

# Saint Matthias Parish

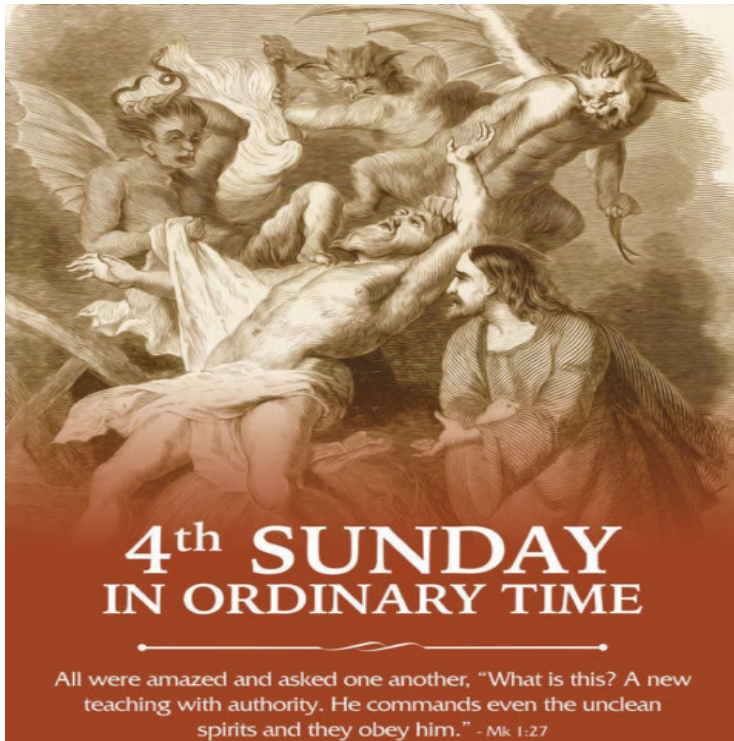
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Phone: 508-460-9255

Website: [www.stmattpar.org](http://www.stmattpar.org)

Facebook: [facebook.com/stmattpar](https://facebook.com/stmattpar)



## Parish Leadership

Francis P. O'Brien, Pastor

[frobrien@stmattpar.org](mailto:frobrien@stmattpar.org)

Doug Peltak, Senior Deacon

[dcnpeltak@stmattpar.org](mailto:dcnpeltak@stmattpar.org)

Paul G. Coletti, Deacon

[dcncoletti@stmattpar.org](mailto:dcncoletti@stmattpar.org)

Russ Morey, Senior Deacon

[dcnmorey@stmattpar.org](mailto:dcnmorey@stmattpar.org)

Theresa Salafia, Faith Formation Director

[tsalafia@stmattpar.org](mailto:tsalafia@stmattpar.org)

Peter Brockmann, Music Director

[pbrockmann@stmattpar.org](mailto:pbrockmann@stmattpar.org)

April Lowe, Office Manager

[alowe@stmattpar.org](mailto:alowe@stmattpar.org)

Darleen Doona, Bookkeeper

[ddoona@stmattpar.org](mailto: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](mailto:tsalafia@stmattpar.org)).

## Community Prayer Line

Our prayer line, coordinated by Marie Mangan (978-760-4105), 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

Saturdays 4:00 PM

Sundays 10:00 AM

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

**If you are in need of assistance, please call**  
**St. Matthias St. Vincent dePaul Society volunteers**  
**978-493-3037**

# St. Matthias Parish



## PARISH OFFICE HOURS Week of January 28, 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, January 27 — 4:00 p.m.**

Carmella and Patrick Mauro — Memorial

**Sunday, January 28 — 10:00 a.m.**

Mary Goulet — Memorial

**Saturday, February 3 — 4:00 p.m.**

Fr. William Wolkovich — Memorial

**Sunday, February 4 — 10:00 a.m.**

Fritz Giesin — Memorial

## Readings for the Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time January 27 and January 28

*First Reading:* Deuteronomy 18:15-20

*Second Reading:* 1 Corinthians 7:32-35

*Gospel:* Mark 1:21-28

## Readings for the Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time February 3 and February 4

*First Reading:* Job 7:1-4, 6-7

*Second Reading:* 1 Corinthians 79:16-19, 22-23

*Gospel:* Mark 1:29-39

## 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.

## THIS WEEK AT ST. MATTHIAS

**Saturday, January 27**

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

**Sunday, January 28**

**Grades 1 through 5**

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

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

**Confirmation I and II**

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

**Monday, January 29**

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

**Tuesday, January 30**

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

**PPC Meeting**

Downstairs Conference Room, 7:15 p.m.

