



God Is Good News

ADVENT—CHRISTMAS

NOV. 2019—JAN. 2020

A little piece of...

Christmas in Bethlehem



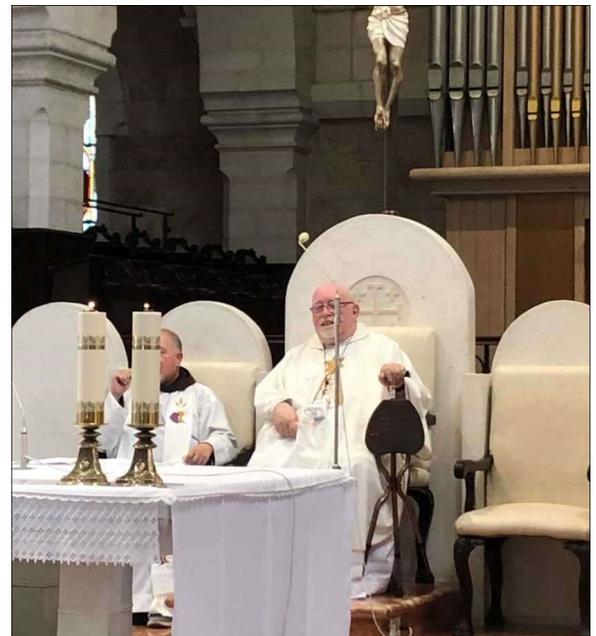
...Comes to St. Matthias

On September 9, 25 pilgrims from St. Matthias, led by Fr. Ray, left Cleveland for the long flight to Israel where they would begin a time of prayer, reflection and touring throughout the Holy Land. Their pilgrimage to the Holy Land would take them to the places of Jesus' birth, ministry, suffering death and resurrection. Follow their journey in the special section on pages 7-11.

Mass was celebrated in the Chapel of St. Helena at the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem.



At far right, Fr. Ray in the Patriarch's Chair in the main church sanctuary.



Wishing YOU and All Our St. Matthias Family a Holy Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

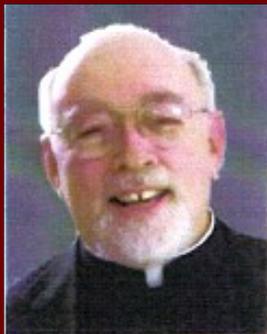
Figure of the Infant Jesus in the sanctuary of the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem.

What's in the box? A hand-carved olive wood nativity from the Holy Land. Look for the new nativity set in the church in Advent.



Fr. Ray displays one of the figurines from the nativity set.

PadRay Ponders



Discipleship

Through our
Baptism
we are ALL
called to be
disciples of
Jesus Christ.

Active disciples follow baptismal call

Dear Disciples,

On Friday, November 8, we held our bi-annual Appreciation Dinner for those members of our Church family who assist in the many ministries of the church. About 200 folks attended.

There are approximately 1,300 registered members of St. Matthias. On any given weekend between 450 to 500 folks attend



Eucharist at St. Matthias. So to have 200 of the actual active church members - about 15 percent - involved in ministry is a remarkable number.

We usually refer to this group as parish "volunteers," but I would like to stop using that term "volunteer"; instead I believe we are ALL called to be "disciples"!

Both are commendable. Most organizations could not exist without volunteers who offer their time and talent to the organization. But disciples are people who volunteer because it's their baptismal responsibility. Disciples don't minister to "help Father"; they participate because they are fulfilling their baptismal responsibilities.

So even if you can't participate in a formal ministry, you are being a disciple when you help someone cross the street, when you hold a door for someone, or cook a meal for a sick neighbor. We are ALL called, all the baptized, to be disciples of Jesus Christ!

Peace and Good,

Terri Mattie was honored at the appreciation dinner for her outstanding discipleship to our parish. Following the tradition of discipleship inherited from her parents, Terri serves in many roles including Altar Server, Greeter, Eucharistic Minister of Holy Communion, Proclaimer, Sacristan at the 4:00 pm Mass and a member of the RCIA team



Be an Advent Wreath Lighter

The first week of advent is right around the corner! If anyone is interested in lighting the advent wreath before Mass, please contact Ann Clark at ann.clark@stmatthiaschurch.org.





