

St. Matthew the Evangelist Parish
August 10, 2025



Light your lamps and be like servants who await
their master's return from a wedding.

For at an hour you do not expect,
the Son of Man will come.

Luke 12:35,40



Dear Parishioners,

The opening verse of our second reading this Sunday from the Letter to the Hebrews is one of the most beautiful and well-known lines in all of Scripture:

“Faith is the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen.” (Hebrews 11:1)

At first glance, it may seem abstract. But when we pause and reflect, we realize that this is a profound and practical definition. It reminds us that faith is not just blind belief or the memorization of doctrines. True faith is lived. It becomes visible when what we

hope for starts to take shape in our lives—even when we can't yet see how everything will unfold.

Some have called this “spiritual knowledge” or “the knowledge of the heart.” You’ve probably had moments like this: when something happens that assures you—deep in your soul—that you are loved. Someone shows up, stays with you, helps you. In that moment, you *know* you matter. Your heart is touched in a way that no words can fully explain.

Often, it’s in times of struggle that we discover the strength of these bonds. Maybe you’re broke, or your car won’t start, or you need a ride to the doctor. And someone shows up. The real gift isn’t the money, the fix, or the ride—it’s the love behind it. That’s what moves you. That’s when faith in that person is born—not because they made a promise, but because they followed through when it counted.

This is why Scripture says, *“I know that my Redeemer lives.”* When you’ve been loved like that, when you’ve been rescued, it changes you. You carry that knowledge in your heart, and it gives you courage. No matter what comes, you know: *I am not alone.*

And that’s where our Christian faith takes this even deeper.

Each of us knows what it means to struggle—not just with broken cars, but with broken hearts. We are sinners. We fall short. Sometimes, the guilt or shame we carry can make us feel far from God. We might feel hopeless or unworthy. But then—maybe in prayer, or through Scripture, or in the confessional—we encounter His mercy. And suddenly, what felt impossible becomes possible. We are forgiven. We are healed. We are loved.

That experience—God’s mercy reaching into our lives—is where faith grows strongest. Not in abstract concepts, but in the heart’s encounter with grace. We find ourselves saying, from deep within: *“I know that my Redeemer lives.”*

This is the heart of our faith: not cold adherence to dogma, but a living relationship with Jesus. He is the One who took the burden of our sins. He is the One who walks with us—even through the Valley of the Shadow of Death. When I reflect on His mercy, my hope for eternal life becomes more than a distant dream. It becomes real—because I know He is real.

When I was desperate, He stayed with me.
When I was lost, He came looking for me.
When I was afraid, He gave me courage.

And so, I believe. I have faith in this Jesus, who is always faithful to me. And I trust that He will lead me to what I hope for.

~Fr. Chris

Feast of the Assumption Mass Schedule

Thursday, August 14th at 6pm at St. Theresa
Friday, August 15th at 9:00am at St. Theresa
Friday, August 15th at 12:05pm at St. Andrew



**The Feast of the Assumption is widely celebrated all over Christendom. This holy day marks the occasion of the Virgin Mary's bodily ascent to heaven at the end of her life.*

We are launching our Social Justice Ministry!



Do you know the seven tenets or principles of Catholic Social Teaching? If not, now's the perfect time to learn! St. Matthew the Evangelist Parish is launching a new Social Justice Ministry rooted in the rich tradition of Catholic social teaching and its relevance for our world today.

This new ministry will take the form of a *monthly discussion group*, with each unit concluding in a meaningful service project. Our first gathering will begin a group study of *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis' groundbreaking encyclical (a pastoral letter written by the pope for the whole Roman Catholic Church) on care for our common home.

Join us on **Tuesday, September 16** at **7:00 PM** in **Father Wilson Hall** at **Saint Andrew Church**. Snacks will be provided. All are welcome!

Welcome into the Church !



