

St. Matthew the Evangelist Parish

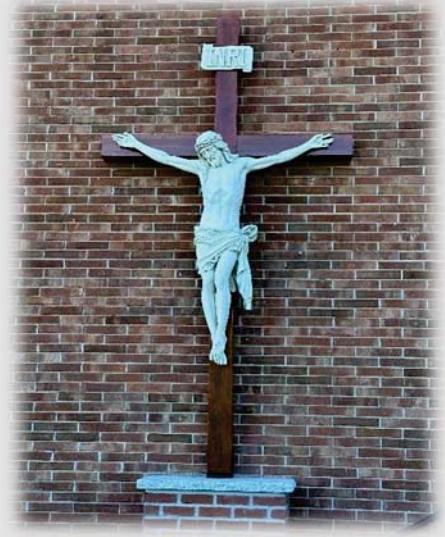


"Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross"
September 14, 2025

Dear Parishioners,

This week we celebrate the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. The Cross is the sign of our salvation, and its Feast Day is always celebrated on September 14. When it falls on a Sunday, as it does this year, the Feast takes precedence over the regular Sunday liturgy. The readings chosen for this day are powerful:

- From the Book of Numbers, we hear the story of the people bitten by serpents. When they repented, Moses was commanded by the Lord to lift up a bronze serpent, and all who looked upon it were healed.
- From Philippians we hear the great hymn of Christ's humility: "Though He was in the form of God, He did not regard equality with God something to be grasped..."
- And in the Gospel of John we hear the words that have carried the faith across the centuries: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but may have eternal life."



Just before that most famous verse, Jesus explains to Nicodemus: "*And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in Him may have eternal life*" (Jn 3:14–15). The bronze serpent foreshadowed the true healing power of the Cross. Jesus must be lifted up so that we may live.

The Cross is indeed the sign of our salvation. We trace it upon ourselves at every Mass, at the beginning of every prayer, at Baptism, and even upon the casket of our loved ones at Christian burial. What was once a symbol of defeat and shame has, through Christ, become the sign of victory and eternal life. By His Cross and Resurrection, Jesus has redeemed the world.

This truth is now beautifully proclaimed on the very front of our church. We have installed a new crucifix on the façade of our building—a visible witness to all who pass by that we believe in Jesus Christ and Him crucified. It is a reminder that we are a people who cling to the Cross, knowing that through His suffering and death, Christ has brought us redemption and hope.

So let us rejoice in the Cross, not as a burden, but as our boast and our glory. This weekend, sing with full voice the hymn of triumph: "*Lift high the Cross, the love of Christ proclaim, till all the world adore His sacred name!*"

~*Father Chris*

Feeling Lucky?



The Saint Matthew the Evangelist Parish Christmas Fair Committee invites you to participate in this year's Big Ticket Raffle to help support the 2025 Christmas Fair. There are **only 1,000 tickets available** for purchase and you could win up to **\$500!!** Tickets are \$5 each or you can increase your chances by purchasing a book of 10 tickets for \$50.

Sales kick off at Yankee Doodle Day next Saturday, September 20th so please be sure to see a member of the Christmas Fair Committee at the parish's table to secure your tickets. Don't worry if you already have a previous commitment that day as tickets will be available before and after Mass at both church locations starting the weekend of September 27th (two weekends from now). Thank you in advance for your generosity and may the odds be ever in your favor!!

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. Please call the Parish Office at **978-663-8816** to RSVP if you would like to attend.



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.



We are launching our Social Justice Ministry THIS Tuesday!

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 **THIS Tuesday, September 16 at 7:00 PM** in **Father Wilson Hall at Saint Andrew Church**.

HELP NEEDED! St. Paul's Soup Kitchen - September 19th



St. Paul's
soup kitchen

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: <http://www.perfectpotluck.com/LTUL2126>. 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 September 19th from 1-3. We appreciate your continued support of this worthy cause. Questions or comments may be directed to our Soup Kitchen Coordinators Nicole at nicole.smay@gmail.com or Renee at renee.rogers@wbmason.com.

Women's Club Bake Sale

UPDATED: *Proceeds to Benefit Fr. Jean's Church in Dobia*



The St. Matthew Woman's Club will host a Bake Sale **NEXT weekend, September 20th and 21st** in **Fr. McCormick Hall** following the **4:00pm, 9:30am, and 5:00pm Masses**.

All proceeds from the Bake Sale will be donated to **Father Jean's Church in Dobia, Cameroon**. Your generous support will help provide the funds needed to begin construction of a new parish church. Right now, the faithful

community of Dobia gathers under temporary and often inadequate shelter to celebrate Mass and sacraments. A permanent parish church will give them:

- **A sacred space to worship** year-round, protected from harsh weather.
- **A place for sacraments** such as baptisms, weddings, and funerals that mark life's most important moments.
- **A spiritual home** where children and families can learn the faith, pray together, and grow closer to God.
- **A center of hope and community** that strengthens and unites the people of Dobia for generations to come.

With the start of a new school year and busy schedules ahead, this is the perfect time to stock your freezers with homemade baked goods while also making a lasting impact in the lives of our brothers and sisters in Christ. Every cookie, cake, or loaf you purchase helps lay another brick in building God's house in Dobia.

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** or admin@billericacatholic.org.



Billerica's Yankee Doodle Homecoming Saturday, September 20

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!

The parish and Saint Matthew Women's Club will all have a booth. Make sure to stop by to see all that is going on. There will also be raffle tickets available for the Big-Ticket Raffle at this year's Christmas Fair on December 6th.

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.

A Note about Special Collections in the Parish

With fall knocking on the door, school starting, and more, we want to take a moment to reflect on the importance of your offerings to our parish.