Something for everyone in Advent

Thanksgiving Day Mass, Thursday, November 28, 9:00 a.m.

The Thanksgiving Day Mass is not only a Mass to give thanks for all the blessings we have been given, but also a time to share with others. During the offertory procession, we are collecting non-perishable items as well as monetary donations for Brookside and our Good Samaritan Ministry as well as postage stamps for the Jail Ministry. Please bring an item to donate. After Mass, enjoy coffee, pastry and fellowship.

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

This year, December 8 is on a Sunday. The Feast of the Immaculate Conception has been moved to Monday, December 9. This year it is not considered a Holy Day of Obligation. We will have only one Mass on Dec. 9, our 8:30 morning Mass.



Advent and Christmas Reading

The Word Among Us ~ Come Let Us Adore Him, a booklet of reflection is a great preparation for Christmas. Books will be in the Gathering Area for a free-will donation.

Giving Tree

The Giving Tree will be set up in the church Gathering Area in time for Thanksgiving. Tags on the tree are for Brookside, Jail Ministry, Metanoia, Military Postage, Good Samaritan and Womankind. Bring your unwrapped donation to the church with the tag attached and place it under the tree by Sunday, December 8.

“The Breath of God” ~ Friday, Dec. 13, 7 p.m.

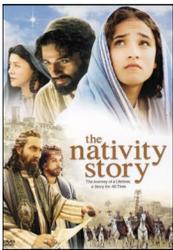
Take a break to catch your breath and join Fr. Art for an experience in prayer.

Adopt a Family ~ Now through Dec. 13

We have a list of families in the area that need to be “adopted” for Christmas. We will supply the family and their Christmas wishes. Gifts need to be returned by December 13 in order to have them delivered in time for Christmas. Call Chris at the rectory for more information (440) 888-8220 ext 13.

Christmas Movies ~ Dec. 6 and Dec. 20, 7 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 6 – *The Nativity Story*



It's the beginning of a passage of Scripture that many of us have unintentionally memorized by virtue of its repeated readings at Christmastime – ever since there was a reason to celebrate what we now call Christmas. *The Nativity Story* doesn't recite it word for word, but the onscreen happenings bring the precious narrative to life as Mary and Joseph make their laborious way from Nazareth to Bethlehem in obedience to the governmental edict and to fulfill the ancient prophecy of a Messiah to be born in the City of David.

Friday, December 20 – *How The Grinch Stole Christmas*

In this live-action adaptation of the beloved children's tale by Dr. Seuss, the reclusive green Grinch (Jim Carrey) decides to ruin Christmas for the cheery citizens of Whoville. Reluctantly joined by his hapless dog Max, the Grinch comes down from his mountaintop home and sneaks into town to swipe everything holiday-related from the Whos. However, the bitter grump finds a hitch in his plans when he encounters the endearing Cindy Lou Who (Taylor Momsen).



Christmas Liturgy Schedule

Christmas
Tue. Dec. 24
4:00 p.m. & Midnight Mass
Wed. Dec. 25
10:00 a.m.

Feast of the Holy Family
Sat. Dec. 28
4:00 p.m.
Sun. Dec. 29
9 a.m. & 11 a.m.

Solemnity of Mary
Tue. Dec. 31
4:00 p.m.
Wed. Jan. 1
10:00 a.m.



**“Change
for a
Change”
Builds a
House**



“Change for a Change”...

A little can make a big difference

Build a new house for \$4,000? You’ve got to be kidding. No, we’re not kidding. That’s what the coins, bills and checks you drop into our “Change for a Change” jar will do through our Advent project.

As disciples, we’re called to create memories and to instill a sense of worth and purpose in each other. How about having a memory of giving the poorest of the poor a building they can make into a home for Christmas.

