

St. Matthew the Evangelist Parish

November 2, 2025

*The Commemoration
of All the
Faithful Departed*

*For this is the will of my Father,
that everyone who sees the Son and
believes in him may have eternal life,
and I shall raise him on the last day.*

John 6:40





Dear Parishioners,

This Sunday, November 2, the Church invites us to pray with special love for all who have died and are being purified for the vision of God. We call this day All Souls, the Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed. It sits tenderly between the triumph of All Saints and our own journey of hope, reminding us that “the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God” (Wis 3:1).

Why do we pray for the dead? Because charity doesn’t end at the cemetery gate. Sacred Scripture praises those who “made atonement for the dead, that they might be delivered from their sin” (2

Macc 12:45). The Church has always believed that our prayers, sacrifices, and especially the Holy Mass assist the faithful departed (cf. CCC 1030–1032). In Christ’s Body, we remain profoundly united: those on the way (the Church on earth), those being perfected (the Church being purified), and those already in glory (the Church in heaven). This is the Communion of Saints in action.

The Eucharist is our greatest act of love for the dead. When we place a name at the altar, we are placing a person into the Heart that was pierced for us (cf. Jn 19:34). As Pope Benedict XVI wrote, even our “small acts of love” become part of God’s great mercy that purifies and heals (cf. Spe Salvi 47–48). Let us live this day with confidence, because Jesus promised: “Whoever eats this bread will live forever” (Jn 6:58).

How we’ll keep All Souls at St. Matthew the Evangelist Parish:

- **Book of Remembrance:** Throughout November, you may inscribe the names of loved ones.
- **All Souls Envelopes/Intentions:** These will be placed near the altar and remembered at Masses during November.
- **Candles/Names of the Deceased:** We will honor parishioners who died this past year at the annual mass of remembrance, which is scheduled for 6:30 PM at Saint Theresa Church on November 5, 2025.
- **Indulgences for the Faithful Departed:** From Nov 1–8, the Church grants special indulgences for the dead under the usual conditions (confession, Communion, prayers for the Holy Father, detachment from sin) when we visit a cemetery and pray for the departed.
- And I am very happy to announce that our new ministry, the Parish Nurses, will be working with Heather Murphy to begin a grief support group. They will meet regularly at the Parish to support those who have lost loved ones. Watch the bulletin and the announcements for further information.

Grief is real, but so is Christian hope. “Where sin increased, grace overflowed all the more” (Rom 5:20). Let’s entrust our beloved dead to the mercy of God and renew our own desire for holiness, so that one day we may all rejoice together in the Father’s house.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

May they rest in peace. Amen.

In Christ,

Fr. Chris

(Citations: Wis 3:1–9; 2 Macc 12:45; Jn 6:35–58; CCC 1030–1032; Benedict XVI, Spe Salvi 47–48.)



ST. MATTHEW PARISH
CHRISTMAS FAIR

It's A Raffle Basket Bonanza!! Please Contribute!!

Bring On The Raffle Baskets!!

The Saint Matthew Christmas Fair is **Saturday, December 6, 2025**, only 5 weeks away!!! The Fair Committee is looking for your help to donate new and creative items to fill the raffle baskets that will be on display. The target value should be at least \$50, and individual items for donation are welcome, such as baskets, gift cards, a bottle of wine, and food that is packaged and non-parishable. Candy is NOT recommended as it tends to attract unwanted critters while the baskets are being stored.

Would you like to donate a completed raffle basket? Or donate items to be used in making a basket by our team of elves! Either way, below are some ideas to help jumpstart your creativity. This is certainly not a complete list, so please feel free to get inspired by your own vision for a raffle basket.

- **"Fore the Golfer" basket**: could include golf balls, tees, gloves, and golf towels.
- **"Cuddle Up" basket**: You might feature hot cocoa mix, a couple of mugs, warm lounge socks, and a fleece blanket.
- **"Crafts for Kids" basket**: may contain jewelry making, painting, or model assembly kits.

Starting next weekend, November 8th and 9th as well as the following weekend, November 15th and 16th bins will be set up at the entrances of Saint Andrew and Saint Theresa churches to make it easier for you to drop off your raffle basket donations as you arrive for Mass. Let's work together as a parish to have the most impressive and enticing raffle baskets at this year's Fair!!

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 November

Altar Bread— In Loving Memory of Kathleen Ruggeri

from Frank Ruggeri

Wine— In Loving Memory of Kathleen Ruggeri

from Frank Ruggeri

Candles— In Loving Memory of Kathleen Ruggeri

from Frank Ruggeri

Missals— In Loving Memory of Rafaela (Rae) Gentner

from Arlene Smith





Adoration Opportunities

All are invited to attend the Novena of the Sacred Heart to be held at **St. Andrew Church on Friday, November 7th at 7pm**. The evening will begin with the rosary and will be followed by the Novena, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction. We hope you will take advantage of these opportunities to spend some quiet time with Jesus.

SAVE THE DATE – ELECTRONIC RECYCLING DAY! SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15th



Saint Matthew will be hosting an Electronics Recycling Day on Saturday, November 15th from 9:00AM – 2:00PM in the parking lot of St. Theresa Church.

