

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 21, 2025 • Fourth 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



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Instagram.com/stmolph

Mass Intentions

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20

(A) 4:00 pm Margaret Wilmoth †
 (H) 5:30 pm Madeline C. & Frank C. Como †

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

(H) 8:30 am Jean Cannon †
 (A) 10:00 am Anthony Kalathara †
 (H) 11:30 am Patricia A. Liszewski †

MONDAY, DECEMBER 22

(A) 8:00 am Missa Pro Populo
 (H) 9:00 am Msgr. Edward McCorry †

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23

(A) 8:00 am Mary Biviano †
 (H) 9:00 am Charles & Mary Lokay †

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24

(A) 8:00 am Charles Corbett †
 (H) 9:00 am Denise Palley †
 (H) 4:00 pm **CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS**
 (A) 6:00 pm **CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS**
 (A) 10:00 pm **CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS**

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25

(H) 8:30 am **CHRISTMAS DAY MASS**
 (A) 10:00 am **CHRISTMAS DAY MASS**
 (H) 11:30 am **CHRISTMAS DAY MASS**

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26

(A) 8:00 am Sal Campoli †
 (H) 9:00 am Denise Palley †

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27

(A) 8:00 am Carol Kennedy †
 (H) 9:00 am Intentions of Fr. Henry
 (A) 4:00 pm Jean Boscov & Alfred Sognonvi †
 (H) 5:30 pm Ann Dosing †

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28

(H) 8:30 am Jean & John Cannon †
 (A) 10:00 am Olga Pecora †
 (H) 11:30 am Viola Jean Cannon †

REQUESTED BY:

Robert Wilmoth
 Lana Como
 Bryan Healy
 Simon & Mary Kalathara
 Lana Como

Janet Lokay

Family
 Janet Lokay

Damiano Family
 Frank Palley



Wife Dora
 Frank Palley
 Family
 Janet Lokay
 Marie Sognonvi
 Linda & Roger Manley

Nancy Maleska
 Family
 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 January 10th & 11th

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



the good news room

Always with you

Stay up to date on the Catholic community of New York with our new app

Google play | App Store

December 21, 2025 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

Reading I: Isaiah 7: 10-14

The name of the Savior to come, "Immanuel," is Hebrew for "God is with us." It signifies both of His natures in one person.

Reading II: Romans 1: 1-7

These introductory verses of Paul's Letter finds him calling himself a "slave" for Christ. What this means is that he has made his whole life a gift to Christ. For Paul, the gospel bears a message long prefigured in the Hebrew Scriptures, which we Christians call "The Old Testament."

The Gospel: Matthew 1: 18-24

The birth account of Jesus includes the betrothal period of Joseph and Mary, a time more meaningful than our modern engagement understanding, which could only be ended by divorce. We see Joseph as a man of sterling moral character, committed to the Law of Moses and to Mary.

COLLECTION REPORT:

Weekend: December 7:

Sunday 12/07: \$3,926

Parish Giving: \$2,805

Weekend Total: \$6,731

Maintenance & Repairs: \$1,603

Upcoming Second Collections

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.parishgiving.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

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 Sal Campoli

req. by wife Dora

St. Matthew Tabernacle Candle

In Memory of Rosetta Damiano

req. by Damiano Family

St. Matthew Blessed Mother Candle

In Memory of Eugenia Phillips & Cecil Barrett

Families, req. by Bryan Barrett

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

PREPARE YOUR HEART FOR CHRISTMAS

RECONCILIATION
Monday

Monday,
December 22nd

OLPH: 4-6pm
STM: 5-7pm



- 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 Memorial Flowers

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.

every contribution is hugely valued



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.

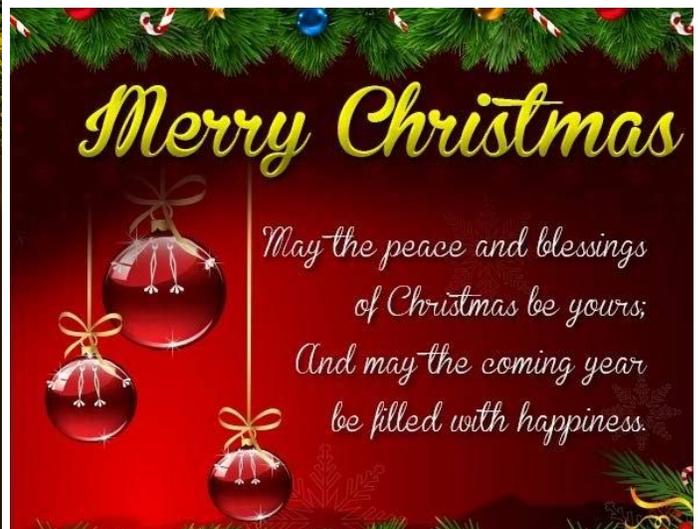
Also, please remember St. Matthew & Our Lady of Perpetual Help in your Will or Living Trust. Kindly contact the rectory office with your inquiries.