Congratulations and God's many blessings to the families of **Logan Daniel and Devyn Grace** who we welcomed into our Faith Community through the waters of Baptism. We wish for them a lifetime of learning about God's great and merciful love. **For more information about scheduling the sacrament of Baptism for your child, please contact the Parish Office at 978-663-8816.*





Serve at the Table of the Lord

Have you ever felt called to share your gifts as a **Lector** or an **Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion**? Lectors proclaim the Word of God at Mass, helping our parish community hear and reflect on Scripture. Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist assist in distributing the Body and Blood of Christ, helping to nourish our parish family with Jesus' true presence.

We warmly invite new and returning volunteers to join these beautiful ministries. Training is provided, and all ministers must have a current CORI form on file. If you are interested or wish to return to ministry, please contact the Parish Office at **978-663-8816** or **admin@billericacatholic.org** for more details. Thank you for considering this special way to serve our parish and the Lord!



Since your registration at this time may require no commitment to a specific day and time next fall, we ask that you sign up now in order for us to better serve your family. **See all the information below! Use the link or the QR code provided <https://billericacatholic.org/2024-2024-faith-formation-registration>.**

Highlights for next year include:

Play and Pray (Grade 1) will be offered once per month on Sunday mornings centered around the 9:30AM Mass at St. Theresa.

Mass and Class- First Sacrament Prep (Grade 2) will meet once per month on Sunday morning or Sunday afternoon. Options will be centered around the 9:30am or 5:00 pm Mass at St. Theresa. Choose the option that works best for your family.

Gatherings (Grades 3 – 7) meet monthly on either Monday or Tuesday at **4:00–5:15pm** or **5:45–7:00pm** in Fr. McCormick Hall at St. Theresa. Weekend Mass attendance is strongly encouraged for all participants.

Teen Ministries – Confirmation Prep (Grades 8 – 9) will meet once per month on Sunday evenings, centered around the 5:00pm Mass at St. Theresa.

The **online registration form** is intuitive, asking you only the questions that provide us the information we need and there are multiple options for making your offering - pay now, partial payments, mail offering, and asking for financial assistance.

Registration Offerings

1 child	\$160
2 children	\$260
3 + children	\$310

ADDITIONAL RETREAT FEE \$50.00 **(Required for all Confirmation students)**

HELP NEEDED! St. Paul's Soup Kitchen - August 15th



Our Parish continues to provide meals to the St. Paul's Soup Kitchen in Lowell. We are currently feeding approximately 120 individuals every third Friday of each month. If you would like to sign up to make a meal, dessert, or donate items, use this link: <https://www.PerfectPotluck.com/DYRB2143>. The link address does change each month, so please monitor the bulletin or request to be on our monthly email blast for the most current sign-up. Contributions may be dropped off at Father Wilson Hall at St. Andrew's on August 15th from 1-3. We appreciate your continued support of this worthy cause. Questions or comments may be directed to our new Soup Kitchen Coordinators Nicole at nicole.smay@gmail.com or Renee at renee.rogers@wbmason.com.

Join us for A Blessed Morning with the Legion of Mary



All are invited to join members of the Legion of Mary on **Sunday, August 17th at 9:00am**, as they lead a reverent recitation of the Most Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary at St. Theresa Church.

Following the Mass, Legion members will be hosting an informational table with literature about their apostolate, as well as blessed Rosary beads for parishioners to take home. Members will also be available to answer questions and share about the many *Spiritual Works of Mercy* they joyfully carry out in our community.

In addition, you are warmly invited to their weekly recitation of the rosary held at St. Andrew Church EVERY Friday at 11:30am or to visit one of their meetings— every Tuesday at 2:30 PM in the Parish Offices at St. Theresa. Come pray the Rosary with them and discover more about the beautiful mission of the Legion of Mary.

Our Lady of Hope, pray for us!

