

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

November 30, 2025 • First Sunday of Advent

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

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



facebook.com/stmolph



Instagram.com/stmolph

Mass Intentions

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29

(A) 4:00 pm Charles & Mary Lokay †
 (H) 5:30 pm Peter & Helen Connolly †

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30

(H) 8:30 am Thomas Chiascione †
 (A) 10:00 am Joel Landry †
 (H) 11:30 am Caroline & Henry Knizeski †

MONDAY, DECEMBER 1

(A) 8:00 am Intentions of Jill & Family
 (H) 9:00 am David A. Utchel †

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2

(A) 8:00 am Adelina DiMatteo †
 (H) 9:00 am Eleanor & Ralph Santini †

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3

(A) 8:00 am Patrick Reilly †
 (H) 9:00 am Jospeh Richter, Jr. †

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4

(A) 8:00 am Troadio Ybay †
 (H) 9:00 am Missa Pro Populo

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5

(A) 8:00 am Honorata Przychnek †
 (H) 9:00 am Anthony Ravinsky Sr. †

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6

(A) 8:00 am Anita Iuvara †
 (H) 9:00 am David A. Utchel †

(A) 4:00 pm Gus Groth †

(H) 5:30 pm Ann Dosin †

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

(H) 8:30 am Charles Murray †
 (A) 10:00 am Mariantonia DiMatteo †
 (H) 11:30 am Mary Martin †

REQUESTED BY:

Janet Lokay
 Sherry Family

Chiascione Family
 Val & Paulette Landry
 Marie & Tom Milton

Godmother
 Rose & Christine Utchel

Mirella & Rocco Maiorano
 Daughter

Tierney Family
 Mom

Ybay Family

Bernadette Machowski
 Zahurak Family

Cecilia Gallagher
 Rose Utchel
 Kathleen Groth
 Gagliardi Family

Murray Family
 Mirella & Rocco Maiorano
 George Febles & Family

(H) - Hastings: St. Matthew
 (A) - Ardsley: Our Lady of Perpetual Help



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, which will be the weekend of December 13/14th

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



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



COMPLIMENTARY copies of **THE WORD AMONG US** are available in the back of the church for the month's of November & December. The Word Among us contains Daily Meditations and Catholic Mass readings for the current month.

November 30, 2025 - First Sunday of Advent

Reading I: Isaiah 2:1-5 - The prophet sees all nations converging as pilgrims on Jerusalem. At that time, the Lord administered His judgment, which will in turn lead to universal peace.

Reading II: Romans 13:11-14 - The time has come for true conversion, as “darkness” (evil) will yield to daylight (goodness), All must then renew their baptismal commitments and put on the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Gospel: Matthew 24: 37-44 - Seated on Mt. Olivet, Jesus begins His instructions with a reference to Noah and the Great Flood story. He emphasizes our need for preparedness. It determines who will be spared and who will be lost. He adds a command to “Watch, therefore, for Christ’s coming. For us, here and now, He comes in the Holy Eucharist. For us and all the world, His second Coming will be on the Day of Judgment and the end of history.

Monday,
December 8th

*Feast of the
Immaculate
Conception*

A Holy Day
of Obligation

Masses:

OLPH: 8am & 7pm

STM:

9am & 5pm



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: November 16:

Sunday 11/16 \$

Parish Giving: \$

Weekend Total

Collection update not available at Press Time

Following Second Collections

December 7: Maintenance & Repair

December 8: Immaculate Conception

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**

CANDLE DEDICATIONS



OLPH Tabernacle Candle
In Memory of Joel Landry
req. by Val & Paulette Landry

St. Matthew Tabernacle Candle
In Memory of Olga Armento
req. by Phyllis Richter

Candle dedications can be reserved online or by calling the rectory. Please visit our website at www.stmolph.com



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES: There is NO CLASS this weekend, November 30th at St. Matthew's but there IS CLASS on Wednesday, December 3rd at OLPH.

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

SUNDAY PROGRAM at ST. MATTHEW SCHOOL: Grades 1-6 meet from 9:45am - 10:45am

ATTENDANCE ENVELOPES: All students must drop in the collection basket their **ATTENDANCE ENVELOPE** for the corresponding week. If you are not able to attend Mass at STM or OLPH, please get a bulletin, signed by the Priest, from the church where you attended Mass. Staple your attendance envelope to the bulletin and give it to your teacher the next week. Mass attendance will be kept tract of during the year.



SIGN-UP DEADLINE: DECEMBER 8th

BREAKFAST With Santa

DELICIOUS FOOD | FESTIVE CRAFTS | GOODIE BAG FROM SANTA
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2025 | 10AM

\$20 ages 11-99 \$15 ages 5-10 FREE 4 & under

Location: Our Lady of Perpetual Help School

1 Cross Road * Ardsley, NY

Space is Limited & you must be a Registered Parishioner

Everyone is Welcome to Attend!

