

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

December 24, 2023 • Fourth Sunday of Advent

Clergy

Rev. Douglas Crawford.....*Pastor*
Rev. Nicholas Nwagwu.....*Chaplain, St. John Riverside Hospital*
Rev. George Lodi.....*In Residence*

Sacrament of Baptism

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

Mrs. Stephanie Bonney.....*Coordinator*
Mr. Jay A. Conklin.....*Assistant*
Office Location: St. Matthew Church
Phone: 914-693-0030 • 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, DECEMBER 23

5:30 pm Special Intentions for Fr. Henry

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

Sunday Mass: 8:30 am Denise Palley †

Sunday Mass: 11:30 am Eileen Jackson †

Christmas Eve Mass: 4:00pm

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25 - Christmas Day

8:30 am Christmas Mass

11:30 am Christmas Mass

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26

9:00 am Special Intentions for Fioriti Family

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27

9:00 am Ronin Kmeta-Suarez †

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28

9:00 am Special Intention

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29

9:00 am Mary & Charles Lokay †

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30

9:00 am Janet Heithous †

5:30 pm Special Intentions for Mary O'Driscoll

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

8:30 am Joseph A. DiSalvo †

11:30 am Pope Benedict XVI

REQUESTED BY:

Janet Lokay

Frank Palley

The Henry Family

J. Fioriti

His Family

Janet

Ann Marie Chinnery

Sherry Family

Protection Engine Co.

Parish

OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP CHURCH

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23

4:00 pm Stephan C. Heinzl †

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

Sunday Masses: 10:00 am Rosetta Damiano †

Christmas Eve Masses: 6:00pm & 10:00pm

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25 - Christmas Day

10:00 am Christmas Mass

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26

8:00 am Sal Campoli †

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27

8:00 am Jean Bosco & Alfred Sognonvi †

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28

8:00 am Misa Pro Populo

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29

8:00 am Ramon Giovanni Barriero †

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30

8:00 am Balduino DiMatteo †

4:00 pm Nicholas Macri, Sr. †

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

10:00 am Noel Corbett †

REQUESTED BY:

Daughter Eleanor Rice

Paulette & Mark Damiano

Wife Dora

Marie Sognonvi

Guerra Family

Rocco & Mirella Maiorano
Family

Paulette & Mark Damiano

December 24, 2023 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

Reading I: 2 Samuel 7: 1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16

Here we have both an oracle of Nathan the prophet and a prayer of David the king. The throne of David shall endure forever.

Reading II: Romans 16: 25-27

This section is a doxology, or prayer of praise to the "only wise God", as the author puts it, who acts through Jesus Christ.

The Gospel: Luke 1: 26-38

The wonderful mystery of the Annunciation of Mary, the First Joyful one of the Holy Rosary. Mary's Son will be, according to Archangel Gabriel, "the Most High" He will take the throne of David forever.

READING FOR THE WEEK



Monday, December 25, 2023 (Vigil) Is 62:1-5 Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 Acts 13:16-17, 22-25 Mt 1:1-25 or Mt 1:18-25

Monday, December 25, 2023 (Night) Is 9:1-6 Ps 96: 1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 Ti 2:11-14 Lk 2:1-14

Monday, December 25, 2023 (Dawn) Is 62:11-12 Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12 Ti 3:4-7 Lk 2:15-20

Monday, December 25, 2023 (Day) Is 52:7-10 Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 Heb 1:1-6 Jn 1:1-18

Tuesday, December 26, 2023 Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59 Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17 Mt 10:17-22

Wednesday, December 27, 2023 1 Jn 1:1-4 Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 Jn 20:1a and 2-8

Thursday, December 28, 2023 1 Jn 1:5—2:2 Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8 Mt 2:13-18

Friday, December 29, 2023 1 Jn 2:3-11 Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 Lk 2:22-35

Saturday, December 30, 2023 1 Jn 2:12-17 Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 Lk 2:36-40

Sunday, December 31, 2023 Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3 Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19 Lk 2:22-40 or Lk 2:22, 39-40

COLLECTION REPORT:

Weekend Summary:

December :

Sunday 12/24/23

Not available at Press Time

End Total: \$

Christmas Flowers: \$



Upcoming 2nd Collections:

Dec. 24 - Maintenance & Repairs

Dec. 25 - Christmas Collection



Christmas Flowers

**Christmas Flower & Christmas Envelopes can be dropped into any collection basket on any weekend or returned to the rectory.*



Thank you to **121** 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.



