

February 5, 2023

Saint Matthew Catholic Church

Welcome!

*We welcome into our parish community all visitors,
new members, old friends and those returning home to us.*

*And Jesus said,
"Know that I am with you always,
until the end of time."*

Matthew 28:20

Visit us at StMat.org

St. Matthew Catholic Church

9111 90th Avenue
Largo, FL 33777

Phone (727) 393-1288
Fax (727) 398-2683

Website: www.stmat.org
E-Mail: Info@stmat.org

Parish Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 9:30am-4:00pm
Friday 9:30am-12:00pm

Pastor

Rev. Jonathan Emery

Deacons

Deacon Tim Maloney
Deacon Tony Quattrocki

Mass Times

Saturday Vigil: 4:00pm
Sunday: 7:30am, 9:00am and 11:00am

Holy Days: Will be announced

Monday - Saturday 8:30am

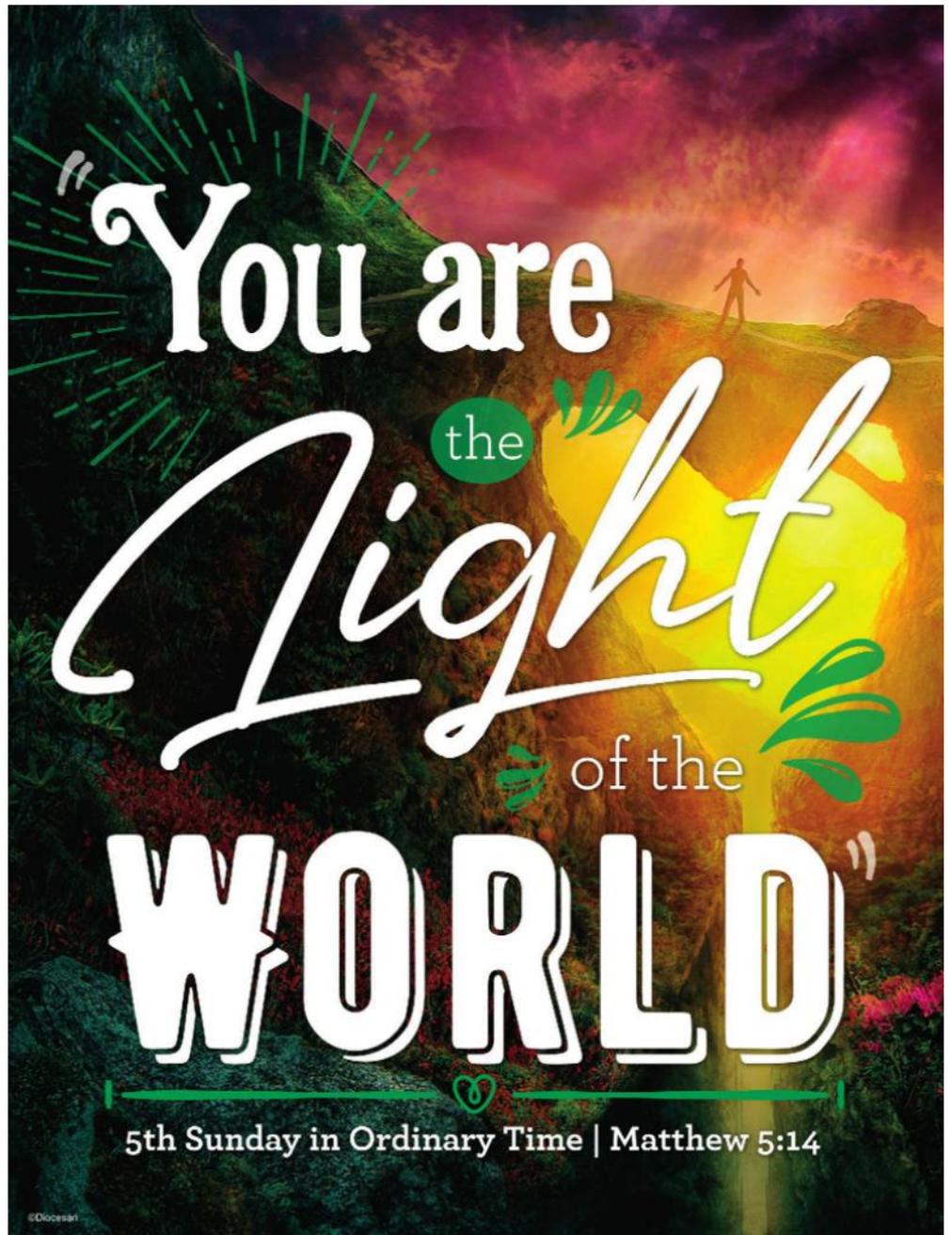
Rosary: Monday - Saturday 8:00am

Sacrament of Penance

Saturday 9am-10am
or by appointment through
the parish office.

