

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 7, 2025 • Second 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  
 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

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6**

(A) 4:00 pm Gus Groth †

(H) 5:30 pm Ann Dosing †

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7**

(H) 8:30 am Charles Murray †

(A) 10:00 am Mariantonina DiMatteo †

(H) 11:30 am Mary Martin †

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 8**

(A) 8:00 am Balduino DiMatteo †

(H) 9:00 am John Costello, Jr. †

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9**

(A) 8:00 am Amyr Zephyr †

(H) 9:00 am Michael Markman †

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10**

(A) 8:00 am Missa Pro Populo

(H) 9:00 am Edward Illmensee †

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11**

(A) 8:00 am Ivon Zephyr †

(H) 9:00 am Ann Restifo †

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12**

(A) 8:00 am Frank Campson †

(H) 9:00 am Andrew & John Vanek †

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13**

(A) 8:00 am Lucy Johnson †

(H) 9:00 am Bruce Aluisio †

(A) 4:00 pm Beatrice & Michael Murphy †

(H) 5:30 pm Jean Cannon †

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14**

(H) 8:30 am Ann Dosing †

(A) 10:00 am Ray Gutierrez †

(H) 11:30 am George Zahurak, Sr. †

**REQUESTED BY:**

Kathleen Groth

Gagliardi Family

Murray Family

Mirella & Rocco Maiorano

George Febles & Family

Mirella & Rocco Maiorano

Mary Ellen & Ellen Usher

Taina Baker

Wife Virginia

John Haubold

Tania Baker

Connie Polina

Campson Family

Rose Utchel

Family

Fr. Crawford

Janet Lokay

Gagliardi Family

Nancy Maleska & John Galayda

Camille Gutierrez

Zahurak 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

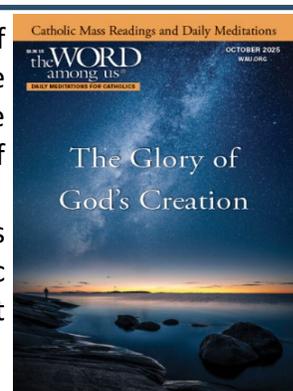
comfort to those who have experienced a loss or acute need. If you would like to arrange for a Mass to be said for the repose of the soul of a loved one or for a special intention, please visit or call the parish office 914-478-2822 or you can schedule a time using the online website. You can also request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

The Word Among us contains Daily Meditations and Catholic Mass readings for the current month.



December 7, 2025 - Second Sunday of Advent

**Reading I: Isaiah 11: 1-10**

This is the clearest of Isaiah's messianic visions: The coming of an ideal Davidic king, who brings justice and peace to the world.

