

28th
Sunday
in Ordinary Time

St. Matthew the Evangelist Parish
October 12, 2025



THE CLEANSING OF TEN LEPERS

And one of them, realizing he had been healed, returned, glorifying God in a loud voice; and he fell at the feet of Jesus and thanked him. Luke 17:15-16



Dear Parishioners,

When I was in the seminary I would be assigned to a different parish or health care facility each year as a field placement where I would learn from the priests assigned something more about the priesthood and parish life. I was blessed in all my assignments which included St. Catherine's in Norwood, St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Brighton, St. Mary's in Dedham and my last assignment at St. Michael's in North Andover. It was at St. Michael's I would do my first preaching after I was ordained a deacon. I listened and learned from the various styles of the wonderful priests there, Fr. John Delaney, Fr. Jerry Hogan, and Fr. Paul Keyes. Each was an excellent preacher, and I found myself remembering Fr. Keyes today as I looked over the Sunday readings and tried to come up with a theme for this letter. Fr. Keyes would often mention to a couple during a wedding homily that they should "live with thanksgiving hearts."

I asked Fr. Keyes about what he meant, and he said that one of hazards of being close to another person is that we forget to be thankful for them. When we are with someone every day we can end up focusing on the challenges of living with them and the fact that they, in addition to being the people who drive me insane sometimes, are the people that make my life somehow sweeter and fuller. I think the advice for a married couple to have a "Date Night" every so often comes from this way of thinking. We have to take time to appreciate each other, and we need to give thanks for the people in our lives, even though there might be a lot in the day-to-day that we are not so thankful for.

The Gospel story today is the story of the Ten Lepers. There are a lot of lessons we can learn from the story, but clearly one of them is that giving thanksgiving for your blessings is important, and it is important in the eyes of Jesus. It is true that the lepers were not told to come back, but were told to go to show themselves to the priests. This is because the priest is the one who "certified" them as healed and allowed them to return to their families, the Temple, and their community. Perhaps in the excitement of being healed the only thing the nine could think about was getting back to see their families. But the Samaritan makes a choice to go back to find Jesus, to say thank you, and to offer public praise to God for his healing. Because of this his healing is not only physical, but spiritual as well. Because of his 'attitude of gratitude' God is not only able to heal his body, but to bring him closer to God as well.

The Gospel speaks of the fullness of love. When we experience the fullness of love we are not taking the ones we love for granted, but recognizing how much we cherish and value them. We have moments in our lives that help us along the way, like when one of our children graduates from school and we bask in pride, or when we get a call that someone we love is in the hospital, and we have to get there quickly to be by their side. These moments of intensity can put us in touch with that deeper, fuller love that we have for them. And so can 'living with thanksgiving hearts'.

Some advice from this week's readings might be: Take time each day to be thankful for the blessings you have in your life. Express gratitude generously and often to those around you. Live with a thanksgiving heart. And remember to give praise and thanksgiving to Almighty God, from whom all blessings flow. ~Fr. Chris

**THIS EVENT IS
CANCELED**

TRUNK-OR-TREAT - CANCELED!

Due to a scheduling conflict and an unfortunate shortage of volunteers, we have made the difficult decision to cancel the Trunk-or-Treat event that was scheduled for Saturday, October 25th at St. Theresa Church. We know how much our parish families were looking forward to this gathering, and it saddens us to have to pause on such a fun way of celebrating Halloween together. While we will not be able to offer it this year, our hope is to revisit this idea in the future, and with the help of more volunteers who are willing to share their time, talents, and creativity, bring it back even stronger.

Did You Get Your Ticket Stubs In Yet??



ST. MATTHEW PARISH
CHRISTMAS FAIR

The Saint Matthew the Evangelist Parish Christmas Fair Committee would like to remind you that if you took a book or books of Big Ticket Raffle tickets to sell, please return the stubs and money to the parish office as soon as possible. The following are a few ways to help make this process easier:

- You may place the ticket stubs and money in their designated envelope and drop it in the collection basket during Mass;
- You can stop by the parish office and return your ticket stubs and money to the office staff, during regular business hours (Monday-Thursday 10am-3pm); or
- You can use the secure mailbox to the left of the door to the office next to the rectory to drop the ticket stubs and money in their designated envelope.

Don't worry if you did not get a designated envelope when you took a book or books to sell as you can use one of your own envelopes or grab an extra from a Mass Assistant and just write the ticket numbers on the outside with your name to help facilitate smoother accounting!!

The Committee is deeply grateful for everyone who participated in the Big Ticket Raffle and for being such a supportive parish community. Please be on the lookout in the coming weeks for additional ways in which you can help make this year's Fair a huge success!!