Adoration

Saturday 9am-10:30am
First Friday 9am -10am



COURAGEOUSLY *Living the Gospel*



A Message from Fr. Jonathan

Catholics are Christians! Not only that, we are the FIRST Christians. Except for the Orthodox (and a couple other Eastern Rite denominations), the Catholic Church is the only one that can claim Jesus Christ as our founder. Yet, somehow our Protestant brothers and sisters have claimed the name all to themselves, often referring to “Catholics” as separate from Christians. I suspect this has something to do with one of their critiques of Catholicism that we are “pagans” who worship saints and statues. This is a COMPLETELY false representation of Catholic teaching, but the thought has persisted in the common Protestant mind. You can tell, because most Protestants when asked “Are you Catholic?” will respond with “I am Christian”, as if Catholics are not.

The word “Christian” means “followers of the anointed one.” In the ancient world, people would be anointed for sacred purposes, especially as a priest, a prophet, or a king. All three of these things require the authority, guidance, and strength of God to do properly. Anointing was a way to acknowledge this and to call down God’s blessing on the person who was about to fill one of these important roles. Jesus fills all three roles and fills them perfectly and perpetually, therefore he is THE Anointed One, aka “The Christ.”

The Catholic Church strives to follow Christ and is therefore “Christian,” but not everyone who claims to be “Catholic” actually is. So, I have two tasks for you this week. First, to SERIOUSLY consider the questions: “Am I a Christian? Do I actually follow Christ?” Second, read each of the four Gospels cover to cover. For example: Monday=Matthew, Tuesday=Mark, Wednesday=Luke, and Thursday=John. None of them is particularly long, it averages out to about 2 hours of reading a day. Which may seem like a lot, but I guarantee that almost every person reading this wastes at LEAST 2 hours a day staring mindlessly at a screen of some sort. Get a Bible app on your phone, leave it open to that app whenever you set your phone down and when you pick it up because you are bored, the Bible will pop up first. If your screen is stationary (TV or computer) then leave a post-it on your screen to “read your Bible.”

Christians are followers of Jesus Christ. We cannot follow Him if we do not know Him. The Gospels are the unique and primary way to come to know Him. Reading a Gospel straight through in one sitting helps us to get a grasp of the whole thing, to see the person of Jesus emerge out of the Gospels in a better context. Only after we see Jesus in the Gospels will we be able to answer the questions: “Am I a Christian? Do I actually follow Christ?”

God bless you,

~ Fr. Jonathan

Readings for the Week of February 5, 2023

Sunday

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Is 58:7-10; Ps 112:4-5, 6-7, 8-9; 1 Cor 2:1-5; Mt 5:13-16

Monday

Memorial of Saint Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs
Gn 1:1-19; Ps 104:1-2a, 5-6, 10 & 12, 24 & 35c; Mk 6:53-56

Tuesday

Gn 1:20 --:2:4a; Ps 8:4-5, 6-7, 8-9; Mk 7:1-13

Wednesday

Gn 2:4b-9, 15-17; Ps 104:1-2a, 27-28, 29bc-30; Mk 7:14-23

Thursday

Gn 2:18-25; Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5; Mk 7:24-30

Friday

Memorial of Saint Scholastica, Virgin
Gn 3:1-8; Ps 32:1-2, 5, 6, 7; Mk 7:31-37

Saturday

Gn 3:9-24; Ps 90:2, 3-4abc, 5-6, 12-13; Mk 8:1-10

Sunday

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sir 15:15-20; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34; 1 Cor 2:6-10; Mt 5:17-37



Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Mass Intentions

Saturday, February 4

4:00pm Mary Goyette +

Sunday, February 5

10:00am People of the Parish

9:00am Catherine Schwartz +

11:00am Shirley Salyer and Tim
& Gina Johnson

Monday, February 6

8:30am Francis & Marjorie
Spinks +

Tuesday, February 7

8:30am Fr. Jonathan Emery

Wednesday, February 8

8:30am John Gonzalez +

Thursday, February 9

8:30am Chuck Safransky +

Friday, February 10

8:30am Judy Safransky +

Saturday, February 11

8:30am Fran Evancho +

4:00pm Thomas Daniels +

Sunday, February 12

7:30am Richie Meyer +

9:00am People of the Parish

11:00am Vernon Gayne, Jr.