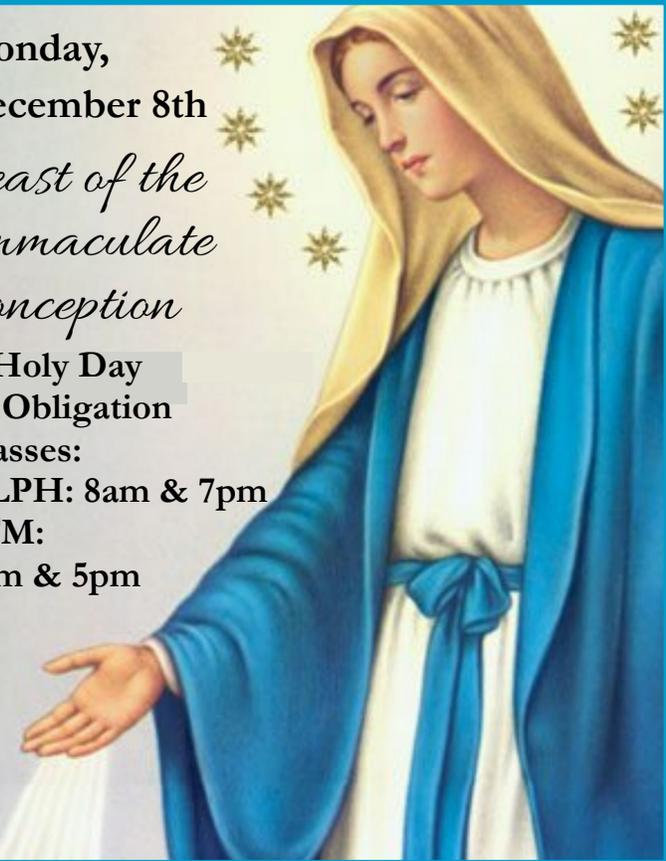
**Reading II: Romans 15: 4-9**

Paul counts himself among the strong Christians set free from Mosaic rules. Christ followed His Father's will. Israel's Scriptures (the Old Testament) remain essential to the life and liturgy of the Church.

**The Gospel: Matthew 3: 1-12**

John the Baptist is the forerunner of the Messiah, and here, in verse 2, is the overarching theme of Matthew's whole gospel: "Repent, for the kingdom of God is at hand." The words appear 32 times in the gospel.

**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:**

<b>Weekend: November 23:</b>	<b>November 30:</b>
Sunday 11/23 \$5,144	Sunday 11/30 \$4,770
Parish Giving: \$2,870	Parish Giving: \$1,885
Weekend Total: \$8,014	Weekend Total: \$6,655
Charity & Justice: \$1,015	

**Upcoming Second Collections**

- December 7: Maintenance & Repair
- December 8: Immaculate Conception
- December 25: Christmas Flowers\*

*\*Christmas Flower & Christmas Envelopes can be put into any collection basket at any time.*

**Online Giving**

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



For Parish Giving use the QR Code or visit the website:  
[www.paritygiving.org](http://www.paritygiving.org)  
and search for **St. Matthew & OLPH Church**



Scan the QR Code in your banking app to find: **The St. Matthew** or find us using our email address [office@stmolph.com](mailto: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 Margaret Wilmoth*  
req. by Robert Wilmot

**St. Matthew Blessed Mother Candle**  
*In Memory of John Costello, Jr.*  
req. by Mary Ellen & Ellen Usher

*Candle dedications can be reserved online or by calling the rectory. Please visit our website at [www.stmolph.com](http://www.stmolph.com)*



**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES:** Classes resume this weekend, December 7th at St. Matthew's and on Wednesday, December 7th 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:  
MONDAY,  
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: \_\_\_\_\_

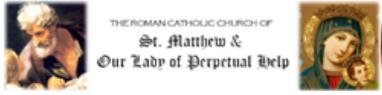
*Back by popular demand...Hot Chocolate Bar!*



**REGISTER NOW**

**CLICK  
HERE**

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



**STMOLPH 2025**  
*Christmas Stocking Stuffer*



**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.*



**THE GREAT GATSBY**  
A NEW MUSICAL  
JEREMY JORDAN    EVA NOBLEZADA

**BUS TRIP**

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2026  
DEPART OLPH CHURCH



**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





**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 & Christmas Envelopes on the tables in the rear of the churches. Christmas Flower Envelopes & Christmas Envelopes can be dropped into any collection basket on any weekend.



**\$90 per person Includes:**

- \*Transportation
- Depart 9:00am \* Return 2:00pm
- \*Tour of Cathedral
- \*Medieval Art Class

Please Note: Trip is limited to 20 people.  
Reservations on a First Come, First Reserved Basis

Medieval Art Class Choices Include:

- Marble Cutting
- Looming
- Brass Rubbing
- Stain Glass Collage

Participants can choose one activity or all.

For more information  
or reservations:

Please call Sheri:  
914-649-3557  
or email:

nooproblem@aol.com



**Ministry to  
Homebound  
Parishioners**

For those parishioners who are homebound or elderly, please reach out to the Rectory if you are interested in having a priest visit to hear your confession, receive the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick and receive Holy Communion.

Please call 914-478-2822.



