: 508-460-9255**  
**Website: [www.stmattpar.org](http://www.stmattpar.org)**  
**Facebook: [facebook.com/stmattpar](https://facebook.com/stmattpar)**



#### **Parish Leadership**

Francis P. O'Brien, Pastor	<a href="mailto:frobrien@stmattpar.org">frobrien@stmattpar.org</a>
Doug Peltak, Senior Deacon	<a href="mailto:dcnpeltak@stmattpar.org">dcnpeltak@stmattpar.org</a>
Paul G. Coletti, Deacon	<a href="mailto:dcncoletti@stmattpar.org">dcncoletti@stmattpar.org</a>
Russ Morey, Senior Deacon	<a href="mailto:dcnmorey@stmattpar.org">dcnmorey@stmattpar.org</a>
Theresa Salafia, Faith Formation Director	<a href="mailto:tsalafia@stmattpar.org">tsalafia@stmattpar.org</a>
Peter Brockmann, Music Director	<a href="mailto:pbrockmann@stmattpar.org">pbrockmann@stmattpar.org</a>
April Lowe, Office Manager	<a href="mailto:alowe@stmattpar.org">alowe@stmattpar.org</a>
Darleen Doona, Bookkeeper	<a href="mailto:ddoona@stmattpar.org">ddoona@stmattpar.org</a>
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](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 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.



### **Celebrations of the Eucharist**

**Weekend Masses in the Church**

<b>Saturdays</b>	<b>4:00 PM</b>
<b>Sundays</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>

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

**Weekdays in the Conference Room Chapel**

<b>Mondays, Tuesdays, and Fridays</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>
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**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 October 22, 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**.

### INTENTIONS OF THE EUCHARIST

**Saturday, October 21 — 4:00 p.m.**

Richard Desjardin — Memorial

**Sunday, October 22 — 10:00 a.m.**

James and Anne Robertson — Memorial

**Saturday, October 28 — 4:00 p.m.**

Thomas English — Memorial

**Sunday, October 29 — 10:00 a.m.**

Richard Desjardin — One Month  
Anniversary Memorial

### Readings for Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary time October 21 and October 22

*First Reading:* Isaiah 45:1, 4-6  
*Second Reading:* 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5b  
*Gospel:* Matthew 22:15-21

### Readings for Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary time October 28 and October 29

*First Reading:* Exodus 22:20-26  
*Second Reading:* 1 Thessalonians 1:5c-10  
*Gospel:* Matthew 22:34-40

### Sacrament of Baptism

Welcome into our faith community through the Sacrament of Baptism on Sunday, October 22 during Mass.

*Leon Alistair*

Please keep Leon Alistair and his family in your prayers as he begins his journey in faith.



## THIS WEEK AT ST. MATTHIAS

**Saturday, October 21**

**Celebration of the Eucharist**

Church, 4:00 p.m.

**Faith Formation Grades 10+**

Mass in the Church 4:00 p.m.

Classroom/Parish Hall 5:00 p.m. — 6:00 p.m.

**Sunday, October 22**

**Celebration of the Eucharist**

Church, 10:00 a.m.

**Monday, October 23**

**Celebration of the Eucharist**

Downstairs Chapel, 9:00 a.m.

**Tuesday, October 24**

**Celebration of the Eucharist**

Downstairs Chapel, 9:00 a.m.

**Wednesday, October 25**

**Choir Rehearsal**

Church, 7:00 p.m.

**Friday, October 27**

**Celebration of the Eucharist**

Downstairs Chapel, 9:00 a.m.

**Saturday, October 28**

**Celebration of the Eucharist**

Church, 4:00 p.m.

**Oktoberfest**

Parish Hall 5:00 p.m.

**Sunday, October 29**

**Celebration of the Eucharist**

Church, 10:00 a.m.

**Faith Formation Grades 6 through 8**

Mass in the Church 10:00 a.m.

Classroom/Parish Hall 11:00 a.m. — Noon

### **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](http://www.stmattpar.org) to view the recorded Mass from our homepage.

## From Fr. Fran

### We Pray for Peace

The scenes from Israel and Gaza continue to be horrific. Even with behind-the-scenes diplomacy from a number of nations, including our own, the death and destruction continues. Last Monday Pope Francis put out another plea as he has been doing since the beginning of the conflict. The Pope said: "Humanitarian law is to be respected, especially in Gaza. Please, let no more innocent blood be shed, neither in the Holy Land nor in Ukraine, nor in any other place! Enough! Wars are always a defeat, always!"