Please keep in your prayers the ill of our parish especially: *Charles Green*

And for those who have died marked by the sign of faith, especially:

If you would like to add the name of a loved one to the prayer list, please contact the rectory: 914-478-2822



Merry Christmas

May the peace and blessings of Christmas be yours; And may the coming year be filled with happiness.

Christmas Mass Schedule

Reconciliation Monday – December 22nd

Our Lady of Perpetual Help: 4:00pm to 6:00pm
St. Matthew: 5:00pm to 7:00pm

Christmas Eve Masses: Wed., December 24th

St. Matthew: 4:00pm
Our Lady of Perpetual Help: 6:00pm & 10:00pm

Christmas Day: Thursday, December 25th

St. Matthew: 8:30am & 11:30am
Our Lady of Perpetual Help: 10:00am

New Year's Solemnity of Mary

A Holy Day of Obligation

Vigil Mass, December 31st

Our Lady of Perpetual Help: 5:00pm
St. Matthew: 5:00pm

January 1, 2026:

Our Lady of Perpetual Help: 10:00am
St. Matthew: 8:30am & 11:30am



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES:

Classes continue this weekend, Sunday, December 21st at St. Matthew's.

Religious Education Classes will be on Christmas Vacation for the following dates: Sunday, December 28 & Sunday January 4th, and Wednesday, December 24th & December 31st.

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.



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

Also note: From December 26th through the end of January, if the weather is bad (snow, ice) for driving, the 8am Mass at OLPH will be automatically cancelled for the safety of all.

This Italian Priest Was A Martyr of Anointing of the Sick.

by Philip Kosloski

Fr. Nicola Capelli was killed by Nazi soldiers while in the act of giving a final blessing to the dying around him.

In a time when appreciation for the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick is waning in certain areas, it's a gift from the Holy Spirit that we are given a "martyr" of this sacrament.

There continue to rise to the surface stories of heroism during World War II, such as the life and ministry of Fr. Nicola Capelli, an Italian priest who will soon be beatified by the Catholic Church.

On September 29, 1944, Capelli rushed to help a wounded man and was quickly arrested by Nazi soldiers. After two days of cruel punishment, he was killed by machine gun fire, along with 44 other prisoners.



In the midst of the massacre, Capelli gave a final blessing for those who were dying, likely including prayers that were part of the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick.

Who was Fr. Nicola Capelli?

Born in Nembro in Val Seriana, in the Province and Diocese of Bergamo in Italy, Nicola Capelli was drawn at an early age to the priesthood and was enrolled at the age of 12 in the Apostolic School of the Priests of the Sacred Heart, called Dehonians, of Albino.

By 1930 he professed his first vows with the Congregation of Priests of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and took the name of Brother Martin of Maria Addolorata.

At the time he heard of the Mexican Martyrs (from the Cristero War) and greatly desired to be a missionary. He would have gone anywhere in the world if his superiors would have approved it.

However, after ordination he was sent to Rome for further study at the Pontifical Biblical Institute, the Pontifical Urban University, and the Vatican School of Paleography. He was eventually appointed a professor in Bologna to teach Sacred Scripture.

Then war broke out in Italy and the community he was in had to relocate. They moved to Burzanella in 1944, but were not able to flee from the military operations in the area. It was at this time that Fr. Capelli would freely go to administer the Anointing of the Sick to those who were dying or condemned to death.

It didn't take long for the Nazi soldiers to eventually catch him, leading to what is now called his "martyrdom."

His martyrdom is classified as *odium fidei*, meaning that he was killed because of the Nazi hatred of his faith and ministry. VaticanNews also states, "it is also a martyrdom *ex parte victimae*, since, aware of the dangers and able to return safely to Bologna with his confrères, he chose instead to remain to assist the dying of the Creda massacre and the prisoners of Pioppe di Salvaro."

