St. Matthew Parish

19 Dora Lane, Limerick, Maine 04048-3527

Tel. 207-793-2244
website: www.stmatthewlimerick.org
Diocese of Portland Diocesan website: www.portlanddiocese.org

We welcome you to the Catholic Community of St. Matthew and the celebration of the Eucharist.

ST. MATTHEW PARISH STAFF:

Very Rev. Philip A. Tracy, V. F. Pastor
E-mail address: philip.tracy@portlanddiocese.org
Rev. Jack Dickinson, Parochial Vicar
E-mail address: jack.dickinson@portlanddiocese.org
Deacon Paul Lissandrello, Pastoral Associate
E-mail address: paul.lissandrello@portlanddiocese.org
Heather Silva, Secretary/Bookkeeper
E-mail address: heather.silva@portlanddiocese.org
Deacon Paul Lissandrello, P.C.L.
Deacon Paul Lissandrello Altar Server Coord.
Gail Libby, Music Director, 207-423-5998

FINANCE COMMISSION:

Kevin LaFreniere
Theressa Harrigan

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS:

Jon DiCentes, Grand Knight, 247-8875

BIRTHPLACE HELPLINE:

Abortion Alternatives/Project Rachel,
1-800-227-3002

WEEKEND MASSES:

Saturday at 4:00 p.m.
Sunday at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.

WEEKDAY MASSES:

9:00 a.m. - Monday*,
8:00 a.m. - Tuesday*, Thursday*, Friday*
*Check weekly bulletin for possible time changes.

BAPTISMS:

Parents who want to have their child(ren) baptized are asked to please call the parish office (793-2244).

WEDDINGS:

Anyone planning to get married must call the parish office at least SIX MONTHS PRIOR to the proposed wedding date.

CONFESSIONS:

Saturday at 3:00 p.m.,
AND ANYTIME BY APPOINTMENT.

NEW PARISHIONERS:

Welcome to St. Matthew Parish. Please fill out the Parish Membership Form below and drop it in the collection basket or mail to the parish office.

DOMESTIC ABUSE HOTLINE:

324-1802 or 1-800-239-7298

PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN:

www.portlanddiocese.org/protecting-gods-children

We joyfully welcome back to the Church any of our brothers and sisters who may have been away.
PARISH MEMBERSHIP:
Name _____
Address _____
City _____
Zip Code _____
Phone No._____
Email Address_____
Check
_____New Registration _____Updating Info.
_____Change of Address _____Moving out of Parish

TODAY IS THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT. THE READINGS BEGIN ON PAGE 21 OF THE MISSALETTE.

Mass Intentions

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEKEND

Saturday	***The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary***
9:00 a.m.	*In Thanksgiving to St. Jude by a Parishioner*
4:00 p.m.	*Anita McKeown by the McKeown Family*
Sunday	
8:00 a.m.	*Sawyer Cote by His Loving Grandparents*
10:30 a.m.	Edward & Genevieve Klosowski by the Klosowski Family

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Monday	
9:00 a.m.	*Rosemary Rubano by Mike Fries*
Tuesday	
8:00 a.m.	*Maurice Lamontagne by Mr. & Mrs. Ray Labbe*
Wednesday	
8:00 a.m.	***Miraculous Medal Novena & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament***
Thursday	
8:00 a.m.	*In Thanksgiving to St. Anthony by a Parishioner*
Friday	
8:00 a.m.	*All Souls*

MASS INTENTIONS NEXT WEEKEND (December 15 & 16)

Saturday	
4:00 p.m.	*Dorothy Daigle by Peter & Roxanne Cyr*
Sunday	
8:00 a.m.	*Intentions of the Parishioners*
10:30 a.m.	*John Redner by His Family*

Readings for the Week of December 9, 2018

Sunday:	Bar 5:1-9/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 [3]/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/ Lk 3:1-6
Monday:	Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [Is 35:4f]/ Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday:	Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13 [Is 40:10ab]/Mt 18:12-14
Wednesday:	Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13:18bcde, 19 [15:9d]/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
Thursday:	Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab [8]/Mt 11:11-15
Friday:	Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [Jn 8:12]/Mt 11:16-19
Saturday:	Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Next Sunday:	Zep 3:14-18a/Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 [6]/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18

Would you like to have the Sanctuary Lamp burn in the church for your loved one? There is a list in the Narthex you can sign up for the weeks you want. Donations of $10 for 7 Days and $20 for 14 Days.

