

# 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

## January 7, 2024 • Feast of the Epiphany

### 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  
OLPH .....4:00 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

OLPH .....3:00 - 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, JANUARY 6

5:30 pm Decd Members of the  
William B. Walzer Sr. Family

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 7

8:30 am Maura McPhillips †

11:30 am Angelo Mozillo †

### MONDAY, JANUARY 8

9:00 am Special Intentions for Brian Kisselman

### TUESDAY, JANUARY 9

9:00 am Robert Aluisio †

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10

9:00 am Michael Markman †

### THURSDAY, JANUARY 11

9:00 am Andrew Vanek, Sr. †

### FRIDAY, JANUARY 12

9:00 am Margaret Keaney †

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 13

9:00 am Doreen A. Mianti †

5:30 pm Jean Galano †

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 14

8:30 am Maria & Luis Macancela †

11:30 am Kathleen Elliott McNally †

### REQUESTED BY:

Carol

The Bottesch Family  
Emerald & Jim Mandracchia

David Bloomer

Carol & Joe DeCarlo

wife

Rose Utchel

her brother

Rosa Macancela

David Bloomer

Rosa Macancela

Powers Family

## OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP CHURCH

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 6

4:00 pm Lubamyra Palij †

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 7

10:00 am The Richter Family †

### MONDAY, JANUARY 1, 2028

8:00 am Mary Benevento †

### TUESDAY, JANUARY 9

8:00 am Cathrine McCarthy †

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10

8:00 am Alice Hayes †

### THURSDAY, JANUARY 11

8:00 am Albert Maranino †

### FRIDAY, JANUARY 12

8:00 am Special Intentions for Greg

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 13

8:00 am Gianna Santiago †

4:00 pm Eamon & Eva McGarry †

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 14

10:00 am The Degnan Family †

### REQUESTED BY:

Palij Family

McNerney Family

Angela Pavone

McCarthy Family

Marianne Stecich

Terri Ricciardi

Rosa Macancela

Joanna  
Eva Maher

The McNerney Family



## January 7, 2024 - Feast of the Epiphany

**Reading I: Isaiah 60: 1-6** - The prophet announces that all parts of the world will come to Zion to rebuild Jerusalem. Then throughout land the glory of the Lord will shine forth.

**Reading II: Ephesians 3: 2-3a, 5-6** - Paul's chief insight into the mystery of Christ is that Gentiles are to be recognized as full participants in the life of the Church.

**The Gospel: Matthew 2: 1-12** - The special personages in this episode are the magi, or wise men, who come to visit Jesus. Over time, Christianity has made them into kings, numbering them as 3 because of the number of gifts they presented to the Child. Above all, they symbolize the Gentile world coming to the Jewish Christ.

## READING FOR THE WEEK



**Monday, January 8, 2024** Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Is 55:1-11

**Tuesday, January 9, 2024** 1 Sm 1:9-20 1 Sam 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd Mk 1:21-28

**Wednesday, January 10, 2024** 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20 Ps 40:2 and 5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10 Mk 1:29-39

**Thursday, January 11, 2024** 1 Sm 4:1-11 Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25 Mk 1:40-45

**Friday, January 12, 2024** 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a Ps 89:16-17, 18-19 Mk 2:1-12

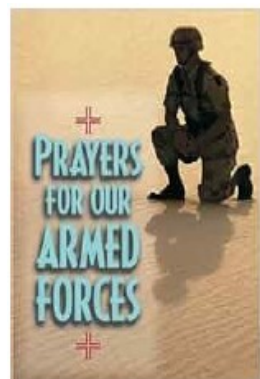
**Saturday, January 13, 2024** 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1 Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 Mk 2:13-17

**Sunday, January 14, 2024** 1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19 Ps 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10 1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20 Jn 1:35-42

Thank you to **122** 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.



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

## COLLECTION REPORT:

### Weekend Summary:

#### December 24:

Sunday 12/24-25: \$3,316

Parish Giving 12/: \$1,370

Weekend Total: \$4,686

Christmas Collection to date: \$21,450

**Christmas Last Year: \$21,753**

Christmas Flowers to Date: \$3,537

**Christmas Flowers Last Year: \$3,258**

### Christmas Mass Attendance:

#### This Year:

#### Last Year:

#### OLPH:

6pm - 139

10pm - no count

10am - 136

#### OLPH:

6pm - 122

10pm - no count

10am - 148

#### STM:

4pm - 300

8:30am - 72

11:30am - 154

#### STM:

4pm - 279

8:30am - 90

11:30am - 116



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

## CANDLE DEDICATIONS



### OLPH Tabernacle Candle

*In Memory of Fred Wolff Sr.*

req. by Wolff Family

### St. Matthew Tabernacle Candle

req. by

### St. Matthew Blessed Mother Candle

*In Memory of Bryan Chamberlain*

req. by Kathy & Corky Soderstrom

*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.*





Classes resume: Sunday,  
January 7 &  
Wednesday, January 10

***There is NO CLASS on Sunday, January 14th  
in observance of the holiday.***



The parish mission  
enjoyed wonderful  
participation, with  
40 attendees the first  
night, 51 the next and 85  
on the final night  
to hear Fr. Garrotts  
edifying message  
of hope.