How right he is. Wars are always a defeat and so is the hatred and animosity sweeping through, not only the Middle East, but the world at large. Antisemitism and Islamophobia are on display even close to home. We may feel helpless as we watch the news reports and wonder where God is in all of this, yet the scriptures, especially the Book of Psalms, reveal to us that what we are feeling has been felt throughout the history of the human race.

In the psalms of lament, the author usually begins by addressing God and laying out a personal or communal tragedy. Then the psalmist often asks why God has let such a thing happen. This turns into a plea for God's help. By the end of the psalm, once all the anger and frustration has been spoken, the psalmist concedes that, even in the midst of it all, the only sure thing we have is our reliance and trust in God.

When we bring the horrors of the present day to God in prayer, it might be good to follow the pattern of the ancient author. First, we might speak to God by lifting up the current situation along with our frustration, anger, and doubt. We should feel free to shake an angry fist at God as did so many of the authors of the scriptures. Then we might ask God to help us in our feelings of helplessness, and finally admit that we must trust in God's presence. In return God might very well reveal to us ways in which, in our small human circle, we can use our voices and our lives to advance the peace, justice, and compassion that Christ came to bring. Here are some of the Psalms of Lament that you might want look up and bring to prayer: Psalms 12, 13, 25, 31, 74, 79, 85.

### Happy Halloween!

When you think of Halloween, what comes to mind? For most people, Halloween has become synonymous with candy, costumes, scary stuff, witches, ghosts, pumpkins, and increasingly elaborate yard displays. But there are deeply rooted Christian connections to the holiday, along with the more secular ones we enjoy today.

First for the secular roots. In the pre-Christian world, when the Romans conquered the Celts, they added their own touches to the Celts' Samhain festival, such as making centerpieces out of apples and nuts for Pomona, the Roman goddess of the orchards. The Romans also bobbed for apples and drank cider.

The custom of going door-to-door to collect treats comes from immigrants that come from Ireland. Groups of farmers would go door-to-door collecting food and materials for a village feast and bonfire. Those who gave were promised prosperity; those who did not received threats of bad luck.

Now for the Catholic contribution to Halloween. In 835, Pope Gregory IV moved the celebration for all the martyrs (later all saints) from May 13 to November 1. The night before the Feast of All Saints became known as All Hallow's Even or "holy evening." Eventually the name was shortened to the current Halloween. Following the celebration of the Saints, on November 2, the Church celebrates All Souls Day, a commemoration of the countless faithful who have gone before us not especially designated as Saints.

As you can see, our current traditions for this one holiday span millennia and incorporate many secular and religious symbols, just a few of which are mentioned here. While we may have fun with the spooky side of the holiday, let's remember that as Catholic Christians, Halloween represents the beginning of a time when we remember our beloved dead with special prayers and rituals.

### St. Matthias 2024 Grand Annual Campaign Begins!

If you are on our mailing list, you will receive our 2024 Grand Annual packet in the coming days. For those not on our list, packets will be available throughout the church during the coming weeks.

The Grand Annual is the most important fundraiser for St. Matthias Parish. This year our goal is to raise \$80,000 dollars within the next three months. As in the past, every dollar collected goes directly into our FY2024 operating budget.

For us to meet our 2024 budget, we must achieve our Grand Annual goal, as well as securing a weekly Offertory at the 4-thousand-dollar level.

Thank you in advance for your continued weekly financial support of our parish and your contribution to this year's Grand Annual.

### St. Vincent DePaul Conference Update

With this weekend's bulletin you will find an update newsletter from our St. Vincent DePaul Conference. As you will see, they have played an important part in helping those in need in our own backyard. Many thanks to the members for their great work.

If you are in need or know someone in our area who could use some assistance, please leave a message on our St. Vincent phone line. All inquiries are confidential. If you would like to be a part of our Conference, you may leave a message on that same phone line.

SVdP 978-493-3037.

### *Hear Our Prayer, O Lord*

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

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

**FAITH FORMATION**

Faith Formation meetings:

**Grades 10+ Saturday, October 21**

**Confirmation II Meet with Deacon Paul and Mrs. Salafia**

Church/Parish Hall, 4:00 p.m. Mass to 5:45 p.m.

**Grades 9 - Saturday, October 21 CANCELED**

**Make up class to be announced.**

**Grades 6 through 8 Sunday, October 29**

Church/Parish Hall, 10:00 a.m. Mass to 12:00 p.m.