This is a great opportunity to clear out your old electronics! Bring items such as DVD players, VCR's, small household appliances, computer monitors, and more. More details to come!

What You Can Bring/ Cost to You:

\$5
EACH

Computer Towers, Laptops, DVD Players, VCR's, Small Printers, Stereos, Radios, Alarm Clocks, Speakers, Video Game Consoles, Table Lamps, Fans, Hair Dryers, Curling Irons, Projectors, Paper Shredders, Power Tools, Drills, Cameras, Clocks, Trophies, Frying Pans, Holiday Lights, Other Small Electronics.

\$10
EACH

Small Household Appliances, Vacuum Cleaners/Roomba, Toaster Ovens, Ceiling Fans, Floor Lamps, Air Fryers, Electric Grills, Hot Plates, Small Radiators, Keyboard Pianos, Coffee Makers, Ice Makers, Small Garbage Disposal, Sewing Machines, Car Seats.

\$20
EACH

Flat Screen Computer Monitors, Microwaves, Dehumidifiers, Air Conditioners, Water Coolers, Large Printers/Copiers, Leaf Blowers, Chainsaws, Heat Lamps, Artificial Christmas Trees, Fire Extinguishers, Propane Tanks (Empty).

\$25
EACH

TVs up to 26," CRT Monitors, Outdoor Grills, Dorm Sized Refrigerators

\$30
EACH

TVs between 26" and 35," White Goods, Washing Machines, Dryers, Stoves, Dishwashers, Large Appliances, Large Yard Equipment, Treadmills, Exercise Equipment, Snow Blowers, Lawn Mowers, Rototillers, Large Generators, Motors, Water Tanks

\$35
EACH

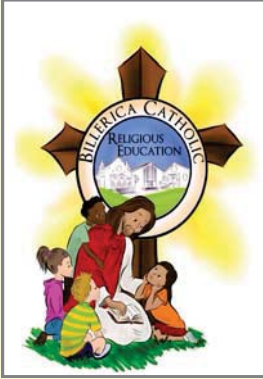
TVs over 36," Large Refrigerators, Ride-On Lawn Mowers.

\$40
EACH

Projection TVs

CASH PREFERRED, VENMO, CHECKS (OVER \$30)

Family Faith Update - Faith Formation Highlights for Grades 1-7



Faith Formation families in Grades 3–7 met on Monday and Tuesday, October 20th & 21st for this month's Gathered Family Sessions. Our theme for the year is The Liturgical Year, and October's gathering focused on the Feasts of All Saints and All Souls.

Families enjoyed a lively round of "Guess the Saint" as an icebreaker before reflecting together on John 4:11–14, discussing what Jesus meant when He told the woman at the well that He is the source of "life-giving water" — the gift of eternal life. They also joined in a fun "Race to Heaven" activity and created Family Holy Souls Scrolls to remember their loved ones on All Souls Day (November 2nd) and throughout the month of November.

Our Project Nazareth Good News Families learned about The Fall, Sin Defined, and Original Sin. After praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet, families enjoyed "Jesus, I Trust In You" coloring sheets — a beautiful reminder of God's mercy and love.

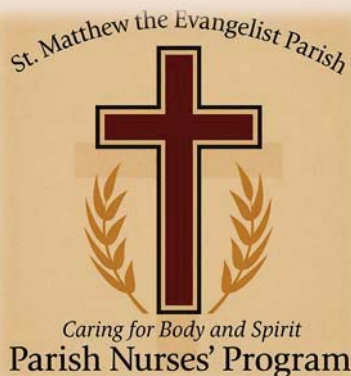
Meanwhile, our Community Sunday children celebrated the upcoming Feasts of All Saints and All Souls with joyful Saints coloring sheets. Director of Faith Formation Ann Carroll shared how her catechist heart was overflowing with joy when one first grader proudly demonstrated how to make the Sign of the Cross and recited the Our Father aloud — both lessons learned during the previous Pray and Play session.

We look forward to seeing everyone again at our **next sessions on November 17th and 18th!**

Reminder: Any Grade 3–7 family that has not yet selected a session should do so by October 31, 2025. Please check your SignUpGenius link to see available slots. (Gatherings are family sessions — no drop-offs, please.)



Parish Nurse Updates



The St. Matthew the Evangelist Parish Nurse program provides support through our newly initiated Blood Pressure Clinics that will be held in conjunction with Community Sundays starting in 2026 and through the newly established Bereavement Support Program beginning January 8, 2026. Parish Nurses will also be available in person during office hours to provide support with a focus on intentional care of the spirit as part of the process of promoting wholistic health and preventing or minimizing illness (ANA, HMA 2017). This may include, but is not limited to, intentional prayer, understanding lab or diagnostic test results, asking health related questions, or seeking guidance on where to obtain medical or social care through clinics or agencies.

Parish Nurses may also be reached at admin@billericacatholic.org. To request a home visit, please contact via the listed email or through the Parish Office at **978-663-8816**.