Sanctuary Lamp burning:

Dec. 3rd - Dec. 9th - ***STILL AVAILABLE***
Dec. 10th - Dec. 16th - In Memory of Todd Roberge
Dec. 17th - Dec. 23rd - Nunzi & Angela DiPietriantonio
Dec. 24th - Dec. 30th - Joseph Estrella

Pastor's Ponderings

As Fr. Jack and I noted last weekend, registered parishioners will be receiving some materials in the mail about our Increased Offertory Campaign. There are some materials also available at the entrances of the church. I ask that you read them so that you will understand why we are taking this important step for our parish, and how you can participate in the process. I ask that each family prayerfully consider if they can commit to increasing their gift to our parish. On December 15 and 16th, I am asking that you that you bring a completed Commitment Card to mass and place it in the collection. If you need more time, or are away that weekend, please return it as soon as you can at mass or to the parish office. How we use our money is a very personal action, and only you can decide what you will do. The brochure will suggest some ways of thinking about the question. I decided to use the online giving service a few years ago. I like the convenience. However, I never stopped to change the amount that I give weekly because it was coming out automatically; I didn't have to think about it. Being in a better financial situation and the pastor of two parishes now, I will be adjusting my gifts to support St. Matthews and St. Therese. As we learned a few weeks ago in the Gospel about the poor widow, we cannot all give equal amounts in life. We can, however, sacrifice in similar manners. A friend of mine in Waterville was surprised to discover what her daily (sometimes twice) Dunkin Donut coffee was costing her monthly, compared to other budget commitments. Knowing what we want to give to God in thanksgiving for his blessings can be a very freeing exercise. Please join with Fr. Jack and I in strengthening our parishes, and their capacity to respond to God's expectations from us. I thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

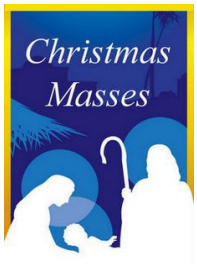
Are there any parishioners who are interested in learning how to serve at funerals? Please contact Fr. Phil. We need people who are available during the week as well as on Saturdays. No prior experience is necessary and this is open to both men and women.

There will be additional opportunities for reconciliation during Advent. Saturday confessions will begin at 2:30 and the week of December 17th, there will be an evening time on Thursday, and time made after daily masses that week.

RECONCILIATION:

The Light is ON for You.
Celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation

Dec. 18 5-7 pm Notre Dame Church, Springvale
Dec. 20 5-7 pm St. Matthew, Limerick
(and after daily Mass all week)
Dec. 21 5-7 pm Holy Family, Sanford
(and after morning Mass)



MONDAY, DECEMBER 24

4:00 p.m.—Christmas Eve
6:30 p.m.—Children's Liturgy
10:00 p.m.—Evening Mass

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25

9:00 a.m.—Christmas Day

Bereavement Support Group: There will be a meeting of the Bereavement Support Group on Monday, December 10th at 10:00 A.M. Our focus will be on "Coping with the Holidays" after the passing of a loved one. All are welcome.

Advent Prayer Service for Life: The Respect Life Committee is sponsoring a Prayer Service for Life in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of Life, on her feast day, Wednesday, December 12th. It will be in the church at 6:30 P.M. It will consist of special prayers, scripture readings, praying the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary, and singing Advent hymns and will be followed by coffee and refreshments in the parish hall. All are welcome.

The Knights of Columbus will sponsor

"BREAKFAST WITH SANTA"

Sunday Dec. 17, from 8:30-10:30 a.m., in the parish hall.
Families are invited to come and enjoy eggs, sausage, ham, pancakes, doughnut holes, milk, juice and coffee.
Prices: Adults $6.00; Children 5-12 $3.00
Children 4 and under are free.
Bring your cameras to snap a picture of your child with Santa.

Christmas Pageant: *We are getting ready for our Christmas Pageant that takes place on Christmas Eve during the 6:30pm Mass. We would love to have a minimum of 15 children participate this year. There are no talking parts or long commitments required. We will have our first rehearsal during Faith Formation on 12/23. Children will then be required to be at church by 5:15 on 12/24. If your child is interested, please contact Heather Silva (7th & 8th grade faith formation teacher) in the office at 793-2244 or by email heather.silva@portlanddiocese.org*

High School Youth Ministry *is collecting stocking stuffers for the Food Pantry. Please donate items in the box in the Narthex (small toys, books, crayons, etc.).*

BAKE SALE: *The High School Youth Group is having a bake sale the week-end of December 22 & 23 to raise money for their participation in the March for Life in Washington, D.C. in January. Please support their efforts.*

MASS SCHEDULE

St. Matthew Church

Saturday:	4:00 PM
Sunday:	8:00 AM
	10:30 AM
Monday:	9:00 AM*
Tue, Thur, Fri:	8:00 AM*

*Subject to priest availability.

St. Therese Lesieux Parish

Saturday: 4:00 PM
Holy Family, Sanford
Sunday: 7:30 AM
Notre Dame, Springvale
9:00 AM
Holy Family, Sanford
11:00 AM
Holy Family, Sanford

MWF 7:30 AM During the Winter, Daily Mass is at Holy Family. The Rest of the Year, it alternates Between the two Worship Sites

PARISH FINANCES

Amount **needed** weekly to operate parish	$ 3,900.00
WESHARE Online Giving 12/4/18	$ 275.00
Offertory 12/04/18	$ 2,679.00
DECEMBER OFFERTORY AS OF 12/04/18	$ 2,954.00
Capital Improvements 12/03/18	$ 758.00

