

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH OF St. Matthew & Our Lady of Perpetual Help



Church of St. Matthew
616 Warburton Avenue
Hastings on Hudson, NY 10706
Rectory.....914-478-2822



Our Lady of Perpetual Help
535 Ashford Avenue
Ardsley, NY 10502
www.stmolph.com

October 15, 2023 • 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Clergy

Rev. Douglas Crawford.....*Pastor*
Rev. Nicholas Nwagwu.....*Chaplain, St. John Riverside Hospital*
Rev. Thomas Kelly.....*Weekend Associate*

Sacrament of Baptism

Catechetical Instruction for the parents is required. The date for baptism should be scheduled in advance. Please contact the Rectory.

Sacrament of Matrimony

Arranged 6 months in advance. Please contact the rectory and speak with a Priest before any deposit is made for the wedding reception.

Anointing & Last Rites

Call the rectory at any time.

Religious Education Program

Mr. Michael Vicario.....*Director*
Mr. Jay A. Conklin.....*Assistant Director*
Office Location: St. Matthew Church
Phone: 914-269-8982 • e-mail: religioused@stmolph.com

Parish Emails

Fr. Crawford.....fr.dycrawford@yahoo.com
Rectory Office.....office@stmolph.com



facebook.com/stmolph



Instagram.com/stmolph

Mass Schedule

Daily Mass: Monday - Saturday

St. Matthew.....9:00 am
OLPH.....8:00 am

Saturday Vigil Mass for Sunday

St. Matthew 5:30 pm
OLPH4:00 pm

Sunday

St. Matthew.....8:30 am & 11:30 am
OLPH.....10:00 am

Holy Day Mass

Check the Parish Bulletin for schedule.

Sacrament of Penance: Saturday

OLPH3:00 - 3:45 pm
St. Matthew.....4:30 - 5:15 pm

Prayers & Novena

Miraculous Medal Novena

(St. Matthew) Monday after the 9:00 am Mass

Rosary (OLPH): First Saturday of the month immediately following the Mass

Holy Hour & Exposition

(St. Matthew) Friday between 9:30 am - 10:30 am



Mass Intentions

ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14

5:30 pm Frank Tarant †

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15

8:30 am Holy Souls

11:30 am Gessy Nau †

MONDAY, OCTOBER 16

9:00 am Isabel Y. Crawford †

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17

9:00 am Elizabeth Keaney †

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18

9:00 am Elizabeth Keaney †

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19

9:00 am Michael Markman †

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20

9:00 am Maria Herrera †

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21

9:00 am Ethna Lowbridge †

5:30 pm Joseph A. DiSalvo †

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22

8:30 am Mary Elizabeth Groth †

11:30 am Joseph A. DiSalvo †

REQUESTED BY:

daughter Gene

Marie Nau-Fort

Fr. Crawford

Jimmy

Jimmy

Wife

Rose Macancela

Ella & Orla

Joan Haubold & Family

Sister Kathleen

The Powers Family

OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP CHURCH

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14

4:00 pm Kathleen "Nana" Doyle †

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15

10:00 am Rosetta Damiano †

MONDAY, OCTOBER 16

8:00 am Antonio Ybay †

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17

8:00 am Patrick Reilly †

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18

8:00 am Misa Pro Populo

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19

8:00 am Living & Deceased Members of
Trentacoste & Spagnuolo Families

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20

8:00 am Maribeth Groth †

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21

8:00 am Special Intentions for Nuala Mullen

4:00 pm Joseph A. DiSalvo

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22

10:00 am Ray Gutierrez †

REQUESTED BY:

Doyle Family

Paulette & Mark Damiano

Ybay Family

Tierney-Murtagh Families

Kathleen Groth

Mullen Family

Camille Gutierrez

October 15, 2023 - 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Reading I: Isaiah 25: 6-10a

The banquet image is a favorite way to describe God's kingdom and the times to come of His reign of joy in heaven.