Just as baby Jesus did not have a home in which to be born, the idea of providing a home for a poor family at Christmas is intriguing and could be an opportunity to create a special Christmas memory for all of us.

This Advent season we as a community will take our “Change for a Change” and dedicate it to building a house for a needy family in one of the Central American countries through Food for the Poor. We’ll distribute envelopes with a sticker identifying it as a contribution for the Christmas House. You can place the envelopes in the collection basket during Mass to register your contribution, or put



Home Sweet Home



This simple house with electricity and a sanitary system would be a castle to a family in need who’s never had anything so good.

your change or cash into the change for a change bottle, or put your envelope with your contribution into the “Change for a Change” bottle in the Gathering Area.

A house with solar powered electricity, solid protection from the elements, and a sanitary system costs about \$4,000. It’s hard to believe, but true. As you make out your Christmas list, join us in providing a Christmas home for some family who has never had one.

Maybe we can even provide a house for more than one family, who in turn will transform it into a home. Peace and great joy as we prepare to celebrate the birth and coming of our savior and God, Jesus Christ.



Deacon Ken blesses one of the many pets gathered at the church for the annual pet blessing on Sunday, October 5. Dozens of pet owners brought their furry friends for the annual blessing.



For our Liturgy Commission Director...

Forming disciples is the core

If there's anyone who knows about discipleship, it's Ann Clark. Ann is a 30-year parishioner who has a long history of discipleship at St. Matthias and throughout the community. She defines a disciple as "a person who has decided to follow in the ways Jesus has set to live in this world."



Ann's life certainly exemplifies this. After serving as a PSR volunteer for two years, Ann became our Pastoral Associate from 2001 to 2010. With Fr. Ray's encouragement, she earned

a certification as a Lay Ecclesial Minister as well as a Master's Degree in Theology.

For the past four years, she has worked for Catholic Charities as the Director of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, and on December 1, Ann will become the Director of Volunteer Op-

portunities in Direct Service for the Sisters of Notre Dame.

Ann's current contribution to St. Matthias is as the Director of the Liturgy Commission. In this role she promotes a "vibrant and faith-filled liturgy" which she sees as the heart of any parish. She believes that liturgy is also a way of "giving thanks to God and forming more deeply as a community." To that end Ann's role is to lead and oversee the many details involved in creating meaningful liturgical worship.

One of these tasks is to provide training as well as opportunities for spiritual growth for our Liturgical Ministers which include the Choir, Cantors, Greeters, Ushers, Altar Servers, Proclaimers, Eucharistic Ministers, and members of the Environment and Martha Ministries. In October these fellow disciples were invited to attend both a day-long retreat and a Liturgical Ministers Workshop. Through this outreach and others, Ann continues to reach her goal to help "form true disciples who love the Lord and who want to bring about His kingdom now – His kingdom of peace and justice."



Karen Sweeney, Sheri Zechman, Joe Mikolajczyk, and Grace Starinsky seen here with Retreat Director Amy McKenna (center) were among the 40 parishioners who met to pray and get creative ideas for deepening their respective liturgical ministries. The retreat was held at the Cleveland Metropark's Watershed Stewardship Center on Ridgewood on October 12. McKenna is Director of the Spirituality Program for Adults at Saint Ignatius High School.

Retreat and workshop held for Liturgical Ministers

More than 50 parishioners, including Bonnie Ciulla, Ellen Manns and Marvette McMinn (front right), met at St. Matthias Sunday afternoon, October 27, for a Liturgical Ministers workshop.



"A disciple is a person who has decided to follow in the ways Jesus has set to live in this world."



Christ caring for people through people

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Sometimes
that's all
you need.

Someone
to talk to.

Someone
to sit with.

Someone
who cares.



Are you struggling with something – divorce, loss of job, loneliness, illness, empty nest syndrome or other hurts? Do you need someone who will listen without judgment? Do you need help processing situations in your life? A Stephen Minister may be for you. The St. Matthias Stephen Ministry is up and running. If you believe you are a candidate for the non-professional support from a Stephen Minister or know someone who might be, please contact Deacon Tom at (216) 235-8264 or tlitwin18@att.net or contact the rectory at (440) 888-8220.

