

Saint Matthias the Apostle Catholic Church

9475 Annapolis Road Lanham, Maryland 20706-3020

Telephone: 301-459-4814 * <https://stmatthias.org>

OFFICE HOURS—SCHEDULE

8:00 am-4:00 pm Monday and Wednesday
8:00 am-12:00 pm Tuesday, Thursday and Friday

NOVEMBER 30, 2025

Parish Staff

Pastor

Reverend Avelino Gonzalez

Permanent Deacon

Reverend Deacon Alton Davis

Receptionist

Mrs. Miryan Cabrera ~ x 223

Accountant

Ms. Leslie Long O'Leary ~ x 202

Administrative Secretary

Mrs. Elsy Zaldivar ~ x 201

Director of Faith Formation

Ms. Jacqueline Sotelo ~ x 205

Adult & Youth Religious Education
and Sacramental Preparation

Director of Music Ministry

and Organist

Ms. Deborah Kijak-Hess ~ x 204

Maintenance Supervisor

Mr. Hector Perez

School Staff

Telephone: 301-577-9412

Principal

Dr. Coretta Streat ~ x 215

Administrative Assistant

Ms. Marsha Blackburn ~ x 212

Admissions Information

Mrs. Ann O'Hare ~ x 216



Sunday Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 PM
7:00 PM (Spanish)
Sunday: 8:00, 9:45 AM, 11:30 AM,
1:30 PM (Spanish) and 6:00 PM

Daily Mass Schedule

Monday through Saturday: 8:30 AM

Monday Devotion

Adoration and Blessed Sacrament: 6:00
to 8:00 PM
Confessions: 7:00 to 7:45 PM
Benediction: 7:45 PM

Sacrament of Baptism

Baptismal preparation classes and
Baptisms are held the 2nd (Spanish)
and 3rd Saturdays (English) of the
month. Contact the parish office to
register to attend.

Sacrament of Marriage

Registered parishioners must contact
the Pastor at least six months before the
wedding.

Moving?

Please notify us as soon as possible if
you are moving or have had a change of
address in order for us to update our
records.

The Academy of Saint Matthias the Apostle

9473 Annapolis Road • Lanham, Maryland 20706-3020 Telephone: 301-577-9412

Pre-K-3 years old to Grade 8

Catholic school whose mission is to provide quality education in a safe and caring environment. Parish students are welcomed throughout the school year. If you'd like to take a tour, please call the school offices for an appointment.

1st Week of Advent

Monday, December 1st

Advent Week

Daily Mass 8:30 AM: **Edith Padonu (D)**

Tuesday, December 2nd

Advent Week

Daily Mass 8:30 AM: **Dr. Lilian Njoku & Family (L)**

Wednesday, December 3rd

Advent Week; St. Francis Xavier, Priest

Daily Mass 8:30 AM: **Richard P. Midgley (D)**

Thursday, December 4th

St. John Damascene, Priest & Doctor of the Church

Daily Mass 8:30 AM: **Elizabeth K. Dikibo (D)**

Friday, December 5th

Advent Week

Daily Mass 8:30 AM: **Guadalupe Manlapaz (D)**

Saturday, December 6th

Advent Week; St. Nicholas, Bishop

Daily Mass 8:30 AM: **Alfredo V. Felix (D)**

2nd Sunday of Advent

Readings

Isaias 11:1-10

Romanos 15:4-9

Mateo 3:1-12

Saturday, December 6th

4:00 PM: **George Nwabukwu (L)**

7:00 PM: **Francisco de León (D)**

Sunday, December 7th

8:00 AM: **Emmanuel Osuji (D)**

9:45 AM: **Adaobi Ezeani-Utek & Family (L)**

11:30 AM: **Obinna Chikere (L)**

1:30 PM: **Michael Barrera (L)**

6:00 PM: **Fr. Pious Malliar (L)**

Please pray for the sick and homebound in our parish, our neighbors, family, and friends: (These names will be on the sick list for six weeks or until a family member calls)

Christopher Agboli; Kevin Butler; Helen Dziduch; Dolly Kramer Greene; Genevieve Greenfield; Troi Greenfield; Christopher Inya; Eugenia Ikpi; Nicholas Kniska; Gay Magruder; Carmel Murphy; James Nfoncho; Rodney Oak; Helen Onyewu; Margaret Mary Opalski; Rita Zehner; Angel Hernandez; Alberto Cabrera; John Mattimore; Carol Mattimore; Michele Feaster; Dorothy Johnson; Romaine Pinchback; Marion Prout; Ann Lynch

For our military, protect them from all harm.

For the faithful departed, may they rest in peace.



Saturday, December 6th

4:00 PM | Fr. Art

7:00 PM | Fr. Avelino

Sunday, December 7th

8:00 AM | Fr. Canice

9:45 AM | Fr. Avelino

11:30 AM | Fr. Canice

1:30 PM | Fr. Avelino

6:00 PM | Fr. Pious



Due to early submission, the Stewardship Report for November 23rd, will be in the next bulletin.

Thank you for your understanding.

Family Connection

Jesus tells his disciples that the coming of the Son of Man will catch many people unprepared. Jesus tells his disciples that they are to always be ready for the day of the Lord. [Matthew 24:37-44](#)

Many of us feel the pressure early in the holiday season to be ready for Christmas. But today's Gospel challenges us to be ready for something other than the gift-giving of Christmas.

Read together today's Gospel reading. As a family, talk about what it means to be ready for the day of the Lord. One of the roles of the family, the domestic church, is to be a school of faith leading one another to salvation. Reflect together as a family on how your family helps one another to be better Christians. Commit to one thing that your family will do this Advent season to help one another be better Christians. You might choose to write this commitment down and post it in a prominent place in your home, perhaps near your family's Advent wreath.