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 **Friday, December 12th.**  
**Please: DO NOT leave gifts in the back of St. Matthew's Church**

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



# We're starting "Year A": What's unique about it?

by Tom Hoopes

*It's the Liturgical Year of Matthew — the Year of the Kingdom. Here's an overview to get us started.*

Welcome to Liturgical Year A, the year where the Gospel readings at Mass are taken predominantly from the Gospel of Matthew. It is good to start the year by looking at what is unique in the first book of the New Testament.

## **First, the Gospel of Matthew is all about the kingdom of heaven.**

If the language of "kingdom of heaven" is hard to wrap your mind around — which it might be, since we mostly meet kingdoms in fairy tales now — then the way the original Jerusalem Bible describes it might be helpful. It calls the Gospel of Matthew "the great charter of the new order which, in Christ, completes God's plan."

He opens up a new order, a new kingdom, because, in Matthew, Jesus is proclaimed the Son of God. His apostles say so when he walks on water, and when he asks the apostles point blank who he is. He says so in parables about himself, and his opponents call him the son of God on the cross.

## **Second, the Gospel of Matthew gives us unforgettable details we don't get anywhere else.**

We hear, only from Matthew, about the annunciation to Joseph — but also about the the magi and the Christmas star and the opposition of Herod the Great. It is Matthew alone who tells us that Jesus is gentle and humble of heart, and that his yoke is easy and burden light.

Matthew gives us the greatest instruction in the Way of the Kingdom, in the most common (and most complete) presentation of the Beatitudes and the works of mercy. Most of the unique details in Matthew are about the Kingdom of heaven.

Only in Matthew do we learn that the Kingdom is like a field with wheat and weeds, a net with good and bad fish — but also a pearl of great price and a treasure in a field. And Matthew also gives us the clearest declaration of the primacy of Peter and the keys to the Kingdom, the great gift God has given us in the Church — in his life, and after his ascension.

## **Third, the Gospel tells the story of the Kingdom in several stages.**

Matthew gives us the story arc of the Kingdom, and we see it already in the Advent and Christmas season. Preparing the Kingdom. Matthew's Gospel begins with a genealogy (the Gospel for Christmas Day!) showing how Jesus descends from David and Abraham; and chapter 1-2 tells us how he started small. Proclaiming the kingdom. When John the Baptist says, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" on the Second Sunday of Advent, he begins the message Jesus expands on in chapters 3-7.

Kingdom proofs. John asks if Jesus is "the one" in the Third Sunday of Advent, and Jesus answers with proofs that he continues to show us in chapters 8-10. The Church and the Kingdom. Matthew presents the Church as the first earthly version of the kingdom of heaven, with rules on how to live in it, in chapters 14-17. The end times. We get Jesus' description of the end times in the First Sunday of Advent, but more in chapters 19-25. Triumph of the King. Of course the death and resurrection of Jesus and his ascension into heaven closes his Gospel in chapters 26-28.

## **Fourth, Jesus fulfills all the Jewish prophecies — and then goes beyond them.**

Matthew stresses that Jesus is like, but greater than, the figures of the Old Testament. Like Moses, in Matthew Jesus gives the law from a mountain, but when he cites the law, he adds, "But I say ..." Matthew presents Jesus as the Suffering Servant of Isaiah. In Matthew Jesus is greater than Jonah, greater than Solomon, and greater than his Temple, he also transforms the Passover — and promises a greater feast to come.

But then, in Matthew, Jesus goes even further. He opens to the whole world the kingdom that once belonged to his Chosen People, telling us that "many" will come from the ends of the earth to sit at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He says the vineyard he tended for his Chosen People throughout the Old Testament will get new tenants; and his once invite-only banquet is now open to the general public.. After all, as Matthew reports, Jesus is the king who has received "all authority in heaven and on earth" but whose kingdom belongs to children and to the poor, the Kingdom where righteousness comes before all else, and whose followers are deputized to "make disciples of all nations." And, reassuringly, Matthew assures us that Jesus says "Lo, I am always with you, to the close of the age."

