

Saint Matthias Parish



*409 Hemenway Street
Marlborough, MA*

Parish Leadership

Francis P. O'Brien, Pastor frobrien@stmattpar.org
John Carmichael, Parochial Vicar father.carmichael@stmattpar.org
Doug Peltak, Senior Deacon dcnpeltak@stmattpar.org
Paul G. Coletti, Deacon dcncoletti@stmattpar.org
Russ Morey, Senior Deacon dcnmorey@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

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**



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



St. Matthias Parish



PARISH OFFICE HOURS Week of December 24, 2023

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**.

The Parish will be closed
Monday and Tuesday
In celebration of the Christmas Holiday

INTENTIONS OF THE EUCHARIST

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

Saturday, December 30 — 4:00 p.m.

Richard Desjardin — Memorial

Sunday, December 31 — 10:00 a.m.

Nancy Capobianco — Memorial



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 23

Celebration of the Eucharist
Church, 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 24

Celebration of the Eucharist /4th Sunday of Advent
Church, 10:00 a.m.

Christmas Masses

Church, 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Monday, December 25

Celebration of the Eucharist - Christmas Day
Church, 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, December 27

Choir Rehearsal
Church, 7:00 p.m.

Friday, December 28

Celebration of the Eucharist
Downstairs Chapel, 9:00 a.m.

Saturday, December 29

Celebration of the Eucharist
Church, 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 30

Celebration of the Eucharist
Church, 10:00 a.m.

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

Readings for the Nativity of the Lord December 24 and December 25

First Reading: Isaiah 9:1-6
Second Reading: Titus 2:11-14
Gospel: Luke 2:1-14

Readings for the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph December 30 and December 31

First Reading: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14
Second Reading: Colossians 3:12-21
Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

From Fr. Fran

In a blink of an eye the fourth week of Advent comes and goes, and Christmas is upon us.

A blessed Christmas to one and all from our parish staff!

To parishioners who will be traveling near and far and won't be with us on Christmas Day - may you go with God and enjoy a great time with loved ones. To parishioners who will be welcoming relatives and friends - we look forward to seeing them here with you at our Christmas liturgies. To parishioners who will be struggling with loss - may you be surrounded by Christ's love as you experience the more difficult moments of these blessed days. To parishioners who will be frantic with last minute preparations - you are invited to slow down and recall that a "perfect" Christmas is one where the birth of Christ takes center stage to all other activities. And to the many parishioners who will radiate the joy of the season - please pass it on! Remember, through each one of us, Christ is still being born.

Christmas Masses

Masses for Christmas will be celebrated at St. Matthias Parish on this Saturday, December 24th at 4PM, 7PM and Sunday December 25th at 10AM.

At 3:30PM on Christmas Eve we will have a carol sing before Mass. Please join with our choirs and musicians in a festive singing of the songs of the season that we love so well.

The Collection on Christmas will go to the Archdiocese of Boston in support of our retired and infirm priests. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

A Season of Peace

Each year we welcome in the Christ Child as the Prince of Peace and wish "peace on earth to those of good will." We pray that within our homes, towns, and each nation on earth, there be a true and lasting peace that comes directly from God.

This year, especially, we might be wondering if peace is just a fairy tale. Our sense of hope in humanity may have taken quite a beating. We have witnessed the terror and death in Israel, Gaza, Ukraine and there are many other places in the world where injustice reigns.

Some, taking a cleared eyed look at today's world, might think us naïve to espouse belief in the Peace of Christ, when there is so much violence, incivility, hatred, and injustice all around us. Others may question the presence of God when they see some who call themselves "people of faith" do harm to others in God's name. Still others may turn away from our Catholic faith because of an unwelcoming atmosphere they experience coming from within the church.

However, those of us who continue to hope in Christ's message of peace are willing to trust that, through the difficulties and injustices human beings bring upon each other, God *is* guiding us, God *is* bringing us peace, God *is* loving us. Yet sometimes it is a great challenge to understand how God is accomplishing all this.

One way to recognize God working in our world is to recognize the consequences of our own baptism. Through baptism, God has commissioned us to be active peacemakers for the kingdom. God is relying on us to continue Christ's mission. One of the most powerful ways God continues to work in the world is *through us*.

So then, let us celebrate the coming of the Prince of Peace, by doing what he did – welcoming *everyone* – especially the poor, the outcast and the disenfranchised – as guests at the table of God's love. If we make our best effort to do this, then we will be allowing the Peace of Christ to be born anew in our own corner of the world.

A Season of Feasts

With the **Feast of the Incarnation of Christ**, we begin the 12 days of Christmas. From the heralding of Jesus' birth up until the Feast of the Epiphany, traditionally celebrated on January 6th, Christians celebrate the 12 Days. The season finishes quietly with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, which, this year falls on a Monday.

Next Sunday we will continue the season with **The Feast of the Holy Family**, when we celebrate the core circle of people in Jesus' life, his parents. It was from them that he learned all the things that each child learns. We celebrate the unconditional love, patience and even forgiveness that was part of the Holy Family. We ask God to make this part of our own family life, whatever the shape and size.

And perhaps most importantly this year, let us pray for those families who have left their homelands seeking asylum in our country and right here in Marlborough and Framingham. Can we see in them the embodiment of the Holy Family fleeing into Egypt to escape from King Herod's wrath?

The Christmas Season moves forward on New Year's Day to celebrate **Mary as the Mother of God**. While we continue to reflect upon Jesus' birth in the manger, we now bring into focus his relationship to Mary, a relationship which opens wide the doors of discipleship for her and in turn for all of us. Her willing "yes" to the angel at the Annunciation began that discipleship. As the New Year's resolutions which we may make in the waning hours of 2023 will inevitably fade and disappear, perhaps it would be better to resolve, like Mary, to listen for the voice of God and follow where we will be led by the Holy Spirit in 2024.