Have you lost a loved one?

Losing a loved one is never easy, and it can be especially hard at holiday times. Here are some excerpts from the booklet *Losing Someone Close* by Dr. Robert DiGuilio. The booklet is available in the church office.

Dr. DiGuilio remembers the day he was told a car accident had taken the lives of his wife, oldest daughter and his wife's parents. He says afterward he felt "utterly vacant, unsure and angry" and experienced a deep depression for the first time in his life.

He says although he "hasn't come up with any simple answers or solutions to the pain of loss," he hopes his thoughts about grieving "will bring you strength and aid as you cope with the loss of your loved one."

■ **Accept your feelings.**

"Along with sadness, you may be hit by a flood of other, sometimes conflicting, feelings...accept and even embrace such feelings as natural and normal and an integral part of the healing process."

■ **Let people know what you need.**

"Don't be afraid to ask for what you need...Friends and family often want to help but don't know how. If you let them know specific ways they can help, you'll be doing them, as well as yourself, a favor."

■ **Treasure your relationships.**

"Many people who lose someone close feel abandoned and alone...try being with people who are also grieving...The survival of those who have found healing after loss is reassurance that you, too, can endure. Also find people with whom you can laugh and cry and share new experiences. They will help you mend your shattered life."

■ **Draw on Faith for Healing.**

"As you struggle to make sense of your tragedy, reassure yourself that it's okay to be angry with God...God shares the hurt in your heart and wants to lead you to new hope and peace."

■ **Be patient with yourself.**

"Grieving has many stages...These stages may come in any order, any number of times. Give yourself time to move through grief at your own pace."

■ **Take heart.**

"The one that you have loved and lost will always be with you, in memory and in prayer...As impossible as it may seem right now, a time will come when you will be able to laugh and live and love again."



At this holiday time,
please remember those
serving in the military,
especially the members
of our parish family...

Alex Davis
Delaney Davis
Christopher Dominick
Kevin Frattin
Joshua Haugh
David Jaklitsch
Brian Kinzeler

Jacob Kral
Antonio Lonero
Ricky Richardson
Sean Sirl
Aaron Sykora
Jacob Thomas
Francisco Ubri



**Special
Feature**

God Is Good News

Parish Trip to the Holy Land

For our pilgrims...

It was an experience of a lifetime

September 9, 2019, was the start of an amazing journey for 25 pilgrims from St. Matthias. Travel with them as they share their experience through the Holy Land and what it meant to them.

By Cole Huzl

***Parishioner,
Senior at Walsh Jesuit High School***

It was a breezy Saturday morning. The birds were chirping and my family had our usual Saturday donuts. We were on our way to the airport. When we got there, we raced to get in line, even though we were really early. My parents always want to be on time.

I took a seat at Gate 14 while thoughts were tumbling through my head. I kept asking questions to myself like, how will this experience affect me spiritually? What will it be like in a place so far from home? Am I even safe? Before I knew it, my sister walked over with her Starbucks and said, “Are you ready, bud?” I couldn’t find the words

to answer. My body was paralyzed, and my nerves were taking over. Before I knew it, the flight attendant announced that it was time to board. This was really it, I was about to leave home. We were headed to Israel.

I was anxious. I really did not know what to expect besides learning about Jesus. My Mom and Dad told me they hoped I’d change my heart on this. I did not know if that was a negative comment towards me or my parents knowing the trip would be extraordinary.

Once I opened my eyes it made me learn more about my religion and history of



Cole’s parents, Michelle and Dave, renewed their marriage vows at the chapel dedicated to the wedding feast at Cana.

that area. I got to view holy sites from where Jesus was born to where he was crucified and resurrected. I got to experience this with my family and church friends.

I have never been out of the United States before, and I was not sure I wanted to go. I have heard negative news about that part of the world and I was a little

Continued on next pages...



