

Saint Matthias Parish

409 Hemenway Street
Marlborough, MA 01752

Phone: 508-460-9255

Website: www.stmattpar.org

Facebook: facebook.com/stmattpar

Fifth Sunday of Lent

And when I am lifted up from the earth,
I will draw everyone to myself.

John 12:32

Parish Leadership

Francis P. O'Brien, Pastor

Doug Peltak, Senior Deacon

Paul G. Coletti, Deacon

Russ Morey, Senior Deacon

Theresa Salafia, Faith Formation Director

frobrien@stmattpar.org

dcnpeltak@stmattpar.org

dcncoletti@stmattpar.org

dcnmorey@stmattpar.org

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 (978-760-4105), 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).

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 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 March 17, 2024

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, March 16 — 4:00 p.m.

Memorial

Matthew Lodi

Seymour and Mary Benedetto

Sunday, March 17— 10:00 a.m.

Jim Goulet — Memorial

Saturday, March 23 — 4:00 p.m.

Memorial

Matthew Lodi

Seymour and Mary Benedetto

Sunday, March 24— 10:00 a.m.

Reverend Ray Goulet

Birthday Memorial

Readings for the Fifth Sunday of Lent

March 16 and March 17

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

Second Reading: Hebrews 5:7-9

Gospel: John 12:20-33

Readings for Palm Sunday of the

Passion of the Lord

March 23 and March 24

Gospel at the Procession: Mark 11:1-10

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-7

Second Reading: Philippians 2:6-11

Gospel: Mark 14:1-15:47

Sanctuary and Altar Candles **Altar Bread and Wine Donation** **for the Month of March**

In Loving Memory of

William Bruce-Tagoe

Requested by Betty Myers

THIS WEEK AT ST. MATTHIAS

Saturday, March 16

Celebration of the Eucharist

Church, 4:00 p.m.

St. Patrick's Day Dinner

Parish Hall following Mass

Sunday, March 17

Faith Formation — Grades 1 through 5

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

Celebration of the Eucharist

Church, 10:00 a.m.

Faith Formation — Confirmation I and II

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

Monday, March 18

Celebration of the Eucharist

Downstairs Chapel, 9:00 a.m.

Tuesday, March 19

Celebration of the Eucharist

Downstairs Chapel, 9:00 a.m.

Wednesday, March 20

Choir Rehearsal

Church, 7:00 p.m.

Friday, March 22

Celebration of the Eucharist

Downstairs Chapel, 9:00 a.m.

Saturday, March 23

Celebration of the Eucharist

Church, 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 24

Celebration of the Eucharist

Church, 10:00 a.m.

Faith Formation — Grades 6 through 8

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

CONTACT INFORMATION UPDATE

Have you moved recently? Did you get a cell and ended home phone service? Did you get an email address or change email provider? Contact the office to ensure we are updated. Email (admin@stmattpar.org) or call the parish office (508-460-9255). ~Thank you!

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.

From Fr. Fran

Meeting With Bishop Mark O'Connell

Members of our Parish Pastoral Council, Finance Council, and staff met last week with the Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Boston, Bishop Mark O'Connell. The discussion focused on the frustration our parish leadership has experienced with the archdiocese in regard to our participation in the Pastoral Collaborative process. Our leadership was also concerned about the future of our parish as a new pastor is about to be appointed upon my departure this spring. I'd like to thank those who attended the meeting for their candor and their dedication to the life of our parish. I'd also like to thank Bishop Mark for agreeing to meet with us and for his thoughtful and pastoral response to our concerns.

All in all, it was a very good meeting. Our parishioners outlined how the back and forth of the Pastoral Collaborative process has resulted in a feeling of instability in the parish. Some participants wondered if we have been forgotten out here on the edge of the archdiocese. A frustration was voiced that the decision for St. Matthias *not* to become a Pastoral Collaborative with St. Michael was not communicated to us in a timely or appropriate manner last spring. Also expressed were concerns that the next pastor be someone who is open to listening to and respecting the parish leadership and not a "my way or the highway" kind of leader.

In response, Bishop Mark apologized for the way in which our situation was handled last spring. He conveyed that the archdiocese decided to wrap up Pastoral Collaborative process by June of last year. A good number of assignments needed to be settled in the closing weeks of May. Ours was one of the situations that he acknowledged should have been handled better. He does not foresee that St. Matthias will be in a Pastoral Collaborative going forward. He sees the need and value in our parish continuing to be an important pastoral presence in our community. He expressed that he will try his best to find a priest to be our next pastor who will reflect the hopes and desires of the parish leadership.

