

March 12, 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

Parish Mission

"Awakening Our Faith in Challenging Times"

March 27th, 28th, & 29th at 7:00pm

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

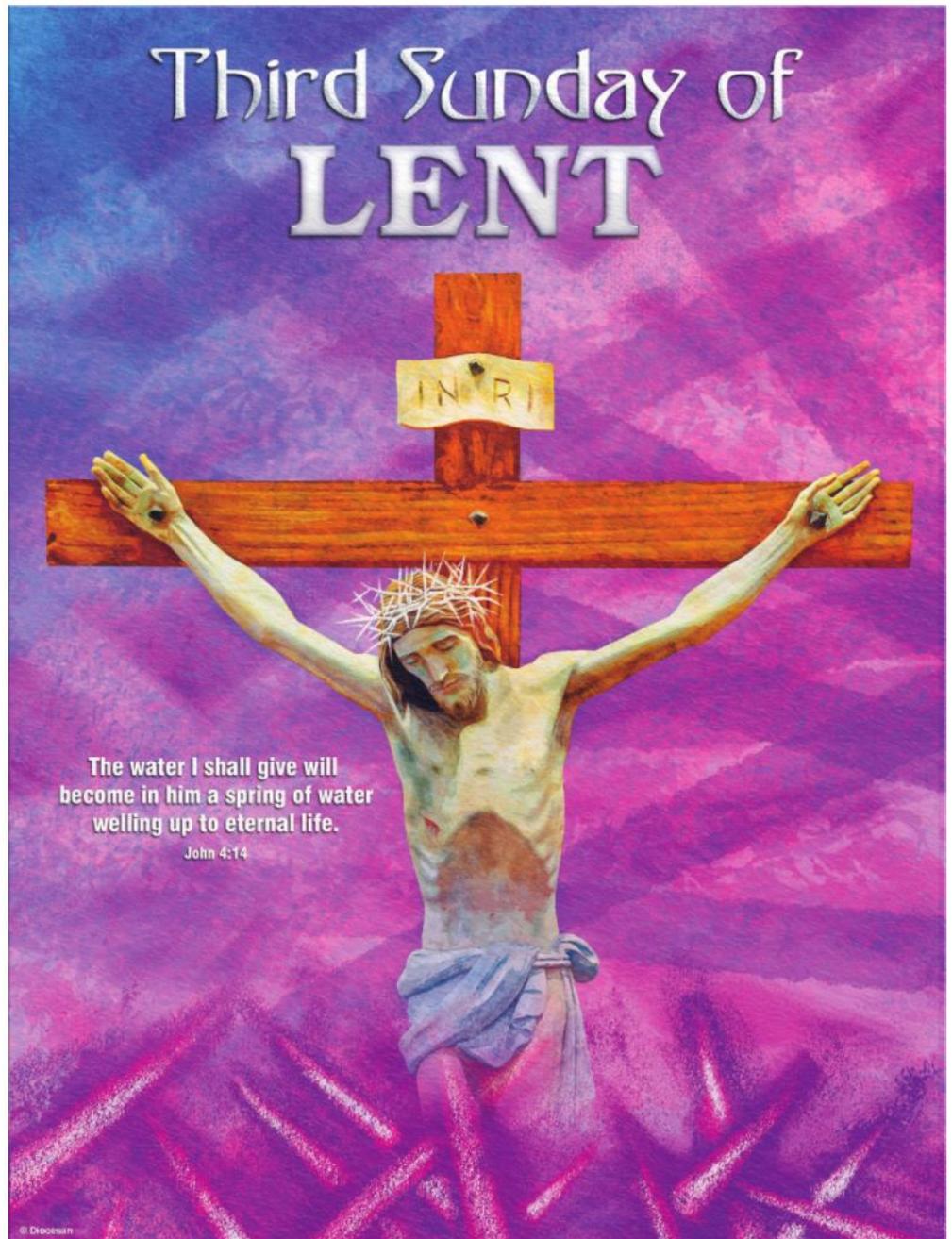
Rosary: Monday - Saturday 8:00am

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

Last week I covered fasting and how one of the greatest things fasting does is clear out the things that distract us from prayer. Prayer will always be the center of the spiritual life, because prayer is communication with God, making it the primary means of unifying with God (which is the goal of the spiritual life). Most of the time

we over complicate prayer, all worried about what we are going to say or do. In reality, prayer is simply spending time with God. Making prayer the simplest and most natural thing a human can do. By virtue of the sacraments, we are already a member of Christ's body and receive Him into our hearts at every Mass. So God is already and ALWAYS present to us! The hard part about prayer is that we are not always present to Him. All teachings and techniques related to prayer are simply ways to help get out of our own way and be present to God again.