Reading II: Philippians 4: 12-14, 19-20

St. Paul acknowledges the community's gift to him. Yet he also cites the source of his energy when challenges come his way: from the loving God whose strength on which he relies.

The Gospel: Matthew 22: 1-14, or 22: 1-10

Jesus depicts God's kingdom as a wedding banquet, which some of the invitees ignored and others refused. Only then does the king turn to all who were not officially invited, which included the good and the bad.

READING FOR THE WEEK



Monday: Rom 1:1-7; Ps 98:1-4; Lk 11:29-32

Tuesday: Rom 1:16-25; Ps 19:2-5; Lk 11:37-41

Wednesday: 2 Tm 4:10-17b; Ps 145:10-13, 17-18; Lk 10:1-9

Thursday: Rom 3:21-30; Ps 130:1b-6ab; Lk 11:47-54

Friday: Rom 4:1-8; Ps 32:1b-2, 5, 11; Lk 12:1-7

Saturday: Rom 4:13, 16-18; Ps 105:6-9, 42-43; Lk 12:8-12

Sunday: Is 45:1, 4-6; Ps 96:1, 3-5, 7-10; 1 Thes 1:1-5b; Mt 22:15-21

COLLECTION REPORT:

Weekend Summary:

October 8th:

Mail: \$787

Sunday 10/8: \$4,042

Parish Giving 10/8: \$3,195

Total for Weekend: \$8,024

Upcoming 2nd Collections:

10/15 - Maintenance & Repair

10/22 - Mission Sunday

PLEASE NOTE: If you are making your contribution monthly, or even making up a missed offering, you only need to make out *one check* to the parish. There is no need to make a separate check for each envelope.



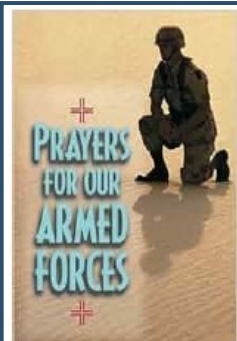
Thank you to **120** parishioners
who regularly give monthly via Parish Giving!
Won't you join too?

You can click on the Parish Giving Link or scan the QR code to take you directly to our Parish Giving page.

Support Our Parish

We rely on the generosity of parishioners and visitors in order for our Parish to thrive. We would not be able to fulfill our mission without your financial support.

Also, please remember St. Matthew-Our Lady of Perpetual Help in your Will or Living Trust. Kindly contact the rectory office with your inquiries.



Brian Dunne-USN,
Christopher Gaulin-USA,
George Moore-USN,
Michael Germain-USN,
Peter Dillon-USCG,
Chris Minozzi-USMC, Sean Roth-USA,
Mike Gibbons-USMC,
Nick Lumalcuri - USN

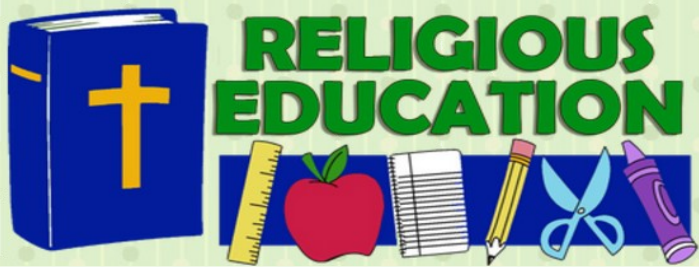


Please keep in your prayers the ill of our parish especially: Kristin Harkin, Rev. Alexander Agyepong, Ava DiBenedetto, Catherine Paretti, Linda Vellone, Cheryl Ballantine,

And for those who have died marked by the sign of faith, especially:

If you know of any parishioner who are ill and would like to be visited by a priest, please contact the rectory at 914-478-2822. Please feel free to call the rectory to add names of immediate family members.





**Classes resume this week:
Sunday, October 15th &
Wednesday, October 18th.**

The full calendar can be found on the parish website, under the Religious Education tab.