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 August

Altar Bread– In Loving Memory of Arthur E. Correa

from Barry and Jean Lombardo

Wine– In Honor of the Jubilee Year of Hope

from Frank Simione

Candles– In Loving Memory of Dennis McCaffrey

from Judy McCaffrey

Missals– In Loving Memory of Marie Lorraine Naples

from Richard and Donna Naples



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Jubilee Year 2025: Pilgrims of Hope

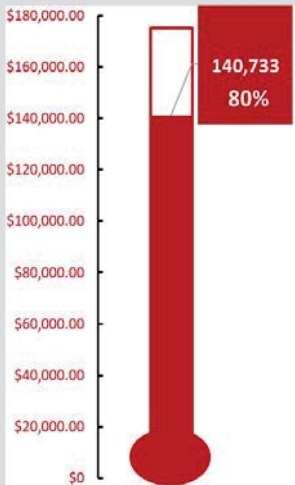


Why is Jesus our hope? Because he offers healing to those who ask for it in faith. The way Jesus interacted with people, taught them with parables, and worked miracles gives us a glimpse into the ways Jesus heals us. He offered healing from physical ailments; healing of people’s past to bring them hope and a new start; healing of sins that bind (such as anger, greed, or jealousy).

With great faith, ask Jesus for the healing you hope for and learn why Jesus is our hope. *“Dear brothers and sisters, let us trustfully bring our ailments before Jesus, and also those of our loved ones; let us bring the pain of those who feel lost and without a way out. Let us cry out for them too, and we will be certain that the Lord will hear us.”* (Pope Leo 6/11/25 Audience).

You can learn more about the Jubilee and being signs of hope here: bit.ly/JubileeOfHope.

2025 Grand Annual Campaign - Foundations for the Future... Growing by Faith - LET’S REACH OUR GOAL



Our **2024-2025 Grand Annual Campaign** continues. Thank You to all who have contributed and continue to contribute.

To date we have received just over \$141,000 – putting us on the path reach our goal of \$175,000! We are about 80% of the way there! THANK YOU! LET’S REACH OUR GOAL!!

As you know, the Grand Annual campaign supplements our weekly Offertory and is vital in keeping St. Matthew financially stable. We are grateful for and inspired by your significant offerings to St. Matthew the Evangelist and your self-sacrifice of making consistent contributions.

Realizing that each family has different financial circumstances, we are blessed and grateful for each contribution made. We have kindly asked each family for a donation of \$1,300 if possible. This could be broken down to approximately \$108.34 per month or \$25 per week. This is the equivalent of foregoing one small luxury each week and choosing a more budget-friendly option. Many have stepped up to meet the request – THANK YOU! Others continue to contribute monthly, weekly, and in a way that is best for their family. THANK YOU!

You may place your Grand Annual donation envelope in the offertory basket, mail it to the parish office, use the monthly Grand Annual envelope in the weekly envelopes, use the QR code to donate online at billericacatholic.org/givenow. **Let’s work together to reach our goal of \$175,000 this year!** Thank you for your generosity and the support of our parish !



Marriage Blessings & Vow Renewals



Are you celebrating a special anniversary in your marriage? Whether it’s your 5th, 25th, or 50th, we would love to rejoice with you! If you would like to renew your vows or receive a special blessing to mark this meaningful milestone, please contact the Parish Office at **978-663-8816**. Let us celebrate the gift of

your marriage and pray for many more joyful years together!

Reflection Question of the Week ~ 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time



“Do not be afraid any longer, little flock, for your Father is pleased to give you the kingdom..... where your treasure is, there also will your heart be.” These words invite us to reflect on what we value/treasure in our lives. Do the things we treasure bring us closer to God, to a deeper appreciation and valuing of the sacraments, especially the Eucharist? Our daily prayer, the good works and charitable deeds we undertake and our regular participation in Mass are all the things we need to do to remain vigilant and ready for the coming of Christ. The question that arises for us is - do we treasure the gift of our faith and especially the sacraments?

- Take a moment to reflect on the treasure that comes from the love we give, the kindness we show, and the impact we have on others' lives.
- What attachments in my life keep me from focusing on God?
- How can I be a better steward of what God has given me?
- How does fear keep me from following God's plan?



