

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

August 3, 2025 • 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Clergy

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

ST. MATTHEW & OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP CHURCH

Mass Intentions

SATURDAY, AUGUST 2

(A) 4:00 pm Rosalie Berg †
(H) 5:30 pm James Joseph Mullen †

SUNDAY, AUGUST 3

(H) 8:30 am Charles Murray †
(A) 10:00 am Ray Gutierrez †
(H) 11:30 am Consalvo Turchi †

MONDAY, AUGUST 4

(A) 8:00 am Joaquin Lim, Jr. †
(H) 9:00 am Charles Lokay †

TUESDAY, AUGUST 5

(A) 8:00 am Intentions of Eric Pagel
(H) 9:00 am Mona Lessner †

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6

(A) 8:00 am Felice Cantatore †
(H) 9:00 am Fr. Lawrence Pinto †

THURSDAY, AUGUST 7

(A) 8:00 am Ian Christie †
(H) 9:00 am Misa Pro Popolo

FRIDAY, AUGUST 8

(A) 8:00 am Carol Kennedy †
(H) 9:00 am Tom McGowan †

SATURDAY, AUGUST 9

(A) 8:00 am Special Intentions
(H) 9:00 am Frank Chiaro †
(A) 4:00 pm Special Intentions
(H) 5:30 pm Louise Silvestri †

SUNDAY, AUGUST 10

(H) 8:30 am Karl "Corky" Soderstrom †
(A) 10:00 am Hoang Huynh †
(H) 11:30 am Pasquale Ciambriello †

(H) - Hastings: St. Matthew

(A) - Ardsley: Our Lady of Perpetual Help

REQUESTED BY:

Sylvia Melina
Gagliardi Family

Murray Family
Camille Gutierrez
George Febles & The Poperatics

Grace & Lillian Lim
Janet Lokay

Virginia Markman
Virginia Markman

Sylvia Melina
Phyllis Richter

Ling Ho & Sean Christie

Family
Marie & Tom Milton

Fr. Crawford
Ford Family
Paul & Loreta Capuano

Phyllis Richter
Andy Huynh
Marie & Tom Milton



Our prayers during Mass are spiritually important and bring benefit and

comfort to those who have experienced a loss or acute need. If you would like to arrange for a Mass to be said for the repose of the soul of a loved one or for a special intention, please visit or call the parish office 914-478-2822 or you can schedule a time using the online website. You can also request to memorialize the tabernacle candles on the altars. The direct links can be found on the parish website: www.stmolph.com

"A religion that doesn't interfere with secular order will soon discover that the secular order will not refrain from interfering with it."

- Abp. Fulton J. Sheen



CANDLE DEDICATIONS

OLPH Tabernacle Candle
In Memory of Rosalie Berg
req. by Sylvia Melina

St. Matthew Tabernacle Candle
In Memory of Joseph Richter, Sr.
req. by wife Phyllis

*Candle dedications can be reserved online or by calling the rectory.
Please visit our website for the direct link for
Candle Dedications: www.stmolph.com*



Our monthly food collection continues at St. Matthew Church. Parishioners are invited to bring non-perishable food donations for the Hastings Food Pantry to Mass on the second weekend of each month, looking ahead that will be next weekend, August 9/10.

Please no glass, open or expired items and please do not leave food donations at other times.

August 3, 2025 - 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Reading I: Ecclesiastes 1:2, 2:21-23

"Vanity of vanities" means "the utmost vanity." It applies to all the things that make up our life and labor in this world. We only fool ourselves if we rate them higher than they deserve.

Reading II: Colossians 3: 1-5, 9-11

St. Paul acknowledges the faith of the community. He also prays that they live "worthy of the Lord." That means setting one's heart on what lasts forever.

The Gospel: Luke 12: 13-21

How is one to grow "rich" in God's sight is the question we must answer. Just when you decide on the answer, then to "eat, drink, and be merry" God might call you home. Then what?

every contribution is
hugely valued

thank
you!