He also admitted that as we in the parish are feeling a sense of instability, the archdiocese is going through something similar, in that the archdiocese is anticipating the retirement of Cardinal Sean. As the cardinal himself put it in a recent Boston Globe interview, his retirement will come "sooner rather than later". It's anybody's guess who Pope Francis will name as our new archbishop and in what pastoral direction he will take the archdiocese.

This "in-between time" is not easy. As our parish and our archdiocese awaits new leadership, let us ask the Holy Spirit to guide those making decisions, and to help us to walk into the future with open hearts.

Come Celebrate The Most Important Days of the Church Year

Holy Week and the Easter Triduum are the focal point of our liturgical year. Everything else stems from the celebrations about to take place.

We begin with **Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion** which has a two-fold character. The celebration starts as we remember Jesus' triumphant entry into the city of Jerusalem

with our procession around the church (on Sunday) or from the back to the front of the church (on Saturday). Then we hear the story of Christ's Passion which leads us into a deep reflection on the final days of Jesus' work on earth.

On Tuesday of Holy Week, **The Chrism Mass** will be celebrated at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross in Boston. Cardinal Sean will bless the sacred oils which will be used in the sacraments of Baptism (Oil of Catechumens, Chrism), Confirmation (Chrism again) and the Sacrament of the Sick (Oil of the Sick). These blessed oils will then be distributed to all the parishes within the archdiocese.

The rest of the week is rather quiet until we come to Holy Thursday evening when the **Easter Triduum** begins. The word "triduum" means "three days". The Easter Triduum is an entire season in itself. **The three days consist of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and The Easter Vigil/Easter Day.** The days begin at *sundown*, keeping the ancient tradition of days commencing in the evening.

The liturgical celebrations of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and The Easter Vigil/Easter Day are seen as one continuous feast, with three distinct movements. Holy Thursday moves us into the season with the commemoration of the Last Supper and contains the "mandatum" or the washing of the feet at which time Jesus commands his disciples to do for others what he has done for them. With our washing of each other's feet, he is commissioning us to do the same.

The second movement of the Easter Triduum comes on **Good Friday** with the commemoration of Jesus' Passion and the Veneration of the Cross. Traditionally this celebration is held at 3 pm in the afternoon on Good Friday. However, in our part of the world, it has become tradition to gather on Good Friday evening.

From Good Friday night to Holy Saturday evening we have a very unique second day of the Triduum. It is sometimes called a day without sacraments. There is no major liturgical movement on this day. It's as if we are keeping watch, waiting for the celebration of Christ's resurrection.

With dusk on Saturday the **Easter Vigil** begins the third day of the Triduum. Throughout the world the faithful gather around the Easter fire, bless the Easter candle, process into a darkened church and share the new light until the building is aglow with light of Christ piercing the darkness. Those adults who have been preparing to join the church will be baptized at his celebration, and the already baptized will renew their vows to love and serve God and one another.

The third day of the Easter Triduum continues on **Easter Sunday morning** with joyous celebrations of the resurrection. The Triduum ends as dusk descends on Easter Evening with the celebration of Evening Prayer.

I would like to personally invite everyone to come together and celebrate these wonderful liturgies at St. Matthias Parish. Holy Week and Easter provide us another opportunity to reconnect with each other as we join in prayer, praise, and song, thanking God for the gift of new life in Christ.

March 17, 2024

Fifth Sunday of Lent

FAITH FORMATION

Faith Formation schedule is as follows:

Sunday, March 17

Grades 1 through 5 8:45-9:45 a.m.

Parish Hall/Classroom/Conference Room

Confirmation I and II— 9th and 10th Grade

10:a.m. Mass followed by meetings in Parish Hall/Classroom

Sunday, March 24

Grades 6, 7 and 8 10:00 a.m. mass followed by meeting in parish hall until 11:45a.m.

There are no scheduled classes for Easter Sunday, March 31.

Sunday, April 7

Grades 1 through 5 8:45-9:45 a.m.

Parish Hall/Classroom/Conference Room

Grades 6, 7 and 8 10:00 a.m. mass followed by meeting in parish hall until 11:45a.m.

Sunday, April 28

First Eucharist — 10:00 a.m. Mass

Parish Hall/Classroom/Conference Room



Hear Our Prayer, O Lord

Arthur C.

Melissa C.

William C.

