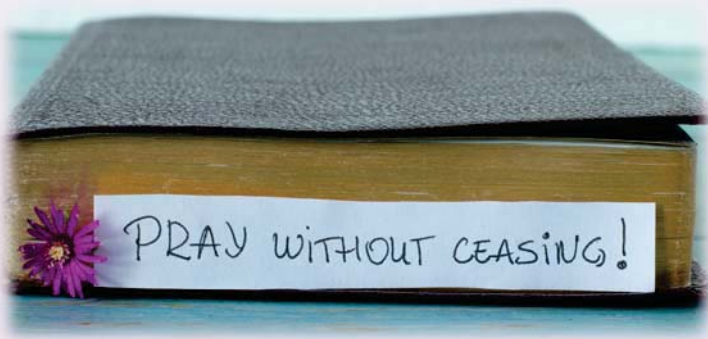


St. Matthew the Evangelist Parish
October 19, 2025



Pray
always
without
becoming
weary.

Luke 18:1



Dear Parishioners,

The readings this weekend remind us of one of the most vital commands of the Christian life: to pray always. Saint Paul expresses it beautifully in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18: “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

Our first reading from Exodus 17 offers a striking image of prayer in the story of Moses. As Israel battles the Amalekites, Moses stands on the hill with his hands raised in the ancient orans posture—arms lifted and open before God. It is the same gesture the priest adopts during the Our Father at Mass, a sign that the prayer is offered on behalf of the whole People of God.

As long as Moses’ hands remain raised, Israel prevails. When he grows weary and lowers them, the battle turns. So Aaron and Hur come to his aid: they seat him on a rock and each holds up one of his arms, so that his prayer may continue and the people may persevere to victory. What a powerful image of intercession—of standing before God for others, and of supporting one another when we grow tired.

In the second reading, Saint Paul reminds Timothy that “All Scripture is inspired by God and useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.” (2 Timothy 3:16) Sacred Scripture contains the wisdom and guidance we need to navigate this world. As Saint Jerome said, “Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ.”

From the commandment “Honor your father and your mother” (Exodus 20:12) to the soaring poetry of 1 Corinthians 13 - “Love is patient and kind... Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.”—God reveals that to love is to pray and to pray is to love.

One of the most tender ways we love is through intercessory prayer—lifting up to God those in need, near and far. Many of us grew up with the simple habit of making the Sign of the Cross whenever we heard a siren, praying for whoever was in distress. That same spirit of compassion should move us to pray for our families, friends, parishioners, our Bishop, and our Holy Father.

Take a few moments each day to bring others’ needs before the Lord. Someone once said, “We will never know the good our prayers have done until someone thanks us in Heaven for helping them get there.”

Today, let us renew our trust in the power of prayer. None of us can persevere alone—and, thanks be to God, we don’t have to. Like Moses, we are upheld by others’ faith; and in turn, we uphold them. Let us pray always, pray generously, and remember that God always hears our prayers—even the quietest sighs of the heart.

~Fr. Chris

Did You Get Your Ticket Stubs In Yet??



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!!

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!

Pro-Life Initiative - Signatures Needed



Abortion kills an innocent human life and we, as Catholics (Christians), are called by God to protect His precious gift of life. **Did you know that your tax dollars are being used to pay for abortions in Massachusetts?** Fortunately, there is something each of us can do to stop this. Next (this) weekend, volunteers from the Massachusetts Alliance to Stop Taxpayer Funded Abortions will be collecting signatures on a petition to amend the state constitution so that taxpayer subsidized abortions are no longer a constitutional entitlement in Massachusetts. **Please stop and sign** this petition to help save the lives of unborn babies. For more information email tom@stoptaxpayerabortion.org or go to www.stoptaxpayerabortion.org.

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. 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 admin@billericacatholic.org or **978-663-8816**. We hope to see you there!