**Grades 1 through 5**

**Next Gathering Sunday, November 5**



## ANOINTING OF THE SICK

### NOVEMBER 4 AND NOVEMBER 5

The Anointing of the Sick will be held during weekend masses November 4 and November 5.

Participants will be anointed with *oleum infirmorum*/ Oil of the Sick (olive oil or another pure plant oil blessed by the bishop). The anointing is available to any adult seeking comfort, peace, and courage as they journey through an illness or a difficult time in their lives.

### Mass of Remembrance Sunday, November 12

The annual **Mass of Remembrance** will be celebrated on **Sunday, November 12, 2023**. This annual celebration provides us with the opportunity to join with our fellow parishioners who have lost a loved one in the past two years, and to remind them that we continue to care for them and walk with them. There will be a proper and dignified pictorial memorial that will be located in the foyer of the church starting November 11 until the first Sunday of Advent. It will display pictures of all of those who died in the past two years. This celebration will be for parishioners who had their funeral at St. Matthias as well as those outside of the parish.

All names will be inscribed in the book of the dead and roll of names to be read aloud at during Mass. If you have lost a loved one since November 2022 and want them to be included in the celebration, please be sure to contact Deacon Doug as early as possible at 508-460-9255 with the information. We ask that **all photos be submitted via email [admin@stmattpar.org](mailto:admin@stmattpar.org) or drop off in the parish office by October 31** to allow ample time to plan and put the display together.

Following the Mass of Remembrance all are invited to a breakfast reception in the Parish Hall.

**A NOTE FROM OUR MUSIC DIRECTOR**

**PETER BROCKMANN**

Next Saturday is the parish celebration of Oktoberfest, in the Parish Hall after the 4 pm Mass on October 28, 2023. I've been wearing my lederhosen (German for 'leather pants') the past 2 weeks in honor of the upcoming festival event and to put a smile on everyone I meet.

If your planning committee gets their way, it will be wonderful time of good food, fun, smiles and plenty of good cheer. I hope you can make the time to join us and bring your kids and friends too.

Some of our entertainment involves singing authentic Oktoberfest songs - **auf Deutsche!** (in German!).

For example, our grace that evening is a communal musical prayer, sung as a round, that I learned in German as a young boy growing up in Canada. My family sung it on special occasions like Christmas and Easter and whenever we had special guests for dinner and the thought came to any of us before sitting down.

Next week, we'll split the gathering in 2. Everyone sings the prayer together once through and then group 1 starts to sing it. Later (1/2 way) the second group begins the same melody which forms a beautiful harmony with the first group.

This is how musical rounds are designed to work. And, this is just one of the sing-along entertaining works we've been polishing up. Don't worry, there'll be a time to practice pronunciation too. Looking forward to hearing you there, as well! *Let us sing!*

**COFFEE SOCIAL**

**November 5**

**Parish Hall following 10:00 a.m. Mass**

Please plan to join the parish community for friendship, conversation and coffee following Mass on November 5 in the Parish Hall.



### *Music for Celebrations of the Eucharist October 21 and October 22*

**Gathering Song:** **I Heard The Voice Of Jesus Say**  
Hymnal # 622

**Preparation:** **Come To Me, O Weary Traveler**  
Hymnal # 630

**Communion:** **Life Giving Bread, Saving Cup**  
Hymnal # 821

**Recessional:** **How Can I Keep From Singing**  
Hymnal # 598

## PARISH FINANCES

### WEEKLY OFFERTORY GOAL \$4,000.00

#### Offertory Collection for October 14 and October 15

Offertory Collection	\$ 2,630.00
WeShare Offertory	\$ 1,380.00
	\$ 4,010.00

**\*Surplus to the weekly collection \$ 10.00**

Mass attendance: 264

### OCTOBER SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

**World Mission Sunday  
October 21 and October 22**

**St. Vincent de Paul Fall Collection  
October 28 and October 29**

*Thank you for your continued donations.*



### 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 scan the QR-code or visit [wesharegiving.org/app/giving/stmatt](http://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.



### MARLBOROUGH COMMUNITY CUPBOARD COLLECTION

**Saturday, November 11 & Sunday, November 12**

Marlborough Community Cupboard collection bins will be available at the church entrances for donations of food and personal hygiene items for the Marlborough Community Cupboard the weekend of November 4 and November 5. This collection will take place the second weekend of every month.

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