Intentions for the week of August 9th– August 15th

Thomas H. McQueeney, Sr.-Memorial
Cynara Ferrao-Memorial
Theresa and Carmen Dellorfano-Memorial
Michael Dellorfano-4th Anniversary
Maria Freitas-Memorial
Maria Sousa-Memorial
Arnold Ventresca-Memorial
Charles J. Barry-1st Anniversary
Sandra Milena Miller-7th Anniversary
Chickie and Donald Miller-Memorial
Adolfo Antonio Yeb Soto-Birthday Memorial

Intentions for the week of August 16th– August 22nd

Kevin McCarthy-Memorial
Anne Avellani-Birthday Memorial
Domenica Massaro-Birthday Memorial
Danny Ceicere-Memorial
Manuel and Gloria Simas-Memorial
Valter Sousa-Memorial
Daniel Horgan-Memorial
Charles Bere-Memorial
Brother Paul Feeney, CFX-Memorial
Rafael and Luisa Rios and Dan and Carol McKenna-Memorial
Tonie and Patrick Trainor-2nd and 20th Anniversary



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 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
Tom Mandile, Maintenance Coordinator

Youth Faith Formation Staff

Ann Carroll, Director of Faith Formation
Ext. 226
Karyn Moody, Coordinator of Children's Ministries
(First Sacraments)
Ext. 444
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, Music 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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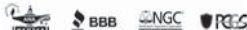
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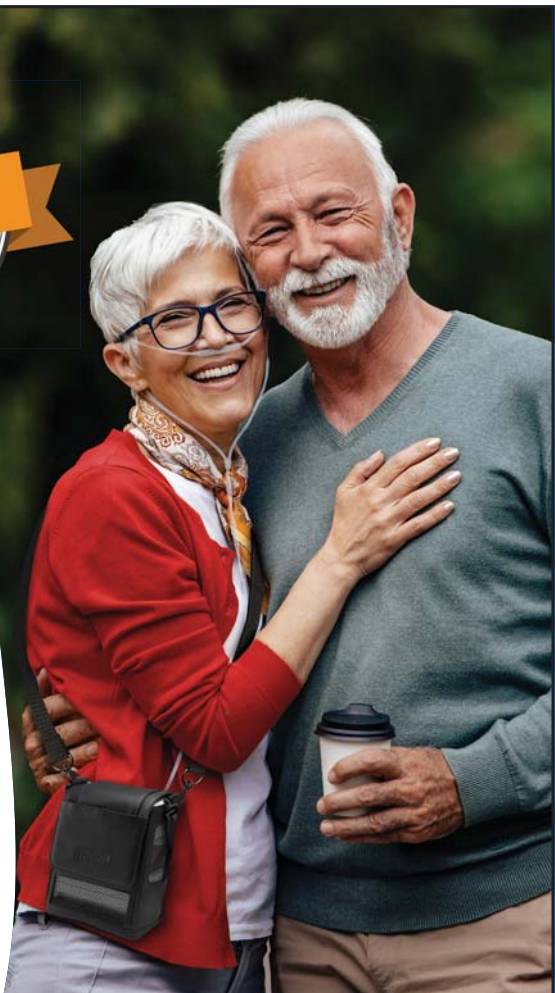
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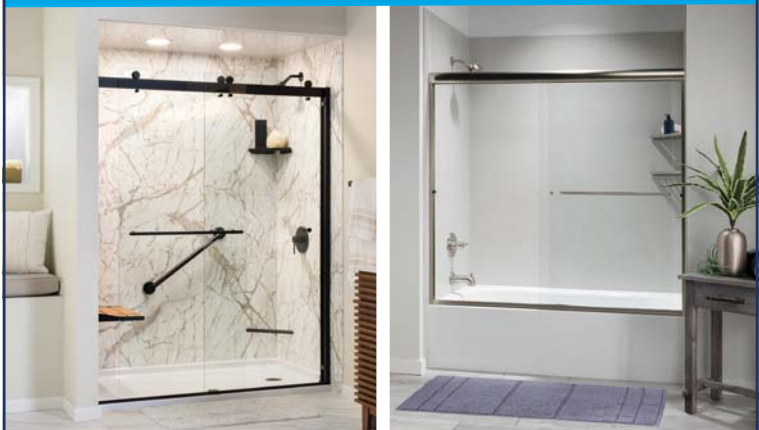


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