CANDLE DEDICATIONS

OLPH Tabernacle Candle

In Memory of Fred Wolff III

req. by Family

St. Matthew Tabernacle Candle

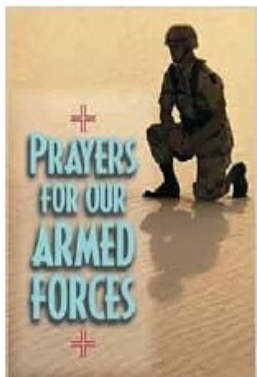
In Memory of Catherine & Eric Lundgren

req. by Christine

St. Matthew Blessed Mother Candle

req. by

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.



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
Claire Sherry - USAF



Christmas Schedule

Sunday, December 24th

St. Matthew: 8:30am & 11:30am

Our Lady of Perpetual Help: 10:00am

The usual Sunday obligation is not fulfilled by attending the 4pm, 6pm or 10pm Christmas Vigil Masses.

Moreover, the Christmas Obligation is not fulfilled by attending the Sunday, 8:30am, 10:00am, or 11:30am Masses.

Christmas Eve Masses: Sunday, December 24th

St. Matthew: 4:00pm

Our Lady of Perpetual Help: 6:00pm & 10:00pm

Christmas Day: Monday, December 25th

St. Matthew: 8:30am & 11:30am

Our Lady of Perpetual Help: 10:00am

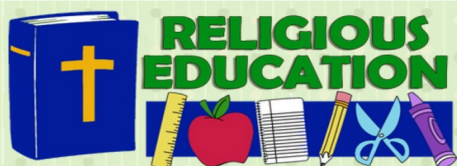


NEW YEAR'S: Monday, January 1, 2024

Our Lady of Perpetual Help: 8:00am

St. Matthew Church: 9:00am

**Not a Holy Day of Obligation this year, but Mass attendance is encouraged.*



**RELIGIOUS
EDUCATION**

**There will be NO
Classes on December
24, 27, 31**

and January 3rd in

observance of the Christmas & New Year Holidays

**Classes will resume on: Sunday, January 7 &
Wednesday, January 10**



Christmas Flowers

If you would like to make a donation towards Christmas Flowers in memory of a loved one, please use the Christmas Flower Envelope that came in your monthly packets. Extra envelopes can be found on the tables in the rear of the churches. Envelopes can go into any collection basket.



CONGRATULATIONS TO CLAIRE TIERNEY!

Congratulations goes out to Ardsley High School senior Claire Tierney who scored her 1,000th career point on Wednesday night during a Ardsley High School Basketball game. Ardsley took on Gorton. Claire entered the game just four points away from the big number.

You can watch the News12 segment at the link below:

<https://westchester.news12.com/ardsley-hs-senior-scores-1000th-career-point-in-basketball>

Feeling Lucky?

Prizes Totaling \$10,000!

Take a chance in our

Christmas Stocking Stuffer



RAFFLE PRIZE SCHEDULE

1st Prize



\$200

Tickets Available •

Ticket Cost \$100

DRAWING HELD: December 15th

A total of 187 tickets were sold for the raffle.

The prizes were adjusted and the lucky winners were:

GRAND PRIZE OF \$6,078: Ellen Varasano #164

2nd Prize \$935: Suzanne Fornato #158

3rd Prize \$468: Thomas Paretti #102

4th Prize \$468: Christine & Anthony Smith #111

5th Prize \$468: Dave Heizman 6th gr. Girls CYO #171

6th Prize \$187: Paul Perillo 5th gr. Girls CYO #139

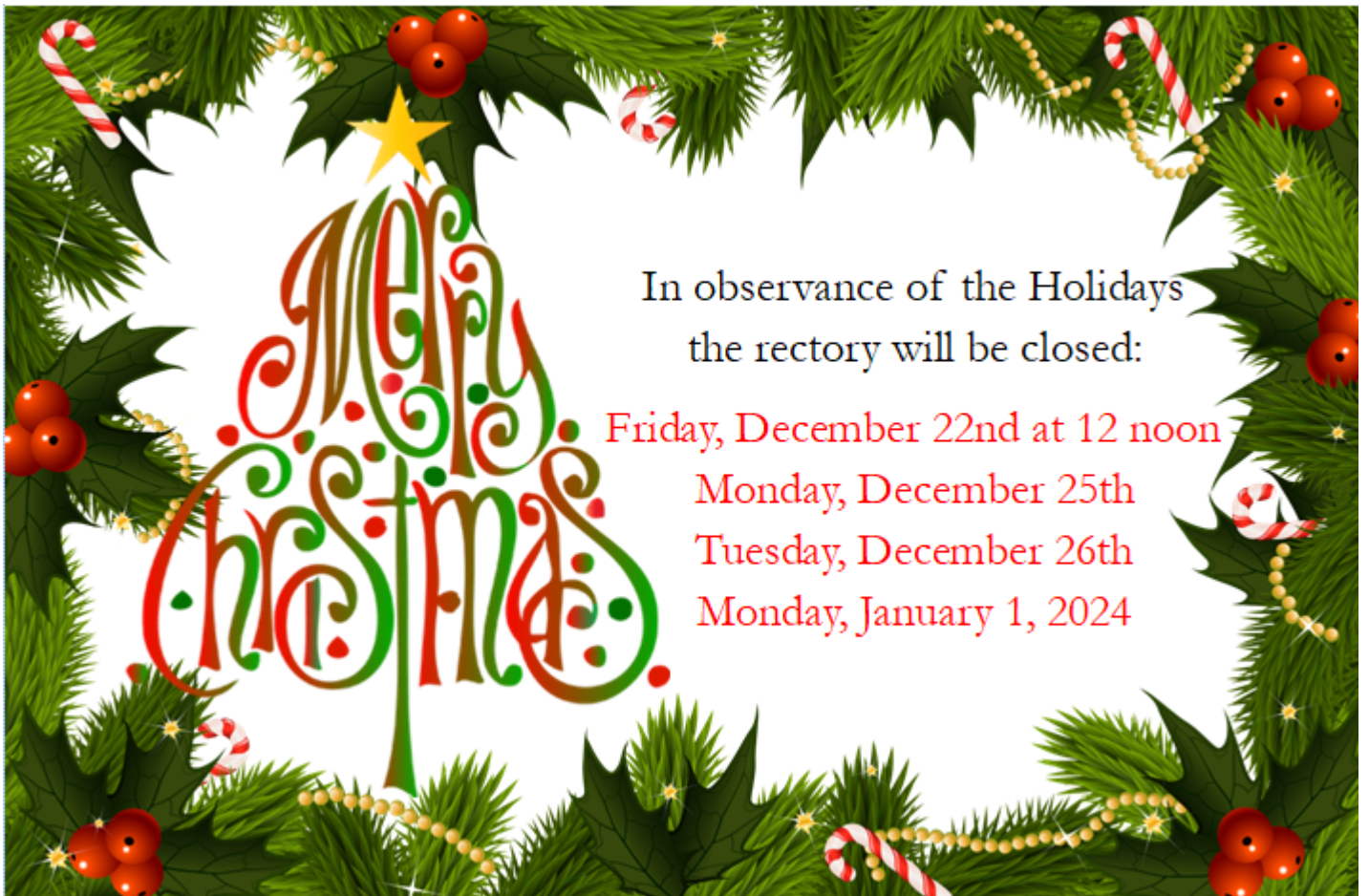
7th Prize \$187: Dave Heizman 5th gr. Girls CYO #138

8th Prize \$187: Janet Lokay #126

9th Prize \$187: Tom & Marie Milton #25

10th Prize \$187: Gary Lockwood #159

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR WINNERS!



In observance of the Holidays
the rectory will be closed:

Friday, December 22nd at 12 noon

Monday, December 25th

Tuesday, December 26th

Monday, January 1, 2024

Advent and Christmas: The most Pro-Life Time of the Year.

by Tom Hoopes

Everyone is rooting for an unborn child, then exploding in celebration when he is born.

It's that time of year again. The yearly December pro-life celebration that has everyone rooting for an unborn child, then exploding in celebration when he is born.

Everyone gets involved: Our city streets are redecorated to celebrate the birth to come. Music in stores celebrates an impoverished mother and adoptive father who committed to carrying the child to term. And everywhere you look, corporations entice you with new ways to celebrate a refugee couple giving birth far from home. Christmas is the biggest pro-life celebration in the world.



Advent reminds us why this joy ignited thousands of years of Christmas celebrations.

Advent is the season of darkness. It takes place in the literal darkest days of the year, and it is filled with the words of prophets who are deeply unsettled about the state of the world, at a time when the whole world anticipated a great event.

“Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down!” Isaiah cries. He sees “a root from the stump of Jesse” and predicts “a child will be born to us.” In Advent, a dark world longs for a savior, and the great Jewish prophet sees what God will do: He will send a baby.

Into this darkness, God sent an angel to Mary in Nazareth.

The angel who visits Mary gives her remarkable news: She will be pregnant with a child who will receive an eternal kingdom. The story has many layers of meaning, but one thing it spells out is that unborn children and infants are critically important.

As if to emphasize that point, the angel tells Mary that her relative, Elizabeth, is also pregnant, in her sixth month. Mary goes “in haste” to her house in the “hill country of Judea,” a trip that, even if you hurried, would have taken at least a week or two. After that, Mary stayed at Elizabeth’s, presumably, for at least three months. We now know what this would mean in Jesus’ development. Around day 20, Jesus’ heart began to beat — the Sacred Heart’s first activity. A month later, all of his bodily systems would be present, including little fingers and toes.