Alice Cox

Joseph Cox

Conor Canavan

John "Jack" Chamberlain

Aline Desjardin

Andrea Durant

Claire Fallon

Craig Fallon

Rachael Goulet

Rosalie Green

Brian Hendrix

River Kaplun

Marie Mangan

Patrick Mauro

Donna McGuire

Keith Morey

Debra Natoli

Keri Prindle

Ellie Signa

Marge Shea Burke

Linda Thacker

Linda Thomasino

Jane Walsh

Lydia Whitcomb

Sharon and David

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

One of the musical policies we follow at St Matthias is to choose Communion hymns with simple and familiar refrains so that a member of the assembly in the Communion procession can sing the refrain from memory, and reflect on the lyric of the hymn from the cantor and/or the choir.

"No Greater Love" by Michael Joncas is no exception to this policy. It has been quite a while since we last sang this (Passion Sunday and Good Friday last year, I think), but nevertheless, after the introduction and a verse or two, I'm confident that the refrain will come back to you:

"There is no greater love, says the Lord,
Than to lay down your life for a friend;
There is no greater love,
No greater love,
Than to lay down your life for a friend."



Let us sing!

Dear Neighbor,

The Marlborough Community Cupboard and the Pearl Street Cupboard & Café are currently facing a critical shortage of food pantry staples due to the recent overwhelming number of families seeking assistance.

Food distributed monthly at our food pantries has increased 85.6% since last year at this time and our budget is insufficient to meet the immense demand.

In light of this urgent situation, we are reaching out to our generous donors and volunteers to help us fill the gap. We are requesting food donations to help us fill our shelves again and provide immediate relief to our communities.

Food Drive: Urgent Need | United Way of Tri-County (uwotc.org)



85.6% INCREASE

in the amount of food distributed monthly at our food pantries since last year.

EASTER CANDLE

Each year, during the Easter Vigil, the ceremonial lighting of the new Paschal candle occurs. A large fire is lit, blessed by the pastor and the Paschal candle is lit from this flame. The lighting of the Paschal candle represents the light of Christ coming into the world to drive out darkness.

As you know with rising prices, the candle cost has gone up. It is \$800 for a new candle. If you would like to help defer this cost for the Parish, you or a group of your loved ones or friends can contribute in honor or in memory of someone or just in-kind. Please place your donation in a marked envelop and let us know who is making the generous donation. Place your donation in the Offertory Box.

WEEKLY OFFERTORY GOAL \$4,000.00

March 9 and March 10 Offertory Collection

Offertory Collection	\$ 2,529.00
WeShare Offertory	\$ 2,260.00
	\$ 4,789.00

***Weekly goal exceeded by: \$ 789.00**

Parish Maintenance Collection \$ 1,545.00

Mass attendance: 277

Special Collections — March 2024

March 23/24 — Parochial Schools
March 28 — CRS Rice Bowl Collection
March 29 — Holy Land Good Friday Collection
March 30/31 — Easter Clergy Trust

Catering for all Occasions



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EASTER FLOWERS



Easter is a time filled with joy and reflection of the incredible sacrifice Christ made for us. A small part of that Easter joy is the beautiful arrangements of flowers adorning the church. The floral displays remain throughout the 50 days of the Easter season. You may help offset the cost of the flowers with an Easter flower donation. Your contribution may be made in honor of a deceased loved one or other special intention. Easter Flower envelopes can be found at the church entrances. Place the envelope with your name and the names of those you wish to honor on it and drop it in the collection bin located at the back of the church. Contributions may also be made on-line through WeShare (www.wesharegiving.org/app/giving/stmatt).

HONEY DEW 4:30AM-6PM EVERYDAY

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CATHOLIC APPEAL 2024

The Catholic Appeal is a way that we can fortify, sustain, and expand the many ministries and services that serve thousands across the Archdiocese. We are so grateful to all of you who have helped launch a successful 2024 Catholic Appeal campaign here at St. Matthias. To date, we have raised \$6,125, which means we are at 29% of our goal. Thank you for responding in faith, hope, and charity by making a gift to the 2024 Catholic Appeal. If you have not had a chance to do so, please consider making your gift to the Appeal today by picking up an envelope at the back of the church or make an on-line donation at www.bostoncatholicappeal.org. *Thank you.*



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*Every gift to the Appeal, no matter the amount, has meaning and purpose, and every gift plays an integral part in the vital mission of the Archdiocese of Boston. - Cardinal Seán C. Pádraig

bostoncatholicappeal.org/donate4

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