**Wednesday, January 31**

**Choir Rehearsal**

Church, 7:00 p.m.

**Friday, February 2**

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

**Saturday, February 3**

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

**Sunday, February 4**

**Grades 1 through 5**

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

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

**Coffee Social**

Parish Hall following Mass

## Sanctuary and Altar Candles Donation for the month of January

*In Loving Memory of*

**Robert "Bob" Bucher  
Frank and Leah Calore  
Eleanor Laspada  
Joseph Calore**

*The Bucher Family*



**From the Bucher Family**

## From Fr. Fran

**Thank you, Fr. Carmichael**

I have been informed that Cardinal Sean O'Malley has ended Fr. Jack Carmichael's assignment as parochial vicar here at St. Matthias Parish. We thank Fr. Carmichael for his warm pastoral presence over the last few weeks and wish him well in the months ahead. When I am given my new assignment Fr. Carmichael may be back as administrator.

**Changes Coming with the Sacrament of Confirmation**

Cardinal Seán O'Malley has approved a proposal that would lower the age of confirmation within the Archdiocese of Boston from tenth grade to eighth grade. This decision was made after a lengthy consultation with priests, catholic school administrators, parish faith formation directors, and representatives of a number of ministries in the archdiocese. The committee also reached out to a number of other dioceses that have lowered the age of Confirmation.

The question put to these groups was whether lowering the age of Confirmation would increase the likelihood of young people staying with the Catholic Church for their whole lives. It was presented to the groups that youngsters are making the decision to continue with the church or leave it in middle school. The hope is that the lowering of the age of Confirmation will strengthen young people's connection with the church during a time when they are making strides in their intellectual as well as spiritual growth. It was also emphasized that the grace of the sacrament would be of great advantage to youngsters as they begin their high school years.

This change will be phased in over two or three years. Pastors have been given the opportunity to implement the change at their discretion and with great pastoral sensitivity.

For St. Matthias Parish, this change *will not* affect the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders now preparing for the Sacrament. The next administrator/pastor of our parish will be tasked, along with the Faith Formation Director to implement the changes.

Some of us of a certain age may remember that Confirmation was indeed celebrated in middle school for many years. Many of us were confirmed in the 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades. The trend of moving Confirmation to high school took hold during the late seventies. The idea was that we could keep youngsters "in the fold" for a longer period of time if Confirmation occurred in the higher grades. This led, unfortunately, to Confirmation being seen as a "right of passage" rather than what it is – the completion of the Sacraments of Initiation. On the positive side it also led to many great moments of catechesis and service for high schoolers. The many retreats and service projects that were an integral part of formation for Confirmation in high school surely led to many youngsters forming deep faith commitments. It is hoped that this will continue when the age of Confirmation is lowered.

In the early church, when those becoming Catholics were primarily adults, you received the three Sacraments of Initiation, - Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist - all together at the Easter Vigil after a long period of

preparation. This has been recovered today with the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, the RCIA. When entire families were welcomed into the church, children and infants also received all three sacraments together. Over the ages, and for *many* reasons, the three Sacraments of Initiation became separated from each other in the western church, leading to our present tradition of infants being baptized, second graders receiving the eucharist, and highschoolers being confirmed.

While the lowering of the age of Confirmation will have its challenges, it affords us all an opportunity to learn more about the Sacraments of Initiation, rethink how we catechize children, and help us as adults to see how our initiation into the Catholic church initiates us into lifelong service in the name of Christ.



**COFFEE SOCIAL**  
**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4**  
**Parish Hall**  
**Following 10:00 am Mass**

Please join the parish community for friendship, conversation and coffee following Mass in the Parish Hall Sunday February 4.

**WINTER WEATHER CANCELLATIONS FOR**  
**ST. MATTHIAS PARISH**

In all the following circumstances, a notice of cancellation will be found on the parish website, phone system voicemail, and Facebook page.

- When it snows on a weekday, and the Marlborough Schools are closed, the Parish Office will be closed and morning Mass will be canceled. (Notice will be posted by 8AM.)
- There may be some snowy mornings when we will cancel Mass even though Marlborough schools are open. This will be due to conditions around the church. (Notice will be posted by 8AM.)
- If there are day and evening activities scheduled during a snowy period, please check the website frequently to see if your activity is on or off.
- In rare cases, the Saturday 4PM Mass and/or Sunday 10AM Mass may be cancelled. Look for word of those cancellations on the website and voice mail.
- If Sunday Faith Formation classes are canceled, notice will be carried on our local TV stations as well as on our parish resources.

January 28, 2024

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

### FAITH FORMATION

Faith Formation schedule for January is as follows:

#### Sunday, January 28

##### **Grades 1-5**

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

##### **Confirmation I, II**

10:00 a.m. Mass - 11:45 a.m.