Pray together that God will help you in this Advent commitment. Pray together the Lord's Prayer or today's Psalm.

Advent Giving Tree



The Advent Giving Tree is the Ladies of Charity annual Christmas gift drive to help our brothers and sisters in need. We collect and distribute all donated items to: Catholic Charities, Walter Reed, Shepherd's Cove, and the homeless.

The Christmas tree is set up in the church lobby with tags on the branches that list items requested. Parishioners select a tag and then purchase the gift listed on the tag.

- Kindly return all items by **December 7th** with the tags attached.
- Please **do not wrap** the gifts.
- Gift Cards with the tag attached along with the dollar value should be placed in the collection basket or dropped off at the Parish Office.

FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

Mustang Moments

A Weekly spotlight on the Academy
St. Matthias the Apostle
Rooted in Faith; Growing in Excellence

From the Principal – Gratitude, Stewardship & Friendship

Peace and blessings, St. Matthias community!

As we come out of the Thanksgiving holiday and move into a new liturgical year, my heart is full of gratitude for the many ways God is at work in our parish and school. This past week, our school family gathered for Friendsgiving, a beautiful opportunity to pause, give thanks, and recognize that everything we have is a gift from God. Our students are learning that stewardship is more than a word—it is a way of life. God entrusts us with time, talents, and treasures so that we may use them generously in service to others.

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others.” (1 Peter 4:10)

Thank you for being part of this mission through your prayers, your presence, and your support of Catholic education at the Academy of St. Matthias the Apostle.

Student Success & Faith in Action

Our Friendsgiving celebration was a joyful witness to faith in action. Students helped prepare decorations, wrote heartfelt notes of appreciation for parishioners and donors, and participated reverently in the celebration. Their efforts reminded all of us that when we work together as one parish and school family, we reflect Christ’s love in visible, tangible ways. As we move from Thanksgiving into the season of Advent, please continue to keep our students, families, faculty, and staff in your prayers. Together, we are forming young people who not only strive for academic excellence, but also grow as grateful, generous disciples of Jesus.

Teacher Spotlight: Ms. Isis Lopez

6th Grade Homeroom • Middle School Science & Social Studies



Ms. Isis Lopez
Middle School
Science & Social Studies

Ms. Isis Lopez grew up in Hyattsville, MD and is herself a product of Catholic schools. She began teaching Pre-K in Washington, DC, but felt drawn to work with older students in a Catholic setting. She joined St. Matthias as the middle school science teacher and has spent the last three years joyfully teaching here.

She holds a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice, a minor in Victim Studies, and an Early Childhood Montessori Certificate. Her favorite Scripture is “And now war broke out in heaven, when Michael with his angels attacked the dragon. The dragon fought back with his angels, but they were defeated and driven out of

heaven. The great dragon, the primeval serpent, known as the devil or Satan, who had led all the world astray, was hurled down to the earth and his angels were hurled down with him.” Revelation 12:7-9. She has a strong devotion to St. Michael, protector and defender of souls.

Ms. Lopez is grateful for her “wonderful team that is always supportive and encouraging.” Her students enjoy science labs and interactive history lessons that make learning hands-on and engaging.

Two Hearts Vigil



Our Monthly Vigil is being held every **First Friday of the month** at 8:00 PM and concludes Saturday, after midnight with Mass. **Please join us for this special devotion.**



Immaculate Conception

Monday, December 8th The immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, is a Holy Day of Obligation.

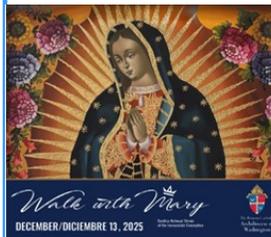
Mass Times: **8:30 A.M.**
10:30 A.M. (School Mass)
7:30 P.M. Bilingual

St. Matthias Celebrates Our Lady of Guadalupe

- ◆ Wednesday, December 3rd, Novena at 7:00 P.M.
- ◆ Thursday, December 11th, Procession from Friendship Hall to Church at 10:00 P.M. and Mass at 11:00 P.M. and at 1:00 A.M. Music (Las Mañanitas)
- ◆ Friday, December 12th, 7:00 P.M. Mass with a gathering in Friendship Hall after Mass.



Around The Archdiocese



Walk with Mary | Feast of our Lady of Guadalupe
December 13, 2025

PROCESSION - 11:00 A.M.
ROSARY - 1:00 P.M.
MASS - 2:00 P.M.

All are invited to join in our annual archdiocesan celebration of the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe! Each year, we honor Our Lady with a pilgrimage through the streets of Washington, D.C. which begins at The Shrine of the Sacred Heart and concludes at The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

Teen Youth Ministry

Fall Volunteer Opportunity: Saint Matthias teens are invited to join Catholic Charities in serving with SHARE, a program that provides thousands of families each month with affordable, nutritious groceries across the Washington metropolitan area. Teens help bag dry food items, like potatoes, rice, and onions, to prepare for monthly food distributions. Next date is:

- ◆ **Sat, Dec 20, 2025 • 5:00 AM–11:00 AM**

To sign up or get more information, contact Ms. Thompson at ltompson@stmatthias.org for permission slips and details.

Youth Group Meetings: Youth Ministry gathering has begun and takes place in the Hughes Center from 12:30 to 2:30 PM. every 2nd and 4th Sunday. Please join us regularly as we would love to see all our youth (ages 14-18) for fellowship, faith, and fun! Contact Ihuoma Chikere: ichikere16@gmail.com

Upcoming Youth Group Dates:

- ◆ Dec 14, 28, 2025