The apex of the Christmas Season comes with the **Feast of the Epiphany**, the 12th day of Christmas. Up until this point in the season, only a select few folks in Bethlehem have witnessed the miracle of God becoming one of us. Now, with the visit of foreigners from the East, Jesus is seen as coming, not just for his own people, but for the whole world, and for anyone who would recognize him as brother and Savior. We might pause on this feast to realize that, while people may profess to worship God in many different ways through many different faith traditions, there is, after all, one God who has brought the entire human family to birth. Every person on earth belongs to the same family.

The Christmas Season then comes to a close with the celebration of **Feast of the Baptism of the Lord**. The newborn in the manger has become the man beginning his public ministry of teaching and healing after being baptized by John in the Jordan river. Christ continues this work through us. How will we live out our own baptismal commitments to love and serve God in the year ahead?

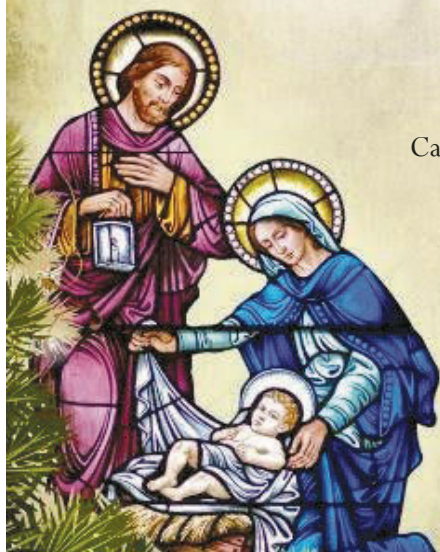
So, there is the entire Christmas Season in a nutshell. The overarching story is that God loved us so intensely that God became one of us and slowly revealed this love to the nations as Jesus grew and preached, died and rose. God is still revealing this love for us in Christ today.

IN MEMORIAM CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS

Please keep the following deceased loved ones in your prayers.

Thank you to our donors for your generous contributions.

Antonia Amadei	Gerald Dolan Family	Katie Lally	Jennie Rauh
Gothardo Amadei	Harold Dolan Family	The Landers Family	Joseph Rauh
Janice Arimone	Edward J. Fallon	The Laspada Family	Flaviano Reyes
John Arnott	Emilienne Fallon	Donna Manning	Remedios Reyes
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	Kathryn Keeler	Arthur Pickett	
	Catherine and Joseph King	Gertrude Pickett	
	Stanislaw Krawiec	Robert Pickett	
	Mary Kunycky		
	N. Neil Kunycky		



Please note, memorial information received as of 12/10/23 included here. Future intentions will be posted in upcoming bulletins. Every effort is made to include memorial information as received. If you find an error, please let the Parish Office know at 508-460-9255 or admin@stmattpar.org.

FAITH FORMATION

“Dear Jesus, may the light of your love always shine in our hearts. As Christmas draws closer, we marvel at your great love for us.

Let your love transform every aspect of our lives and touch everyone we encounter. Our hearts are open to you, Jesus.”
Catholic online

The children of St. Matthias Faith Formation, the catechists, helpers, families wish our faith community the love and peace of our Lord and Savior.



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 received to date appear in this weekend’s bulletin. Future intentions will be posted in upcoming bulletins.**



Hear Our Prayers, 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.

A NOTE FROM OUR MUSIC DIRECTOR PETER BROCKMANN

Today’s article is a special tribute to the hard working members of our parish music ministry. These fine young (and older) people have been gathering for weeks to prepare both their hearts and their musical skills to share special beautiful Christmas music with both you and with God.

Music just doesn’t affect the listener. Its preparation and delivery resonates deeply with the mind, body and soul of the musician too. We are in tune with that experience and joyfully share our music and our preparation every time we make music. We are better people because we’ve sung and accompanied the musical prayer in praise of God. Just as you are better people for having heard our attempts to praise God and joined in with your own voice. This is our musical goal - to do something beautiful for God and in doing so, help you more fully participate in the liturgies of the Church.

Thank you to our musicians, and thank you to our assembly for joining us,

Merry Christmas! Let us sing together.



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

WEEKLY OFFERTORY GOAL \$4,000.00

Feast of the Immaculate Conception - December 8 Offertory Collection

Offertory Collection	\$ 293.00
WeShare Offertory	\$ 115.00
	\$ 408.00

Mass attendance: 59

December 9 and December 10 Offertory Collection

Offertory Collection	\$ 2,279.00
WeShare Offertory	\$ 2,350.00
	\$ 4,629.00

***Surplus to our weekly goal: \$ 629.00**

Mass attendance: 218

Parish Maintenance \$1,180.00

DECEMBER SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Clergy Benefit Trust	December 24 / 25
Christmas Masses	

Thank you for your continued donations.

CLERGY BENEFIT TRUST COLLECTION

Merry Christmas from all the priests of the Archdiocese of Boston. The Christmas Collection supports the retirement, medical and financial needs of priests in good standing throughout the Archdiocese of Boston. These priests have given their lives to faithfully serve Christ, the Church, and you. Please be generous to this important collection. For more information, please visit www.clergytrust.org.

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

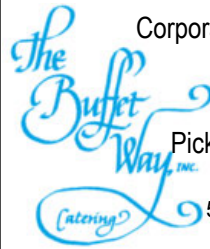
St. Matthias 2024 Grand Annual Collection is underway and we are so thankful to all have contributed to date. This is our most important fundraiser of the year. Our goal this year is to raise \$80,000 dollars.

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



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