Confirmation I and II will attend 10:00 am Mass followed by meetings until 11:45 a.m.

#### Sunday, February 4

##### **Grades 1-5**

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

#### Sunday, February 11

##### **Grades 1-5**

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

##### **Confirmation I, II**

10:00 a.m. Mass - 11:45 a.m.

Confirmation I and II will attend 10:00 am Mass followed by meetings until 11:45 a.m.

*Congratulations to members of Grades 6 through 8 who participated in the "Keep Christ in Christmas" poster contest sponsored by St. Matthias Knights of Columbus (K of C).*

*Winners: First Eli Mansfield and Lukas Kakish*

*Second Eric Dion*

*Third Marissa Stack*

*Thank you to everyone who submitted a poster. Thank you to Knights of Columbus who sponsored this activity.*



*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*

*Ellie Signa*

*Marge Shea Burke*

*Linda Thomasino*

*Jane Walsh*

*Lydia Whitcomb*

*Sharon and David*

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



### BURNING OF PALMS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11

FOLLOWING MASS

In preparation for Ash Wednesday, you are invited to bring any palms you may have at home to church. These palms will be burned and used during the Ash Wednesday service. The burning of the palms will take place after Mass on **Sunday, February 11.**

Receptacles for the palms will be placed at the church entrances the weekends of February 3/4 and February 10/11. Thank you.

### ST. VINCENT DEPAUL SOCIETY

#### A CALL TO SERVE

*Are you looking for ways to experience God?*

Members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul invite you to share in their ministry of experiencing God in serving people living in poverty. We see Christ in our friends in need and, when we see Christ, we experience God. Please contact the President of the St. Matthias Parish - Society of St. Vincent de Paul Conference, Jackie Tolan (978) 493-3037 or [svdptolan@aol.com](mailto:svdptolan@aol.com).

### CORI FORMS

All volunteers will be receiving a CORI form in the mail in the coming weeks. CORI forms will be processed **the weekends of February 24/25 and March 2/3.** When handing in your form, please have a government issued form of ID, such as a driver's license, available for a CORI coordinator to view. **Please note that a form must be completed even if you have already filled out a form for a school or other organization.**

Upon submission of CORI form, you will receive the Code of Ministerial Behavior for the Archdiocese of Boston at that time as well.

If you have any questions please contact April Lowe at [admin@stmattpar.org](mailto:admin@stmattpar.org) or call the parish office 508-460-9255.

### OUR FATHER'S TABLE

MONDAY, JANUARY 29

NEW HOPE CHURCH — (204 MAIN ST.)

St. Matthias Parish community members will be hosting **Our Father's Table** on **Monday, January 29, beginning at 4:00 p.m. At New Hope Church.**

Our Father's Table is an ecumenical outreach program which feeds the poor and homeless in the Marlborough area. We need your HELP! **Volunteers bake desserts and help serve, while one parishioner acts as lead chef.**

For details or to volunteer, please contact Sandy Morey via e-mail: [shirdan44@gmail.com](mailto:shirdan44@gmail.com) or call 603-630-6001.



## WEEKLY OFFERTORY GOAL \$4,000.00

### January 20 and January 21 Offertory Collection

Offertory Collection	\$ 1,397.00
WeShare Offertory	\$ 940.00
	\$ 2,337.00

**\*Deficit to our weekly goal: \$ 1,663.00**

Mass attendance: 232

### *Special Collections — January 2024*

January 27/28 — Church in Latin America

## END OF YEAR DONATION STATEMENTS

Contribution Summaries for 2023 will be sent to parishioners who requested a report last year. To ensure you receive your summary, you may call the parish office at 508-460-9255 or email: [admin@stmattpar.org](mailto:admin@stmattpar.org) to request your statement.



### ***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](http://wesharegiving.org/app/giving/stmatt).

SCAN ME



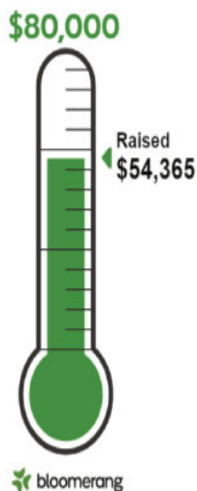
## ***GRAND ANNUAL CAMPAIGN FY 2024*** ***As of 1/14/24***

**St. Matthias 2024 Grand Annual Collection** is progressing nicely 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:	\$54,365
Remaining to reach goal:	\$25,635
Percentage of goal achieved:	68%
Participating Families:	92

*Thank you for your contributions!*



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