

St. Matthew the Evangelist Parish
June 08, 2025

Pentecost



Jesus said to his disciples: "If you love me, you will keep my commandments.
And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate
to be with you always." John 14:15-16

PENTECOST



Dear Parishioners,

When I was a child, our family had a friend who was a missionary priest in Japan. His name was Fr. Emmett, a Franciscan with a deep love for the Gospel. From time to time, he would write letters to my mother, and I still remember how he closed one of them—near the end of the Easter Season—with the words, “Have a fiery Pentecost!” That phrase has stayed with me ever since. Every year as Pentecost approaches, I think of those words—and the fire of the Holy Spirit.

I find myself longing for that fire. I thirst for the Spirit to ignite my faith. I believe this “fire of the Spirit” is the essential ingredient for living with authentic joy in the life of grace. And it’s not really a secret—God has generously poured out the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit: Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge, Piety, and Fear of the Lord. We receive these Gifts at Baptism, and they are strengthened in us at Confirmation. They remain within us through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit—that Divine Life in our soul given at Baptism.

When these Gifts are stirred into flame, they bear fruit. The Fruits of the Spirit, listed in Galatians 5:22, are Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-Control. Some sources expand this list to include twelve fruits, adding Modesty, Continence, and Longanimity—a word

that means patient endurance, or long-suffering.

The Holy Spirit—sometimes called “the Forgotten God”—is often the most misunderstood Person of the Trinity. Perhaps that’s because the Father and the Son are revealed to us in familiar, relational terms. We know what it means to be a father or a son. But the Spirit is revealed in more mysterious ways: as a Dove, a Flame, Water, or Wind. Each image reveals something essential—the Spirit’s majesty, might, mystery, and movement.

St. Augustine once wrote, “If you think you have understood God, it is not God you have understood, but yourself.” God is ineffable—beyond words—yet He reveals Himself because He desires to be known. Even in mystery, God draws near.

It is often through the Holy Spirit that we most deeply encounter God—and fall in love with Him. These encounters can be life-changing. I recall my own most profound experience of the Spirit. I had been attending daily Mass at Immaculate Conception in Newburyport. Each morning before Mass, I would pray to the Blessed Mother, asking her to help me know Jesus more intimately. I always felt close to Mary, but I had often sensed a distance between me and Jesus—especially in the Eucharist.

Then one morning, as I prayed before Mass, something happened. It felt as though Jesus reached out from the Tabernacle and touched my heart. I was filled with a deep assurance of His Real Presence. That moment was a Consolation of the Holy Spirit. Mary always and only leads us to Jesus!

In this great mystery of divine presence, God makes Himself known and felt—not because we deserve it, but because He loves us. It’s hard to describe, really. It’s like trying to explain what it felt like to fall in love for the first time. You might say, “My heart is fluttering... I’m distracted... I can’t sleep... I’m nervous and happy at the same time.” A doctor might order tests! But someone who’s been in love would simply smile and say, “Enjoy the warmth while you have it.”

Or perhaps they’d echo what Fr. Emmett said so many years ago: “Have a fiery Pentecost!”

~Father Chris



Welcoming the Sisters of Good News

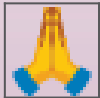
We are overjoyed to have a convent once again within our parish community and to welcome the **Sisters of Good News** to their new home in North Billerica. The joy among our parishioners is evident—so many of you have asked how you can help! As the Sisters continue settling into the convent, they are thoughtfully discerning what household items and furnishings they may need. In the coming weeks, they will provide us with a list, and we will coordinate ways for parishioners to contribute specific items. In the meantime, **there are a few immediate needs where we're asking for volunteers:**



Transportation Help:

The Sisters do not yet drive and are preparing to take their learner's permit test. We are looking for parishioners who would be willing to **drive them to and from The O'Connell House in Lowell**, where they serve during the week. If you are available to help with rides:

- Please **call the parish office**.
- Provide your **name, contact number**, and any details about your availability.
- We will pass your information along to the Sisters so they can reach out directly.