Parish Office Closed for the Holiday

The Parish Office will be closed on Monday, October 13th in observance of the holiday. Regular office hours will resume on Tuesday morning.

HELP NEEDED! St. Paul's Soup Kitchen - October 17th



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: <https://www.PerfectPotluck.com/GRWW2649>. 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 October 17th 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.



Social Justice Ministry Meeting

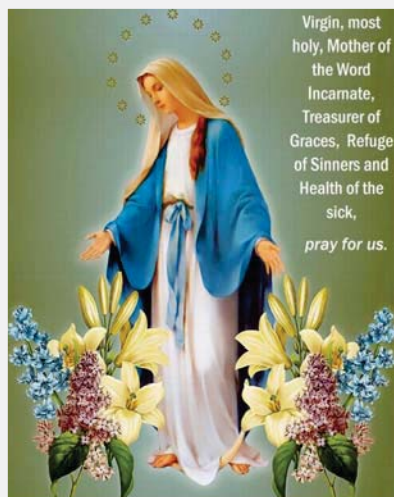
Do you know the seven tenets or principles of Catholic Social Teaching? If not, now's the perfect time to learn! St. Matthew the Evangelist Parish has launched a new Social Justice Ministry rooted in the rich tradition of Catholic social teaching and its relevance for our world today. Our October gathering will continue diving deeper into the tenet of Care for Our Common Home.

Join us on **Tuesday, October 21 at 7:00pm in Father McCormick Hall** at St. Theresa Church. We will be discussing Chapter 1 of Pope Francis' groundbreaking encyclical, *Laudato Si*. You do not need to have read the chapter to join. All are welcome!

Holiday Baking Drive – *Sugar for Families in Need*



This holiday season, St. Matthew the Evangelist Parish is supporting the Billerica Community Pantry by collecting **bags of sugar** for 350 local families. Sugar is a staple that helps bring joy to holiday baking and family traditions. Our goal is to collect a minimum of **50 bags by November 2nd**. Donations can be left in the bins at the entrances of both churches or at the Parish Office. Thank you for helping us share the warmth of the season!



Virgin, most holy, Mother of the Word Incarnate, Treasurer of Graces, Refuge of Sinners and Health of the sick, pray for us.

HEALING MASS- in honor of St. Peregrine With Anointing of the Sick

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

144 East Merrimack Street
Lowell, MA

Wednesday, October 29th at 4:00 PM

Blessing of the Animals - Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi

This past Saturday, St. Matthew the Evangelist Parish joyfully celebrated our annual *Blessing of the Animals* with Fr. Chris. Parishioners gathered outside with their beloved pets—seeking God's blessing on these cherished companions. The celebration, held in honor of St. Francis of Assisi, reminded us of the beauty of creation and the joy and comfort our animals bring into our lives. Thank you to all who joined us for this wonderful event!



Faith Formation Update

This past Sunday marked the very first Mass and Class session for our First Sacraments, OCIA, and Grade 8 Confirmation Prep programs! In the First Sacraments classes, our children began learning about the beautiful sacrament of Baptism and were introduced to the Glory Be Prayer. Meanwhile, our Confirmation students watched the first episode of the Alpha Youth series that inspired meaningful reflection, followed by small group discussions where they shared their thoughts and experiences. Their joy and excitement were evident—and as you can see in the photos, the Holy Spirit was truly at work, filling hearts with faith and spreading the joy of Jesus' message throughout our parish family. We are so grateful for our catechists, families, and young disciples as together we walk this journey of faith!



Baby Clothing Drive



The Pro-Life Network is hosting a **BABY'S CLOTHING DRIVE** from October 1st through October 31st, which is RESPECT LIFE MONTH. New fleece sleepers, fall & winter outfits and gift cards are being collected for Heartbeat Pregnancy Help Center in Burlington. They are in need of 0-3 month and 3-6 month *FLEECE* sleepers. They also need 0-3 month and 3-6 month -old warm fall/winter outfits (no newborn size nor 6-9 months needed at this time). In addition, we are collecting gift cards to Walmart

which are extremely helpful to needy families expecting a child. All items and gift cards collected will help the new babies set to arrive in late fall and into the new year. If you would like to donate any of these items please contact Kathy Parsons at **781-910-7682** to make arrangements to drop your item off or for one of their team members to come and pick it up. Thank you so very much in advance for your generosity !



THE GIVING TREE INFORMATION

The Giving Tree Program is designed to help those families in Billerica who are in need of help in providing gifts for their children 16 years old and under at Christmas. Parents provide names, ages, and sizes of needed clothing along with a short list of toys each child would like to receive. Parents are aware that they may not receive all the items on their lists.

