

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

February 1, 2026 • 4th 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

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

Mass Intentions

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31

(A) 4:00 pm Jean Bosto Sognonvi †
(H) 5:30 pm Audrey & Harry Bloomer †

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1

(H) 8:30 am Corky Soderstrom †
(A) 10:00 am Mary Drumm †
(H) 11:30 am Scott Arnold †

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2

(A) 8:00 am Intentions of Jagoda Malbasa
(H) 9:00 am Bruce Washienko †

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3

(A) 8:00 am Intentions of Sophia Wolff
(H) 9:00 am Michael Markman †

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4

(A) 8:00 am Special Intentions
(H) 9:00 am Mercy Gregory †

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5

(A) 8:00 am Intentions of Irene Nyahay
(H) 9:00 am Robert Brady †

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6

(A) 8:00 am Missa Pro Popolo
(H) 9:00 am Ann Halloran †

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7

(A) 8:00 am Special Intentions
(H) 9:00 am John & Jean Cannon †
(A) 4:00 pm Patrick Bohan †
(H) 5:30 pm Uta Atzrodt †

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8

(H) 8:30 am Veronica Greenfield †
(A) 10:00 am Olga Pecora †
(H) 11:30 am Richard Audevard †

REQUESTED BY:

Marie Sognonvi
Texas Bloomer Family

Dorothy & Chris Costello
Family
Alan G. Hartman

Elizabeth
Warren Washienko

Damiano Family
Fr. Crawford

Virginia Markman
Dorothy & Chris Costello

The Murphy & Ribeiro Family

Damiano Family
Elizabeth Mullen
Noleen Bohan McGovern
Sherry Family

Nancy Maleska & John Galayda
Family
Theresa & George Febles &
Family

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



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

MATTHEW 25



Our monthly food collection continues for the Hastings Food Pantry. Parishioners are invited to bring non-perishable food donations to Mass at either church on the second weekend of each month, which will be next weekend, February 7th & 8th. Please no glass, open or expired items and please do not leave food donations at other times.



Blessing of Throats on the Feast of St. Blaise

Throats will be blessed at the Masses this weekend, Saturday, Vigil Masses at 4pm & 5:30pm, Sunday, 8:30am, 10:00am & 11:30am, as well as at the Daily Masses on the Feast Day, Tuesday, February 3rd.

February 1, 2026 - 4th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Reading I: Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13

The prophet addresses the devout poor among the people and praises them for their fidelity to the Lord.

Reading II: 1 Corinthians 1: 26-31

Paul tells us that "God chooses the foolish to shame the wise." He favors the humble who confound the strong. We are to be careful when we are tempted to boast.

The Gospel: Matthew 5: 1-12a

Here begins the "Sermon on the Mount" whereby we learn that Jesus' teachings fulfill, not abandon the Old Testament Law for the New.



the **CARDINAL'S**
ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP APPEAL
Sharing God's Gifts

To make your donation, please use the form you received in the mail, or make your donation online at www.cardinalsappeal.org

\$54,000

Our Parish Goal

\$6,418.50
Pledged

\$6,268.50
Paid



When making your donation, please remember to select *DIRECT MY GIFT TO: MY PARISH* and then select our parish from the drop down menu.

**Donations & Pledges received from 19 families
11.88 % of our goal. Thank you!**

COLLECTION REPORT:

Weekend: January 25: SNOW WEEKEND

Sunday 1/25: \$2,054
Parish Giving \$2,985
Weekend Total: \$5,039

Upcoming Second Collections

February 1: Fuel Offering
February 8: Peter's Pence
February 15: Maintenance & Repair

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.paritygiving.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

Special Intentions

req. by Damiano Family

St. Matthew Tabernacle Candle

In Memory Msgr. Francis Gorman

req. by Bryan Healy

St. Matthew Blessed Mother Candle

In Memory Mary Healy

req. by Bryan Healy



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



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES continue this weekend, Sunday, February 1st at STM and on Wednesday, February 4th at OLPH

WEDNESDAY PROGRAM at OLPH SCHOOL Grades 1-4 meet from 4:00pm to 5:00pm and 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

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 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.



2025 Contribution Statements

This year's contribution statements were emailed to everyone on Tuesday, January 13th. If you did not see it in your "inbox" please check your "spam/junk" mail folders.

You can also view this document with your list of donations online anytime by clicking the "My Info" link at the bottom of any Flocknote email and then clicking on the **Giving** tab. You will see the 2025 Donor Summary at the bottom of the page.

Please remember, Charitable Donations statements are for collections only and do not include Mass Cards, Religious Education Tuition, Cardinal's Appeal or Renew+Rebuild donations.