The Deacon's Corner



A mommy, daddy and their 7-year-old daughter came to Sunday worship services and sat in the middle of the pew. During the offertory, the basket was passed and made its way to the 7-year-old child. The little girl's face turned from joy to sorrow as she looked into the offertory basket and with tears rolling down her face she said, ***"It is empty and I didn't even get any!"***

I hope as we mature in our faith we have learned that we never "get any" until we have given some. This is a virtue we need to hold in high regards in **all** our relationships and throughout our life's journey. If we want more out of our relationships, be it romance, family, social and even our Church experience, we need to be open to freely give more of ourselves. Maybe it would be beneficial if we all recited and retained the Prayer of St Francis. That is what sacrificial giving is truly all about. Getting is in direct proportion to our giving. ***"For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life."*** Amen.

Share your blessings along the Journey!

Deacon Tony



GriefShare at St. Matthew Catholic Church will begin a new cycle on Wednesday, February 22. Meetings are held in Trinity Hall, 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM. GriefShare is a 13 session program, and you may join at any time. There is no fee, although a free will donation would be gratefully accepted to help offset the cost of materials. All are welcome! Please register with Dr. Lori Puterbaugh at drloriputerbaugh@earthlink.net or sign up online at GriefShare.org. Just enter our zip code, 33777, to find our group! Do you know someone who could benefit from GriefShare? Please invite them to join us, and, if possible, come with them to provide support the first time. It can be very difficult to go to a grief support group. Thank you!

Many churches in the area sponsor GriefShare groups. No matter which church, the program is the same! If our day and time don't work, but you feel GriefShare could help, please go to www.griefshare.org and enter your zip code to find groups near you.



Pancake Breakfast

The Knights of Columbus is offering their delicious Pancake Breakfast after all the Masses next Sunday, February 12th. It's \$6 for adults and \$3 for children and includes pancakes, sausage, eggs, and a beverage. The Knights of Columbus, "Brothers of Faith United in Action."

Parish Weekly Giving Summary

Thank you for your generosity! We appreciate your gifts of time, talent, and treasure.

January 29, 2023

Offertory:	\$5924.00
Online Giving:	\$3776.04
TOTAL:	\$9700.04



Online Giving: Visit
www.stmat.org/donate or scan the QR code below for online giving. It's simple and convenient!



**Make Time in
2023 to
Renew Your
Relationship
with God.**

[Watch For More Information](#)

**Save the
Dates**

**Friday Evening
March 10**

**Sat. & Sun.
March 11 & 12**

**Monday Evening
March 13**

Light of the World Retreat

Save the date for this life-changing free retreat right here at St. Matthew! Fri. & Mon. evenings (March 10 & 13) and all day Sat. & Sun. Visit Stmat.org/light-of-the-world-retreat for more information and to register.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Our next meeting will be on **Thursday, February 9 at 6:30pm** in Bethany Hall. Our ministry is open to everyone, both men and women who would like to knit or crochet shawls for those who need solace, hope, or healing and for those celebrating life's joys. We welcome seasoned crochet and knitters, beginners and anyone interested in learning. For more information, please contact Cheryl Miller at 727-644-0048 or email cjmiller538@gmail.com.



Prayer for Priests & Future Priests

Eternal Father, We lift up to you these and all the priests of the world. Sanctify them, heal and guide them. Mold them into the likeness and holiness of your Son Jesus, the Eternal High Priest. May their lives be pleasing to you. In Jesus name, we pray. Amen.