Cole Huzl, his brother, sister, parents and aunt take a break on the family’s “experience of a lifetime” through the Holy Land — a trip that involved hiking, walking, praying, waiting in long lines in extreme heat and an occasional opportunity to rest — as they followed the journey of Jesus from his birth to his crucifixion.

Holy Land experience of a life

Bethlehem

“Mass at the Grotto in the Church of the Nativity. Singing Silent Night. Praying for all your intentions that were written and placed in the bag on the altar, and crying tears of gratitude. God is good.”

Fr. Ray

afraid of traveling there. Also, the language and culture are completely different. Added to this, I struggled with going because I did not want my grades to suffer due to missing school.

In the past, going to Mass was a routine. Many times, I would sit in church and be distracted. I could only focus on what I had to do after Mass. Sometimes I admit, I got caught up in the routine of my religion and I was going through the motions. I always felt like I had a good relationship with God, but I wanted more. I truly prayed that this trip would bring me closer to God.

When I got off the plane, I realized I needed to keep an open mind. This was a guided tour with the leader telling us “my job is to make the Bible come alive.” He provided us with both religious and cultural backgrounds of the places we visited. The events that had the biggest impact on me were visiting Bethlehem where Jesus was born, going to the Jordan River where he was baptized, and walking the path of his death and resurrection. Along the way I gained a better understanding of the cultures in the area, specifically the Israel and Palestine division.

Visiting Bethlehem was the first impactful place we visited. Traveling into Bethlehem was a little unsettling. We had to go through the

border that divides the Jews and Arabs. As we drove closer to the scene of the Nativity, we saw the wall that divides the two worlds. Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem, located in the Palestine region of Israel. I did not know much about how religions separated, but I learned that today, Muslims, Jews and Christians all live there. In fact, Christians make up only 12 percent of the Palestine area. I learned that these cultures in general get along. For instance, our tour guide was Jewish and our bus driver “was Muslim, and they are very good friends. They explained to us



that the extreme sides of the political parties are the ones causing the problems that I heard about prior to going there.

Bethlehem

Why was Jesus born in Bethlehem? Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census be taken. Since Joseph was from Bethlehem he needed to go back. Mary was pregnant, and during those times family or friends would offer a room in their home to be their guest. Nobody had a place for Mary and Joseph to stay, so they were offered a grotto where the animals were kept.

Many of the holy places have churches that are built above them to preserve the area and provide space for tourists to visit. When we entered the site where Jesus was born, we walked down a long driveway. We went to the side of the church and went downstairs. As I preceded down to the bottom, I felt like I was entering a cave. I dragged my hands along the rocky uneven walls that were very old but beautiful. I had to duck my head on



Many sites in the Holy Land have churches built over them. This one is the Basilica of the Annunciation, built over the cave where tradition says that Mary lived when the Angel Gabriel announced that she was chosen to be the Mother of God.



A boat ride on the River Jordan was the perfect place for a scripture reading about Christ's baptism. As Sharon Renner recalls, "It was very calm when we were out but got really choppy later in the afternoon. Our tour guide told us that severe storms blow in frequently just as they did in the Bible."

many occasions because the ceilings were very low. We sat downstairs in the grotto. Afterwards we had Mass in a small chapel. There was very little air circulating, but it was a Mass I will never forget because of where we were.

When we came upstairs, the line was three hours long to see the physical scene of the nativity. Even though we did not see that, I was so fascinated that we were at the holy place where our Savior was born. I felt special that I got to witness and see something that so many never get to focus their eyes on.

River Jordan

The second impactful place for me was going to the Jordan River. This is the place where John baptized Jesus. When we got off the bus I noticed tour buses lined up as far as I could see. It was hot and the exhaust from the buses only made it hotter. When we entered the area, there were people selling rosaries, magnets, bibles and bottled water. Sometimes the sellers got aggressive with customers because this is their only source of income.