Tags for each child are created and placed on the Christmas trees at both St. Theresa and St. Andrew Churches. The parishioners at each church select one tag or more and purchase the item on the tag which are returned to the church late November/ early December.

For those in need of assistance at Christmas this year in providing gifts for your children, ages 16 and under, are new to the Giving Tree program, and not receiving Christmas help from another organization, please call **978-663-6319** and leave your name and phone number. Someone from the Giving Tree ministry will be in touch with you.

You MUST call before October 20th to receive assistance.

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Association

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Register:
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Cost: \$20

Youth Mental Health First Aid USA is a public education program which

- introduces participants to the unique risk factors and warning signs of mental health problems in adolescents
- builds understanding of the importance of early intervention
- and teaches individuals how to help an adolescent in crisis or experiencing a mental health challenge.

Wednesday October 22
Thursday October 23
5pm-8pm

This event is ideal for adults who regularly interact with adolescents (teachers, school staff, coaches, youth group leaders, parents, etc.) You do not need to have any mental health training to take this course!

hosted by
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39 Old Elm St. Billerica



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Contact
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with any questions



MOVIE NIGHT RETURNS

OCTOBER 18th – AFTER THE 4:00 PM MASS

In Fr. McCormick Hall behind St. Theresa Church

As we settle into fall, our community events are back in swing! If you have not been to one of the Movie Night's yet – You HAVE to come and enjoy the fun!



Join us in October for the compelling TRUE STORY – *The Young Woman and the Sea*

Watch the inspiring story of Gertrude Ederle, who became the first woman to swim across the English Channel in 1926. We follow her journey from a young girl fascinated by swimming to a determined athlete who defies societal expectations and overcomes numerous challenges to achieve her historic feat.

ENJOY THE MOVIE FOR FREE!

GRAB DINNER—EAT HERE OR TAKE IT TO GO!

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

Join us for A Blessed Morning with the Legion of Mary



All are invited to join members of the Legion of Mary **Sunday, October 19th at 9:00am**, as they lead a reverent recitation of the Most Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary at St. Theresa Church.

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!



Women's Club Bake Sale

Proceeds to Benefit St. Vincent de Paul

Mark your calendars! The St. Matthew Women's Club will be hosting a Bake Sale **next weekend, October 18th and 19th**, in Father McCormick Hall following the 4:00pm, 9:30am, and 5:00pm Masses.

All proceeds will benefit the St. Vincent de Paul Society, helping to provide food and essential items for families and individuals in need within our community.

This is the perfect chance to stock your freezer with homemade sweet treats while also extending a helping hand to our neighbors. Your support makes a difference—thank you for joining us in this act of love and generosity!

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.



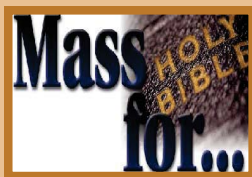
Reflection Question of the Week- 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

A holiday weekend in New England is, of itself, a good reason to give thanks. This season seems to invite us to acknowledge the variety of ways God has been present and blessing us. It is also good to recall with gratitude when God carried you through some difficulty - a sickness, the death of a loved one, employment concerns, or concerns about children. Our gospel today recounts the familiar story of the ten lepers. All were made clean, but only one expressed gratitude. Take a moment today to thank God for the ways God has accompanied you when times were rough and for those times when you

were surprised by God's presence and peace. Be like the leper who went back to say thank you, not like the nine who didn't!

Reflect on how we can use the gifts God has given us. He encourages us to be enthusiastic with others in sharing our faith.

- Gratitude strengthens faith because it helps us see God's work in our lives. Take a moment to reflect on your blessing and thank God for them.
- Do you ever take God's blessings for granted?
- What is one thing you can thank God for right now?



Intentions for the week of October 11th-October 17th

Rev. John J. McCormick-10th Anniversary

Russel F. Keane-Memorial

Cynara Ferrao-Memorial

Steven and John Aaron Kirby-Memorial

Maria Sousa-Memorial

Juliette Lanthier-12th Anniversary

Santana Fernandes-Memorial

Roy Castine-1st Anniversary

Maureen Gardner-Memorial

Raymond S. DeMeo-20th Anniversary

Intentions for the week of October 18th-October 24th

Norman Robinson-Memorial

Francis Xavier, Lara and Joe D'Mello-Memorial

John and Luiza Almeida-Memorial

Helen Harrower-5th Anniversary

Robert P. Melanson-9th Anniversary

Richard Blaney-15th Anniversary

Bridget Kelly McDermott-2nd Anniversary

Jacqueline Sullivan Alexander- Pray for Good Health

Francis M. Carroll-8th Anniversary

Remo Tomei-5th 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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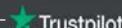
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