PLEASE MAKE NOTE: There is a new telephone number to reach the Director of Religious Education, Mr. Michael Vicario: 914-269-8982

CANDLE DEDICATIONS

**St. Matthew Tabernacle Candle
St. Matthew Blessed Mother Candle
OLPH Tabernacle Candle**



If you would like a candle to burn in memory of a loved one, please contact the rectory. Candle dedications can be reserved online. Visit the parish website for a direct link.

ALTAR FLOWERS



**St. Matthew Church
In Memory of
Ethna Lowbridge
by Ella & Orla**

If you would like to have flowers on the Altar in memory of a loved one or for a special occasion, please visit our website for a link to available dates.



Welcome New Parishioners

We want to take a moment and welcome the following new parishioners and those parishioners who have officially registered:

**Karen Easty-Akhavan
The Ce Family
Victoria Dellolio
The Maney Family
The Kalaj Family**

**The Owens Family
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Trolio
The Blanco Family
Mr. & Mrs. D. Lawe
Clark & Marci Goolsby**

**Adrian & Sarah Sierra
The Fazio Family
The DeRosa Family
The Radoman Family**



Just because you have been attending Mass for years, or that your children attend Religious Education, this does not mean that you are registered with the parish. What are the benefits of registration? Glad you asked!

Benefits of Parish Registration:

1. Registered parishioners can receive important communications from the parish throughout the year, including Christmas and Easter schedules.
2. Registered parishioners are able to participate in the parish's CYO Basketball and Religious Education programs.
3. Registered parishioners are able to receive a verification certificate to be a Confirmation sponsor or Godparent.
4. Registered parishioners have the option to receive offertory envelopes and track contributions for tax purposes.
5. The parish has your information for Communion calls, if you are ill or immobile, or for making hospital visits when requested.
6. The parish census numbers are a tool used by the Archdiocese to determine how many priests are assigned to the parish, what benefits accrue for the parish and what obligations are owed by the parish.

Registration forms can be found on the parish website: www.stmolph.com or contact the rectory.

ST. MATTHEW OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP
FISCAL YEAR 2023
(September 1, 2022 - August 31, 2023)

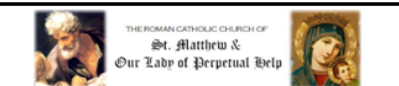
REVENUE

	FY 2023	FY 2022	FY 2021
Collections (including candles)	1) \$ 366,342.00	\$ 336,312.00	\$ 322,823.00
Other Income	\$ 974.00	\$ 16,085.00	\$ 14,298.00
Rental Income	\$ 366,226.00	\$ 304,274.00	\$ 352,354.00
Religious Education Income	\$ 79,782.00	\$ 65,488.00	\$ 82,179.00
Donations	\$ 100,056.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
Interest Income	\$ 182,581.00	\$ 192,708.00	\$ 208,319.00
CYO	\$ 80,612.00	\$ 56,445.00	\$ -
Proceed from Insurance	3) \$ 50,000.00	\$ 343,054.00	
Fundraising	\$ 31,500.00	\$ 1,968.00	\$ 2,219.00
PPP Forgiveness	2) \$ -	\$ 72,685.00	\$ 89,400.00
Total Operating Income	\$ 1,258,073.00	\$ 1,394,019.00	\$ 1,081,592.00

EXPENSE

Salaries and Benefits (Clergy)	4) \$ 90,106.00	\$ 162,290.00	\$ 178,519.00
Salaries and Benefits (Lay)	\$ 241,575.00	\$ 288,542.00	\$ 257,787.00
Office and Clerical Support	\$ 68,425.00	\$ 71,670.00	\$ 59,407.00
Church and Chapel Expenses (excludes Choir expense)	\$ 73,477.00	\$ 33,825.00	\$ 31,793.00
Choir Expense	\$ 65,341.00	\$ 82,155.00	\$ 112,698.00
Religious Education Expense	\$ 20,408.00	\$ 53,363.00	\$ 17,047.00
Utilities	\$ 65,904.00	\$ 75,614.00	\$ 64,123.00
Repairs and Maintenance	5) \$ 174,115.00	\$ 131,538.00	\$ 172,115.00
Other Plant Costs	\$ 45,787.00	\$ 42,906.00	\$ 38,424.00
Food and Household Expense	\$ 72,177.00	\$ 25,707.00	\$ 20,561.00
Cathedralium and Regional School Tax	\$ 99,488.00	\$ 103,513.00	\$ 106,784.00
CYO	\$ 54,680.00	\$ 33,089.00	\$ (200.00)
Other Program Expense	\$ 18,764.00	\$ 5,108.00	\$ 2,029.00
Misc Losses(covered through Catholic Mutual)	3) \$ -	\$ 270,065.00	
Expense Totals	\$ 1,090,247.00	\$ 1,379,385.00	\$ 1,061,087.00
Net Operating Income (Loss)	\$ 167,826.00	\$ 14,634.00	\$ 20,505.00

