

Saint Matthias Parish
409 Hemenway Street
Marlborough, MA 01752
Phone: 508-460-9255
Website: www.stmattpar.org
Facebook: facebook.com/stmattpar



Parish Leadership

Francis P. O'Brien, Pastor	frobrien@stmattpar.org
John Carmichael, Parochial Vicar	
Doug Peltak, Senior Deacon	denpeltak@stmattpar.org
Paul G. Coletti, Deacon	dencoletti@stmattpar.org
Russ Morey, Senior Deacon	denmorey@stmattpar.org
Theresa Salafia, Faith Formation Director	tsalafia@stmattpar.org
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	



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](https://facebook.com/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

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.

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 December 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, December 9 — 4:00 p.m.

Memorial

Andrea Dolan Laro
Frances Farrara

Sunday, December 10 — 10:00 a.m.

Antonio Barcinas — Memorial

Saturday, December 16 — 4:00 p.m.

Robert Fischer and Lena Fischer — Memorial

Sunday, December 17 — 10:00 a.m.

Memorial

John and Laura Sousa
John and Deolinda Roque

Readings for the Second Sunday of Advent December 9 and December 10

First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11
Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-14
Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

Readings for the Third Sunday of Advent December 16 and December 17

First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11
Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28

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, December 9

Celebration of the Eucharist

Church, 4:00 p.m.

**Our Father's Table Gift Card Collection
Marlborough Community Cupboard Collection**

Sunday, December 10

Faith Formation Grade 6 through 8

10:00 Mass / Parish Hall 11:00 a.m. — 11:45 a.m.

Celebration of the Eucharist

Church, 10:00 a.m.

**Our Father's Table Gift Card Collection
Marlborough Community Cupboard Collection**

Monday, December 11

Celebration of the Eucharist

Downstairs Chapel, 9:00 a.m.

Tuesday, December 12

Celebration of the Eucharist

Downstairs Chapel, 9:00 a.m.

Wednesday, December 13

Choir Rehearsal

Church, 7:00 p.m.

Friday, December 15

Celebration of the Eucharist

Downstairs Chapel, 9:00 a.m.

Saturday, December 16

Celebration of the Eucharist

Church, 4:00 p.m.

Our Father's Table Gift Card Collection

Sunday, December 17

Faith Formation Grade 1 through 5

Parish Hall / Classrooms 8:45 a.m. — 9:45 a.m.

Celebration of the Eucharist

Church, 10:00 a.m.

Our Father's Table Gift Card Collection

WELCOME FR. JACK CARMICHAEL COFFEE SOCIAL

**Sunday, December 17
following Mass Parish Hall**

All are welcome to the Sunday
Coffee Social following Mass in the
parish hall on December 17. As a
parish community, let's give a warm
welcome to Fr. Jack Carmichael.



From Fr. Fran

This month marks the sixtieth anniversary of one of the most important documents to come out of Vatican II, namely the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, "*Sacrosanctum Concilium*." This document is what has shaped the church's liturgical prayer at Eucharist and at the celebration of all the other sacraments.

The reformers of Vatican II based the renewal on the recovery of ancient practices in the church while streamlining the liturgical rites and even creating new ones, such as the Rite of Baptism for Children. (Before this, children were baptized with an abbreviated rite for adults.) Another important recovery was that of the restored Catechumenate, the process by which an adult joins the Catholic Church.

One of the most striking and immediately felt changes in the liturgy was the translation of Latin texts into the many vernaculars across the world. While the document suggested the translation of the scripture readings and perhaps some other prayers, when the bishops of the world started the process, most recognized that to carry forth the true spirit of the reform, all texts of the liturgies should be translated into the vernacular. In the United States we are now using the third edition of these translations into English.

The reform of the liturgy desired to open up more of the scriptures to the faithful. Prior to our current lectionary, we very rarely heard passages from the Old Testament and less than full accounts of the gospels. Vatican II opened wide the doors to incorporating much more of the scriptures in what we know now as a three-year Sunday cycle. Each year, A, B, or C, highlights a specific gospel. With some major interjections of the gospel of John, we read straight through the particular gospel beginning on the first Sunday in Advent, running through to the Feast of Christ the King, which is the last Sunday of the liturgical year. (We have just begun the year of Mark.)

One of the touchstones of the document on the liturgy is that "the faithful should be led to that fully conscious and active participation in liturgical celebrations which is demanded by the very nature of the liturgy." (article 14)

If you are of a certain age, you will remember that participation in the liturgy was very different pre-Vatican II. While the priest was "saying" the mass on behalf of the people, the people's participation meant reading along in a Latin/English missal or praying the rosary or other appropriate prayers. It was almost as if two actions were going on simultaneously.

The very heart of the liturgical reform offers a very different way of participating. This comes from a recovered baptismal theology which says that *we are all baptized into the priesthood of Christ*. Therefore, *we all* offer the sacrifice of the Mass with the priest presider as the one who collects our prayers, our mediator through ordination.

In this way of viewing the liturgy, we see ourselves as having an integral part to play in the celebration. We are not onlookers, or people uniting our private devotions to the "priest's mass," we are active participants in making Christ present in our midst. What an awesome and serious responsibility we have to one another when we gather for mass!

The sacred liturgy tells us that Christ is truly present to us in the word of scripture, in the sacrament we receive, and in the entire people gathered with the priest presider leading the prayer. Oftentimes we forget that we as a people, praying and singing together at mass, are the presence of Christ among us!

In a very practical way, this means that the more engaged we are proclaiming the acclamations, responses and songs, the more attentive we are to the scriptures, and dare I say the homilies, the more we become a community through which Christ lives. So, how can you be more fully conscious and active at mass? Well, that's up to you.

