

# 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

**DECEMBER 7, 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.

**2nd Week of Advent**

**Monday, December 8th**

*The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

Daily Mass 8:30 AM: **CWA-Immaculate Conception**

**Tuesday, December 9th**

*St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin; Advent Week*

Daily Mass 8:30 AM: **Ihuoma Chikere (L)**

**Wednesday, December 10th**

*Our Lady of Loreto; Advent Week*

Daily Mass 8:30 AM: **Patricia Dikibo & Family (L)**

**Thursday, December 11th**

*St. Damasus I, Pope; Advent Week*

Daily Mass 8:30 AM: **Patricia Agboli (D)**

**Friday, December 12th**

*Our Lady of Guadalupe; Advent Week*

Daily Mass 8:30 AM: **Ikechukwu Nwizu & Anthony Nnandi (D)**

**Saturday, December 13th**

*St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr; Advent Week*

Daily Mass 8:30 AM: **Lawrence Rodriguez (D)**

**3rd Sunday of Advent**

**Readings**

Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10

James 5:7-10

Matthew 11:2-11

**Saturday, December 13th**

4:00 PM: **Paredes/Manlapaz Family (D)**

7:00 PM: **Edna De León (D)**

**Sunday, December 14th**

8:00 AM: **Jeff George (L)**

9:45 AM: **Adaobi Margaret Ugoagwu (D)**

11:30 AM: **CWA for dedication of Members (L)**

1:30 PM: **Hector Ocon (D)**

6:00 PM: **Kingsley Nwadije (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 13th**

4:00 PM | Fr. Canice

7:00 PM | Fr. Juan Antonio

**Sunday, December 14th**

8:00 AM | Fr. Pious

9:45 AM | Fr. Canice

11:30 AM | Fr. Avelino

1:30 PM | Fr. Avelino

6:00 PM | Fr. Canice



**Stewardship Report**

**November 23rd**

**Offertory 9,219**

**Faith Direct 1,962**

**Total 11,181**

**November 30th**

**Offertory 8,087**

**Faith Direct 1,962**

**Total 10,049**

**Next weekend's second collection is the Retirement Fund for Religious.**

*Thank you for your generosity.*

**Family Connection**

John the Baptist appears in Judea preaching a message of repentance. We do many things to get ourselves ready for our celebration of Christmas: purchase gifts, prepare Christmas cards, decorate our homes. John's call of repentance in preparation for Jesus reminds us that our repentance is another way in which we can prepare for the Lord's coming and our celebration of Christmas. Parish communities often offer a communal celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation during the Advent season. Your family might choose to participate in the communal celebration of the sacrament, or you might seek out the sacrament on an individual basis.

Read together today's Gospel. Talk about how John reminds the people that they prepare for the reign of God by reforming their lives. As a family, prepare a simple reconciliation service in preparation for Christmas such as the following: Gather in a prayerful space, perhaps around your family Advent wreath. Read again today's Gospel: Matthew 3:1-3. Invite each family member to pray silently, asking God to forgive their sins. Pray together an Act of Contrition. Then celebrate God's forgiveness by sharing a Sign of Peace with each other.



## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### Mustang Moments

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

#### From the Principal – Thanksgiving & Entering Advent

Dear St. Matthias parish family,

We celebrated Thanksgiving and now prepare to enter the holy season of Advent, our students are learning that gratitude and hope go hand in hand. We are encouraging them to give thanks not only for material blessings, but for the people God has placed in their lives: parents, grandparents, teachers, parishioners, and friends.

“Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances.” (1 Thessalonians 5:16–18)

As Advent begins, we invite you to join us in preparing our hearts for Christ’s coming through prayer, patience, and acts of charity.

#### Student Success & Faith in Action

This week marks the beginning of Advent at the Academy. Students are learning about the meaning of the **Advent wreath**, preparing Jesse Tee symbols, and reflecting on how they can “make room for Jesus” in their daily lives. Our younger students are learning simple Advent songs, while older students are engaging in scripture reflections connected to the themes of hope and preparation.

Teacher Spotlight: **Mr. Oscar Lopez**  
5th Grade Teacher



Mr. Oscar Lopez is originally from **Hyattsville, Maryland** and first came to ASMA as a **substitute teacher in 2024**. After spending time with the students and experiencing the school community, he felt called to stay and is now our **5th grade teacher**.

He holds a **Bachelor’s degree in Psychology**, with additional studies in **Literature and Culture**. His favorite passage is **Psalm 22**, and he looks to **St. Francis of Assisi** as a model of care for others and for creation.

Mr. Lopez says that his day is brightened by “wonderful coworkers who always make my day, and my students who are always ready to learn.” In his classroom, he hopes to help students “pick up the joy of reading,” especially in their cozy **reading corner**.

### Know Your Rights

#### Know Your Rights - Guardianship Hosted by: Saint Matthias Action Team

Join us at Saint Matthias on Saturday, December 13, 2025 in the Hughes Center, 11:00 am-12:30 pm to learn how to plan for your children’s care in case of an emergency. Find out what guardianship means, how to choose a trusted adult, and where to get help. Come get simple, helpful information to keep your family safe and prepared. A light lunch will be provided, and all are welcome! Contact: [ltompson@stmatthias.org](mailto:ltompson@stmatthias.org)



### 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

- ◆ 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. Contact: [culturaldiversity@adw.org](mailto:culturaldiversity@adw.org) for more information.

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:ichikere16@gmail.com)

**Upcoming Youth Group Dates:**

- ◆ Dec 14, 28, 2025