- 1) FY 2023 Total includes \$84,115 electronic giving
2) FY 2022/2021 Forgiveness of the PPP loans from the SBA
3) FY 2023/2022 Insurance proceeds based on various claims made to Catholic Mutual
4) FY 2023 Salaries and benefits-decrease due to elimination of positions both clergy and lay
5) FY 2023 includes upgrades to parish properties



DRAWING - FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2023
St. Matthew & Our Lady of Perpetual Help
616 Warburton Avenue • Hastings on Hudson • NY • 10706
DONATION: \$100 • LIMIT 200 TICKETS

No. _____

PRIZE SCHEDULE

3rd Prize - \$500 **1st PRIZE - \$6,500** 4th Prize - \$500
5th Prize - \$500 **2nd PRIZE - \$1,000** 6th Prize - \$200
7th Prize - \$200 8th Prize - \$200
9th Prize - \$200 10th Prize - \$200

Please note that if all tickets are not sold by the drawing date, prizes will be adjusted accordingly.

If you would like to join our **Christmas Stocking Stuffer Raffle**, please return this form with Payment (\$100 per ticket) to:
St. Matthew & Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church
616 Warburton Avenue • Hastings on Hudson, NY 10706
Call: 914-478-2822 or email: office@stmolph.com

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Number of Tickets Wanted: _____ Payment Enclosed: \$ _____

Pope Francis Gives a ‘Yes and No’ Answer Regarding Blessings for Same-Sex Couples.

Father Raymond J. de Souza - Commentaries - October 6, 2023

COMMENTARY: This kind of ambiguity has been seen before, in the case of allowing divorced and remarried couples to receive Communion.

The big news — measured in newspaper headlines — of a very newsy Vatican week was that the Holy Father was in favor of blessings for same-sex couples. Indeed, that would be news, especially because in 2021 Pope Francis personally approved an official reply by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF, now “Dicastery” or DDF) that said [such blessings were impossible](#).

A “[dubium](#),” or question, had been put to the CDF about blessing same-sex unions, and the reply was clear: “God does not and cannot bless sin: he blesses sinful man, so that he may recognize that he is part of his plan of love and allow himself to be changed by him.”

The CDF reply — again, approved by the Holy Father and so carrying his authority — was detailed.

“It is not licit to impart a blessing on relationships, or partnerships, even stable, that involve sexual activity outside of marriage (i.e., outside the indissoluble union of a man and a woman open in itself to the transmission of life), as is the case of the unions between persons of the same sex,” the CDF wrote. “The presence in such relationships of positive elements, which are in themselves to be valued and appreciated, cannot justify these relationships and render them legitimate objects of an ecclesial blessing, since the positive elements exist within the context of a union not ordered to the Creator’s plan.”

A heterosexual couple in a conjugal union outside of marriage — living “in sin” as it were — also could not have their relationship blessed.

If a person were to ask for a blessing, but not a blessing upon an illicit conjugal union, that would be different:

“The answer to the proposed *dubium* does not preclude the blessings given to individual persons with homosexual inclinations, who manifest the will to live in fidelity to the revealed plans of God as proposed by Church teaching.”