The most important gift we can give is our regular offering to support Saint Matthew. Special collections are important as well, and we encourage you to support them as you are able, supporting the wider mission of the church.

We are grateful and blessed for our parishioners at Saint Matthew for their continued generosity!



clergytrust

2nd Collection – Clergy Trust
Next Weekend – September 20th & 21st



Each September, the Clergy Trust allows us an opportunity to "Give Thanks for our Priests" in various ways.

One way to give thanks for our priests is to participate in next week's special collection that benefits the Clergy Trust so that they can continue to provide health and wellness programs and support for all of our active and senior priests in good standing.

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 ~ Register NOW!

REGISTRATION CLOSES IN 1 1/2 WEEKS

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.

Join us NEXT Sunday for A Blessed Morning with the Legion of Mary



All are invited to join members of the Legion of Mary **NEXT 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!

44th Annual Lawn Party to benefit Seminarians

A Special Invitation



Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary in Weston is hosting its 44th Annual Lawn Party on Wednesday, September 24th, at 6:00 P.M, on the grounds of the seminary. This premiere fundraising event is hosted by His Excellency, Most Rev. Richard G. Henning, Archbishop of Boston, along with Mary Anne and Dan Lagan as Chairpersons. The Pacem in Terris Award will be presented to Bishop Peter J. Uglietto, and Gretchen and John LaRossa, MD —true champions of peace and service. Their lives are a compelling reminder of what is possible when love inspires action

and faith guides every step. The evening will include a reception and dinner with music. The proceeds from the Lawn Party help to keep tuition costs affordable. For ticket information, please call the Pope St. John XXIII Development Office at 781-899-5500, or visit <https://psjs.edu/lawn-party> . You can make a difference and encourage the vocations of these men through your support of the Lawn Party.



10 Days of Divine Mercy with the St. Faustina Novena

You are warmly invited to join us each day at **3:00 PM** in **St. Andrew Church**, from **September 26 through October 5**, for a special Divine Mercy holy hour in honor of the **Feast of St. Faustina Kowalska**, the visionary chosen to share the message of Divine Mercy.

- **Days 1–9** will include the *Novena of Divine Mercy*, the *St. Faustina Novena*, and the *Chaplet of Divine Mercy*.
- **Day 10**, the feast day itself, will conclude with the *Chaplet of Divine Mercy* and special prayers in honor of St. Faustina.

Please contact the parish office at 978-663-8816 with any questions. We look forward to seeing you there.



A Catholic Ministry for Single Moms

Are you looking for fellowship with other single mothers?
We're excited to launch Momentum gatherings in Boston!

Gathering Details:

- Third Saturday of each month: September 20, October 18, November 15 and December 20
- Time: 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
- Location: Lazarus Center for Healing Shrine
- Address: 47 Butler Ave, Wakefield, MA 01880

FELLOWSHIP AND PRAYER. CHILDREN ARE WELCOME.

TO REGISTER AND FOR MORE INFORMATION
email: momentumcatholicssinglemothers@gmail.com
phone: 617-798-5795
www.momentummothers.org



Community Sunday St. Andrew Sunday, September 28th

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 first Community Sunday gathering of the season will be held **Sunday, September 28th at St. Andrew after the 11:00AM 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, 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**. We look forward to seeing you there!



Anointing of the Sick

Just a reminder that the **Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick** is available on the **first full weekend of every month** at both churches at ALL the Masses.

The Anointing of the Sick is a beautiful sacrament of healing and strength. It brings the comforting presence of Christ to those who are seriously ill, facing surgery, growing weaker due to age, or suffering in mind, body, or spirit. Through prayer and anointing with holy oil, the Lord offers grace, peace, and courage to face life's trials, and sometimes even physical healing according to His will. Anointings take place **after all Masses** and are offered to any parishioner in need of this special gift of grace. If you or a loved one would like to receive the Anointing of the Sick at another time, please call the Parish Office at **978-663-8816** to make arrangements.

Reflection Question of the Week

Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross



Today's feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross is celebrated in Catholic and Orthodox Churches alike, with the **cross being the universal image of our Christian belief**. It is not the cruelty of the Cross that is exalted, but the Love that God manifested for all people by accepting death on the Cross. Our Gospel reminds us that God wants to enter a relationship of love with us, a love that is offered in His Son Jesus, lifted up on the Cross. As we gaze upon the cross today, may it be an invitation to accept the love that is given and remain in His love. We adore you, Lord Jesus Christ, here, and in all your churches throughout the whole world, and we bless you, for by your holy cross you have redeemed the world. (*Saint Francis of Assisi*)

- Take a moment to reflect good time to meditate on the power of the cross in your own life. When we look at the Cross, we remember Jesus' love and the hope He gives us.
- Take time to do an Examination of Conscience, which is simply reflecting on where we have fallen short in our love of God and neighbor.



Intentions for the week of September 13th– September 26th

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

Intentions for the week of September 20th– September 26th

Barbara Moore-13th Anniversary

Gerard Jacobs-14th Anniversary

Irene Donovan-12th Anniversary

Dennis McCaffrey-5th Anniversary

David J. Wasylak-21st Anniversary

Maria Sousa-Memorial

Maria Airo-Farulla-Birthday Memorial

Norman Robinson-Memorial

Marcelo Family-Memorial

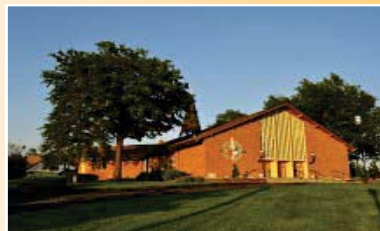
Joseph Correia-6th Anniversary

Marilyn Sullivan-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, Director of Music 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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On Vacation	✓	✗
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