

EASTER - THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

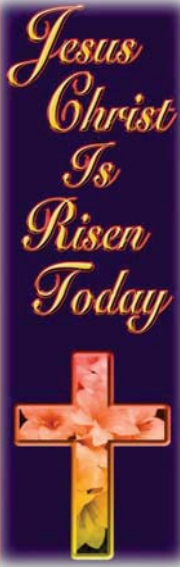
CHRIST

INDEED FROM DEATH IS RISEN

VICTIMÆ PASCHALI LAUDES



St. Matthew the Evangelist Parish
April 20, 2025



Dear Parishioners,

Happy Easter! May this glorious season fill your hearts with the joy and peace that our Lord promises us. Christ is risen! Indeed, He is risen! This is a time of celebration, renewal, and hope, and we have so much to rejoice about together!

First and foremost, let's extend a cheerful welcome to our newest members of the faith, Edward and Tessa! They joyfully received the Sacraments of Initiation, including Baptism, Confirmation, and First Holy Communion during our Easter Vigil. Their commitment and spirit remind us of the beauty and power of faith. Please join me in praying for Edward and Tessa, that their faith may continue to flourish and be a guiding light in their lives. Welcome, Edward and Tessa!

Lent presented us with a precious opportunity for reflection, allowing us to dive deeper into the significance of our faith. It's true that there are moments when we find ourselves struggling or questioning, wondering if Jesus is truly with us. But in these moments, we are invited to pause and reflect on the incredible truth of His love.

In moments of uncertainty, we can remember the words of Jesus from the cross: "My God, My God, why have you abandoned me?" (Matthew 27:46). These profound words come from Psalm 22, a passage that underscores a journey from despair to hope. While Jesus spoke of suffering, the complete psalm reveals a powerful narrative of trust in God and the assurance of His rescue. It reminds us that even in our darkest hours, the dawn of hope can break through—just as it did with the resurrection.

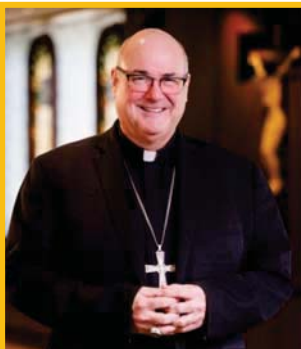
In his encyclical *Spe Salvi* ("Saved in Hope"), Pope Benedict XVI beautifully expresses that our faith is not merely a collection of ideals, but rather a vibrant reality grounded in Truth and Love. God walked among us and shared in our suffering because He deeply cares for each one of us. This profound love assures us that we are never alone in our trials, and through Christ's journey, we find the strength to endure and the assurance of victory.

Through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, God has united Himself with us to conquer sin and death, leading us toward eternal joy in Heaven. This unwavering promise is a source of comfort for us, reminding us that God is with us in every moment—through good times and bad, in sickness and health. His presence brings us peace and assurance, even as we strive to find the joy of Easter amidst the challenges we face.

As we gather once again for Holy Mass and to receive the Eucharist, let us remember the powerful message that the angel said to the women at the tomb on the First Easter, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said." The empty tomb symbolizes our hope and victory! Death could not claim Him, and because of Him, it cannot claim us either.

Let us celebrate this Easter with renewed faith and joy, uplifted by the knowledge that our Savior is alive! Jesus Christ is risen! Indeed, He is risen! Wishing you all a blessed and joyful Easter!

~Fr. Chris



EASTER MESSAGE FROM ARCHBISHOP HENNING

Christ is Risen! Christ is truly Risen! This ancient Christian greeting expresses the foundation of our Easter joy and our singing the praises of God. As you gather in Church and around the family table this day, I wish every blessing for you and yours. I pray that you always know this Easter truth that we are not alone in a cold universe. Rather we are enfolded in the arms of a loving Father. He Who created life now shows His power to renew and restore life. May that life be yours now and in eternity.



Message from the Parish Staff

The clergy and staff would like to wish everyone a very Happy and Blessed Easter! In honor of the Easter and Patriot's Day Holiday, the **Parish Office will be closed** on Monday and will reopen on Tuesday at 10am for our normal business hours.

Community Sunday at St. Theresa ~ NEXT Sunday, April 27th



Community Sundays are a wonderful opportunity for us as a Parish Community to come together after Mass to socialize and enjoy one another's company while having a sweet treat and a nice hot cup of coffee. Our next Community Sunday gathering will be held **Sunday, April 27th at St. Theresa after the 9:30AM Mass**. Children's activities will be available as well. Help is needed to continue with our Community Sundays. From setting up, baking, representing a church ministry, financial donations and more, there are lots of opportunities to help make these monthly events a success. You can

sign up to help by calling the Parish Office at **978-663-8816**. Thank you in advance and we look forward to seeing you there!

Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday marks the joyful celebration of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, where the crowds welcomed Him with palm branches and shouts of praise. This day not only symbolizes the beginning of Holy Week but also serves as a reminder of the love and sacrifice that Jesus embraced for humanity. As our children carry their palms in joyous procession, we celebrate this important moment in our faith, reflecting on hope, renewal, and the journey ahead.



APRIL PARISH MOVIE MATINEE – SUNDAY APRIL 27th



Are you looking for a family-friendly activity on a Sunday afternoon? If so, come to the St. Matthew MOVIE MATINEE. We will be showing the Oscar Nominated film ***The Wild Robot***.

The movie is **FREE** and light refreshments will be available during the event. Join us as you wrap up April vacation in a fun way!

Movie Selection -The Wild Robot

Date: Sunday, April 27, 2025

Time: NOON

Location: Fr. McCormick Hall at St. Theresa Church

"After a shipwreck, an intelligent robot called Roz is stranded on an uninhabited island. To survive the harsh environment, Roz bonds with the island's animals and cares for an orphaned baby goose."



Baby Bottle Donations Due NEXT Weekend

All donations for the Baby Bottle Fundraiser hosted by the Pro-Life Network, Billerica and Beyond should be **returned to any of the Masses taking place NEXT weekend on April 26th and 27th**. All donations will help Heartbeat Pregnancy Help Center in Burlington. In addition to returning your donations to the church, online donations can be made using the QR code provided. We thank you for your continued generosity and support of this important fundraiser over the years.

~The Pro-Life Network, Billerica and Beyond



Adult Confirmation

Are you an adult who has received the Sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion, but has not yet been Confirmed? If you would like to enter more deeply into the Body of Christ, the Church, and complete the grace of Baptism to bear witness to the Catholic faith in word and deed, then Confirmation might be the next step in your spiritual journey. If you are interested, contact Dustin at admin@billericacatholic.org or call **978-667-3733 x448**.



Divine Mercy Sunday

April 27, 2025

Holy Hour 3-4pm

St. Theresa Church

All are invited to come for Eucharistic Adoration, Scripture, reflection and to pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. Information on Divine Mercy, including the nine-day novena leaflets (which begins on Good Friday), will be available at the church entrance or on <http://divinemercysunday.com/novena.htm>.



Pray the Rosary with the Legion of Mary at St. Andrew

All are invited to join members of the Legion of Mary Prayer Group as they lead us in the recitation of the Most Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary **every Friday at 11:30am at St. Andrew Church**. Join us for the rosary, and if you are able, stay for the Daily Mass. "Parishioners who pray the rosary and receive the Eucharist together will unite and strengthen our Parish."

~Father Arthur from Our Lady of Wayside Church

Come and be comforted!



The **"Seasons of Hope" Spring Bereavement Sessions** will take place on Wednesday evenings, beginning on April 23, April 30, May 7, May 14, May 21 and May 28. The sessions will be held in the Parish Center of St. Michael Parish in Bedford from 6:00-7:30pm. If you have any questions, or would like to sign up, please e-mail Pat@bedfordcatholic.org or call Pat at **781-275-6318, X 230**.



PROJECT RISE

Our friends in faith are again hosting a special distribution for our residents in need on **Saturday, May 3rd** at their beautiful Masjid on 246 Rangeway Road in Billerica from 10am-noon. With the way the status of the economy is, we are anticipating 250 families, if not more. This is a special distribution outside of the Community Pantry and is open to ALL in need. There is NO registration required, but an RSVP using

email distrsvp@gmail.com does help to anticipate how many will be in attendance.

We are working in conjunction with the other faith communities in town and each parish has signed up for specific items. St. Matthew the Evangelist Parish is specifically asking for deodorant and body wash. Donation buckets will be provided at the front entrances of both churches next weekend or you can stop by the Parish Office during business hours where you may drop off your items. **All donations are due by Thursday, May 1st** so that they can be delivered on the distribution date.

In addition, on May 3rd volunteers from each faith community are welcome at 9am to help distribute these donations. In years past we have gathered around the traffic circle at the Masjid and have multiple stations to load cars for recipients. This is a Great Day of community and socialization for all. If you are interested in participating in this Distribution Day, please reach out to the Parish Office at **978-663-8816** or admin@billericacatholic.org to sign up.