We are all invited to sing much of the liturgy. Do you sit back and let the cantor, choir, and others with "better voices" do that for you?

We recite many prayers and acclamations together, such as the Creed and Our Father. Are you listening to the people around you so as to pray as one voice, or are you going at your own pace as if you were praying in private? Admittedly, the set up of our church makes it harder to hear each other at prayer, however, it is worth the effort to listen to each other and pray as one to God.

We are all invited to listen attentively to the scripture readings. The key word here is *listen*. Reading along with the scriptures may be helpful for those who have hearing issues, but like a good story, the scriptures are proclaimed to be taken in by our ears on the way to our hearts. Are we making the effort to actively listen to God's Word? Do we read the scripture passages for a given Sunday before we come to Mass?

Do we listen to the homilist's attempt to "break open" the word of God or do we read the bulletin, text, or let our minds wander? Even if you aren't all that enthralled with the homily, God might be speaking directly to you in a turn of phrase, a thought, or a challenge that the homilist has chosen to offer.

Most importantly, as we receive the body and blood of Christ, do we realize that this is a call to become the body and blood of Christ in our world? The reception of communion is never a private thing. We approach the altar as a people united in Christ. Our greatest challenge may be to approach the week ahead united in our mission to bring the things of Christ to our world.

Hear Our Prayer, O Lord

Susan Brigham O'Malley
Alice Cox
Joseph Cox
Conor Canavan
John "Jack" Chamberlain
Aline Desjardin
Andrea Durant
Claire Fallon
Craig Fallon

Rachael Goulet
Rosalie Green
Tyler Hendrix
Marie Mangan
Keith Morey
Marge Shea Burke
Jane Walsh
Lydia Whitcomb

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

FAITH FORMATION

Sunday, December 10

Grades 6, 7, and 8

10:00 a.m. Mass followed by meeting in parish hall until 11:45 a.m.

Sunday, December 17

Grades 1-5

8:45—9:45 a.m. Parish Hall / Classrooms



OUR FATHER'S TABLE \$10 GIFT CARD DRIVE



Each year, local churches who participate in Our Father's Table by providing meals to those in need, are asked to provide an extra special something for the attendees at the annual holiday party. As last year, St. Matthias has volunteered to provide 50-**\$10 gift cards** to either **Dunkin' Donuts** or **McDonald's**.

Could you provide 1 or 2 to help us reach this goal? Gift cards will be collected in the **Offertory box on the weekends of December 9/10 & December 16/17**. You may also bring gift cards directly to the Parish Office during Office Hours. Monetary contributions toward gift cards also welcomed (please label as **OFT**).



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

One of the many delights of the Christmas season is the beautiful decorations. You are invited to help make this possible with a contribution towards the Christmas Flowers. You will find special envelopes in the church. Please place your donation and the names of those you wish to memorialize in the envelopes. You may place the envelope in the collection box or return it to the parish office. If you choose to donate via WeShare please be sure to include the memorial information. Thank you in advance for your generosity. **Memorial names will appear in the Christmas Bulletin the weekend of Sunday December 24.**

Music for Celebrations of the Eucharist December 9 and December 10

Gathering Song: A Voice Cries Out
Hymnal # 343

Preparation: Like A Shepherd
Hymnal # 332

Communion: Christ Be Our Light
Hymnal # 512

Recessional: Your Saving Grace
Booklet # 4

A NOTE FROM OUR MUSIC DIRECTOR PETER BROCKMANN

Well if it's Advent season, we must be getting close to Christmas!

Yes, Christmas Eve is still December 24.

The music ministry (and many other ministries too) are working diligently towards getting primed and ready to celebrate the Birth of our Lord and Savior!

I would argue that Christmas music is the most beautiful music ever written. It's a great treasure of human culture as well. Handed down over the centuries to our modern day ears and lives.

As much as we try, however, there is always a surplus of this Christmas music that we won't be singing during our liturgies. But, instead of letting them sit in our hymnals for maybe next year,

we're going to sing them anyways. Just not exactly during the Mass.

Let's come together BEFORE the 4 pm Mass, 3:30 pm to be precise, to sing together more of those beautiful treasures. We'll have a **CarolFest** featuring great, well-known carols from France, England and Austria, led by our choir and our new Children's Choir who will be offering a classic Irish lullaby for baby Jesus. I hope you can find it in your schedule for what is sure to be a very busy and beautiful and holy Sunday afternoon indeed. Come early and get in the spirit!

Let us sing!

MARLBOROUGH COMMUNITY CUPBOARD COLLECTION

Saturday, December 9 & Sunday, December 10

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 this weekend **December 9 and December 10.**

Donations of food and hygiene products can be dropped off at the Marlborough Community Cupboard in the Walker Building on Main Street. The holidays may impact many families finances, so if you are able to give a little more this year, please check their website for requested items and drop off times www.uwotc.org.

PARISH FINANCES

WEEKLY OFFERTORY GOAL \$4,000.00

December 2 and December 3 Offertory Collection

Offertory Collection	\$ 2,818.00
WeShare Offertory	\$ 1,182.50
	\$ 4,000.50

***Surplus to our weekly goal: \$.50**

Mass attendance: 269

DECEMBER SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Parish Maintenance	December 9/10
Clergy Benefit Trust	December 24 / 25
Christmas Masses	

Thank you for your continued donations.

GRAND ANNUAL CAMPAIGN FY 2024 **As of 12/3/23**

St. Matthias 2024 Grand Annual Collection is underway and we are so thankful to all have contributed to date. This is our most important fundraiser of the year. Our goal this year is to raise \$80,000 dollars.

All donations go directly into our operating budget!

Donation Total:	\$26,430
Remaining to reach goal:	\$53,570
Percentage: towards goal	33%
Participating Families:	59



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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