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
Claire Sherry - USAF

COLLECTION REPORT:

Weekend: July 27:

Sunday 7/27 \$2,728

Parish Giving: \$1,615

Weekend Total: \$4,343

Air Conditioning: \$1,249

Upcoming Second Collections

August 10 - Pastoral Solidarity

August 17 - Maintenance & Repair

August 31 - St. Joseph Seminary

Online Giving

St. Matthew & Our Lady of Perpetual Help offers two ways to make church contributions online:
Zelle and Parish Giving



Parish Giving

For Parish Giving use the QR Code or visit the website:

www.parishgiving.org

and search for **St. Matthew & OLPH Church**



zelle

Scan the QR Code in your banking app to find:

The St. Matthew

or find us using our email address
office@stmolph.com

Please Note: The church's legal name is so long that our bank only uses the first several characters, hence why in Zelle our name shows up as: **The St. Matthew**



CIRCLE OF LOVE PRAYER GROUP

Meets Wednesdays at
OLPH Church, 7:30pm.
All are welcome to attend.

Our Lady of Fatima Wants to Visit You!

For over 40 years, our parish's Circle of Love prayer group has shared the joy and peace of Our Lady of Fatima through a traveling Pilgrim Virgin statue. She's journeyed from Manhattan to Wappingers Falls, touching hearts and changing lives.

If you'd like to welcome Our Lady into your home, call Lourdes at 914-564-3243

SOLEMNITY of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Thursday, August 14th

Vigil Masses:

St. Matthew: 5pm

Our Lady of Perpetual Help: 7pm

Friday, August 15th

Our Lady of Perpetual Help: 8am

St. Matthew: 9am





REGISTRATION IS OPEN - Deadline: August 15th

All families currently in the Religious Education Program have received several emails from Parish Giving to register their child(ren) for the 2025-2026 school year. This year, there is a registration form for **Grades 1-6** and a separate form for **Confirmation Grades 7-8**. If you have children in both grade levels, you **MUST** use both forms to register all your children. If you are new to the program, or registering a child for the first time, there is a link on the parish website to begin the registration process for **New Families**. Questions, please call the rectory.

FIRST COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION PHOTOGRAPHS can be picked up in the rectory during office hours, Monday - Thursday, 10am - 5pm.



2025-2026 Religious Education Calendar

can be found on the parish website: www.stmolph.com on the home page as well as under the Religious Education tab. Please keep in mind that most correspondences for the religious education program will be sent through Flocknote. Please log into Flocknote and make sure your email is up to date and that you have provided a cell phone number. www.flocknote.com

Closed For Vacation

The Rectory Office will be **CLOSED**
August 4th–12th for vacation.

If you would like to request a Mass during this time, please use our online system which can be found on the parish website:
www.stmolph.com



FIRST DAY OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES

The first day of class for the 2025-2026 Religious Education year will begin on Sunday, September 7th for the Hastings program and on Wednesday, September 10th for the Ardsley program.

WEDNESDAY PROGRAM at OLPH SCHOOL

Grades 1-4 meet from 4:00pm to 5:00pm

Grades 5 & 6 meet from 6:30pm to 7:30pm

Grades 7 & 8 meet from 6:30pm to 7:30pm on the following dates: 9/7, 14, 21, 28 & 10/5, 19

SUNDAY PROGRAM at ST. MATTHEW SCHOOL

Grades 1-6 meet from 9:45am - 10:45am

Grades 7 & 8 meet from 9:45am - 10:45am on the following dates: 9/10, 17, & 10/1, 8, 15, 22



The **RECTORY OFFICE** will close at **1pm on Fridays** for the summer months (Memorial Day through Labor Day). Please remember, even though the office is close, you can still reserve Masses, as well as Candles online. A direct link can be found on the parish website: www.stmolph.com

OCTOBER CONFIRMATION

CANDIDATES:



All paperwork for the upcoming Confirmation in October needs to be returned to the rectory before class begins in September. The Candidate Application, Sponsor Certificate and the Retreat Permission Slip should all be returned at the same time.

OCTOBER CONFIRMATION DATE: October 27th

Religious Freedom in Nigeria is Worsening, says U.S. Agency.

by Christine Rousselle

A new report from the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom says Nigeria is not committed to religious freedom.

The religious freedom situation in Nigeria is worsening despite recent governmental promises to address the issue, said a newly released report from the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF).



A Country Update on Nigeria, issued by the USCIRF on Monday, July 21, details the violence faced by people of faith in recent months as well as the enforcement of blasphemy laws throughout the country — both violations of religious freedom, notes the agency.

"It is egregious that the Nigerian government continues to tolerate the relentless violence committed by bandit gangs against religious communities," Commissioner Stephen Schneck told Aleteia.

He continued, saying, "These persistent attacks must be urgently addressed. One way USCIRF believes this will be taken seriously is for Secretary [Marco] Rubio to designate Nigeria as a Country of Particular Concern, or CPC, which USCIRF has recommended since 2009."