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

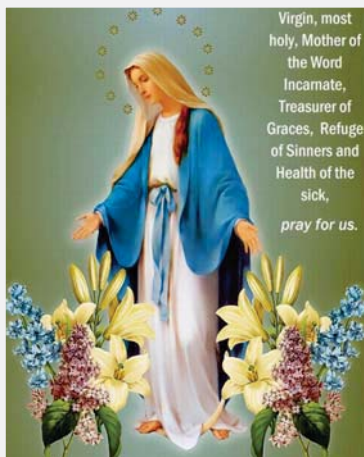
chapter to join. All are welcome!

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 !



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the Word
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Treasurer of
Graces, Refuge
of Sinners and
Health of the
sick,
pray for us.

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With Anointing of the Sick

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Wednesday, October 29th at 4:00 PM



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.



Community Sunday St. Theresa Sunday, October 26th

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. This month's Community Sunday gathering will be held on **Sunday, October 26th at**

St. Theresa after the 9:30AM 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!





Welcome into the Church !

Congratulations and God's many blessings to the family of **Nora Ruth** who we welcomed into our Faith Community through the waters of Baptism. We wish for her 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**.*

Peg Buffum Tea Celebration

Despite the cold and rainy fall weather outside, warmth and fellowship blossomed inside Father McCormick Hall during the annual Senior Tea, hosted by the Women's Club in loving memory of the late Peg Baughan. Guests enjoyed an assortment of tasty finger sandwiches, delicious side dishes, and a tempting selection of sweet desserts, all while being entertained by a local comedian who shared plenty of laughter and lighthearted stories. The afternoon concluded with a lively prize drawing featuring dozens of gifts and festive centerpieces—a joyful ending to a truly heartwarming gathering.





The Legion of Mary Welcomes You!

The Legion of Mary gathers each week in prayer and fellowship for the recitation of the Rosary and their regular meeting. Rooted in devotion to our Blessed Mother and dedicated to serving Christ through others, they warmly invite anyone who feels called to deepen their faith to come and see what a meeting is all about.

Join them **Tuesday afternoons at 2:30 PM** in the Parish Office at St. Theresa and experience the joy of prayer, friendship, and spiritual growth in Mary's loving care.



The Community Pantry Needs Your Helping Hands!



The Community Pantry is one of the many ways our parish family reaches out to serve our neighbors in need—sharing God's love in very real and practical ways. This vital ministry helps ensure that individuals and families in our local community have access to food, encouragement, and hope when times are difficult.

Right now, the Pantry is **in great need of volunteers**, especially for the **late afternoon and early evening shifts on two Mondays and one Wednesday each month**. Your time, compassion, and willingness to serve can make a real difference for those who depend on this program.

Whether you can help with food distribution, stocking shelves, greeting guests, or simply offering a friendly

smile, every volunteer plays an important role in bringing Christ's care and presence to others.

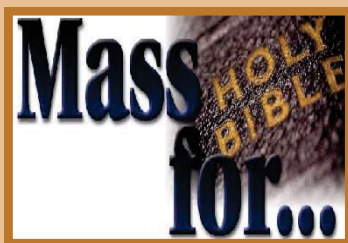
If you're able to help—or would like to learn more—sign up directly through the link provided: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4FADAD29A3FE3-volunteering1> or please reach out to billericapantry@gmail.com.



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!



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
Francis M. Carroll-8th Anniversary

Intentions for the week of October 25th-October 31st

Remo Avellamo, Sr. and Remo Avellamo, Jr.- Birthday Memorial
Tom Conway-18th Anniversary
Richard Grant-4th Anniversary
Mary Zawisza-45th Anniversary
Maria Sousa-Memorial
In Thanksgiving for Gabriel Byrant- Birthday
Mary Reed-30th Anniversary
Norman Robinson-Memorial
Jean Spezzafero-Memorial
Joe and Jean DiPietro-Memorial
Stephen Dussault-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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MacFarlane-Barrow, Fr. Rick Martignetti,
Fr. Michael Della Penna, and Colleen Willard with
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