

ST. MATTHIAS PARISH, MARLBOROUGH, MA

INTENTIONS OF THE EUCHARIST

Saturday, September 12 — 4:00 p.m.

Mildred Ponterella — Memorial

Sunday, September 13 — 10:00 a.m.

Fr. Raymond Goulet — Memorial

Tuesday, September 15 — 9:00 a.m.

Ella L. Mahoney — Memorial

Friday, September 18 — 9:00 a.m.

Claire Gerraughty — Memorial

Saturday, September 19 — 4:00 p.m.

Marjorie and Edwin Conner — Memorial

Sunday, September 20 — 10:00 a.m.

Elizabeth “Liz” Montgomery

21st Anniversary Memorial



Gifts of Sanctuary and Altar Candles for the month of September are donated in the memory of:

Frank and Leah Calore

WEDDING BANS—SEPTEMBER 26, 2015

Please keep in your prayers

Adam Kreitman and Laura Murphy



As they prepare to celebrate the Sacrament of Marriage on Saturday, September 26, 2015

MUSIC FOR THE EUCHARIST

Gathering Song: Take Up Your Cross hymnal #690

Psalm 116: I Will Walk Before The Lord booklet pg. 4

Preparation Rite: The Summons hymnal #687

Communion Song: Take And Eat This Bread hymnal #839

Recessional: Go To The World hymnal #469

THIS WEEK AT ST. MATTHIAS

Saturday, September 12

- Celebration of the Eucharist Church, 4:00 p.m.
Marlborough Cupboard Collection Collection bins located at church entrances

Sunday, September 13

- Celebration of the Eucharist Church, 10:00 a.m.
Marlborough Cupboard Collection Collection bins located at church entrances
RCIA Downstairs Conference Room, following Mass

Monday, September 14

- Finance Council Meeting Upstairs Conference Room, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, September 16

- Shawl Ministry Downstairs Conference Room, 6:45 p.m.

Thursday, September 17

- Choir Rehearsal Church, 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 19

- Celebration of the Eucharist Church, 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 20

- Celebration of the Eucharist with Catechist Blessing Church, 10:00 a.m.

Weekday Masses for the Week of September 14

Monday, Tuesday and Friday

9:00 AM—Downstairs Conference Room

Office Hours — Week of September 14

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday

9:00 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.

Wednesday 9:00 a.m.—Noon

FROM FR. FRAN

“Pope okays abortion during the Year of Mercy”.
 “Pope approves quickie annulments”.

These are *actual* headlines I read last week. Oy! While Pope Francis is doing incredibly pastoral and merciful things in the church these days, our US media often misinterprets him to the point of ridiculousness. Let’s tackle those two headlines.

A few weeks ago Pope Francis declared that during the “Year of Mercy” which begins this December 8th, all priests throughout the world will be able to absolve within the context of the Sacrament of Penance those who have had abortions. There will be no need to defer absolution and refer the matter to the local bishop, which is the present law.

For many throughout the world, this is a welcome change. For most Americans, there is nothing new here. In the Archdiocese of Boston, priests were given authority by the bishop to absolve abortion a long time ago. However, in many countries, this will be a welcome relief from a process that has been open to heavy-handedness, punishment and the whims of particular bishops over the mercy of God. So, no, Pope Francis hasn’t “okayed” abortions for the Year of Mercy! Rather, he has just expanded a merciful pastoral practice.

Secondly, just this week the Vatican announced a revision to the annulment process in what is called a “Moto Proprio”, which is basically an executive order from the pope himself.

An annulment does not equate with “Catholic divorce” as is sometimes claimed. A civil *decree of divorce* assumes that a valid marriage has taken place and that for specific reasons the bond no longer exists. The *decree of nullity* in the Catholic Church declares that from the beginning of the marriage there was an essential ingredient missing due to many factors, including issues spiritual and psychological.

The typical annulment process presently takes around eighteen months to two years to complete. It involves an extensive and, as many have experienced, an often painful review of a marriage that has already ended in a civil decree of divorce. Once an annulment case is completed at the local level, there is an automatic appeal to the

“Metropolitan” court which serves a wide cluster of dioceses. As you might guess, this process can take an inordinate amount of time, frustrating people of good will who want to get on with their lives and often initiate a new marriage.

With this week’s declaration, Pope Francis has made significant and permanent changes to the annulment process. There will no longer be the requirement of an automatic appeal, while one is still available if deemed necessary. This is a *major* step in streamlining the annulment process. Pope Francis has also asked that there no longer be stipends involved with annulments. While not a huge issue in the US, the cost of annulments in other countries can be prohibitive. (Most US dioceses have long established a “pay if you can” policy.)

Pope Francis has also made provisions for a much faster process for cases where clear and irrefutable evidence shows that there was something lacking when a couple exchanged vows. This process will be under the supervision of the local bishop. This is what has unfortunately been misinterpreted as a “quickie annulment”. The details of this process are evolving.

With this week’s declaration, Pope Francis, while not changing the *definitions* of Catholic marriage or the *grounds* for annulment, greatly streamlined the *process* in the desire to bring God’s compassion and mercy to what can be a daunting undertaking.

Another key issue that might get overlooked in these two recent papal decrees is the determination of Pope Francis to implement the decentralization of ecclesial authority called for by Vatican II. The pope is adamant that many issues in the church should and must be decided by the local bishops and not by Rome. This collegiality of bishops was a hallmark of Vatican II and has yet to be fully implemented.

