

St. Matthew the Evangelist Parish
September 7, 2025



*Whoever does not carry his own cross and
come after me cannot be my disciple.*

Luke 14:27



ST. MATTHEW PARISH CHRISTMAS FAIR

Dear Parishioners,

I kindly invite you to support this year's Saint Matthew the Evangelist Parish Christmas Fair which is scheduled for **Saturday, December 6, 2025**. The Christmas Fair features numerous activities, such as a bake sale, vendor tables, and a Basket Raffle. As our largest parish event, the Christmas Fair is a fantastic family outing for our parishioners, the town of Billerica, and surrounding areas. All proceeds from the Christmas Fair financially support the parish and enable us to continue our ministries throughout the year including the Ministry to the Homebound, the Easter Basket Project (delivering Easter Baskets to the elderly), and more.

There are a variety of options available to assist with this year's Christmas Fair and they are as follows:

- **Donating gift cards/certificates and/or products** to include in various raffle baskets;
- **Donating themed gift baskets** such as a "gardener's basket", a "movie night basket" or a "golfer's basket";
- **Donating services and/or supplies** for the Christmas Fair such as handcrafting an item for the Saint Matthew Table or baking a delicious treat for the Bake Sale Table; and/or
- **Becoming an official Christmas Fair Sponsor** with a cash donation to underwrite the costs of the Fair, such as printing, flyers, signs, and other supplies. All monetary donations will be publicly acknowledged, and I ask that checks be made out to Saint Matthew the Evangelist Parish and include Christmas Fair Sponsor on the Memo line. Please send these donations to Saint Matthew the Evangelist Parish, ATTN: 2025 Christmas Fair, 1 Grace Avenue, Billerica, Massachusetts 01821. Below are the four levels of sponsorship for your consideration:
 - ◇ *Santa's Circle (\$1,000 and above)*
 - ◇ *The North Pole Club (\$500-\$999)*
 - ◇ *Rudolph's Herd (\$250-\$499)*
 - ◇ *Frosty's Friends (\$50-\$249)*

To help make getting involved more convenient, the parish has dedicated two weekends: November 8th and 9th and November 15th and 16th to provide you with the ability to drop off your donations for the raffle baskets at the entrances of both churches. Also, for handmade donations to the Saint Matthew Table, you may contact the parish office at **(978) 663-8816** to arrange a drop off. Furthermore, on Friday, December 5th, Father McCormick Hall will be open so you can deliver fresh treats directly to the Bake Sale Table.

I want to take this opportunity to sincerely thank you in advance for your generosity. The Christmas Fair Committee and I deeply appreciate your kindness and we are very excited to host another joyful parish-wide event.

Many Blessings,

V. Rev. Christopher Casey, V.F.

The Story of Our New Crucifix

A Sign of Faith, Hope, and Love in Billerica

Over the past months, our parish family at St. Matthew the Evangelist has witnessed something remarkable take shape before our eyes: the mounting of a new crucifix outside St. Theresa Church. Now standing tall as a witness to Christ's love, this project has been both a labor of love and a powerful act of faith.

The crucifix itself has a story. Measuring ten feet in height, and weighing approximately 500 pounds, the cross holds a five-foot corpus of Christ with the familiar INRI plaque above. **INRI are the Latin initials for the phrase Pontius Pilate had written when he ordered Him to be crucified. These words "Iesus Nazarenus, Rex Iudaeorum" translate to English as; "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews."** Far more than a piece of wood, it is a visible proclamation: This is the house of God, and here Christ is at the center.

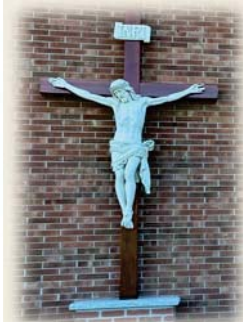
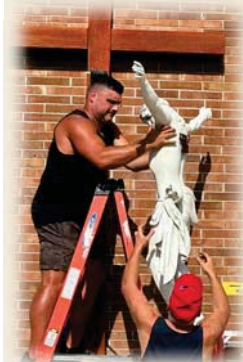
Bringing this vision to reality required tremendous effort. Clifford Construction, a Billerica company, under the leadership of parishioner and craftsman Barry Clifford, assisted by **Dan Sullivan**, worked with care and devotion. The foundation had to be poured and set, a job we entrusted to our mason, David Graziano, from Graziano Empire Masonry of North Billerica. A sturdy structure was built to support the weight of the cross to ensure that the crucifix will stand for generations. Getting the wood for the cross is itself a story. Barry searched for the wood he needed at all of the local lumber yards to no avail. He ended up contacting a wood mill way up in northern New Hampshire. When they heard that he was looking for the wood to make a cross, they said that they would craft the wood from a single white oak tree. White oak is a wood that holds up very well in the elements. Even details we cannot see—the steel reinforcements, the bolts, clamps, the hours of measuring, sanding, leveling—were done with precision, because the work was done for Christ.