But on the day Mary first arrived — when Jesus was just 10 to 20 days old — none of that had happened. What was Jesus like then? At the earliest stage, a human embryo is already a boy or girl with DNA setting life expectancy and other traits.

Jesus the embryo was already Jesus, but he didn’t look at all like Jesus yet.

And so it was that, before the Sacred Heart had begun to beat, before the hands of Christ that would break bread had formed, before the feet that would walk on water had toes, Mary arrived at Elizabeth’s house.

And Luke’s Gospel tells us that “She entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb.” Mary brought the unborn Jesus to Elizabeth’s house, and as soon as she arrived, an unborn child reacted to the sound of her voice. A baby more than six months in utero witnessed to Jesus Christ, who was just a few days in utero.

This astounding witness to the unborn Jesus was greatly amplified after Jesus was born.

Before his birth, an unborn prophet witnessed to him with a jump. After birth, a multitude of angels proclaimed: “To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” Men came from the Far East with gifts and asked, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him.” The birth of Jesus is so important, it remains part of Christian spirituality to this day. Jesus tells Nicodemus, and us, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born anew, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

St. Paul explains that this birth by baptism makes us adopted sons of God, like Christ, “all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ... When we cry, ‘Abba! Father!’ it is the Spirit himself bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God.”

So, this Advent and Christmas, pray for the unborn.

A great and powerful king was once in the same position as them, and he came to save us all.



Tom Hoopes, author of [The Rosary of Saint John Paul II](#) and host of [The Extraordinary Story](#), is writer in residence at Benedictine College in Atchison, Kansas.

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Christmas, 2023

Dear Parishioners and Friends:

The most joyous time in the Universal Church is the celebration of Christmas. The Church is inviting us to reflect on the fact that “the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared.” That is how St. Paul’s Letter to Titus describes it. Kindness and love are not material realities. They cannot be seen or measured; they are experienced. And what we experience is a renewal of the promise delivered by God in the Person of His Son to save us from our sins. This is something to celebrate, and our celebration of the season is just beginning, whereas for the department stores and for Amazon it has already ended. For us, it will conclude with the feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

On the Sunday after Christmas, the Church will celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family. The Church puts Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, as a model of faith. It is a day to pray for the families of our Parish and to renew the love between the spouses. Accordingly, I have as my personal intention the increase of love in the families that are so attacked today by the Evil One, and in many ways because the family is the heart of the Church and the cornerstone of civilized society.

I thank all your expressions of kindness throughout the year. This is my second Christmas with you as Pastor, and the first for Fr. George Lodi, who joined us as a Senior Resident Priest at the beginning of this month. Along with our Hospital Chaplain in Residence Fr. Nicholas Nwagwu, and our weekend associate Msgr. Thomas Kelly, we serve the spiritual needs of our Parishioners. I am most grateful to all these gentlemen for their collaboration. Without their and your assistance, the Parish cannot move forward, and thanks to your shared heart, we will continue to move forward.

This past October, I was especially pleased to have named Mrs. Stephanie Bonney as Coordinator of the Religious Education Program. Along with Mr. Jay Conklin, Mrs. Bonney has brought vigor and vision to our program that is fundamental in supplementing the efforts of our parents in forming our youth in the Catholic Faith. It is our prayerful expectation that additional volunteer catechists and aids will pitch in to assist the existing, fine staff.

I thank my Assistant Ms. Christine Lundgren who for 7 years has assured the smooth operation of the Parish. Mr. “Packy” Murray and, more recently, Mr. Chris Cantori, diligently oversee maintenance of our buildings and grounds at both campuses. I am grateful to Mr. Bryan Healy, the recently elected president of Parish Council, who succeeded Mr. Joseph Muldoon. On a sad note, I must acknowledge the passing away of esteemed Parishioner Mr. Joseph DiSalvo this past July 1st. Besides being a loving husband, father, grandfather, and friend, he was an extraordinary public servant, and a fervent Catholic. Joe’s qualities were precisely those which every Catholic gentleman should imitate. He is greatly missed.

Christmas has historically had a way of bringing to Mass individuals and families who, for various reasons, have not participated in the Sacraments for a long while. What a grace-filled opportunity to put aside indifference and old habits and begin anew the relationship to which God is calling you. I, therefore, offer you an outstretched hand of welcome. May our Lord Jesus, born at Bethlehem, bless you and your families this day and throughout the year to come.

Respectfully yours in Christ,

Fr. Douglas Crawford

Pastor