Please see the bulletin for office hour times held in Room 7 of the Parish Office Building. To learn more about the Bereavement Support Program and how to register, please contact admin@billericacatholic.org.



American Red Cross Blood Drive URGENT need for Donors!

Wednesday, November 19th

2:00-7:00pm

at

St. Matthew the Evangelist Parish

In the Parish Hall

The American Red Cross has issued **an emergency call for blood and platelets**, urging all eligible donors to give now to replenish an extremely low blood supply. Blood donations have fallen short of hospital needs for the past few months, resulting in about 39,000 fewer donations than what's needed, as well as a significant draw down of the overall Red Cross blood supply. Donors of all types, especially Type O, are strongly encouraged to make an appointment to donate.

If you would like more information or would like to schedule an appointment, please contact Heather in the Parish Office at **978-663-8816** or heather.murphy.ccb@gmail.com. You can also go to redcrossblood.org to schedule your appointment online. Thank you in advance for giving this life saving gift.



St. Andrew Dinner For High School Age Men

All high school age men are invited to attend a St. Andrew Dinner on Wednesday, **November 5th from 6:00–8:00 PM at St. John Seminary, 127 Lake Street, Brighton.**

The evening will include dinner, prayer, a seminary tour, discussion, personal testimony, and an opportunity to meet Archbishop Henning.

This is a wonderful chance to learn more about the priesthood and how God may be calling you in your life. For more information, visit www.VocationsBoston.org or to register, contact:

Fr. Eric Cadin – ecadin@rcab.org or Fr. Michael Zimmerman – mzimmerman@rcab.org

Congratulations to Kierra & Troy – United in Holy Matrimony

Congratulations and God's Abundant Blessings to **Kierra Walsh and Troy Iodice**, who joyfully celebrated the Sacrament of Marriage last weekend and became husband and wife. Surrounded by their loving family and friends, and guided in faith by Father Chris, they joined their lives together before God in a beautiful celebration of love and commitment.

The bride was radiant and the groom was glowing as they exchanged vows of lifelong devotion, promising to walk hand in hand through life's joys and challenges with Christ at the center of their marriage.

May their union be richly blessed with God's grace, filled with love that endures, faith that strengthens, and joy that overflows. May they always find in one another the reflection of God's own love.



Special Collection – Hurricane Relief (Hurricane Melissa)



Hurricane Melissa is one of the most powerful hurricanes on record and reports state that it is stronger than Katrina which caused immense devastation, destruction, and death in 2005. People and communities in Jamaica, Haiti, and the Dominican Republic have experienced deaths, injuries, and widespread damage.

Saint Matthew will hold our collection **NEXT WEEKEND – November 8th and 9th**. Parishioners are asked to address their checks to Saint Matthew Parish, with "Hurricane Melissa Relief" in the memo. The parish will then send what has been collected to the Archdiocese of Boston for distribution to Catholic Relief Services. Thank you for your continued prayers and generosity for everyone impacted by Hurricane Melissa.

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**.

Reflection Question of the Week- Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed



All Souls Day, as we refer to it, is a feast of God's triumph, in Jesus, over sin and death. It is a time of prayer for all who have died. We are reminded of the promise that we will one day enjoy the vision of God's glory in the kingdom where hope is fixed for all who love and where rest is sure for all who serve. Belief in the resurrection of Jesus, and belief in our own resurrection should convince us to take our life of faith seriously. The words of today's readings urge us to hold fast to the promise of life eternal and to look upon our life as a series of opportunities for believing, hoping, loving, and growing.

Such opportunities are unique gifts from God and should not be missed.

Take a few moments to sit and reflect on how death is not the end, but a journey to be with God. On how we can live our lives with more purpose, trusting that God will have a place for us in heaven.

- How do you show love for those who have passed away?
- In what ways can All Souls' Day help you think about how you live your life?
- How does praying for the dead strengthen your faith in eternal life?



Intentions for the week of November 1st-November 7th

Joseph Ferrao-Memorial
Deceased Members of the Gonsalves Family
Legrada D'Souza-Memorial
Doris Cennamo-Memorial
Rhiannon James-Memorial
Anthony Lang-Memorial
Douglas Campbell-Memorial
A. Thomas Cyr-Memorial
Madeline Chilton-Memorial
David Silva-Memorial
Nella Robinson-4th Anniversary

Intentions for the week of November 8th-November 14th

Jonathan Reardon-3rd Anniversary
William R. McCarthy-Memorial
Kathleen A. Ruggeri-2nd Anniversary
June Kelly-Memorial
Cynara Ferrao-Memorial
Lisa Talbot-1st Anniversary
Maria Sousa-Memorial
Robert and Mary Cahill-Memorial
Robert, Beatrice and Phillip Mahoney and Family-Memorial
Elizabeth M. Grimes-1st Anniversary
Judith and Christina McDevitt and Helen Duggan-Memorial
Mary and David Stevens-1st Anniversary and Memorial

Please remember Kathi Glavin Higgins in a special way on the 20th Anniversary of her passing



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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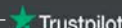
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