

March 3, 2024

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

Wednesday Night Oasis

6-8pm Adoration & Sacrament of Reconciliation

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 (seasonal)
Deacon Tony Quattrocker

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
Wednesday 6pm-8pm
or by appointment through
the parish office.

Adoration

Saturday 9am-10:30am
Wednesday 6pm-8pm
First Friday 9am-10am

He made a whip
out of cords
and drove them
all out of the
temple area.
"Take these out
of here, and
stop making my
Father's house
a marketplace."

John 2:15,16

Jesus Casting Out the Money
Changers at the Temple
by Carl Bloch, circa 1800s



3RD SUNDAY OF

LENT

COURAGEOUSLY *Living the Gospel*



A Message from Fr. Jonathan

As I mentioned last week, we make time throughout our day to eat and nourish our bodies, we also need to take time out of our day to nourish our soul through prayer. This is how we “sanctify our day,” which means to keep our focus on God. Ancient Israelites who practiced their faith would pray seven times a day, mainly reciting psalms. The early Church picked this up and Christianized it into “the Liturgy of the Hours” (Islam also stole this to form their “salat”, or 5 daily prayers to Allah). The Hours were originally said by ALL Christians, but as we progressed into the Middle Ages books became harder to get a hold of and not everyone could read, so the church developed a set of easy to memorize prayers based on the scripture. The Our Father came straight from Jesus out of the Gospels. The Hail Mary is a combination of what the Archangel Gabriel and St. Elizabeth said to Mary in the Gospels, with a prayer request that she intercede on our behalf to God (Contrary to Protestant belief, we CAN ask our friends in Heaven to pray for us, just as much as we can ask our friends here on Earth to pray for us). Finally, the Glory Be isn’t directly from the Bible, but it reflects a common theme from the scriptures to give glory to God in all times and things. It had also been a long held tradition in the East to use beads to keep track of prayers. Because the people couldn’t do the liturgy of the hours, the clergy asked them to continue to sanctify their day by praying these prayers and meditating on mysteries from the life of Jesus. It took several different forms over the centuries, but this slowly evolved into the Rosary we have today.

Being a devoted Jew, Jesus would have prayed seven times a day, everyday. All Catholic clergy are required, under pain of sin, to pray the Hours every day. It is STILL the official “Prayer of the Church” and ALL Catholics are requested to pray the Hours daily, but as it is usually like pulling teeth to get people to actually do the required things (like attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days), most priests have given up on promoting the Hours to the lay faithful. However, they are the third and final LITURGY of the Church (following the Liturgies of the Eucharist and Word), making them even more powerful prayer than the Rosary! With modern technology, it has gotten even easier to say than ever before. I will speak more about how to begin praying the Liturgy of the Hours next week.

God bless you!

~ *Fr. Jonathan Emery*

Readings for the Week of March 3, 2024

Sunday

Third Sunday of Lent

Ex 20:1-17 or Ex 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17; Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11; 1 Cor 1:22-25; Jn 2:13-25

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 and 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

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

Saturday

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

Sunday

Fourth Sunday of Lent

2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23; Ps 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6; Eph 2:4-10; Jn 3:14-21



Third Sunday of Lent



Mass Intentions

Saturday, March 2

4:00pm Leo Parisi +

Sunday, March 3

7:30am Richie Meyer +

9:00am Jane Day +

11:00am People of the Parish

Monday, March 4

8:30am Beatrice Medeiros +

Tuesday, March 5

8:30am Tom Todd +

Wednesday, March 6

8:30am Dorothy Flesch +

Thursday, March 7

8:30am Dean Paul Natale +

Friday, March 8

8:30am Joni Kinder +

Saturday, March 9

8:30am Chuck Safransky +

4:00pm People of the Parish

Sunday, March 10

7:30am Judy Mauney

9:00am Marcelo Atillo, Sr. +

11:00am Joan Kinder +



The Deacon's Corner



There are times and situations in our lives that we feel great despair, sorrow or loss. I think everyone has felt the sting of death of a family member or some other deep-wounded tragedy at some point in our lives. Perhaps you are currently dealing with a situation you find yourself thinking that you are out of control or are unsure what you can or should do to resolve the issue. Maybe you are experiencing feelings of sadness, depression, anxiety, or even hopelessness. You might be angry at God. You might question your faith or ask God, "Why is this happening?" Such feelings are probably normal given the circumstances surrounding loss of life or any unexpected tragedy. Many life changing events we face and perhaps continue to encounter will test our faith. However, blaming God is so easy and may quickly appear in our mind. We even use expressions similar to "It's God's will" and we may even admit to being angry with God. **Rarely, however, do we admit to being unsure of our trust in God.** It may be obvious that we cannot fully understand the mind of God, yet isn't this what we demand, an explanation from God. This sin is rooted in original sin and our desire to know like God. We reject our finite humanity. We turn from God and try to muddle through life alone. We forget our universal call to holiness, rooted in our humanity and Christian baptism, **Keeping God the Center of our lives.**

Take a moment and reflect on how well you are allowing God to be the center of your life.

If you are having trouble focusing and praying because your feelings and emotions are overwhelming at times, that's ok. Try again, and again if necessary. Take a few moments and relax. Breathe. Take a walk and when you are ready place yourself in the loving arms of Jesus and simply state and repeat, **"I Trust in You."**

God Bless,

Deacon Tony

BINGO Marathon

Sunday, March 10th beginning at 1pm, doors open at noon in the Holy Family Center. There will be 30 games with cash prizes. Hot dogs and snacks are available. Open to adults 18 and older. Space is limited, so get your tickets this weekend or next weekend after Mass. Proceeds assist the Knights of Columbus Community Outreach.

