

St. Matthew the Evangelist Parish
April 27, 2025



His Holiness Pope Francis

Jorge Mario Bergoglio
1936–2025

Pray for the Holy Father



In a heartfelt statement regarding the passing of our Holy Father, Pope Francis, Archbishop Henning shared these poignant words: "In his ministry and across his writings, he has continuously called us to deeper faith and a more generous participation in the boundless compassion of God. He has challenged us to turn away from selfish impulses and toward communion with others and respect for God's creation."

As we reflect on the legacy of Pope Francis, let us unite in prayer for his soul, that he may experience the fullness of joy in the glory of heaven. We also invite you to join in prayer for the leaders of our Church during this crucial time. May the Holy Spirit guide them in their important work as they prepare for the forthcoming conclave. Together, let us seek inspiration and strength as we honor his memory and the mission he passionately championed.



Dear Parishioners,

He is risen! As we rejoice in the great feast of Easter, we enter into the beautiful Easter Season that lasts until Pentecost—truly Spirit-filled days! I hope that you and your families enjoyed a blessed Easter. Here at St. Matthew the Evangelist Parish, we celebrated the season in a truly special way.

Our children were a joy to witness during the Palm Sunday Procession, and Holy Week brought a flurry of activity as we prepared for the celebrations. Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil were each filled with beauty—from the magnificent decorations to the uplifting music. I was delighted to see our churches filled to capacity on Easter Sunday! This success was only possible because of the countless individuals who worked diligently behind the scenes. Their dedicated efforts embody the power of the Holy Spirit; when we open our hearts to God's Spirit, we are embraced by beauty, joy, and peace. While I hesitate to name everyone for fear of overlooking someone, I want to express my deepest gratitude to all who contributed to making our Easter celebrations so meaningful and heartfelt.

This Easter was particularly joyful as we welcomed two new members into the Catholic faith, Tess and Edward. Both were baptized, confirmed, and received their first Holy Communion at our Vigil Mass. As they join our community, they bring their unique gifts and experiences to serve God and His Church. We are truly enriched by their presence, and I know that you all join me in welcoming them with open hearts, anticipating the wonderful contributions they will bring to our community.

Today, we also celebrate the Feast of Divine Mercy. The opening prayer beautifully states, "God of everlasting mercy, who in the very recurrence of the paschal feast kindle the faith of the people you have made your own, increase, we pray, the grace you have bestowed, that all may grasp and rightly understand in what font they have been washed, by whose Spirit they have been reborn, by whose Blood they have been redeemed." Easter serves as a time for each of us to experience refreshment and renewal in the Spirit we received at Baptism and Confirmation, nourished continually by the Body and Blood of our Savior. Let us pray together for all those who returned to Mass for Easter after a time away, that the Spirit of God may touch their hearts and guide them toward the joy of the faith we cherish, along with the gift of His mercy that overflows for His children.

May God bless you and your families abundantly this Easter Season, as well as our St. Matthew the Evangelist Parish community!

In Christ's love,

Fr. Chris



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!



Thank you for 11 wonderful years!

It has been a pleasure and a privilege to serve the children, youth, and families of our Billerica Catholic community. I will be stepping down from Youth Faith Formation – retiring – in mid-July.

Although our parishes and programs have experienced many transitions, my “yes!” to God’s calling and my love for you has not wavered.

I pray that the work of our parish clergy, staff, ministries, and volunteers continue to bear fruit and witness young families growing in faith and love for our Awesome God, especially through friendship with His Son, Jesus Christ.

I hope all families, no matter their make up or faith journey thus far, find a ‘second home’ at St. Matthew’s, where they are welcomed, nurtured, valued, and needed.

I humbly share my favorite Scripture passage with you – one I struggle to live up to, but one that has both challenged and fed me during this Faith Formation journey:

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do. And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection. And let the peace of

Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the

Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Colossians 3: 12-17 (NABRE)

God made you, so you are Good. God loves you, so you are Important. God had a plan for you, so you are Needed. (anonymous)

Peace in Christ,

Deb Fergus, Senior Faith Formation Coordinator



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.

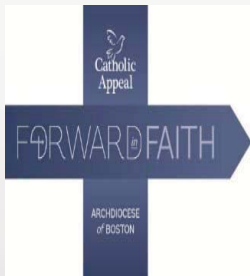
We are working in conjunction with the other faith communities in town and each parish has signed up for specific items. St. Matthew the Evangelist Parish is specifically asking for deodorant and body wash. Donation buckets will be provided at the front entrances of both churches next weekend or you 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.