The O'Connell House in Lowell is also in need of volunteers for various support roles. If you're interested in helping there as well, let us know!

The Sister of Good News will be speaking at Masses Weekend of June 21st and June 22nd

In addition, Sister Vimala, Sister Sophie, Sister Savitha, and Sister Suneetha **will be speaking at all of the Masses on the weekend June 21st and 22nd and taking up a collection at the doors of the church**. All proceeds from this collection will support the expenses of the Convent and the needs of the O'Connell House. Checks can be made out to the O'Connell House. We are looking forward to the Sisters speaking at the Masses. For any questions, please reach out to Chris Kilburn at [978-663-8816](tel:978-663-8816).

Thank you for your generosity, warm welcome, and prayers as the Sisters begin their ministry among us!

Jubilee Year 2025: Pilgrims of Hope *Why go to Mass during the Jubilee Year?*



A Jubilee Year is for renewing and strengthening our relationship with God. **At Mass, we receive Jesus in the Eucharist: body, blood, soul, and divinity.** This communion gives us graces we need to live our Christian life. This Jubilee Year has hope as its theme. At Mass, we hear the Word of God and discover anew who Jesus is and why he is the source of our hope. Try going to Mass a little more often this year and see how your life could change.

Saint Matthew Parish Christmas Fair Committee

1st Planning Meeting for the 2025 Christmas Fair-THIS Sunday



We are excited to announce that the Saint Matthew Parish Christmas Fair has been scheduled for **Saturday, December 6, 2025!!** Please mark your calendars to save the date for this important parish-wide event!! Planning for this year's Fair is about to get underway and we would like to cordially invite you to attend our first meeting **THIS Sunday after the 11am Mass at Saint Andrew Church in Father Wilson Hall**. We are always looking for volunteers with fresh ideas to help with planning and organizing the biggest annual event for our parish. Please consider joining us to learn about ways that you can contribute. Thank you in advance for your consideration and we look forward to seeing you there!!

With warmest regards,
Nina Chavez-Collins & Allison Laliberte
Saint Matthew Parish Christmas Fair Committee Co-Chairs

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!

	February 2025	March 2025	April 2025	May 2025
Total Offertory (by month)	44,477	66,479	46,034	51,869
Grand Annual Stewardship Campaign (by month)	8,943	9,310	4,636	6,916
Other Revenue Received (by month)	16,891	18,375	12,837	20,155
Total Revenue	70,311	94,164	63,507	79,140
Expenses	88,004	90,045	86,100	88,423
NET INCOME (LOSS)	(17,693)	4,119	(22,593)	(9,483)

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

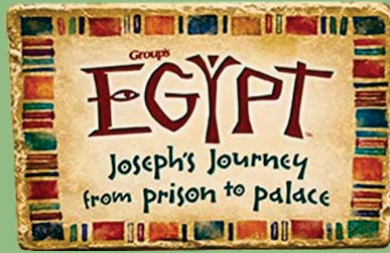
Bank Operating Account Balance 4.30.2025 \$25,586



Legion of Mary- Our Lady of Hope

Our members meet every Tuesday at 2:30pm in the Parish Offices at St. Theresa for prayer, planning and discussion in a group setting. In addition, our members go out to perform Spiritual Works of Mercy within our Parish and local community under the guidance of Father Chris.

Our Lady of Hope, pray for us!



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

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<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!



Homebound Ministry

Jesus lets it be known very clearly that we are called to visit the sick and homebound. We are His hands and feet, and it is up to us to bring the Eucharist to those who are unable to attend Mass. We are very blessed at St. Matthew Parish to have a volunteer ministry who carry out this work. If you know of someone who is in need of a visit with one of our ministers or a parish priest for the Sacrament of Reconciliation or the Anointing of the Sick, reach out to the parish office at **978-663-8816**. **If you would like to know more about this ministry and ways that you can help, please reach out to the parish office** as well. Our list of homebound parishioners continues to grow especially during the winter months while our list of volunteer ministers does not. We thank you for your continued prayers for this very important ministry!