OFFERTORY REPORT

We are pleased to present to you a report on revenue and expenses. This includes offertory (received weekly at Masses, by mail, and online giving), as well as other revenue received throughout the month.

Thank you for all you do through your time, treasure and talent to support our parish!

	December 2024	January 2025	February 2025	March 2025
Total Offertory (by month)	66,206	63,177	44,477	66,479
Grand Annual Stewardship Campaign (by month)	34,267	7,128	8,943	9,310
Other Revenue Received (by month)	29,031	14,401	16,891	18,375
Total Revenue	129,504	84,706	70,311	94,164
Expenses	123,989	102,208	88,004	90,045
NET INCOME (LOSS)	5,515	(17,502)	(17,693)	4,119

Please note, the Net Loss in January and February 2025 is being funded through the cash reserves from the prior months.

Bank Operating Account Balance 3.31.2025 \$24,688

Easter Collection

Every Easter the parish collection supports the Clergy Trust so that they can continue to care for the health and well-being of all active and senior priests in good standing. Our priests have dedicated their lives to serving others, and through their ministry they create stronger and more compassionate communities. Please consider a donation to next week's collection to support the Clergy Trust.



clergytrust healthier priests.
stronger communities.

SUPPORT OUR PRIESTS THIS EASTER



St. Matthew Parish - Vacation Bible School 2025

Journey with God's servant, Joseph, in this year's VBS adventure!

Join us **June 23 - 27** as we discover how Joseph's faith saved God's People!

Each morning, enjoy exciting music, games, crafts, and bible stories.

Listen for God's voice, and learn to follow his Son, Jesus.

Open to **current** grade K-5 children

REGISTER WITH QR CODE BELOW:



Current grade 6 - high school youth invited to be Counselors

APPLY WITH LINK BELOW:

<https://forms.gle/sfdxS4yBwxnkN7w67>

Details & Registration forms on our website at <https://billericacatholic.org/vbs-online-registration>

Questions? Contact **Deb Fergus** at deb.fergus@billericacatholic.org

Hope to see YOU at VBS 2025!

SME Youth Faith Formation is Alive and Well!

Our Easter Basket Works of Mercy took place this past weekend. This beautiful tradition has been taking place in our Parish for over 40 years!



Thanks to all who donated, assembled, and delivered **over 250 Easter Baskets** to Billerica elderly and families-in-need!

- Faith Formation families
- Adult ministers and volunteers
 - SME staff

You are indeed the Light of Christ to our neighbors!



Reflection Question of the Week ~ Easter Sunday

"We are witnesses of all that he did" and "He commissioned us to preach to the people" these are words from today's reading from the Acts of the Apostles. The witness we need to give is about Christ's saving action in our own lives, the good that came from our Lenten practices, the deepening commitment we feel to being faithful disciples! Pray for the courage to be like Peter and Mary Magdalen, who ran to tell others, "I have seen the Lord!" To whom might we run to tell that we also have seen the Lord in our lives? Doing so won't just be news; it will be

Good News. Share it!

- How can you be a source of new life and hope for those around you?
- What practical ways can you spread the Good News of the Resurrection in your daily life?
- How can you keep the joy of Easter alive in your heart all year round?



Intentions for the week of April 19th-April 25th

For All Parishioners of St. Matthew the Evangelist Parish

Intentions for the week of April 26th-May 2nd

Jane Rines-17th Anniversary
David Little-10th Anniversary
Joseph M. Doherty-2nd Anniversary
Thomas and Florence Nunes-1st and 17th Anniversary
Marie Maude Marc-4th Anniversary
Peter Bysiewicz-Memorial
Dorothy Rita Higgins-35th Anniversary
Mary J. Lattanzi-Month's Mind
Toni Marie Riley-Memorial
Patricia Murphy-Memorial
Rose Marie Hobson-Memorial
Jeanette Lipha-Memorial

Please remember in your prayers the repose of the souls of:

Mary Anne Walsh



Pray the Rosary with the Legion of Mary at St. Andrew

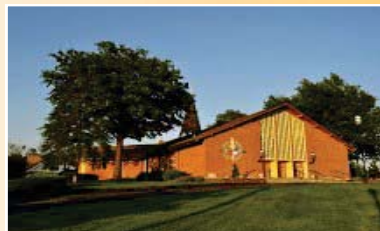
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~Father Arthur from Our Lady of Wayside Church