As Barry shared, this was not just another construction job; it was a spiritual calling. "It's an honor to do this for the parish, for the community, and most of all for the Lord," he explained. Those who labored on the project often paused to reflect, aware that they were preparing a sign that will draw countless hearts to prayer.

The crucifix was made possible through the generosity of parishioners who gave donations, of craftsmen who offered their skill, the staff who labored behind the scenes to advance the project to its completion, and of so many who prayed for its safe installation. It stands now not only as a symbol of Christ's sacrifice, but as a monument to the unity of our parish family—working together for God's glory.

As you walk or drive past St. Theresa, let your heart be lifted up. See in that crucifix both the suffering and the victory of Jesus. Let it remind you of the love that saves us, and of the faith that continues to grow here in Billerica. May this crucifix inspire us to live out our mission: to know Christ and to make Him known.

"For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." — 1 Corinthians 1:18





Women's Club Bake Sale

Proceeds to Benefit St. Vincent de Paul

St. Matthew Woman's Club will host a Bake Sale **the weekend of September 20th and 21st**. The sale will be held at St. Theresa's Parish Hall after the 4pm, 9:30am and 5pm Masses. All of the profits will be donated to the St. Vincent de Paul Society. The money collected will help in providing food and other necessities for those in need. With the school starting and the beginning of very busy schedules, this is a perfect opportunity to stock your freezers with some sweet treats while helping those in need.

COURAGEOUS CATHOLIC WOMEN

The Courageous Catholic Women meeting will be held on **Monday, September 8th @ 7:00pm** at **St. Andrew Church** in Fr. Wilson Hall. This month's prayers and reflections will focus on The Jubilee of Hope. CCW is a women's prayer group that meets monthly to explore the Gospel, pray together, and support one another as we strive to become Courageous Catholic Women. Light refreshments are provided. Contact Fran at (978) 387-3155 or admin@billericacatholic.org for more information.

ST. MATTHEW WOMEN'S CLUB

The Women's Club will begin their season on **Wednesday, September 10th at 7pm starting in the Church**. The season will begin with a special Benediction followed by the meeting and light refreshments in the Parish Hall. If anyone would like to bring something for the food table or the grab, it would be greatly appreciated. If you are not a member and are considering to join, please come by and join us for the evening. If you would like more information about becoming a member, contact Dottie at admin@billericacatholic.org or the Parish Office at (978) 663-8816. We are looking forward to another fun year!



FAMILY GAME NIGHTS ARE BACK!

Friday, September 12th 6:00-9:00 PM

ALL are invited – We can't wait to see you there!

We hope you all had a great relaxing, restful summer! Fall is around the corner and that means our community events are back in swing! If you have not been to one of the Game Night's yet – now is the time to remedy that! There are lots of laughs and tons of games to play!

Location: Fr. Wilson Hall 45 Talbot Ave North Billerica

CORI Form Time



It is that time of year again....CORI time! As most of you are aware, ALL religious education and parish-wide volunteers need to complete a new CORI form for the new year. The form can be found on our website at billericacatholic.org for you to print out and bring by the office when completed for a staff member to verify. We will also be holding our annual **"CORI Weekend Signups"** after all the Masses the weekend of **September 13th and 14th**. Thank you for your attention to this important task and for all that you do for our Parish! We truly are blessed with so many incredible volunteers.

We Believe - A Study of the Nicene Creed ***One Faith. One Creed. One Church.***

Join us as Father Chris Casey leads us as we journey into the heart of our Catholic faith through the timeless words of the Nicene Creed, the *profession of faith prayed at every Sunday Mass*.

This year marks the 1700th Anniversary of the Creed's writing at the Council of Nicaea in 325 A.D. - a milestone in the life of the Church that continues to unite Christians around the world.

Together, we will explore the Creed's meaning, its history, and how it calls us to deeper discipleship today.



Led by: Father Chris Casey

Series Title: We Believe

Location: Father Wilson Hall at St. Andrew Church

Dates: 8 Sessions beginning Monday, September 22nd through Monday November 10th

Time: 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM

Come discover how this ancient profession of faith continues to shape us as one faith, one creed, one Church.



Inviting all Young Adults & Adults to Join the CHOIR AT ST. ANDREW

The St. Matthew the Evangelist Parish Choir is looking for new members to join their voices together to add to the beauty of the Mass. The group rehearses on Sunday afternoons immediately following the 11:00am Mass at St. Andrew. **The first rehearsal will be on September 14th.** If you love to sing and are interested in joining this group or would like additional information, please reach out to

the Parish Office at [978-663-8816](tel:978-663-8816) or admin@billericacatholic.org. We hope to see you there!

Introducing the Good News Garden Club!



Our Sisters of Good News are hoping to plant a new flower and vegetable garden on the convent property (school side), where a large pine tree once stood. The soil will need some loving care and preparation, and the Sisters would be grateful for helping hands!