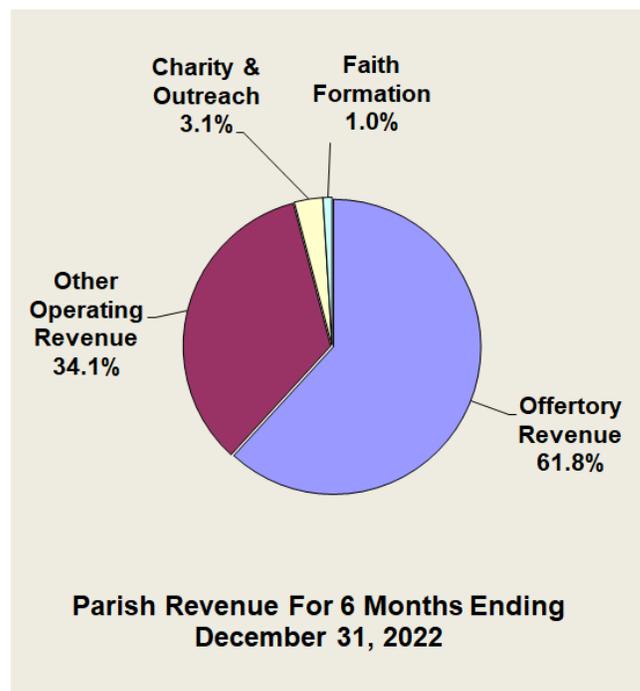
2/5 • Isaac Cruz, Seminarian ~ 2/6 • Rev. Kazimierz Domek ~
2/7 • Rev. Steve Dornquast ~ 2/8 • For Vocations to the Priesthood &
Religious Life ~ 2/9 • Rev. Emery Longanga ~
2/10 • Rev. Dayan Machado ~ 2/11 • Rev. Kenneth Malley ~

**St. Matthew Catholic Church
Financial Statement For 6 Months Ending December 31, 2022**

	6 Months Ending 12/31/22	6 Months Ending 12/31/21
Revenue:		
Offertory Revenue	272,752	275,110
Other Operating Revenue	150,452	93,964
Charity & Outreach	13,730	15,134
Faith Formation	4,332	2,860
Total Parish Revenue \$	441,267 \$	387,068

Parish Expenses:		
Pastoral Leadership	35,340	34,257
Worship and Music	31,870	27,560
Faith Formation Expenses	29,435	38,547
Charity & Outreach	8,724	13,030
Diocesan Support	4,303	71,197
Catholic School Support	12,756	6,441
Administration	95,421	86,346
Facilities	152,669	98,316
Total Parish Expenses \$	370,520 \$	375,696

NET GAIN \$ 70,748 \$ 11,372



2022 Tax Statement

If you would like to receive a statement of donations for the year 2022, please complete the form below and return it to the parish office or in the offertory at Mass. If you would like your statement emailed to you, please include your email address or email us at info@stmat.org.

Please **print** the following information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

In the Gospel today, Jesus says, "You are the light of the world." He is calling us to live our Christian vocation in words and deeds.

**With your help, we give a "light" to those living in poverty and in a world of darkness.
Thank you for your support and your prayers.**

Catholic Ministry Appeal



MINISTRIES IN ACTION

DIOCESE OF ST. PETERSBURG | CATHOLIC MINISTRY *Appeal*



WORKING TOGETHER

By joining together each year through the *Catholic Ministry Appeal*, we help nurture spiritual life, embrace God's call to serve and accompany missionary disciples. Last year more than 22,000 households joined together in support of the ministries and services funded through the *Catholic Ministry Appeal*. Through their generosity and the dedication of our pastors, parish staff and volunteers we exceeded our goal!

This year, we invite all to join us as we work together toward raising \$8.5 million to ensure we can continue bringing ministry to life by loving God, loving others, and making disciples through faith formation for children, adults, and families; supporting our seminarians and priests; and providing shelter, food, and clothing to those in need.

We are blessed to continue the good works we do in God's name as we embark on the 2023 *Catholic Ministry Appeal* and together Courageously Live the Gospel.



WHAT IS THE CATHOLIC MINISTRY APPEAL?

- + The *Catholic Ministry Appeal* invites all Catholics to make an annual donation to fund larger shared ministries and services that no single parish could accomplish on its own.
- + 100% of donations are going to outreach that positively affects people, communities, parishes and schools, such as Catholic Charities, vocation promotion, seminarian support, campus ministry efforts and the Lay Pastoral Ministry Institute. For a full listing, please visit www.dosp.org/catholicministryappeal.
- + Each parish will have a goal for the new appeal, but it does not have to be paid by the parish if not achieved.
- + If we exceed our \$8.5 million goal, we can explore growing and expanding ministries.