Anointing of the Sick

Just a reminder that the sacrament of the **Anointing of the Sick** is available the first weekend of every month at **both churches**. Anointings will take place after all the Masses to any parishioner who needs this grace. Other dates are available by calling the Parish Office.



2025 Catholic Appeal... Forward in Faith

The Catholic Appeal continues and we are inching closer to our parish goal! A reminder, if we reach our goal, a percentage of those funds will be returned back to the parish. Currently, we are pleased to share that we have raised \$47,645 (63%) of our 2025 parish goal of \$75,800.

The outpouring of support from so many helps sustain the important ministries that make our parish a vibrant place to worship. Saint Matthew has relied on the resources at Central Ministries many times, with their knowledge and assistance being invaluable to our parish. ***If you have not had a chance to do so, please consider making your gift to the Appeal today by picking up an envelope in your pew, at the back of the church or make an on-line donation at www.bostoncatholicappeal.org, or using the QR code to the right.***

On behalf of Father Chris, Archbishop Henning and all who benefit from your generosity, Thank you.



Adoration Opportunities

All are invited to attend the Novena of the Sacred Heart to be held at **St. Andrew Church on Friday, May 2nd at 7pm**. The evening will begin with the rosary and will be followed by the Novena, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction. We hope you will take advantage of these opportunities to spend some quiet time with Jesus.



MAY MOVIE NIGHT !

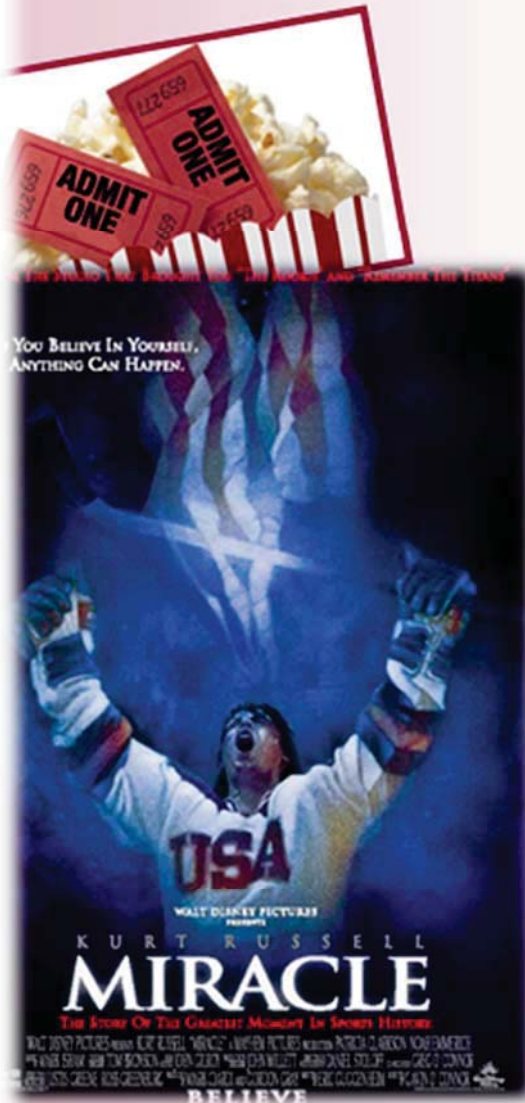
SATURDAY MAY 3rd

After the 4:00 PM Mass

In Fr. McCormick Hall
(behind St. Theresa Church)

Come and socialize!

**Enjoy the movie
for FREE!**



One of the greatest moments in sports history, TRUE STORY captures a time and place where differences could be settled by games and a cold war could be put on ice. In 1980, the United States Ice Hockey team's coach, Herb Brooks, took a ragtag squad of college kids up against the legendary juggernaut from the Soviet Union at the Olympic Games.

Ham Dinner!

With Macaroni and Cheese and Salad

**GRAB DINNER—EAT HERE OR
TAKE IT TO GO!**

**DINNER ~ \$10.00 for those who
would like to enjoy the meal.**



HOLY WEEK

What a truly sacred and unforgettable Holy Week we shared as a parish family. From the quiet depth of Palm Sunday to the glory of Easter morning, our hearts were united in prayer, remembrance, and joy.