Whew! It’s really hard keeping up with this guy! While some have called Pope Francis a great reformer, when you dig deeper, it is evinced that he is just doing what the church has called for since Vatican II, namely, taking a hard look at church practices and reframing them in the light of the church’s mission to bring the mercy of God to pilgrims on the journey. *Ad multos annos, Papa Francesco!*

PARISH FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

SEPTEMBER SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Weekly Goal:	\$4,000.00
Total Collection of September 5, 6	\$4,138.00
Of that amount ParishPay donations	\$ 485.00
Special Collection: Catholic University	\$ 215.00

Parish Maintenance	September 12, 13
Clergy Benefit Trust	September 19, 20

AUGUST 2015 FINANCIALS

Total Income for the Month of August:	\$24,773.00
Total Expenses for the Month of August:	<u>\$19,000.13</u>
Net Income:	\$ 5,772.87 *

*This amount does not include the latter half of August Accounts Payable, which will be reflected in September’s Financials.

Parishioners celebrating Mass September 5, 6 263

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FAITH FORMATION

The new year of Faith Formation gatherings will start soon. If you have forgotten to register your family it is not too late. Please contact the Faith Formation Office (508-460-9255) or email Theresa Salafia at tsalafia@stmattpar.org. If you or someone you know would like further information regarding Faith Formation please contact the Faith Formation Office.

The calendar for the beginning of Faith Formation is as follows:

Sunday, September 20 10:00 AM Mass All families with students in **Grades 1-10** are asked to join together at this Mass to pray and celebrate the goodness of the Lord as we begin our year of faith. Following Mass please join the coffee and ice cream social in the parish hall.

Sunday, September 27 Grades 1-5 will start their meetings at 8:30 – 9:45 AM

Sunday, October 4 Grades 6-8 will start their meetings at 6:00 – 7:15 PM

Sunday, October 18 Grades 9, 10 will start the year with attendance at 10:00 AM Mass followed by meetings with catechists until noon.



Sunday, September 20, 2015

All are invited as a parish family for a **Community Welcome Back Social**, following the 10:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday, September 20.

Come enjoy breakfast favorites, a great cup of coffee and some refreshing Make-Your-Own Sundae.

Welcome back to our parish families, summer vacationers and our Faith Formation children.

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS CHAT SESSION

There will be a Eucharistic Ministers' Chat Session on **Sunday, September 13 following Mass**. Please make every effort to attend this important meeting. **Thank you.**

Joanne Litster and Marge Shea-Burke



CHRISTMAS BAZAAR CRAFT MEETING

Craft preparations are underway for the St. Mathias Annual Christmas Bazaar. The crafters will be meeting on **Wednesday, September 23 at 10:30 a.m.** in the Parish Hall. Come join this fun and festive group.

PRAY FOR THE HEALING OF THE SICK

Isaac Barcinas	Joe Gillis	Siobhan O'Sullivan
Paul Brazeau	Peter Goneau	Eleanor Partridge
Jane Byrne	Philip Goneau	Theresa Perry
Diane Canty	Mary Grandy	Tinh Pham
Betty Carima	Russ Hokanson	June Quinn
Jonathan Charlot	Janet Kearns	Joan Rea CSJ
Steven Chase	Kathryn Keeler	Samantha Roberts
Edward Connors	Theresa Locke	Alice Robertson
Jane Constable	Glenn Malloy	Martin Rooney
Donny Courteville	Paul Malone	Jamie Ruggerio
Joseph Cox	David Martin	Liz Smith
Maureen Curley	Maria Marchand	Owen Paul Sousa
Connie Cyr	Bob McGilvray	Mary Spaulding
DelRaso Family	Patricia McManus	Jill Tesell
Clara Mae Dickerson	Theresa Morrill	Ralph Trotto
Grace Dowd	Chris O'Brien	Jeanine Varley
Peggy Dowling	Frances O'Brien	Eileen Walsh
Mike Ducote	Cameron O'Marsh	AmyNoel Wyman
Kathy Fischer	Tommy O'Regan	

SCRIPTURE READINGS

You are encouraged to pray these readings at home during the week as you reflect on this Sunday's Word and prepare to celebrate next week's Eucharist.

Readings for September 13, Twenty-Fourth Sunday
in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 50:5-9a; James 2:14-18; Mark 8:27-35

Readings for September 20, Twenty-Fifth Sunday
in Ordinary Time

Wisdom 2:12, 17-20; James 3:16-4:3; Mark 9:30-37

**PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN
(VIRTUS®) TRAINING**

Sunday, November 15, 2015 12:30 – 3:00 p.m.
Downstairs conference room
Facilitators: April Lowe and Theresa Salafia

As directed by the Archdiocese of Boston Child Advocacy Office all volunteers who serve in ministries that bring them in contact with children must attend training in the protection of children. This training needs to be completed once only. Certification is documented in the Child Advocacy Office of the Archdiocese data base so if one moves from one location to another your training certificate follows. Registration for this training is necessary. You may call Theresa Salafia at 508-460-9255 or email tsalafia@stmattpar.org.

**CHOIR REHEARSAL
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17
7:00 P.M. — CHURCH**

Welcome back Choir Members! The St. Matthias Parish Choir rehearsal will be starting up for the season on Thursday, September 17 at 7:00 p.m. in the Church. If you are interested in joining the choir stop by on Thursday.



Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 4 at 12:00 p.m.

Help Needed!



Pets of all kinds and their owners are invited to the annual Blessing of the Animals on Sunday, October 4 at 12 noon in the Courtyard area of the church. **We need individuals to coordinate the refreshments for this special service.** The effort would involve asking people to help with baked goods, setting up tables and chairs in the courtyard area as well as cleaning up after the service. Any supplies donated will need to be delivered to Buddy Dog Humane Society in Sudbury, MA. If interested in organizing the Blessing of the Animals please contact Diane Balinski at 508-460-9255 or dbalinski@stmattpar.org.