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DOSP.ORG/CATHOLICMINISTRYAPPEAL



Sacraments and Ministries



BAPTISM of INFANTS:

The Sacrament of Baptism celebrates God's love and initiates us into the community of believers called the Church. We are the Church, and each baptism we perform or witness is a sign of our faith in Christ's power to renew the face of the earth. Baptisms are usually celebrated during the Mass. For Baptism preparation classes for parents, contact the parish office: (727) 393-1288. We recommend attending before the birth of your child.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK:

Call the office at any time in case of serious sickness. If you are hospitalized, the priest assigned to the hospital will administer the sacrament.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE:

Call the office a minimum of six months in advance. Participation in the Journey to Matrimony program is required.

SACRAMENTS FOR ADULTS:

R.C.I.A. is for adults and unbaptized teens wanting to be Catholic Christians. Please contact Lisa Limberger at (727) 393-1288 ext. 204.

SACRAMENTS FOR TEENS:

CONFIRMATION for baptized teens wanting to receive this Sacrament. Please contact Youth Ministry, Lisa Limberger at (727) 393-1288 ext. 204.

SACRAMENTS FOR CHILDREN:

First Communion and Reconciliation for baptized children ages 7 and older. Please contact Marissa Miranda at (727) 393-1288, ext. 207.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS:

The Knights of Columbus St. Matthew Council #11226, extends an invitation to all Catholic men to join our council. The council meets the First Tuesday of the month. If you are interested in hearing more about the Knights of Columbus, please contact Ben Kristoff at 727-218-7729.



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

SOCIETY: Assistance to the needy. Calls are monitored and returned daily. Phone 727-592-1960.

PROJECT HUNGER: Bring your non-perishable food item donations for the interfaith food pantry we help.

CENTERING PRAYER:

Centering Prayer is a form of silent contemplation practiced both as a part of a group and in our daily lives. We meet in the church for silent prayer and a short video. We meet on Tuesdays at 6:30pm. Please feel free to come join us. Contact Judi Valori through the parish office if you have any questions.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY:

Meets at 6:30pm the third Tuesday of every month September through May. We welcome new members!

LINKED MINISTRY:

Meets monthly for widows and divorced women to connect. Contact the office for more information.

SICK OR INCAPACITATED:

Please contact the parish office if you, or a family member, would like to be included in our weekly prayer list. If you are unable to attend Mass, let us know if you would like to schedule a visit from a Eucharistic Minister.

VOCATIONS:

Contact Fr. Chuck Dornquist for more information at (727) 345-3452 or spvocation@dosp.org.

Have You Registered as a Member of St. Matthew?

To register as a member:

1. Online at www.stmat.org
2. New Member Info Packets are by the exits of the church.
3. Come to the Parish Office, weekdays and fill out a form.
4. Call the parish office at (727) 393-1288 to register.

Parish Staff

Clergy:

Rev. Jonathan Emery (ext. 205)
FrJonathan@StMat.org

Deacon Tony Quattrocki (ext. 203)
Deacon.Tony@stmat.org

Coordinator of Faith Formation:

Marissa Miranda (ext. 207)
Marissa.Miranda@StMat.org

Youth & Family Ministry:

Lisa Limberger (ext. 204)
Lisa.Limberger@StMat.org

Music Ministry: Chantal Ward

Office Manager:

Mandy Rose (ext. 201)
Mandy.Rose@StMat.org

Bookkeeper:

Bill Slatik
bookkeeper@stmat.org

Maintenance Staff:

Joe LaFrazia
Ged Roman

Dr. Lori Puterbaugh Counseling

Dr. Lori Puterbaugh, Licensed Mental Health Counselor and Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, is available for individual, couple and family counseling on a sliding scale fee basis at Espiritu Santo Catholic Church Mondays and Tuesdays, and at St. Matthew Catholic Church Wednesdays and Thursdays. Dr. Lori has been in private practice since 1999 and commissioned by the Lay Pastoral Ministry Institute of our diocese. Her background includes Catholic school counseling, and work with several Diocesan ministries. Specialty areas are anxiety, depression, grief, parenting, marriage/relationship, life stage/phase issues and stress. To set an appointment, please call 727-559-0863.

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Licensed Mental Health Counselor

Commissioned in Lay Pastoral Ministry, DOSP

St. Matthew Catholic Church, Seminole & Espiritu Santo Catholic Church, Safety Harbor

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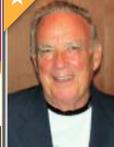
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