

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 17, 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 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

Saturday, December 23 — 4:00 p.m.

Memorial

Salvatore, Mildred and Frank Ponterella

Sunday, December 24 — 10:00 a.m.

Erika and Anthony Brockmann — Memorial

Sunday, December 24 — 4:00 p.m.

Al and Anna Fanning — Memorial

Sunday, December 24 — 7:00 p.m.

Gilbert Myers — Memorial

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

Readings for the Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 23 and December 24

First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:105, 8b-12, 14a, 16

Second Reading: Romans 16:25-27

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

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 16

Celebration of the Eucharist

Church, 4:00 p.m.

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.

Monday, December 18

Celebration of the Eucharist

Downstairs Chapel, 9:00 a.m.

Tuesday, December 19

Celebration of the Eucharist

Downstairs Chapel, 9:00 a.m.

Wednesday, December 20

Choir Rehearsal

Church, 7:00 p.m.

Friday, December 22

Celebration of the Eucharist

Downstairs Chapel, 9:00 a.m.

Saturday, December 23

Celebration of the Eucharist

Church, 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 24

Celebration of the Eucharist

Church, 10:00 a.m.

Christmas Vigil Mass

Church, 4:00 p.m. preceded by Carol Sing with Adult and Children's Choirs at 3:30p.m.

Christmas Vigil Mass

Church, 7:00 p.m.

Music for Celebrations of the Eucharist December 16 and December 17

Gathering Song: Prepare the Way of the Lord
Booklet # 5

Preparation: Emmanuel
Booklet # 2

Communion: Creator of the Stars of Night
Hymnal # 334

Recessional: Awake! Awake!
Hymnal # 351

From Fr. Fran

Which Mass Counts for What?

With Christmas falling on a Monday this year, there has been a bit of confusion about next weekend's fourth Sunday of Advent schedule. The old "does this mass count for both" question has returned as such: "If I go to Mass on Christmas Eve will it count for both Sunday and Christmas?" Sorry, there are no "twofer" specials going on next weekend! Of course, the idea of "counting for" has its roots in the idea that our Sunday obligation is more of a "thing" to check off on a list to get us into heaven, rather than an experience that brings us closer to God and one another.

The character of the liturgy on the Fourth Sunday of Advent sets the stage for the drama of the Christmas Scriptures. To skip it is to deprive yourself of an opportunity of God speaking to you, and of the parish family joining together in excitement and prayer before the coming feast.

So, the playbook is as follows for next weekend's Masses: the celebrations for the Fourth Sunday in Advent are Saturday, December 23 at 4PM and Sunday, December 24 at 10 AM. The Masses for the Feast of Christmas are on Sunday, December 24 at 4PM and 7 PM, and Monday, December 25 at 10AM. As is our tradition, the parish adult and children's choirs will join with us in a carol sing before the 4PM Mass on Christmas Eve. Please plan to participate in the festivities beginning at 3:30PM. It will be great to see you there and to worship as a parish family!

A Gift for the Parish.

As the end of the year draws closer, this is a great time to make your donation to this year's Grand Annual Collection. As you can see by our weekly thermometer, we still have *quite* a way to go to hit our goal, but I'm confident we will be able to achieve it with your help. Thanks so much to all who have been so generous so far.

A Rose is a rose.

I'm often asked why, on the Third Sunday of Advent, do we have a change in vesture color? Well, the switch from purple to rose (no, it's not pink) has ancient origins.

It seems that as early as the fifth century, Advent was a six-week season with a penitential character, much like Lent. On the third Sunday of Advent, "Gaudete Sunday" the people were called to "rejoice" that they were halfway to Christmas. This was in keeping with a similar Sunday in Lent "Laetare Sunday" when the disciplines of the season were somewhat relaxed.

When Advent was shortened to four weeks, Gaudete Sunday remained, not as the middle of the season, but as the penultimate celebration before Christmas. With the reforms of Vatican II, the season of Advent is no longer linked so closely with Lent as a penitential season, rather it is seen as a time of intense expectation for the coming of Christ into the world in our day and his return at the end of time.

Just when the hustle of the season can start to get overwhelming, Gaudete Sunday comes along as a reminder to rejoice. In a Gaudete Sunday homily a few years ago, Pope Francis summed the celebration up nicely when he said: "Gaudete Sunday is known as a 'Sunday of joy', and instead of fretting about all they still haven't done to prepare for Christmas, people should think of all the good things life has given them." Pretty good advice, don't you think?