Bring your Family & Friends, With or Without Kids!

SIGN UP TODAY

Return by December 8th

PARISHIONER/ENVELOPE # _____

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

of Adults: _____ # of Children: _____

of Free: _____ Total \$ enclosed: _____

Names of those attending:

Name: _____ Age: _____

Back by popular demand...Hot Chocolate Bar!



REGISTER NOW [CLICK HERE](#)

CHRISTMAS TREE NEEDED

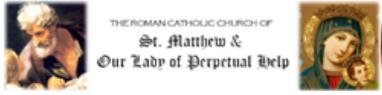
We are in need of an artificial Christmas Tree for our Breakfast with Santa.

The tree will be needed on Friday, December 12th for set up and will be in use all day Saturday, December 13 when Santa comes for his visit.

If you have a tree that you are no longer using, and would like to donate it to the parish, please call the rectory: 914-478-2822



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



To Purchase your Christmas Stocking Stuffer Ticket

Please scan the QR Code below or click on the link at the bottom of the page.



RAFFLE PRIZE SCHEDULE

1st PRIZE - \$6,500
2nd Prize - \$1,000

3rd Prize - \$500	4th Prize - \$500
5th Prize - \$500	6th Prize - \$200
7th Prize - \$200	8th Prize - \$200
9th Prize - \$200	10th Prize - \$200

• Only 200 Tickets Available •
Ticket Cost \$100

DRAWING HELD: DECEMBER 19th

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

<https://stmolph.flocknote.com/signup/233619>

Christmas

CONCERT

Thursday,
December 18th
7:00pm at
Our Lady of
Perpetual Help Church
535 Ashford Avenue
Ardsley
Come One, Come All.



ANGEL TREE GIFTS

If you picked up a tag for the Angel Tree at **St. Matthew's Church**, new un-wrapped gifts should be returned to James V. Harmon Community Center by **December 12th**. **Please: DO NOT leave gifts in the back of STM Church**

OLPH Tags, new un-wrapped gifts should be returned to the green bin in the back of OLPH Church by **December 14th**.

ST. THOMAS MOORE CATHOLIC LAITY OF THE RIVERTOWNS

PRAYER - EDUCATION - HOPE

Wednesday, December 10th, 7:00pm

Fr. Seán Connolly

***A Most precious Relic of the First Christmas:
The Swaddling Clothes of the Infant Jesus***

Fr. Connolly is the pastor of the Parish of St. Margaret of Cortona-St. Gabriel in Riverdale



Every Monday night at 7:00pm is Rosary Hour at the St. Thomas Moore Center.



The St. Thomas Moore Center

2 Elm Street, Ardsley, NY • 914-374-7023
st.tm.center@gmail.com • stmclrivertowns.com



Partners in FAITH™

Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

December 2025

Church of St. Matthew - Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Fr. Douglas Crawford, Pastor



Thoughtful Moments

St. Lucy

St. Lucy was born into fourth-century pagan Syracuse, Sicily, and is a renowned martyr of the early Church. Her mother suffered from an illness that was miraculously cured while on pilgrimage to the tomb of St. Agatha, who foretold St. Lucy's martyrdom. When St. Lucy was arrested for being a Christian, she was questioned and burnt alive, but the flames wouldn't touch her. Eventually, she was executed. She is the patron of eye problems.



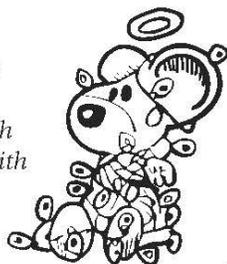
Welcoming the Christ Child anew

Welcoming a newborn means shifting routines and focusing each day with greater care—something every parent agrees is worth it.

Each Christmas invites us to welcome the Christ Child anew. This may involve rethinking habits or becoming more aware of His presence in our lives.

The joy of knowing and drawing closer to Jesus makes every effort worth it.

"And they shall name him Emmanuel, which means, 'God is with us'" (Matthew 1:23).



The best gifts aren't wrapped

As parents, we want to give our children the best Christmas experience possible. But the most meaningful gifts we can offer don't come with price tags. This year, give children gifts they'll carry for the rest of their lives:

Love-filled memories: Spend time playing together. Take a drive together to see the neighborhood lights. Share favorite Christmas memories over a family meal. These moments become lifelong treasures. The secret? Time, attention—and maybe a few cookies.

A sense of humor: Holiday plans sometimes go off track. A sense of humor is essential. As the saying goes, "You'll end up with a good memory or a good story!" Stay calm, solve the

issue, and focus on the good. Model a mindset they can carry into adulthood.

A spirit of generosity: Teach children the joy of giving. Whether it's donating toys, sending cards to the homebound, or helping a neighbor, acts of kindness teach youngsters that Christmas is about more than gifts. Generosity forms compassionate hearts and reminds us that love grows when it's shared.