WHAT SHALL I BRING TO THE LORD, THE GOD OF HEAVEN, WHEN I COME TO WORSHIP HIM? - Micah 6:6

This Week's Second Collection: **Aging religious need your help.** Senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests ministered for years for little to no pay. Their sacrifices now leave their religious communities without adequate retirement savings. Your gift to today's second collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious helps to provide medications, nursing care, and more for tens of thousands of elderly religious. Please be generous.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: *Envelopes are now available on the carts in the narthex if you would like to contribute toward our Christmas flowers, in memory of a loved one.*

THE BOTTLE RELIEF FUND, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, has gotten even easier. While celebrating with family and friends this Christmas season, please save your bottles and cans. For the convenience of parishioners, you can drop your bottles and cans off at JD's Package Store & Redemption, 13 Sokokis Trail, E. Waterboro (across from Hannaford). Let them know they are for "St. Matthew Bottle Relief Fund". Those who wish to continue dropping off at the Bottle Shed here at church, may continue to do so. Thank you for all your support.

ST. MATTHEW CHURCH FOOD PANTRY

THE PANTRY SCHEDULE IS AS FOLLOWS:

1st & 3rd Tuesday 10am-12pm
1st Monday 6-7pm
2nd Friday 10am - 12pm

****Serving residents of Limerick, Newfield, Parsonsfield or parishioners.**

St. Matthew Food Pantry is always in need of a few items they have a hard time purchasing from Good Shepherd. Would you be willing to donate these items? A collection container can be found in the Narthex.

Gravy	Stuffing	Cranberry Sauce
Pasta	Spaghetti Sauce	Chef Boyardee
Canned Meat	Jelly & Jams	Soups

THANK YOU IN ADVANCE!!

Plastic & paper bags are needed for the Food Pantry. You may leave them in the narthex.

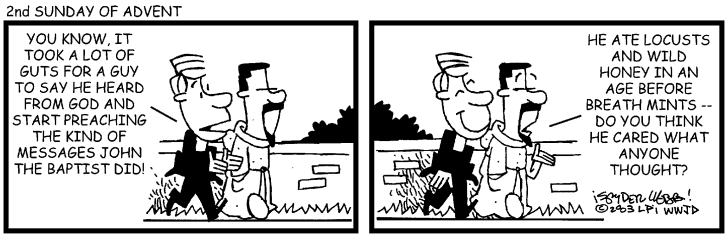
IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROGRAM "PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN"

In the **interest of children's safety**, we ask that children **not be allowed to leave Mass** to use the restrooms downstairs, **unless they are accompanied by an adult**. Because we are a public building, doors are required to be unlocked, allowing entrance to all.

Appeal to our Young People Twenty years ago, Pope John Paul II spoke to a group of young people. "…..You have an important role to play in the Church's life. You are the little messengers of beauty. The world needs your singing, for the language of beauty moves hearts and contributes to the encounter with God." He went on to say that when young people sing, joy radiates around them and sparks contagious enthusiasm. To all our young people at St. Matthew's, **Music Ministry needs your help this year with our 6:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass.** We will be practicing the four Sunday evenings before Christmas from 6 – 7 p.m. Please help us prepare a gift of 'beauty', that I have witnessed moves hearts. Come and "Let us sing to the Lord a song of Love." Sign up forms may be found on the organ. Gail Libby, Music Director

A special Advent section has been created on the Diocese of Portland's website and will be updated throughout December with new material. The section includes many useful features and resources including a variety of prayers, blessings, reflections, and event listings at Maine parishes. The section can be found at www.portlanddiocese.org/advent.

U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking In this season of giving, help improve a life by giving a donation to help a survivor of human trafficking. Visit **sistersagainsttrafficking.org**.



Please include the following priests serving in our diocese in your daily prayers this week:

Dec	09	Bishop Robert P. Deeley, JCD
Dec	10	Rev. Daniel Baillargeon/Rev. Peter Kaseta OFMCap
Dec	11	Rev. Seamus Griesbach/Rev. Selvaraj Kasi HGN
Dec	12	Rev. Joseph Koury/Rev. Eugene Gaffey
Dec	13	Rev. Bertrand Poussard/Rev. Richard Rice
Dec	14	Rev. Vincent Mellone/Rev. John Fagan SJ
Dec	15	Rev. Dominic Savio HGN/Rev. Raymond Lagace OFM

O Heavenly Father, may the Immaculate Virgin prepare our priests for the radiant feast of Christmas so that the Divine Emmanuel might find in each of their hearts a little cradle scented by the purity of His all beautiful and loving Mother. ***Ven.*** **Mother Catherine Aurelia, Foundress**

A voice of one crying out in the desert:
"Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths."
- Lk 3:4

VOCATION VIEW Are you seeking "*knowledge and full insight to help you determine*" your vocation in Christ as a priest, deacon or in consecreated life? Contact Father Seamus Griesbach at 207-773-6471; or email: **seamus.griesbach@portlanddiocese.org**; Website: www.portlanddiocese/vocations; Facebook: VocationsME.