We went through the building and began to walk outside. The water was peaceful and calm. As I walked down the slippery old steps, I felt the water splash on my skin. It was refreshing and overwhelming at the same time. While small little minnows circled my feet and legs, it



Our Pilgrim Leaders: Fr. Patrick from Albuquerque, New Mexico, Deacon Tom and Fr. Ray.

dawned on me that the water I was walking in is the same water that Jesus was baptized in. Jesus had no sin, yet he was baptized in this water. Thousands of years later it is the same exact water. It was mindboggling. It was memorable because we renewed our baptismal promises. There was a buzz and energy in the air that was contagious. As I scanned the crowds I saw people of every race and ethnicity. Everyone was represented. I stood next to my sister and my mom. I heard the click of a phone and the photo was captured. That picture will remain locked in my heart forever. I watched the strong emotions of others and knew this was a special place.

On Sunday I experienced the most impactful day of our trip. I woke up with mixed emotions. Today was the day we were going to walk the Via Dolorosa, which is the way of the cross and the path that Jesus walked to his crucifixion. I was excited to experience the exact



Your prayer intentions traveled with our pilgrims and were placed on the altar at our Masses.

Cana and the River Jordan

"Our trip has given me a deeper faith and love for Christ. We renewed our vows at the site of the Wedding at Cana, renewed our baptismal promise in the same water Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River, walked the path of Jesus' crucifixion...and much, much more. I am forever grateful that I was able to experience it with our family and church."

Michelle Huff Huzi

Holy Land experience of a life

Mount Tabor

“We were on the site of the Transfiguration of our Lord, the same mount where Elijah and Moses conversed with Christ, where Peter, James, and John joined him and wanted to stay on the mountain to worship but they needed to come down. Like them we need to come down from our lofty mountain top and put our prayers, our lives, our faith into action.”

Deacon Tom

walk Jesus took but sad with disbelief that this could even take place. How could people let this happen? I must admit, I didn't have the greatest understanding on how he died. Our group of 43 people walked every step of this long path. At every stop the priest would read the passion of Christ and it really amazed me how he went through all this pain for all of us. The people shouted, kicked him, spit on him and ridiculed him. It was like watching a horror movie in slow motion because you are walking through and hearing the story, but you don't want anyone to die at the end. How could one human endure this pain and suffering?



After a long day of walking, sweating, exhaustion and overwhelming emotion, I could not imagine what Jesus was feeling. Jesus went through extreme pain and suffering just to give everyone a better life. He sacrificed everything he had without even committing a sin. This truly hurt in my gut.

Holy Sepulcher

Imagine having such a better understanding in something you believe by physically being there. It was truly amazing. When we reached the Holy Sepulcher, we went upstairs to where the cross was. Back then the crosses were hollow, and they set them down into rock that locked the cross in place. At this time the crowds were growing, and everyone was el-

bowing each other. The crowds were getting feisty and everyone wanted to see and take pictures.

When we reached the top of the steps which was originally the top of the hill, there was a lot of pushing and shoving. It was annoying but neat that after all these years people still wanted to see where Jesus died. When we finally got to the front we were able to kneel under the altar. We got to go one by one. I walked up and knelt. I felt alone with God in this room of a thousand people. I was able to reach my hand down the hole where Jesus' cross was placed. It was a feeling of connection.



Mass at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, built over the spot believed to be the burial place of Jesus.

I felt like there was absolutely nothing that could have interrupted my time with God.

When we went downstairs many people were kneeling and all I could see was the beautiful chandelier lights hanging over that piece of limestone rock. As our tour guide explained,

Just about every night after dinner we pilgrims gathered after dinner to pray and reflect on the "highs and lows" of our experiences of the day.



when they took Jesus' body off the cross he was laid here. They cleaned and anointed his body with oils. He was wrapped in bright white garments. We went forward and knelt down to pray.



The crowd began to grow and the room began to shrink. We then walked to the tomb. It was a church within a church. There were tall candles at the front of the entrance with a wooden door. The crowd was impatient, yet many people played on their phones. The suspense was growing. After waiting an hour, we hit the halfway mark. This was the back of the tomb area where candles and praying took place in a small chapel-like area.