### CHRISTMAS FLOWER ENVELOPES & CHRISTMAS OFFERING ENVELOPES

If you would like to make a donation  
towards the Christmas Flowers in memory  
of a loved one, please use the Christmas  
Flower Envelope that you can find in your  
monthly envelope packet. There are also  
extra Christmas Flower Envelopes on the  
tables in the rear of the churches.

The Christmas Flower Envelope and the  
Christmas Offering Envelope can be  
dropped into any collection on any  
weekend.



Masses, as well as Candles &  
Altar Flowers for 2024 can be  
requested online at

[www.MassIntentions.com](http://www.MassIntentions.com)

(There is a direct link on the parish  
website: [www.stmolph.com](http://www.stmolph.com))



In the event of a weather cancellation, we will do our best to notify all through  
Flocknote. If you have not yet signed up for Flocknote, please visit:

[www.flocknote.com/stmolph](http://www.flocknote.com/stmolph)

Also note: if the weather is bad (snow, ice) for driving, the 8am Mass at  
OLPH will be automatically cancelled for the safety of all.

# Busyness and Christian Living

*by David G. Bonagura, Jr.*

We are all busy these days, and both before and after Christmas, it seems, even more so. We each have lengthy lists of things to accomplish, and we spend the bulk of our time trying to complete one task to move to the next. Exhortations to “simplify” or “slow down” are, frankly, not helpful: the many things we have to do still need to get done.

So we have to find a way to fit God into this busyness routine. How so? We all know the common refrain, and perhaps have used it ourselves more than once: “I’m too busy to pray.” “I’m too busy to go to Mass on Sunday.” “There’s not enough time in the day to spend time with God.”

But let’s probe deeper: Are we really too busy for God, for Mass, for prayer?

Let’s first look at our list of quotidian things to do: Rise, tidy, prepare what we need for the day (lunch, briefings, tools, homework), go to work or school, return home to child and adult activities that require shuttling around, making dinner, eating, cleaning up, paying bills, perhaps exercise or watching television, catching up on the news and websites we follow, checking emails, sending texts, checking in with family and friends, preparing what is necessary for the next day, sleep. Then rise the next day and repeat.

Within this list lies a hierarchy of tasks: some things are more important than others. Importance follows from the value we put on the item. Exercise, for example, may be a necessity for one person, an occasional pleasantry for a second, or completely irrelevant for a third. Eating is a necessity, but how one eats, whether at table with one’s family or on the go to save time, reflects the importance we assign to other tasks and obligations.

“I’m too busy for God,” then, really means that God – and we can include Mass and prayer here – is not important enough for me: I value these other worldly things more than Him.



\*Image: The Calling of St. Matthew by Luca Giordano, c. 1685 {Georgetown University Library, Washington, D.C.}



If God really mattered to me, the way work and health and family do, I would find time to spend with Him, no matter how difficult it may be to do so. In fact, where I place God and prayer time on my daily “to do” list plainly indicates how vibrant – or not – my faith is.

When it comes to ranking our priorities, Jesus did not mince words: He must be at the top of the list:

“If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple.” (Luke 14:26)

“If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.” (Matt 19:21)

“I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me.” (John 14:6)

Following Christ in this radical manner is the goal – and challenge – of lives. Doing so is not a once and done accomplishment, but a daily battle with which we all struggle, and for which we need God’s grace.

If we are to be Christians worthy of the name, therefore, our busyness has to include regular time for God. This, of course, is not to reduce God or prayer to a “thing to do,” though, on our more frazzled days, we may feel that way. It is, rather, to drive home the fact that we must “seek first [God’s] kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well.” (Matthew 6:33)

How exactly we include God in our daily schedules is up to each one of us depending on our state in life: scheduling prayer time for police, fire, or medical personnel working a twenty-four-hour shift, say, requires more ingenuity than for students or 9-5 workers. And what exactly we do with God and for how long may change over the years as our circumstances change (birth of a child, new job, caring for an aging parent) or as we change.