A living faith: Christmas celebrates God's immense love – Love that took on our humanity. When we bring children to Sunday Mass, keep them close to the Sacraments, and raise them with Gospel-rooted values, we give them a lasting gift—one that reaches beyond this life into eternity.



Why Do Catholics Do That ?

Why do Catholics celebrate the "Immaculate Conception"?

The Immaculate Conception refers to the conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary in St. Anne's womb. In 1854, Pope Pius IX proclaimed that Mary, by a unique grace from God, was preserved from both original and personal sin from the moment of



her conception.

This singular grace prepared her to become the Mother of God, and its blessings extend to all of us through her role in salvation history. The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is a Holy Day of Obligation (December 8).

Beloved Catholic Christmas traditions

Many beloved Christmas traditions have Catholic origins, created to share the reality of Christ's birth. Far from just festive customs, they carry spiritual meaning and history.

Christmas Tree: This tradition is credited to St. Boniface, an eighth-century missionary to Germany. He prevented a pagan human sacrifice by cutting down the sacred oak tree. In its place, he pointed to a fir tree as a symbol of eternal life in Christ. The people brought it into town, decorated it with candles, and listened to the Nativity story—leading many to convert.



Nativity displays: St. Francis of Assisi began this tradition in 1223 to renew devotion to the

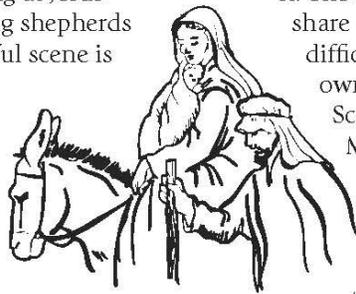
Incarnation. He created a "living nativity" with real people and animals. A witness claimed the wax figure of the Christ Child miraculously came to life.

Candles in windows: In Ireland during the English persecution, Catholics placed candles in windows to signal that their homes were safe for priests. Irish immigrants brought the tradition to America, where it endures as a sign of faith and welcome.

Scripture LESSON

Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23, Trust God and carry on

Nativity scenes usually show Mary and Joseph calmly kneeling at Jesus' crib surrounded by adoring shepherds and wise men. This peaceful scene is probably pretty far from reality. For one thing, Mary and Joseph had to travel in the last stages of Mary's pregnancy from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Once there, there was no place to stay except a stable with animals. After a short time, they had to flee to Egypt with a baby to escape danger and stay there for several years without family or friends.



uncomfortable, but it's always worth it. The Holy Family had its share of pain and difficulties much like our own experience. Yet Scripture tells us that Mary and Joseph found strength from their faith in God and were guided by His Word. We can do the same.

What can a parent do? Tell your children that Jesus' birth and the Holy Family's escape to Egypt is further proof that God always keeps His promises. When we lean on Him, God will always lead us to safety.

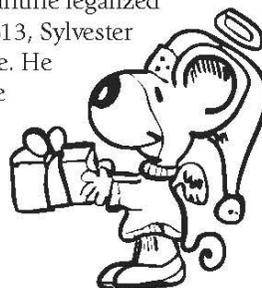
Feasts & Celebrations

December 12 – Our Lady of Guadalupe (1531): The Blessed Mother appeared as a Native American maiden to St. Juan Diego. She had St. Juan carry roses to the bishop as proof. When the roses were emptied from his tilma, it retained the image of the Blessed Mother.

December 23 – St. John Cantius (1473): Born in Poland, St. John studied at a university in Krakow and became a theology professor in 1418. He was ordained a priest and sent to Olkusz. He was known for his humility and kindness.

December 28 – Feast of the Holy Family: We honor the family life of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. Their love and support for each other is a model for all Christian families.

December 31 – St. Sylvester I (335): St. Sylvester was ordained a priest as a young man during the persecutions of Diocletian. When Emperor Constantine legalized Christianity in 313, Sylvester was elected pope. He helped build the great Roman basilicas, including St. John Lateran and St. Peter's Basilica.



Parent TALK

Any time I am asked if Santa Claus is real, I love explaining that not only is he real, he is also a saint!



St. Nicholas of Myra was a fourth-century bishop known for his generosity and strong faith. One well-known story

tells of him secretly dropping bags of gold down a poor man's chimney to help his daughters. Over time, stories of his generosity shaped the legend of Santa Claus.

St. Nicholas was also a defender of the Faith. At the Council of Nicaea in A.D. 325, he spoke out against the Arian heresy and affirmed the divinity of Christ.

During Advent, we look to St. Nicholas as a model of kindness and faithfulness. On his feast day (December 6), many celebrate by placing candy in shoes and performing good deeds in secret. Most importantly, St. Nicholas points us to the greatest gift of all: Jesus Christ, born for our salvation.

Our Mission

To help parents raise faithful Catholic children
 Success Publishing & Media, LLC
 Publishers of Growing in Faith™ and Partners in Faith™
 (540)662-7844 (540)662-7847 fax
<http://www.partnersinfaith.com>
 (Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible.)