Another set of “dubia” was submitted this past summer, including a question on blessings for same-sex unions. This time the Holy Father [replied in his own name](#), and at length:

“For this reason the Church avoids any kind of rite or sacramental that could ... give the impression that something that is not marriage is recognized as marriage. In dealing with people, however, we must not lose the pastoral charity that must permeate all our decisions and attitudes. The defense of objective truth is not the only expression of this charity, which is also made up of kindness, patience, understanding, tenderness, and encouragement. Therefore, we cannot become judges who only deny, reject, exclude. For this reason, pastoral prudence must adequately discern whether there are forms of blessing, requested by one or more persons, that do not transmit a mistaken conception of marriage.”

“Discerning” whether there are “forms of blessing” that could be offered to same-sex couples set off a global media storm to the effect that Pope Francis was open to blessing same-sex unions. Is he?

Yes and no. And the ambiguity might be, from the Holy Father's point of view, a feature and not a bug. It has been seen before.

What Pope Francis wrote was not very different than what the CDF replied in 2021. If a same-sex couple asks for a blessing upon their illicit conjugal union, it cannot be granted — it would be blessing sin, as would also be the case with a heterosexual (unmarried) couple.

If the couple asked for a blessing to strengthen them to live together in chastity, and they assented to Church teaching on the immorality of homosexual acts, that would be a different matter. Perhaps it might be possible, but care would have to be taken to clarify what was being sought. Offering encouragement is an essential part of pastoral care, and the line between encouragement and enabling needs to be maintained. The CDF said exactly that, as did Pope Francis now.

If an individual requests a blessing, then almost certainly it would be given. Priests are asked for blessings frequently, and generally, no inquiry is made about the person asking. Goodwill is assumed and, in any case, no union is being blessed.

Why then the clamoring and confusion?

Because of *Amoris Laetitia*, the Holy Father's 2016 apostolic exhortation that permitted, in some circumstances, divorced and civilly remarried couples to receive Holy Communion. The possibility was restricted; such a couple would have to recognize that they were not validly married and that their conjugal acts were contrary to the moral law. Further, a couple would have to assent to the truth of the moral law and sincerely desire to live in accord with it, but somehow judge that it was impossible for them to do so. Read plainly, the criteria laid out by Pope Francis made it likely that few couples would meet it. That it should be permitted in principle at all remained a highly disputed point, but in practice, the couples who would meet the Holy Father's criteria would be few.

Nevertheless, various bishops took the Holy Father's teaching beyond what he wrote. The bishops of Malta, for example, spoke of an "enlightened conscience" as the "belief that he or she [is] a peace with God," which is simply not a Catholic understanding of conscience. The two Maltese bishops who provided that guidance were Archbishop Charles Scicluna, now an adjunct secretary at the DDF, and Bishop Mario Grech, now a cardinal and head of the Vatican synod secretariat. As such he is the chief architect of the synodal process on synodality for a synodal Church.

The reality after *Amoris Laetitia* was a deliberate ambiguity, if not outright pretending. Officially, the process laid out was rigorously followed, but practically, in some places invalidly married couples were treated as equivalent to validly married couples. It became in such places a recognition of divorce and remarriage plain and simple, though it was not spoken of plainly or simply.

Could the same thing happen with same-sex blessings? It is possible to imagine a priest blessing a same-sex couple and, as part of the blessing prayers, asking for the grace to live chastely. One does not expect to see that; indeed, in Germany and Belgium, where such blessings have taken place, that is not what is happening. Officially, the blessings are not to be a facsimile of marriage, but unofficially they give ecclesial approval to the illicit conjugal unions of same-sex couples.

The world's media reported the Holy Father allowing something he did not explicitly permit. That reflects the expectation that ambiguity and artifice will advance what appears to be a contrived blessing of a sexual union which is not a marriage.

Will the synod of 2023 follow that line? Those who think so remember that the synods of 2014 and 2015 led to the ambiguity and artifice of *Amoris Laetitia*.

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[Father Raymond J. de Souza](#) Father Raymond J. de Souza is the founding editor of *Convivium* magazine.