If you give through PARISH GIVING, you will receive a separate email from them directly.



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.



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.



St. Matthew & Our Lady of Perpetual Help parish is eager to recruit new Lectors and Ushers for both churches.



If you feel you have a calling for either of these two important ministries within the parish, please contact Fr. Crawford



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: **George Fulfree**

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



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 Daily Mass at OLPH will be automatically cancelled for the safety of all.

Pope Warns Against “Misunderstood Compassion” in Annulment Cases.

by Matthew Green



Leo XIV exhorted members of the Roman Rota to always seek the truth in charity, even when the truth is difficult, putting the salvation of souls in first place.

You are called to guard the truth with rigour but without rigidity, and to exercise charity without omission,” Leo XIV told members of the Roman Rota, received in an audience on January 26, 2026, at the Vatican. He insisted that the proceedings handled by the tribunal, mainly those concerning requests for marriage annulment, must “inspire trust” in the faithful, particularly with regard to the equal treatment of cases.

On Monday morning, the Pope received the prelates of the Roman Rota for the first time, on the occasion of the inauguration of the judicial year, offering them a reflection on the relationship between truth and charity in their work.

The Roman Rota was founded in the 12th century, and is one of the three tribunals of the Roman Curia. It’s made up of a college of 20 prelate auditors, appointed by the pope and placed under the direction of a dean, currently the Spanish Archbishop Alejandro Arellano Cedillo. This tribunal operates as the highest court of appeal of the Church and mainly judges requests for the recognition of marriage annulments.

It is important to note that the recognition of nullity is not a divorce. A validly celebrated and consummated marriage cannot be dissolved (except for the rare cases “in favor of the faith,” under the Petrine or Pauline privilege, distinct from an annulment). Rather, it means that sufficient evidence has been presented before the Church to be able to determine with certainty that the marriage never truly existed, due to a defect in the matter or form of the marriage.

Beware a “dangerous relativization of the truth”: In his long speech, the Pope cited the great recent reformers of the Rota: Benedict XVI, John Paul II, and Pius XII.

Pope Leo XIV, himself an expert in Church law, affirmed that exercising justice was a matter of ethics, but also requires knowing how to reconcile truth and charity, “two intrinsically united dimensions.” He acknowledged, however, that a “dialectical tension often arises between the demands of objective truth and the concerns of charity” in their work. The Pontiff warned against “excessive identification with the oft troubled vicissitudes of the faithful.” This can lead, he explains, to “a dangerous relativization of truth.” He described this as “misunderstood compassion, even if apparently motivated by pastoral zeal,” seeing it as “dangerous relativization of truth.”

Such an attitude, the Pope warned, “risks obscuring the necessary dimension of ascertaining the truth proper to the judicial office.” He cited in particular the cases of marriage annulment “where it could lead to pastoral decisions lacking a solid objective foundation.” However, justice cannot be a “cold and detached affirmation of the truth that does not take into account all that love for people requires,” Leo XIV clarified. He asked judges not to omit “those concerns dictated by respect and mercy.”

Charity in truth, for the salvation of souls: Pope Leo XIV dedicated a moment to reflecting on this relationship between truth and charity in the light of verses from St. Paul and St. John the Evangelist. He quotes Benedict XVI: “Truth needs to be sought, found and expressed within the ‘economy’ of charity, but charity in its turn needs to be understood, confirmed and practiced in the light of truth” (*Caritas in veritate* no.2). “May your work, therefore, always be motivated by that true love for neighbour that seeks above all else his eternal salvation in Christ and in the Church, which entails adherence to the truth of the Gospel,” Leo XIV said. He thus reminded his listeners that the “supreme law in the Church” is “the *salus animarum*,” the salvation of souls — a principle enshrined in Canon Law itself (Can. 1752).

Processes must “inspire confidence”: “Canonical processes must inspire the trust that comes from professional seriousness, intense and thoughtful work, and a convinced dedication to what can and must be perceived as a true professional vocation,” demanded the Pope.

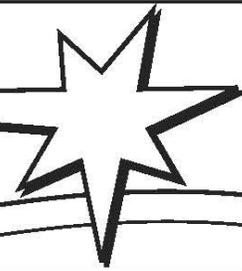
“The faithful and the entire ecclesial community have a right to the proper and timely exercise of procedural functions, because it is a journey that affects consciences and lives,” he insisted. The Pontiff also highlighted the work of lawyers registered with the Roman Rota, who defend the faithful in annulment trials, and “defenders of the bond,” prelates who defend the validity of marriage, warning them against a “purely bureaucratic approach” to their duties.