Online Giving QR Code

Use the QR code to the left, to make a secure, one-time or recurring contribution from your bank account to our parish. Online Giving provides many advantages to you and the parish. Thank you for your continued support. **St. Matthew the Evangelist receives approximately 40% of contributions through online giving!**



St. Andrew Church

45 Talbot Avenue

N. Billerica, MA 01862

Sun. Mass 8:00am & 11:00am

Daily Mass Tues. & Fri. at 12:05pm

Rosary led by Legion of Mary: Friday at 11:30am

St. Theresa Church

466 Boston Road

Billerica, MA 01821

Sat. Mass 4:00pm

Sun. Mass 9:30am & 5:00pm

Daily Mass M, W, & Th at 9:00am

Confession Sat @ 2:00 pm

Pastoral Team

Rev. Christopher Casey, *Pastor*

Ext. 224

Fr. Jean Sassou, *Parochial Vicar*

Ext. 223

Deacon Al Shanahan, *Deacon*

Resident Clergy:

Fr. Romain Rurangirwa

Fr. Theophilus Okpara

St. Vincent de Paul Society: 978-408-8278

Office Team

Christine Kilburn, *Director of Finance & Operations*

Ext. 243

Karen Dubbs, *Office Manager*

Ext. 300

Heather Murphy, *Pastoral Ministry & Project Coordinator*

Ext. 200

Dino Bastianelli, *Facilities Manager*

Ext. 332

Youth Faith Formation Staff

Karyn Moody, *Coordinator for Grades 1-4*

Ext. 444

**Deb Fergus, *Senior Coordinator for Faith Formation
and Coordinator for Grades 5-8***

Ext. 442

Alanna Fava, *Confirmation & Teen Ministries*

Ext. 445

Dustin Batista, *Pastoral Minister & Teen Ministries*

Ext. 448

Knights of Columbus

Dan Quattrocchi, *Membership Director*

kofc3963@yahoo.com

St. Matthew Parish Office

One Grace Avenue

Billerica, MA 01821

978.663.8816

Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 10am-3pm

Music Ministry

Mrs. Laura Rosa, *Director and Organist*

Maria Coughlan, *Cantor*

Rebecca Murphy, *Cantor*

Michelle Roy, *Cantor*



For questions about St. Matthew Parish or information on any of the following topics, please contact the person listed below:

New to the Parish, Mass Intentions, Baptisms, Adult Confirmation, RCIA or the CORI process?

Please Call the Parish Office at 978-663-8816, Mon-Wed. from 10am-1pm or email admin@billericacatholic.org

Funerals

If you have recently experienced the loss of a loved one, please contact the office at **978-663-8816** so that we can walk with you through this difficult journey.

Weddings

Congratulations on your engagement! Please call 978-663-8816 or email admin@billericacatholic.org to schedule an appointment at least 6 months before your wedding.

Homebound and Sick

Do you know of someone who is homebound and would appreciate a visit from a priest? If you know someone in the parish who would like a visit to receive the Eucharist, please call the office at **978-663-8816** to arrange a visit.



I CAN WALK BAREFOOT ON THE BEACH AGAIN!

Local acupuncture clinic is treating the untreatable,
peripheral neuropathy with incredible results!

Pain comes in many shapes and sizes. One of the most debilitating being the burning and tingling that comes with peripheral neuropathy. A disease that comes with years of shooting, stabbing pain that gradually ends in numbness, balance problems, and on occasion, amputations. A disease that was once classified as irreparable.

David R. of Waltham, MA was facing such a fate.

"I stopped golfing. I wasn't taking walks on the beach with my wife. I was living on gabapentin and antidepressants and everywhere I went; my doctor, the specialists, the pain institute, told me there was no cure. How are you supposed to live your life knowing that everyday brings pain and suffering?"

Peripheral neuropathy is a result of damage to the nerves, commonly caused by a lack of blood flow to the nerves in the hands and feet. This causes the nerves to begin to degenerate due to lack of nutrient flow. Most peripheral neuropathy sufferers experience a heightened sensitivity to touch making it almost impossible for those diagnosed to even wear shoes, much less enjoy life.

"It was like walking on sharp river rocks. I barely left my recliner." shares David, whose experience is not uncommon for those diagnosed with peripheral neuropathy.

That is until he found Min Jeon of AWC|Acupuncture & Wellness Clinic of Burlington Massachusetts. Min and her staff have pioneered a cutting edge, medical solution to treat neuropathy, eliminate or greatly reduce its symptoms and give people their lives back. And they're doing it without the use of prescription medications and invasive surgeries.