The devil hates prayer because prayer is the primary thing freeing humans from his demonic enslavement. So he will do anything he can to stop us from praying. The following are ways that the devil puts blocks in our way to stop us from praying: sin, lies of the devil, emphasis on comforts/entertainment, distractions, restlessness, shame, pride, control, anger/resentment, fear, not seeing results in prayer, comparison with others, tyranny of "should" (how thinking: "I should be better" actually stops us from acting), and not staying in the present. Each of these could be a column on their own, actually, they were each a column back in the fall of 2021. There may be more blocks than these, but I can pretty much guarantee you, that if you are struggling with prayer, you will find a few of these blocks buried in your heart.

Another thing that helps with prayer is "sacred space" and "sacred time." The idea is that setting aside a place and time and making them conducive to prayer. Both are just as much a mental state as they are physical places. Which is why making a sacred space and time is relatively subjective to the person who is praying. Still there are some common themes, the first being quiet. You want a space that is sensory quiet. Reducing the sound level, but also staying away from bright colors and distracting patterns. The intention is to get rid of anything that can distract you from being present to God. On the other hand, prayer is NOT about finding an "empty space" within your mind! That is eastern philosophy and pointless to prayer. An empty space or a dark void in your head is not holy! You are seeking the infinite "I AM" of God, emptiness might help clear the mind, but it does not help to be present to God. So using eastern meditation techniques can help to get ready for prayer, but are not prayer in themselves. Which is why "sacred space" should be decorated with religious art and sacramentals. These focus the mind towards God. Many a prayer session could simply be reciting the name of Jesus slowly, or gazing on the body of Christ on a crucifix.

The more we practice prayer techniques, the more we will get out of our own way and be able to "hear" God in the silence. Then we will be ready for almsgiving...(next week)

God bless you ~
Fr. Jonathan

Readings for the Week of March 12, 2023

Sunday

Third Sunday of Lent

Ex 17:3-7; Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9;
Rom 5:1-2, 5-8; Jn 4:5-42

Monday

2 Kgs 5:1-15ab; Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3,
4; Lk 4:24-30

Tuesday

Dn 3:25, 34-43; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 &
7bc, 8-9; Mt 18:21-35

Wednesday

Dt 4:1, 5-9; Ps 147:12-13, 15-16,
19-20; Mt 5:17-19

Thursday

Jer 7:23-28; Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9;
Lk 11:14-23

Friday

Saint Patrick, Bishop

Hos 14:2-10; Ps 81:6c-8a 8bc-9,
10-11ab, 14 & 17; Mk 12:28-34

Saturday

Saint Cyril, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Hos 6:1-6; Ps 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-
21ab; Lk 18:9-14

Sunday

Fourth Sunday of Lent

1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Ps 23: 1-
3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-
41



Third Sunday in Lent



Mass Intentions

Saturday, March 11

4:00pm Brenda Sosa +

Sunday, March 12

10:00am Mike Hoerster +

9:00am People of the Parish

11:00am Nicholas Merrello +

Monday, March 13

8:30am Bill Montbleau +

Tuesday, March 14

8:30am Pat Becker +

Wednesday, March 15

8:30am Alfred Sulla +

Thursday, March 16

8:30am Tom Todd +

Friday, March 17

8:30am Ralph Santoro +

Saturday, March 18

8:30am Dick Boucher +

4:00pm Patricia Lafollette +

Sunday, March 19

7:30am Bob Lima +

9:00am Lynn Westerburg +

11:00am People of the Parish



The Deacon's Corner



Everyone is aware that if you own a car that it is important that you rotate your tires on a regular basis. If your tires get out of line and you don't take time to adjust them, you soon painfully learn that one side of your tire looks like it has brand new treads, but the other side is in extreme danger of blowing a hole and may cause severe damage to you and your passengers.

Lent can be a time when you help yourself to maintain balance and stay safely on the road. As you journey on life's highway, be aware that you should use this time to reflect, change habits, start anew, ask for mercy and be merciful to those who caused you harm. Stated simply, Lent can be a **40-day tune-up**. Use the tools of prayer, fasting and charitable giving to adjust and balance your heart for conversion. As you journey the high-speed highway of your daily life, Lent gives you the needed scheduled service time to properly balance work, family, worship, and recreation. If you neglect proper maintenance, you will be in danger of an unbalanced life and just like the out-of-balanced tire, a blowout will occur. It's just a matter of time...

The worshipping community of St Matthew's is here to provide year-long, **full-service maintenance** for your soul and is open every day of the year to assist in your life's travels and to guide you safely to your final destination.

Share your blessings along the Journey!

Deacon Tony

Lent At-A-Glance

Stations of the Cross: Outside in St. James Pavilion every Friday of Lent at 6pm, weather permitting. February 24th thru March 31st.

Soup Suppers: Every Friday of Lent after Stations of the Cross. In Bethany Hall. The March 17th supper is provided by RCIA.

Wednesday Oasis: Adoration, confession & private conversations about prayer with Fr. Jonathan. Every Wednesday of Lent, from 6pm – 8pm thru April 5th. (There will be no Oasis on March 29th due to the Parish Mission.)

St. Joseph's Table: Sunday, March 19th at 12:30pm in Bethany Hall. Enjoy lunch and the beautiful display of St. Joseph images.