There is a minimum standard though: attendance at Mass each Sunday and daily time set aside for personal prayer, that is, for personal “face time” with God. Personal prayer can take many forms: quiet conversation with God in our hearts, the rosary, divine mercy chaplet, the Liturgy of the Hours, reading the Bible, praying the psalms and readings of the day in the “Magnificat.”

If even this seems logistically impossible, we may have to sacrifice some “less important” thing on our “to do” list – perhaps a bit of sleep, or time checking the news and the phone. A vibrant relationship with God requires us to sacrifice, as He repeatedly told us: “If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.” (Matthew 16:24)

If there is a “maximum standard,” St. Paul expressed it: “It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.” (Galatians 2:20) That is, Christ is not only the most important item on my “to do” list, but also, He permeates it and gives it meaning, day after day, by permeating my very being.

Even when making this maximum effort, the earthly things we have to do will inevitably distract us. Too often prayer is little more than a battle to keep our minds on God and not the “to do” list. But if we make the effort to fight, and ask God for help, we claim that list for Christ, however dissatisfying our prayer may feel in the moment.

Busyness, in a way, then, is a blessing: it forces us to make the choice, each day, of the God who chose us first.

*Reprinted With Permission - [www.thecatholicthing.org](http://www.thecatholicthing.org)*



David G. Bonagura Jr. an adjunct professor at St. Joseph’s Seminary and is the 2023-2024 Cardinal Newman Society Fellow for Eucharistic Education. He is the author of [Steadfast in Faith: Catholicism and the Challenges of Secularism](#) and [Staying with the Catholic Church](#), and the translator of *Jerome’s Tears: Letters to Friends in Mourning*.

# Partners in FAITH™

Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

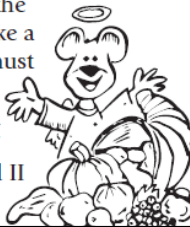
Church of St. Matthew - Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Fr. Douglas Crawford, Pastor

## Take time for gratitude

Are you stressed or anxious? Take a moment and thank God for the blessings in your life — big and small. Making a list of these blessings is a powerful way to remind ourselves of God's love. Whatever you face, you won't do it alone.

"Peace is not just the absence of war. Like a cathedral, peace must be constructed patiently and with unshakable faith."  
Pope St. John Paul II

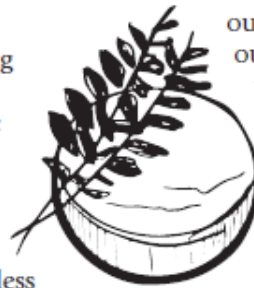


## Why Do Catholics Do That?

Blessing ourselves with holy water before entering a Catholic church recalls the washing rituals of the Old Testament Jews who cleansed themselves by bathing before entering the holy temple.

In addition, when we bless

## Why do Catholics bless themselves with holy water?



ourselves with holy water, we recall our baptism and renew our promises to God to live our faith. Because holy water is a sacramental, we receive graces when we use it with the right disposition, such as strengthening us against temptation and removing venial (small) sins.

## The family that prays together...

Praying together as a family is a source of spiritual strength, protection, nourishment, and much-needed grace for families. Use these tips to strengthen a family prayer habit in your home:

**Set reasonable expectations:** Based on children's ages and abilities, develop a mix of formula prayer, Scripture reading, and spontaneous prayer that will make up your family prayer routine.

**Practice:** Prayer is a conversation. Teach children how to have a warm, sharing, prayerful conversation with God. Demonstrate how it can be done.



**Be consistent:** Meet in the same place and same time every day for a specific amount of time. Children will learn that regular prayer is a priority and a vital habit.

**Be generous:** Allow each member to choose an intention — someone or something for which to pray. That way, prayer becomes even more personal.

**Keep it simple:** God wants to encounter our hearts with His grace. If family prayer is as simple as offering intentions before a Crucifix and closing with a hymn of praise, that's good prayer.

## Good sports — big and small

Children learn the basics of sportsmanship from adults, especially parents and coaches. By learning to develop good sportsmanship, children also learn that success in sports comes to those who know how to persevere and respect others — win or lose.

**Focus on lessons learned.** Winning is just one lesson learned from playing sports.

Youngsters also learn to take pride in their efforts, their improving skills, and in their accomplishments, even if the ending score doesn't favor them. Encourage young athletes to play fair, to have fun, and to concentrate on helping

the team while improving their own skills.

**Remember, you are the parent.** How you behave during practices and games will teach your children more than what you say. Unless you are coaching your child's team, stay on the sidelines. Shout only encouragement — not directions or criticism — to the players. Praise sincere effort and congratulate winners, even if they're on the other team.

**Stay positive.** Express only support for coaches, officials, or other players. Any concern you have should be addressed privately.