We are forming the Good News Garden Club—a group of parishioners who can assist with preparing the soil, planting, and tending this new garden. If you love gardening—or just enjoy pitching in for a good cause—this is a wonderful way to support the Sisters and add new life to our parish grounds.

For more information or to get involved, please reach out to the Parish Office at [978-663-8816](tel:978-663-8816) or admin@billericacatholic.org.

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 September

Altar Bread– In Loving Memory of Sharon Nancy Murphy

from the Murphy Family

Wine– In Loving Memory of Richard Blaney

from the Blaney Family

Candles– In Honor of the Jubilee Year of Hope

from Frank Simone

Missals– In Loving Memory of Gerard Jacobs

from the Jacobs Family



Faith Formation 2025-2026 ~ Have you registered yet?

Registrations WILL CLOSE on October 1st

To Register: Use the link or the QR code provided

<https://billericacatholic.org/2025-2026-faith-formation-registration>

Registration Offerings

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



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

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.



Billerica's Yankee Doodle Homecoming Saturday, September 20

SAVE THE DATE! Join us after the parade at our Informational Booth located at the Billerica Memorial High School/ Town Hall parking lot. Come have fun with us as we display the great spirit and community present in Saint Matthew Parish!

Would you like to assist? Do you need service hours? Do you like to face paint and would like to share this talent? If you would like to help in any way, contact Chris Kilburn at admin@billericacatholic.org or **978-663-8816**.



THE FIRST MILLENNIAL SAINT CARLO ACUTIS *Canonized September 7, 2025*

DID YOU KNOW HE WAS A GAMER?

He liked Nintendo Game Boy and GameCube as well as PlayStation and Xbox. He had conversations with his gaming buddies about the importance of going to Mass and confession and limited his video game playing to no more than two hours per week. Carlo also liked Spider-Man and Pokémon.

WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT CARLO

- Carlo was born in 1991 in London and moved to Milan, Italy shortly after.
- He was diagnosed with leukemia as a teenager.
- Carlo loved to pray the rosary. After he made his First Communion, he attended Mass as often as possible at the parish across from his elementary school.
- He was a faithful friend. He was known for standing up for kids at school who got bullied, specifically a classmate with special needs. With his friends, he spoke about the importance of going to Mass and confession, and human dignity.
- He used his computer skills and internet know-how to help his family put together a presentation on Eucharistic miracles that has been displayed at thousands of parishes on five continents.
- Carlo died on Oct. 12, 2006, and was buried in Assisi. His body lies in repose in a glass tomb in Assisi where he can be seen in jeans and a pair of Nike sneakers

Join us for A Blessed Morning with the Legion of Mary



All are invited to join members of the Legion of Mary on **Sunday, September 21st 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!



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!

Reflection Question of the Week ~ 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time



Today's readings highlight the importance of the virtue of humility. In the first reading we hear, "conduct your affairs with humility, and you will be loved more than a giver of gifts." In the Gospel parable, we hear Jesus say, "everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted." Humility is not about weakness. Rather humility is freedom from pride and arrogance, a quality which is rare in our world. A humble person recognizes that all of life and all that we possess is a gift from God. This week, pray for the grace to eliminate any conceit or feelings of self-importance so as to grow in humility and truth.

- What actions can I take to show my faith?
- What does true humility mean to me?
- What are some ways I can act on God's word this week?



Intentions for the week of September 6th– September 12th

The Rosa and DeFlumeri Families
 Cynara Ferrao-Memorial
 Maria Sousa-Memorial
 Audra and Vincent DeLuca-Memorial
 Brother Paul Feeney-Memorial
 Deacon Joe Belmonte-Memorial
 Nancy Paskiewicz-Memorial
 Margaret P. Moriconi-Memorial
 Cesario Geronimo-Memorial
 Rose Ricardo-Memorial
 Tony Polcari-3rd Anniversary
 Robert D.Cappiello-40th Anniversary

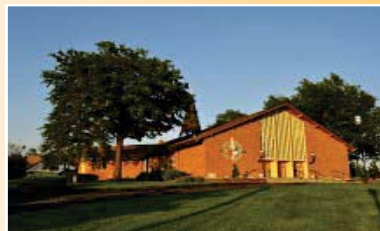
Intentions for the week of September 13th– September 19th

Deceased Members of the MacDonald Family
 Norman Robinson-Memorial
 Dorothy T. Sears-Memorial
 Doris Cennamo-Memorial
 Gail Hoadly-Memorial
 Carol Frongillo and Eleanor and Maurice Davis-Memorial
 Robert and Patricia Kirchner-Memorial
 Giuseppe and Maria Inglese-Memorial
 Catherine Troy-10th Anniversary
 Deacon Raymond Wheeler-Memorial
 Cynthia Marie King-1st 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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