Parish Mission: "Awakening Our Faith in Challenging Times"
Monday, March 27th through Wednesday, March 29th at 7pm and a special talk at the 8:30am Masses with Fr. John Anglin, OFM. Fr. John has conducted more than 500 parish missions.

Catholic Ministry Appeal Weekly Update

Thank you to all who have submitted their 2023 commitments!

Goal: \$83,997.65
Pledges: \$47,177.73
Donations: \$32,190.07
of Families: 700
of Pledges: 170
Avg. Pledge: \$277.52

Parish Weekly Giving Summary

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

March 5, 2023

Offertory:	\$7010.00
Online Giving:	\$6108.60
TOTAL:	\$13,118.60



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



Pancake Breakfast

The Knights of Columbus is offering their delicious Pancake Breakfast after all the Masses on Sunday, March 26th. It includes pancakes, eggs, sausage and a beverage for just \$6 adults/ \$3 children.



Parish Mission

Our parish Mission is Monday, March 27th through Wednesday, March 29th at 7pm and includes special Mission Talks at the 8:30 morning Masses. Fr. John Anglin, OFM will present “**Awakening Our Faith in Challenging Times.**” Fr. John has preached over 500 missions and written two books.

Day 1: Living in the embrace of God’s Love.

In the face of violence & injustice it is tempting to abandon our belief in a God of love. We proclaim that God does indeed hold us in a loving embrace which gives us the strength to carry on as well as the ability to reach out to all those in need.

Day 2: Forgiveness as the path to Peace.

In a world that more & more seeks to resolve conflict through retaliation, punishment, & violence we proclaim a God who is merciful and always seeks to forgive, and who calls us to be peacemakers by forgiving those who have wronged us, and by accepting His gift of mercy for ourselves. At the same time we must wrestle with the truth that real peace and reconciliation cannot come without justice.

Day 3: Healing the human heart.

In spite of the advances made in medicine and technology, suffering & sorrow still afflict the human heart, be it due to sickness, injustice, or the violence that is so rampant in today’s world. We proclaim that through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, people of today will find healing and restoration. We ourselves are called to be healers, to bring the Good News of Jesus into the world around us.



Lenten Oasis
Wednesdays of Lent
6 pm-8 pm

Eucharistic Adoration
Confession
Discussions on Prayer

On March 29th there will be no Oasis, due to the Parish Mission.



PLEASE DONATE BLOOD TODAY!

Please be a Good Samaritan by donating blood on the Big Red Bus in front of St. Matthew Church before 1 pm today (Sunday). All donors will receive a St. Patrick's Day-themed T-shirt, a \$20 eGift card and a wellness check-up of blood pressure, pulse, temperature and iron count, including a cholesterol screening, plus the chance to save lives and families!! Appointments honored and walk- ins welcome. Thanks for caring and sharing!



Lenten Stations of the Cross
Fridays | 6 pm | St. James Pavillion

Followed by a Simple Soup Supper
Dinner Provided By RCIA
Friday, March 17th

St. Patrick's Day Dispensation

Bishop Parkes has granted a dispensation from the Friday Lenten observation of abstinence from meat for St. Patrick's Day to all members of the Catholic faithful in the Diocese of St. Petersburg. So, go ahead and have that corned beef! *"Those who wish to take advantage of this dispensation are requested to undertake other appropriate forms of abstinence or sacrifice, including charitable works or exercises of piety."*



St. Joseph's Table

Celebrate the Italian tradition of "St. Joseph's Table" with lunch and a beautiful display of St. Joseph images. Begins at 12:30 on Sunday, March 19th in Bethany Hall. Do you want to help? Contact Deacon Tony through the parish office.

Project Hunger

Thank you to our generous parish family for donating 463 pounds of food for the Interfaith Food Pantry!

Pray for Peace

PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND

10 DAYS: NOVEMBER 29 - DECEMBER 8, 2023

VISITING: CAESAREA * HAIFA * TIBERIAS * SEA OF GALILEE
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For More Information, Please Contact:

Fr. Jonathan Emery

Phone: (727) 393-1288

Email: info@stmat.org

DON'T MISS THIS TRIP OF A LIFETIME!!



GriefShare

GriefShare at St. Matthew Catholic Church has begun a new cycle. Meetings are held in Trinity Hall, 9:30am to 11:30am on Wednesdays. 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.



Society of St. Vincent de Paul

In today's Gospel, Jesus says: "My food is to do the will of the one who sent me and to finish his work."

Through your almsgiving you are doing the will of the Father and finishing the work of Jesus. Know that your support as well as your prayers are appreciated.

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.

3/12 • Rev. Michael Suzynski ~
3/13 • Rev. Jose Tejada ~
3/14 • Rev. Patrick Rebel ~
3/15 • For Vocations to the Priesthood & Religious Life ~
3/16 • Belisario Riveros ~
3/17 • Rev. Anthony Nyong, CM ~
3/18 • Rev. Joseph Olikkara, MST
~



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 Slatic
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 Marriage & Family Therapist
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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