He stressed the importance of the principle of the “adversarial process,” calling for respect for “the presumptions of the validity of marriage and the innocence of the defendant, until proven otherwise.” He also warned against the risk of “favoring unjustified disparity in the treatment of similar situations.” As an example, Leo XIV cited the shortest form of marriage annulment proceedings, which take place before the diocesan bishop, calling for great care in judging all cases, even when, “*prima facie*,” the grounds for annulment seem obvious. This procedure was established in 2015 by Pope Francis.

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Matthew Green has a master’s degree in philosophy and a bachelor’s degree in theology from the Regina Apostolorum Pontifical Athenaeum in Rome. He spent nearly a decade as an adjunct professor of philosophy at the Center of Higher Studies of the Legionaries of Christ in Thornwood, New York. He now lives in Mexico, where he works primarily as a translator and editor for Aleteia.org and other religious organizations.

Partners in FAITH™



Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

February 2026

Church of St. Matthew - Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Fr. Douglas Crawford, Pastor



Thoughtful Moments

St. Onesimus

Born in Phrygia and employed as a slave to Philemon of Colossae, Turkey, St.

Onesimus met St.

Paul while running from

Philemon for robbing him.

Something about St. Paul's

preaching touched St. Onesimus

and he converted immediately. St.

Paul adopted him as a spiritual son, freeing Onesimus from slavery. After

making amends, St. Onesimus

became a companion and associate

in St. Paul's mission to spread the

Gospel — including delivering one of his epistles!



Symbols in the Mass

Ever notice how many symbols are used in the Mass? Kneeling, shaking hands, the blessing of the water and wine, the elevation of the host. Each is an action in itself, but also has another, deeper meaning. They not only help us to experience Jesus' Last Supper but also represent the many ways God is present in our lives.

"Purification! You and I certainly do need purification. Atonement and, more than atonement, love."

St. Josemaria Escriva



Lent at home - renewing Faith

Lent is a season of renewal that invites us to step back from distractions and return to the heart of our faith. It's a good time to help children see how prayer, the sacraments, charity, and service reveal God at work in our lives.

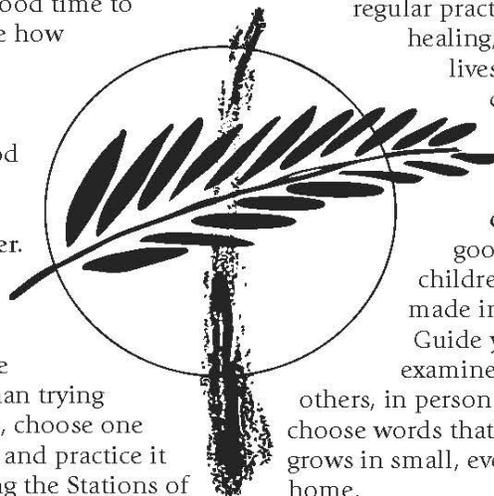
Embrace prayer. Lent is an ideal time to strengthen prayer within the family. Rather than trying to do everything, choose one shared devotion and practice it faithfully. Praying the Stations of the Cross, reading the Gospel of the day, or praying the Chaplet of Divine Mercy together can anchor daily life in God, even when time is limited.

Prioritize the sacraments. The sacraments are living encounters with

Christ that restore and sustain us. Renewing our commitment to Sunday Mass and making Confession a regular practice brings clarity, healing, and grace to our lives. These habits quietly shape our hearts and choices.

Refresh charity. Lent is a good time to remind children that everyone is made in God's image. Guide youngsters to examine how they speak to others, in person and online, and choose words that build up. Charity grows in small, everyday moments at home.

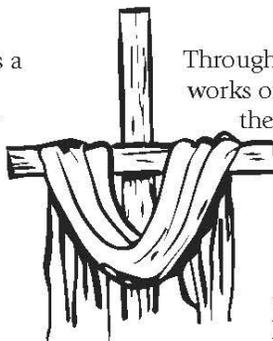
Encourage service. Holiness leads naturally to service. Children can learn this through simple acts: helping at home, being patient with siblings, or sharing their allowance. These small practices form generous hearts.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics use violet or purple in churches during Lent?

Similar to Advent, Lent is a season of preparation and hopeful expectation. Rather than anticipating Christ's birth, the Church prepares for the celebration of His Resurrection, when the saving promises announced at Christmas reach their fulfillment.