Many people were walking around the edges of the line and cutting. One man in a pink shirt stood on the edge trying to filter in the line that he just cut. He did not speak English and many people were shouting at him to go to the back of the line.

My temper began to rise, and I started to feel warm. I had been standing for an hour and this guy was seriously trying to cut? The crowd began to get louder and louder chanting "Go back. Go back." The man was talking with his hands and he would not budge. The more the crowd shouted the more animated the man became. Is this how the crowd was with Jesus?

I would hope that I would be the one to carry the cross for Jesus. I would hope that I would be the one to wipe his face and stand up for him. Now that I have had this experience, it has changed me. I feel like I am closer to God. I could never say I walked in his shoes but walking on the same ground that Jesus walked on was an experience



If you submitted prayer intentions for the Holy Land, here they are here on the Wailing Wall in Old Jerusalem where Fr. Ray notes, "they will remain for several months before being removed and reverently buried. The Wailing Wall is important to Jews, Muslims and Christians because the bottom of the wall is the original foundation for the second temple (King Solomon's time) and is the holiest site for Jews to pray. Men go to one side and women to the other. Anyone can pray at the wall but must follow protocol – women must have shoulders and knees covered, a man must wear a yarmulke."

of a lifetime! It doesn't matter what language you speak, there are no words that could adequately describe the emotion I experienced. Another reason this was a trip of a lifetime is I had the opportunity to travel with my parents,



The "Anointing Slab" in Church of Holy Sepulcher where Jesus' body was prepared for burial.

brother, sister and my aunt. We experienced so many intimate moments as a family. We not only wept for Jesus but at night we talked, laughed and ate a ton of wonderful food. We grew closer and got to know our priest, deacon, fellow parishioners and friends.

Reflection

I am embarrassed that my thoughts in the beginning were negative, and I was so reluctant to go. I feel grateful and humbled that I was chosen, and God sent his son to die for me. I am not worthy, but I am extremely thankful. When I hear the Bible being read at church, it sounds different. I can visually see it because I was there. I now understand that my parents were not making a negative comment towards me. Their prayer came true because all the little things in life are just little things. This is the biggest thing of all, and it not only changed my heart, but it changed my life forever.

Mount of the Beatitudes

"We had Mass at an outside altar with the Sea of Galilee in the background . It was terribly hot but soooo moving! It is just amazing how so many people from all over the world are here at the same time. It is so cool to sit and just listen and contemplate that I am really here where Jesus walked two thousand years ago."

Sharon Renner



Saint Matthias the Apostle Church

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Inside



Saint Matthias Church

(440) 888-8220 - www.stmatthiaschurch.org

Masses

Saturday: 4 p.m.
Sunday: 9 a.m. & 11 a.m.
Holy Days: 8:30 a.m. & 7 p.m.
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday: 8:30 a.m.
Wednesday: No service

Reconciliation

Anytime by appointment or Saturday 3-3:45 p.m.

Office Hours

Monday-Thursday: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Friday: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

St. Matthias Parish Staff

Rev. Raymond A. Sutter, D.Min. - Pastor
Rev. Art Snedeker - In residence
Tom Litwinowicz - Deacon
Ken Golonka - Deacon Emeritus
Dianne Laheta - Pastoral Minister - Catechesis
Ann Clark - Director of Liturgy
Sig Mikolajczyk - Music Director
Joe Mikolajczyk - Cantor/Choral Director
Chris Walter - Office Manager
Laura Walters - Receptionist
Bob Arbuckle - Facilities
Brandon Arbuckle - Facilities
Gina Gazda - Cook/Housekeeper



Mission Statement of Saint Matthias Church

We, the family of Saint Matthias, called to be disciples of Christ, reach out with a loving and caring spirit. Proclaiming the message of the Risen Lord, we provide for the spiritual growth and development of our community. By sharing liturgies, ministries and responsibilities, we promote God's kingdom.

God Is Good News is the newsletter of Saint Matthias the Apostle Church.
Staff: Irma Baker, Patti Bertschler, Rita Dowd-Mikolajczyk, Chris Walter