The USCIRF issues an annual report on religious freedom around the world, plus "Country Update" reports.

USCIRF is a creation of the International Religious Freedom Act (IRFA), a 1998 law that aims to promote religious freedom as a U.S. foreign policy priority.

In Nigeria, said the latest report, 12 state governments and the federal government enforce "blasphemy" laws, "prosecuting and imprisoning individuals perceived to have insulted religion." Four people, including two Islamic religious leaders, are currently jailed on blasphemy charges.

Additionally, the Nigerian government has done little to stop gang violence.

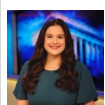
"This violence severely restricts religious practice and observance by Christians, Muslims, and traditional religious communities across many Nigerian states in the Middle Belt and in the northeast," said the report.

"Perpetrators of the violence have attacked religious sites including churches and mosques, kidnapped or killed religious leaders, and — in some cases — used violence or threats of violence against religious communities while demanding so-called taxes, invoking Shari'a law as justification."

In 2025, numerous priests, religious, and seminarians were kidnapped or killed in Nigeria.

Nigeria is about 50% Muslim and slightly under 50% Christian, with the rest of the population identifying as practicing a traditional Nigerian religion.

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Christine Rousselle is a deputy executive editor of Aleteia. She has worked for various media outlets for the past decade. A native of Maine and a graduate of Providence College, Christine currently lives just outside of Washington, DC. She can be reached at c.rousselle@aleteia.org.

The Heart of Prayer

by Fr. Paul D. Scalia

“Lord, teach us to pray.” This appeal by the disciples arises from their immediate circumstances. They had just seen Christ Himself praying. And they knew that John the Baptist had taught his disciples to pray. It’s reasonable now that they should ask the same of our Lord.

Lord, teach us to pray. This appeal arises, more importantly, from the depth of the human heart. It’s an appeal that every disciple should make to our Lord. We are created for prayer, for that intimate conversation with God, to walk with Him in the cool of the day. But we don’t know how to pray as we ought. We need to be instructed.

And because our wounded human nature goes astray, we need to be corrected as well. Until we recognize the futility of our own prayer, we won’t really begin to pray. Implicit in the appeal of the disciples is that there’s a right way to pray – and thus a wrong one as well. Indeed, human history is full of mistaken ways of prayer and worship – some silly, some dangerous, all unworthy of both God and man. Jesus has come to give us the way of prayer.

So Jesus gives us the first and last word of prayer: Father. “When you pray, say: Father.” The bluntness of Luke’s account shocks us into realizing the reality of the One to Whom we pray. He is eternally Father and has introduced us into His Son. Our divine sonship is the heart of all prayer.

Prayer is, first of all, the ascent of our heart and mind to the Father. That’s fundamental to all prayer. “For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption, through which we cry, ‘Abba, Father!’” (Romans 8:15)

Saint Josemaria Escrivá experienced this gift of prayer when, travelling in a streetcar in Madrid, he suddenly felt a clarity about his sonship: “I had learned to call God Father, as in the Our Father, from my childhood. But feeling, seeing, being amazed at that desire of God that we be his children. . . that was on the street and in a streetcar. For an hour or an hour and a half, I don’t know, I had to shout Abba, Pater!” Abba. Father. If we go no further than that one word, spending all our time saying it with faith and love, then we have prayed well. But we do go further. The simple acknowledgement of God as Father establishes the proper order of things. It provides the context in which all other prayer is made. Our prayer ascends to the Father so that His grace will also descend to us. The word “pray” really means to ask. Indeed, most of us think of prayer as only petition. Our Father doesn’t mind our petitions. So the remainder of our Lord’s instruction addresses the confidence we should have in asking, a confidence that comes only from knowing God as Father.

Jesus gives us an odd parable (typical for Luke’s Gospel) about a not-very-good friend whose “generosity” is won over by persistence. Point is, God is better than that friend. If a bad friend can be won over by persistence, how much more your loving Father by a simple asking.

The instruction concludes with a surprising but logical statement: “If you then, who are wicked, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the Father in Heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?” It’s surprising because, well, He calls us wicked. He’s not wrong, but maybe He could have been gentler?