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Philip Kosloski graduated from the University of Saint Thomas in Minnesota with a bachelor's degree in philosophy and Catholic studies and a master's degree in theology from the Augustine Institute. He is currently a spirituality writer for Aleteia.org and has been featured on such places as The Huffington Post, Crisis Magazine, The Catholic Herald, Catholic Exchange, National Catholic Register and EWTN Radio.

The Nativity of Our Lord – December 25, 2025

by Rev. John P. Cush, STD

When we think of our daily lives, there are countless promises, tasks, and interactions that fill our days. We promise to meet deadlines, finish projects, call someone back, or spend time with our families. Much of life, in fact, runs on promises — on our word.

And we all know what happens when a person's word can't be trusted. When we fail to keep our word, we lose credibility. Integrity fades. Without our word, we lose something essential about who we are. That's why, in a beautiful way, today's Gospel from Saint John speaks directly into the heart of that reality. John proclaims, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."



This is one of the most profound sentences in all of Scripture. John is telling us that Jesus Christ is the eternal Word of the Father — the living Promise of God, spoken from all eternity and now made flesh. From the dawn of creation, God has spoken His Word into the world. "Let there be light," He said — and there was light. That same Word that created the universe is the Word who now becomes flesh in Bethlehem. Through every covenant of the Old Testament — from Abraham to Moses to David — God gave His word that He would save His people. And today, that promise is fulfilled: "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us." We are a covenant people. The God who spoke to His prophets has now spoken Himself into human history. He does not simply say words of love — He becomes Love in the flesh.

Saint John tells us: "All things came to be through Him, and without Him nothing came to be." This is the mystery of the Trinity shining through: the Word who is with God and who is God. The Word who proceeds from the Father in eternity now enters the world in time. The infinite becomes an infant. Our word can fail; God's Word cannot. His Word is faithful and true. It is living, active, and creative. It is the same Word that nourishes us in Scripture, that strengthens us in the Eucharist, and that sustains us in every trial. When we receive the Eucharist today, we receive that very Word made flesh — Jesus Himself, who gives Himself to us completely. God keeps His promise not with ink and parchment, but with flesh and blood.

And how does He come? Not as a mighty ruler or a conquering warrior, but as a helpless child, born of the Blessed Virgin Mary at a particular moment in history. The kings and emperors of the world expected a savior to arrive in power and triumph. Instead, He comes in silence, humility, and poverty — wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

The world expected strength, but God revealed love.

The world expected conquest, but God revealed compassion.

The world expected a throne, but God revealed a cradle.

And yet, this small child conquers what no earthly power could ever defeat: sin and death itself.

John the Baptist's role was to bear witness to the Light. And today, that Light breaks upon the world in the person of Christ. "The true Light that enlightens every person" has entered our darkness. Light and darkness — this is the great contrast of the Gospel. Darkness represents sin, despair, confusion, and fear. Light represents truth, goodness, hope, and grace. As the old saying goes — perhaps one many of us have heard from our mothers — "nothing good happens after dark." And indeed, when we allow the darkness of sin to fill our hearts, we lose our way. But when the Light of Christ shines, the shadows scatter. His light guides, reveals, and restores. He is the Light that cannot be extinguished, the flame that no darkness can overcome. Think of Easter night: the Paschal candle piercing the darkness, the flame spreading from person to person until the entire church glows with light. That light began here — at Christmas. The same Christ who was born in the stable is the same Christ who will rise from the tomb.

Today, as we gather with family and friends, the Church invites us to "break open the Word of God." That means more than simply reading Scripture — it means allowing Christ Himself to enter our hearts. Let us listen to His Word. Let it sink deep into our minds and shape our lives. Let it heal our memories, soften our anger, and renew our hope. Maybe today, as you sit at the Christmas table, light a candle. Let that small flame be a reminder of the Light of Christ that has entered your home and heart. Let it remind you that God's Word is not distant — it dwells among us, speaks to us, and feeds us.

Christmas is the feast of God's fidelity. Every promise He ever made finds its "Yes" in Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 1:20). The Word who was spoken in eternity has now spoken Himself into our humanity. So, let us keep our word as God keeps His. Let us be people of integrity, faith, and light. Let us allow the Word made flesh to dwell not just among us, but within us. For today, the Word has become flesh and dwells among us — and the Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

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Father John P. Cush, STD, a priest of the Diocese of Brooklyn, is the Editor-in-Chief of Homiletic and Pastoral Review. Fr. Cush serves as a full-time Professor of Dogmatic and Fundamental Theology, at Saint Joseph's Seminary and College in New York.