Through prayer, fasting, penance, and works of charity, the faithful unite themselves to Christ's forty days in the desert. The use of violet or purple during Lent reflects this spirit of repentance, sober reflection, and interior preparation, while also recalling Christ's kingship and sacrificial love.

Turn conflicts into teachable moments

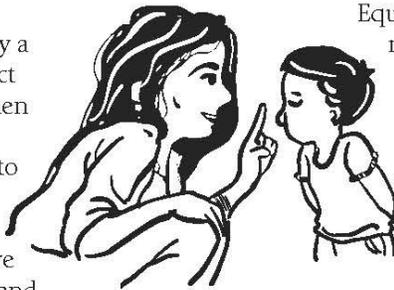
Listening well is a foundational skill for healthy family life, especially during moments of disagreement or high emotion. Parents play a crucial role in teaching children that conflict does not have to result in hurt feelings. When family members feel respected and understood, conversations are more likely to lead to resolution rather than resentment.

One way to teach this skill is to frame listening as “playing detective.” Children are encouraged to listen quietly, remain calm, and pay close attention in order to understand the full story before responding. When someone feels heard, they are far

more willing to listen in return.

Equally important is teaching children to confirm rather than assume. Misunderstandings often arise when we think we know what another person means or intends. Parents can model and encourage phrases such as, “Can you help me understand?” or “So what I’m hearing is...” These simple habits promote clarity, empathy, and respect.

Over time, practicing attentive listening transforms everyday conflicts into opportunities for growth, deeper trust, and stronger family relationships.

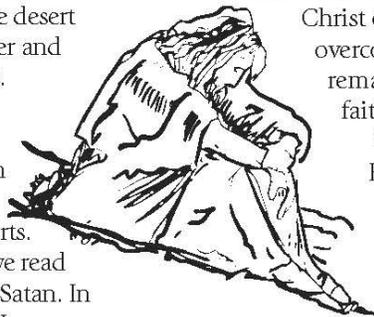


Scripture LESSON

Matthew 4:1-11, Following Christ in Lent

During the season of Lent, the Church accompanies Jesus into the desert through forty days of prayer and fasting, excluding Sundays. Over these weeks, we encounter temptation, particularly the temptation to grow weary or to abandon our spiritual efforts.

In this Gospel passage, we read of Jesus being tempted by Satan. In responding to these trials, Jesus confronted the temptations faced by every human heart and showed us how to resist them: choosing self-control over selfishness, serving God rather than demanding that God serve us, and remaining faithful to the Father’s plan



even when it is hard. In doing so, Christ offers a clear model for overcoming temptation and remaining steadfast in faith.

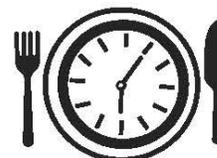
What can a parent do?

Encourage children to make age-appropriate Lenten offerings that help them to think, act, and love like Jesus. Encourage them

to say only kind words, save the last serving of dessert for someone else, and help around the house. When they feel tempted to misbehave, urge them to pray to be good. If they stay close to Jesus, He will lead them to victory.

Parent TALK

In our home, family dinner a priority. It is a daily opportunity to reconnect



and be present to one another. Our oldest daughter, Kara, often struggled to arrive at the table

on time, which became a frequent source of frustration.

Rather than turning the issue into a power struggle, I explained why family dinner matters and why I expected her to be there on time. Kara said that she felt overwhelmed by homework and found it difficult to stop once she had started working. I explained that learning to manage time well is an important part of growing up, and that breaking for dinner can actually improve focus and productivity later. After reflecting, Kara proposed her own solution: she would start her homework earlier by limiting screen time after school. Then she could make dinner on time.

The conversation ended not with resentment, but with a shared plan and mutual understanding.

Feasts & Celebrations

February 2 – The Presentation of the Lord (1st Century). Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the Temple forty days after His birth, and Simeon praised God for revealing the Savior (Luke 2:29-32).

February 6 – St. Paul Miki and Companions (1597). St. Paul Miki, a Jesuit missionary in Japan, was arrested along with 25 other Catholics and forced to walk more than 300 miles to Nagasaki where they were crucified. They preached the whole journey and embraced their crosses praising God.

February 18 – Ash Wednesday. Ashes of old palms are placed on the forehead as a sign of penance. This first day of Lent is a day of abstinence from meat and fasting – one regular meal and two meals that together don’t equal a full meal.

February 19 – St. Barbatus of Benevento (682). Born near Benevento, Italy, in 612, St. Barbatus preached against the violent pagan practices there. When Emperor Constans II besieged the city, they repented, the city was spared, and Barbatus became their bishop.



Our Mission

To help parents raise faithful Catholic children
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