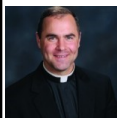
Anyhow, the statement reminds us of the distance between our goodness and the Father’s. We should not think of Him as being good to us as we are good to others, not like that friend in the parable. His goodness infinitely surpasses ours. We should not think of the Father’s goodness according to our own constrained goodness. Nor should we estimate His Fatherhood according to our poor image of it. As Tertullian said, “Nemo tam pater quam Pater – no one is so much a father as the Father.” (See CCC 239)

But the conclusion is also surprising, because our Lord introduces the gift of the Spirit at the very end of the instruction. How much more will the Father in Heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him? As if the gift of the Spirit was what He had been talking about all along. As if the gift of the Spirit is what we ask, seek, and knock for incessantly. Which indeed it is, whether we realize it or not. And perhaps this is why we don’t pray as often or as incessantly as we should. Because we sense that the Father has more in mind than to give us just what we ask for. He allows us to be in need so that we approach Him in our nothingness and so that He can then begin the work of His grace upon us.

The prayer of petition must contain the willingness to be changed, to receive the Spirit of Sonship, the Spirit Who blows where He wills, the Spirit Who will lead us where we do not yet want to go. Prayer isn’t approaching the divine vending machine and requesting what we want. It’s an entrance into relationship and conversation with the Father Who knows what we need more than we can possibly imagine.



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Fr. Paul Scalia is a priest of the Diocese of Arlington, VA, where he serves as Episcopal Vicar for Clergy and Pastor of Saint James in Falls Church. He is the author of [*That Nothing May Be Lost: Reflections on Catholic Doctrine and Devotion*](#) and the editor of [*Sermons in Times of Crisis: Twelve Homilies to Stir Your Soul*](#).

New York Archdiocese Sees Hundreds of Responses to ‘Called By Name’ Program

by Steven Schwankert

NEW YORK (OSV News) — Close to 800 young men from the Archdiocese of New York have responded to a call for interest in the priestly life, according to the archdiocese’s director of vocations.

“That number is pretty surprising. I’m not going to lie. It’s more than I would have hoped for, for sure,” Father George Sears told The Good Newsroom, the news outlet for the archdiocese, in a telephone interview July 18.

A first step

Launched on May 4, the “Called By Name” program encourages young men who feel called to the priesthood to begin the process of discernment. It also invites priests, family members, friends, and other members of parish communities to suggest young men they feel would be suited for a vocation to the priesthood.

While not exclusive to the Archdiocese of New York, the program is seen as having been effective in producing candidates for the priesthood.

“The program and the blueprint of it are not unique to us, but I’m very happy to say that I know a good idea, and I’m willing to steal it if I can,” said Father Sears, who is also pastor of Good Shepherd Parish in Manhattan.

Father Sears credited a deepening of faith among Catholics for the interest in the priesthood.

“Over the past couple of years, it seems like people who are more religious, and especially men who are more religious, feel a little bit under attack. And I think the zeitgeist has changed a little bit. So, there’s kind of a renewed interest in both Catholicism and just the role of men in the church. You see that especially in young people,” he said. “That’s kind of independent of ‘Called by Name,’ but I think we’re seeing more young men interested in the priesthood because of that.”

Father Sears said that after a discussion with their parish priest, those interested will have the opportunity to meet with him and New York’s archbishop, Cardinal Timothy P. Dolan. They will participate in a process that will include prayer and more exposure to what the priesthood means and requires.

Positive faith outcomes

As far as the predicted outcome, Father Sears shared, “I was talking to somebody who was in marketing, and they said when they do big invitations like that, if they get 1%, that would be a lot. Usually, a real success is like 2 or 3%,” Father Sears said. But he emphasized the added bonus is that all these men are referred by actual individuals. “If we got 40 or 50 viable candidates out of this, well, great,” he said.

Even for those who do not discern Jesus Christ calling them to the vocation of priesthood, “Called By Name” may offer people the opportunity to become more involved in the life of the Catholic Church in other ways.

“Hopefully, we’ll be able to identify other people that we might want to get more involved in the parish. Maybe we have a Knights of Columbus group, maybe we need somebody to bring Communion to the sick, or maybe teach catechesis,” he said.

“So, we’ll also identify in the parishes other good men who could serve as good Christian role models for future generations, too,” he said. “Those are all good things.”



Father George Sears (holding monstrance) carries the Blessed Sacrament during the Upper West Side Eucharistic Procession on Corpus Christi Sunday June 22, 2025. Father Sears, the vocations director for the Archdiocese of New York, told The Good Newsroom more than 800 men have responded to the archdiocese’s “Called by Name” program since its May 4 launch, and said he hoped it may eventually yield 40-50 candidates for priesthood. (OSV News photo / The Good Newsroom, Steven Schwankert)