Holy Thursday's Mass of the Lord's Supper was a moving reminder of Christ's call to serve and love. The solemn procession and time spent in Adoration offered a peaceful beginning to the Triduum.

On Good Friday, we stood at the foot of the Cross together, entering into the mystery of Christ's Passion with reverence and awe. The Veneration of the Cross was especially powerful, as many came forward in silent reflection and prayer.

Then, in the stillness of Holy Saturday, we waited—and rejoiced with full hearts at the Easter Vigil. The beauty of the liturgy, the light of the Paschal candle, and the voices raised in *Alleluia* made it a night to remember. We were especially blessed to welcome Edward and Tess as new members into the Church through the Sacraments of Initiation.

Finally, Easter Sunday overflowed with joy and hope. The church was filled with families, flowers, and the music of Resurrection. Truly, it was a celebration worthy of our Risen Lord.

Thank you to all who participated, served, and prayed with us during this sacred time. May the graces of Holy Week continue to bear fruit in our lives in the weeks ahead. He is risen—*Alleluia*!

Additional Photos of Holy Week can be found on our website at www.billericacatholic.org.





Reflection Question of the Week ~ 2nd Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday)

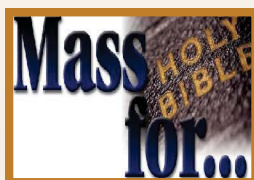
Bloom
where
you
are
planted.



The scene in today's gospel takes place in a room where the apostles are locked in fear, unclear about what has just happened to Jesus and worried about their lives and future. Upon entering the room, Jesus allays their fears and commissions the disciples, and us, with these words: "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." The responsibility is clear, we are to go forth from our places of fear with the confidence that are not alone and to invite people into relationship with Jesus. Remember the words we heard last

week, "we are witnesses . . . commissioned to preach." We are being sent to be his instruments of mercy and peace.

- In what ways can I experience and share the peace of Christ?
- How do I respond to moments of doubt in my faith?
- How does being part of a faith community support my spiritual growth?



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

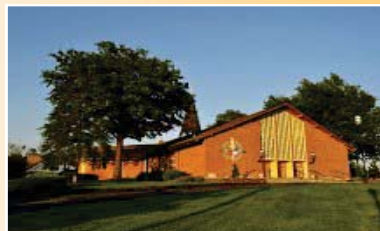
Intentions for the week of May 3rd-May 9th

Fr. Henry Ronan and Fr. James DeAdder-Memorial
Francis-Memorial
Elizabeth Rane-Memorial
Margaret O'Neil-17th Anniversary
Charlotte Gearin-Birthday Memorial
Altagracia DeJesus Yeb Soto-1st Anniversary
Erin Fell-Memorial
Raymond and Claire Routhier-Memorial
Christopher Pomerleau-Birthday Memorial
Mark R. Kelley-Memorial



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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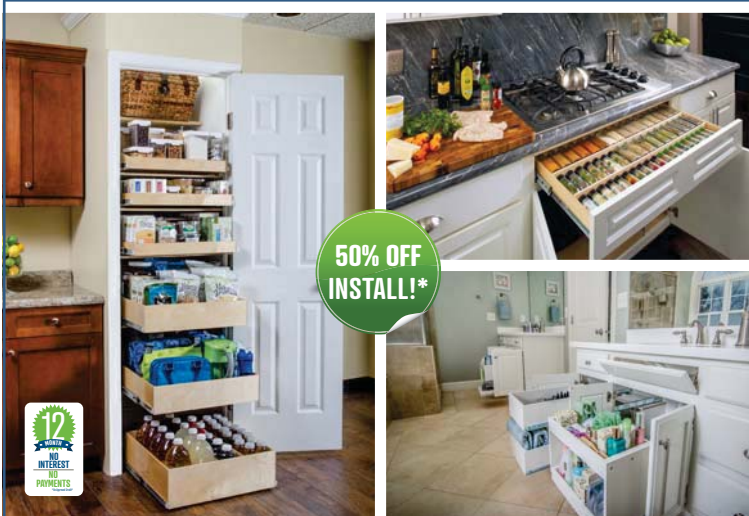


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- Fr. Richard Clancy

Pastor, River of Divine
Mercy Parish
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“

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