Catholic Ministry Appeal Weekly Update

The Catholic Ministry Appeal supports the ministries of the Diocese of St. Petersburg. Thank you for your support!

Goal: \$95,543.00

Pledges: \$43,657.68

Donations: \$32,599.16

of Families: 745

of Gifts: 156

Avg. Pledge: \$279.86

Parish Weekly Giving Summary

Thank you for your faithful donations that support our church!

February 25, 2024

Offertory: \$6204.00

Online Giving: \$3971.69

TOTAL: \$10,175.69



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



Catch the Stars of St. Matthew

You are invited to a fun night of entertainment at our "Catch a Falling Star" Variety Show Friday, March 8 at 7 pm in the Holy Family Center. Hosted by the Music Ministry, Women's Ministry and Knights of Columbus to raise money for Music Ministry equipment/instruments and in support of the Joy of the Gospel Ministry that feeds the homeless in our community. Tickets on sale the weekend of March 2/3 for \$10, or \$15 at the door. Hors d'oeuvres and desserts are included. There will also be a silent auction with baskets and prizes.



Please Donate Blood

Please bless patients and their families by donating blood **next Sunday, March 10** between 8 am and 1 pm at St. Matthew's and enjoy a St. Patrick Day themed T-shirt, a \$20 eGift card and a wellness check-up, including a cholesterol screening. Be a vital part of our Blood Donor Ministry and give second chances to our neighbors in need. Sign up at the main church entrance today or call Dan Eberts at 393-0805. Giving blood changes lives, starting with your own!

Upcoming Events

- ♦ **March 6:** Oasis 6-8pm with Adoration and Reconciliation, and private talks about prayer with Fr. Jonathan
- ♦ **March 7:** Shawl Ministry 11am in Bethany Hall
- ♦ **March 8:** Stations of the Cross 6pm outside in St. James Pavilion, followed by a Soup Supper in Bethany Hall. Hosted by the Youth Ministry this week.
- ♦ **March 8:** "Catch a Falling Star" Variety Show 7pm in the Holy Family Center, \$10 presale/\$15 at the door
- ♦ **March 11:** LINKED Ministry 1pm in Bethany Hall. A social group for divorced and widowed women.
- ♦ **March 18:** Holy Hour with the Knights of Columbus 7pm



God's Team Wants You!

All men are invited to St. Matthew's Men's Retreat, ***Getting to the End Zone***. This full-day event is led by Coach Deacon Tony Quattrochi and his faith-filled assistant coaches. Meals and snacks are provided and there is no cost to attend. So throw that Hail Mary pass and RSVP at StMat.org/Endzone or following Masses March 2/3 or 9/10.

Saturday, March 16, in the Holy Family Center, 8 am-6 pm followed by a private Mass celebrated by our Pastor Fr. Jonathan Emery and participants are encouraged to invite families/loved ones to Mass.

St. Vincent de Paul Society

In today's Gospel Jesus is asked "What sign can you show us?" Every day we can see signs of how God has visited us in the blessings of our lives. Let us be a sign of God's love by being a blessing to others.

Is there a family you know who needs assistance? Please call the Society of St. Vincent de Paul at (727) 592-1960 so that together we can be a sign of God's love to the suffering and poor.



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.

- 3/3 • Rev. John Hays ~
- 3/4 • Rev. John Lipscomb ~
- 3/5 • Rev. Sojan Punakkattu, ALCP ~
- 3/6 • For Vocations to the Priesthood & Religious Life ~
- 3/7 • Rev. Gilberto Quintero ~
- 3/8 • Vincent Washburn, Seminarian ~
- 3/9 • Rev. Bradley Reed ~

Pray for Peace

ROAR of the ROSARY

May 10th - Friday
Straz Center: Morsani Hall
6pm-10pm

Devotional Evening with:
Amazing Speakers
Eucharistic Adoration
Rosary Procession
Music by The Vigil Project

Cardinal Raymond Burke
Mother Adela
Gus Lloyd
Bishop Parkes

Sponsored in part by: Legatus Tampa Bay, Scarpo Family, Hyer Family, Saint Paul's Outreach, Young Catholic Professionals, FOCUS, Spirit FM 90.5

Request Tickets: RoaroftheRosary.org



GriefShare

GriefShare at St. Matthew Catholic Church began a new cycle on Wednesday, February 14. Meetings are held in Trinity Hall, 9:30am to 11:30am. 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!

We watch a video and then have a discussion. No one has to speak, but everyone has a chance to share if and when they are ready.

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.

2023 Tax Statement

If you would like to receive a statement of donations for the year 2023, 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: _____



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. 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.

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.



MEN'S BIBLE FELLOWSHIP:

Meets Mondays at 7pm via Skype. Contact Jim Dodson at 727-439-0165 or jwdodson2@gmail.com.

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: Everyone needs help occasionally; asking for it can be difficult. The St. Vincent de Paul team here at St. Matthew Church provides confidential assistance with food, utilities and other things as able, to all parish members, regardless of location, who are in need of help. The team also serves non-members living in our designated conference area. Please call 727-592-1960 for more information. Calls are monitored and returned daily, seven days a week.

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 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 HOMEBOUND:

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 Quattrochi (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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