2025 Catholic Appeal... Forward in Faith

**WE ARE CLOSE! LET'S WORK TOGETHER TO REACH THE GOAL!
WE ARE AT 95% OF OUR GOAL! LET'S DO THIS!!**

Thank you! We are almost there! Let's reach the goal of \$75,800!

We are just \$3,714.00 away from our goal from 2025!

We are blessed to have the support of parishioners such as yourself. We show our love and thanks to God by sharing our gifts. Every gift is important, not so much for how much it is, but because of what we become through the act of giving it. The Church itself is one of God's great gifts.



The Catholic Appeal supports many ministries at work here in at St. Matthew Parish. Some examples include the Pro-Life ministry; Faith Formation of Children; Parish Services (with assistance multiple times from various resources at the Pastoral Center – property management, legal, HR, and more); and Divine Worship (the OCIA program). 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.

Remember-if we reach our goal, a % of the funds are returned to the parish!

COURAGEOUS CATHOLIC WOMEN

The Courageous Catholic Women meeting will be held on **Monday, June 9th @ 7:00pm** at **St. Andrew Church** in Fr. Wilson Hall. This month's prayers and reflections will focus on "Praying through Changes" CCW is a women's prayer group that meets monthly to explore the Gospel, pray together, and support one another. Contact Fran Gulia at admin@billericacatholic.org or call the Parish Office at **978-663-8816** for more information.

ST. MATTHEW WOMEN'S CLUB

The St. Matthew Women's Club will be hosting their End-of-Year Banquet on **Wednesday, June 11th at 6:00pm** at **Kitty's Restaurant in Reading**. **RSVPs were required to attend**. This banquet will take the place of the monthly meeting. The club will take a hiatus over the summer months and will resume again in September. . If you would like more information about becoming a future member, contact Dottie at admin@billericacatholic.org or call the Parish Office at **978-663-8816**.

Church Cleaning Help Needed



We are seeking volunteers to help clean our churches on **Saturday, June 28, 2025**, from **10:00 AM to 1:00 PM**. Your assistance in keeping our worship spaces beautiful and welcoming is greatly appreciated. If you are able to help, please contact Heather Murphy at **978-663-8816**. Thank you in advance for your generosity and support!

St. Matthew Prayer Chain



Would you like to have prayers said for a special intention? Please contact the St. Matthew Prayer Chain by calling **Pat** at **978-667-0869** or send an email to **Charline** at admin@billericacatholic.org. If you would like to become a member of the St. Matthew Prayer Chain Group, please leave your information with either Pat or Charline. Thank you for your prayers.

Parish Announcement: Welcome Ann Carroll!



We are very pleased to announce that Ann Carroll has joined St. Matthew the Evangelist Parish as our new Director of Religious Education and Faith Formation.

Ann comes to us with a deep love for her Catholic faith and a long-standing commitment to sharing that faith with others. A parishioner of Mary, Queen of Peace Parish in Medford, Ann has been involved in faith formation for many years—as a catechist, Confirmation teacher, LifeTeen youth ministry volunteer, and parish council member. She has also served as a VIRTUS® Facilitator for the Archdiocese of Boston, helping to ensure safe environments for our young people.

Professionally, Ann brings with her over two decades of experience in leadership, coordination, and communications, including a 20-year tenure at Janis Research Company and, more recently, her work in sales operations and customer success at Lake Shore Cryotronics. Her background in marketing, communications, and event planning is matched by her pastoral heart and joyful desire to help others grow in their relationship with Christ.

Ann holds certificates in Catholic Theology and Evangelization from the Institute for the New Evangelization and is continually enriching her understanding of the faith through ongoing formation with the Archdiocese of Boston.

Ann's personal motto seems to be a heartfelt "yes" to God's call—whether in her parish, in her community, or now in this new ministry at our parish.

Welcome, Ann!

Donations Honoring our Loved Ones...