"Acupuncture is incredible at restoring blood flow and stimulating damaged nerves, preventing them from dying off," tells Min Jeon. "We take our treatments a step further by integrating ATP Resonance BioTherapy® which targets specific nerves in the body using microcurrent. ATP therapy is like watering a plant. This treatment will stimulate the blood vessels to grow back around the peripheral nerves and provide them with the proper nutrients to heal and repair."

Three months later David is thrilled with his progress, "I can walk barefoot on the beach again!"

Success stories like David's are not atypical for the staff at AWC. "We have a 90% success rate in treating neuropathy," shares Min.

The number of treatments needed to allow the nerves to fully recover will vary from person to person and can only be determined after a detailed neurological and vascular evaluation. So long as you have not sustained more than 85% nerve damage AWC offers hope where there once was none.

While David's peripheral neuropathy was idiopathic, meaning the cause is unknown, Min's treatments can also help people whose neuropathy is caused by diabetes or chemotherapy.

"We have seen tremendous success in treating neuropathy of all types through very personalized treatments, specifically tailored to treat each individual case."

To schedule a consultation and complete evaluation call (781)221-0162 but do so quickly because AWC is taking a limited number of new neuropathy patients. For more information and to take advantage of their new patient offer visit AWClinic.com.

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"Jesus Wept." John 11:35



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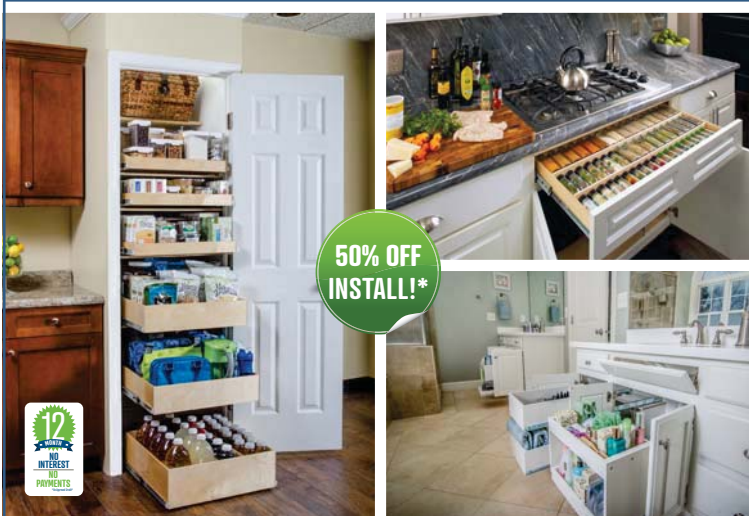


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- Fr. Richard Clancy

Pastor, River of Divine
Mercy Parish
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“God is Love” 1 John 4:8



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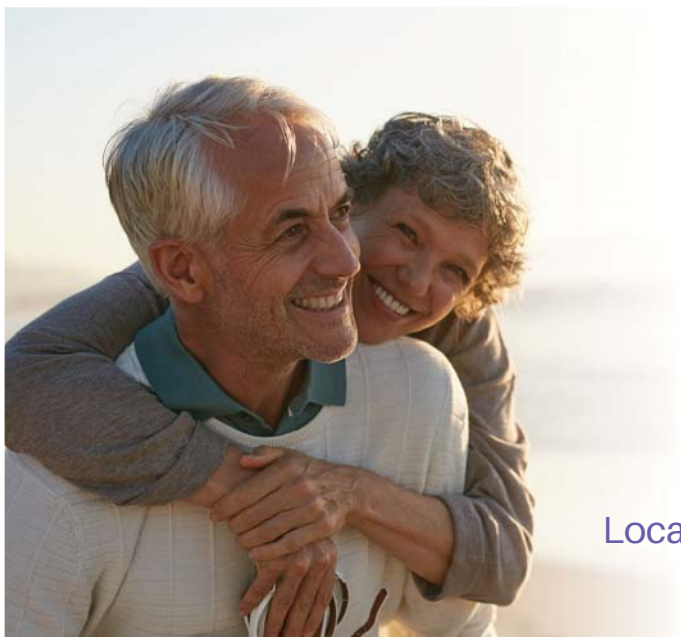
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Aug 7 Tewksbury, MA
Nov 7 Alton Bay, NH

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“

I CAN WALK BAREFOOT ON THE BEACH AGAIN!

Local acupuncture clinic is treating the untreatable,
peripheral neuropathy with incredible results!

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