This Sunday's Coffee Hour to Welcome Fr. Carmichael.

Please join us in coffee and conversation after the 10AM Mass this weekend to welcome Fr. Jack Carmichael, our new parochial vicar. As you know, Fr. Carmichael is joining us in anticipation of him being named either administrator or pastor of St. Matthias Parish when my assignment ends this spring. The next few months will be a wonderful opportunity to introduce Fr. Carmichael to our parish family before he "takes the reins". I'm sure you will give him a warm St. Matthias welcome!



WELCOME FR. JACK CARMICHAEL !

COFFEE SOCIAL Sunday, December 17 following Mass in the Parish Hall

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



December 17, 2023

Third Sunday of Advent

FAITH FORMATION

Sunday, December 17

Grades 1-5

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

Third Sunday

**“My soul proclaims the greatness of the
Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.”
Gospel of Luke 1:46-47**

Faith Formation gatherings are in recess until the new year, 2024,



**OUR FATHER'S TABLE
GIFT CARD DRIVE —
FINAL WEEKEND!**



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. Dunkin and McDonald's gift cards will be collected in the **Offertory box this weekend 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 our parish with a contribution towards the Christmas Flowers. Please place your donation and the names of those you wish to memorialize in the “Christmas Flower” 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. **Memorial names will appear in the Christmas Bulletin the weekend of Sunday, December 24.**

Hear Our Prayer, O Lord

Susan Brigham O'Malley

Alice Cox

Joseph Cox

Conor Canavan

John “Jack” Chamberlain

Aline Desjardin

Nathalie Dolan

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.

A NOTE FROM OUR MUSIC DIRECTOR PETER BROCKMANN

This Sunday's Preparation song is offered by our Children's Choir.

These twenty-one young people have been rehearsing with me at the start of their CCD classes twice a month or so this fall.

We've been reviewing the parts of the Mass, learning Greek, Hebrew and Latin while we're at it, and practicing good sound production, breathing and musical memory.

The song is called, “Let Ev'ry Heart Prepare a Throne” by Mark Patterson. It is a delightful Advent time musical prayer with a soaring melody that is well suited to these young and developing voices.

We sang it last year to kick off the Carol-Fest before the 4 pm Mass at Christmas Eve 2022. This year, the Children's Choir have been working on a different selection and will also sing at the Carol-Fest, 3:30 pm on Sunday, December 24, 2023. Come early and sing with us, the world's most beautiful Christmas music and then stay for the celebration of the Mass.
Let us sing!



CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS MASSES AT ST. MATTHIAS PARISH

Sunday, December 24

4:00 p.m. Christmas Vigil Mass

preceded by Carol Sing with Adult and
Children's Choir at 3:30 p.m.

and

7:00 p.m. Christmas Vigil Mass

Monday, December 25

10:00 a.m. Christmas Day Mass

Saint Matthias Parish Financial Results For the First Quarter Ended October 31, 2023

The Parish ended on October 31, 2023 the first quarter of the fiscal year with a loss of (\$10,318).

Total Income for the period was \$99,155 vs. Total Expenses of \$109,473.

During the quarter, the Weekly Offertory averaged approximately \$3,500 per week compared to the budgeted goal of \$4,000 per week.

Here is something to consider – if the Parish had achieved the weekly offertory goal of \$4,000 per week for the 18 weekends of July through October, the Parish would have realized an additional \$9,000 in income. That would have decreased the actual loss of (\$10,318) to a much smaller loss of (\$1,318).

Saint Matthias Parish Financial Results First Quarter Ended October 31, 2023

Total Income:	\$99,155
Total Expenses:	\$109,473
Net Operating Loss:	(\$10,318)

I invite all parishioners to prayerfully consider their level of giving to the Weekly Offertory, and I ask God's blessings for the people of Saint Matthias Parish for their continued generosity.

Deacon Paul

Due to the early submission of the bulletin, the collection information for the weekend of December 9 and December 10 will be posted in next week's bulletin. Thank you.

GRAND ANNUAL CAMPAIGN FY 2024 As of 12/10/23

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:
\$28,130
Remaining to reach goal:
\$51,870
Percentage of goal achieved:
35%
Participating Families: 62

Thank you for your contributions!



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