Every month, we will provide the opportunity to donate the Altar Bread (\$80.00), wine (\$50.00), candles (\$75.00), and missals (\$200.00) to be used in our parish that month. Please call the office if you are interested in donating one of these items as a memorial or "In Thanksgiving" for a family member or loved one.

The Month of June

Altar Bread— In Loving Memory of Jimmy Carter

from Frank Simone

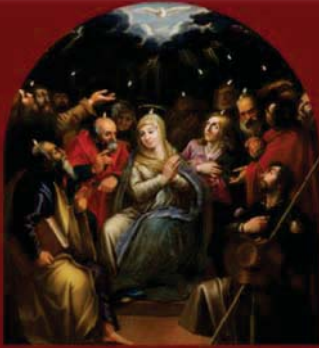
Wine— In Loving Memory of Cornelius Fitzpatrick

from The Fitzpatrick Family

Candles— In Loving Memory of the Parents and Family of Stephen and Kay

Missals— In Loving Memory of the Parents and Family of Stephen and Kay

Reflection Question of the Week ~ Pentecost Sunday



Lord, send out your Spirit, and
renew the face of the earth.

PSALM 104:30

Today's scripture reminds us that just as the Holy Spirit was given at that first Pentecost, the Holy Spirit continues to pour gifts upon us at Baptism and at Confirmation, gifts that are to be put at the service of others. This feast reminds us that Jesus is sending us, just as he sent Peter and the disciples to share the good news! These are the gifts we've been given – Wisdom – the ability to exercise good judgment; Understanding – the ability to perceive, comprehend, and interpret information; Counsel – the ability to give good advice, and also to receive it; Knowledge – the ability to study, learn, and master a wide field of information; Fortitude – an unwavering commitment to God that shows itself as moral strength and courage; Piety – is personal holiness, the ability to live a decent life; Fear of the Lord – is awe, reverence, and respect for God. With these gifts we have been sent!



Intentions for the week of June 7th-June 13th

Maryellen Margossian-13th Anniversary
Sandy Silva-Memorial
Charles and Dorothy Stetson-Memorial
Vinod Anand-Memorial
Allen McQueeney-Memorial
Cynara Ferrao-Memorial
Claire Fell-1st Anniversary
Manuel Sousa and Family– Memorial
Maria Sousa-Memorial
Michael Mead-Anniversary

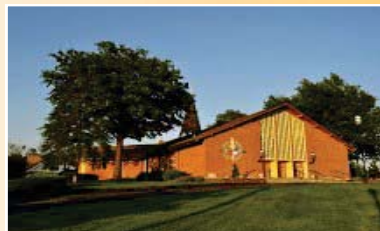
Intentions for the week of June 14th-June 20th

Clementina Graham-Memorial
Aleyamma Varghese-Memorial
Robert Solomon-4th Anniversary
Mariam Angileri-Memorial
Maria Freitas-Memorial
Bill Dewtie-Memorial
William (Buddy) Gallant-Memorial
Frank and Delores Porter-Memorial
Ralph Dumais-Month's Mind
Mark C. Mullaney-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.

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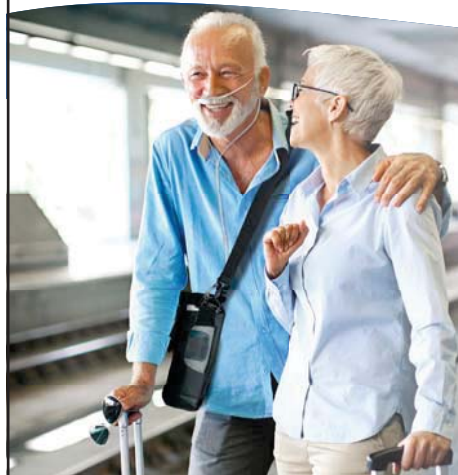
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- Fr. Richard Clancy

Pastor, River of Divine Mercy Parish
Dracut/Lowell/Tyngsboro



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