

**ST. MATTHIAS PARISH, MARLBOROUGH, MA**



**INTENTIONS OF THE EUCHARIST**

**Saturday, December 17 — 4:00 p.m.**

Paul Meany — 15th Anniversary Memorial  
Mary Conroy — 4th Anniversary Memorial

**Sunday, December 18 — 10:00 a.m.**

Patricia Hewitt — Memorial

**Saturday, December 24 — 4:00 p.m.**

Frank and Grace O'Brien — Memorial

**Saturday, December 24 — 7:00 p.m.**

Guenter Zisler — 5th Anniversary Memorial

**Sunday, December 25 — 10:00 a.m.**

Phyllis and Gene Balinski  
Joan and David Martin — Memorial



**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 December 17, 18 – 4th Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7:10-14; Roman 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-24

Readings for December 24, 25 – Christmas

Isaiah 9:1-6; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14

**Office Hours for the Week of December 18**

**Monday, Tuesday and Thursday**

9:00 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.

**Wednesday**

9:00 a.m. — Noon



**THIS WEEK AT ST. MATTHIAS**



**Saturday, December 17**

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

**Sunday, December 18**

- **Faith Formation Grades 1 to 5**  
Classrooms, 8:30 a.m. — 9:45 a.m.
- **Celebration of the Eucharist**  
Church, 10:00 a.m.
- **Children's Christmas Choir Rehearsal**  
Church, 11:15 to Noon

**Tuesday, December 20**

- **Children's Choir Dress Rehearsal**  
Church, 6:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, December 21**

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

**Thursday, December 22**

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

**Saturday, December 24 - Christmas Vigil**

- **Celebration of the Eucharist**  
Church, 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

**Sunday, December 25 — Christmas Day**

- **Celebration of the Eucharist**  
Church, 10:00 a.m.

**Weekday Masses for the Week of December 18**

**Monday and Tuesday**

9:00 a.m. Downstairs Conference Room



**CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST  
WORSHIP BOOKLET**

The Advent Season Worship Aid can be found in the pews. This booklet contains Mass responses as well as our musical selections. Lift your voices in celebration. After use, please return the booklet to the book rack located in the pews.

*Thank you.*

**CHRISTMAS CHOIR REHEARSAL FOR CHILDREN**

The St. Matthias Parish Choir rehearsal will be held on **Sunday, December 18** following the 10:00 a.m. Mass.

**A Christmas Choir Dress Rehearsal will take place on Tuesday, December 20 at 6:30 p.m. in the Church.**



FROM FR. FRAN



Many thanks to all who participated in last Sunday's Evening Prayer and Pot Luck Supper. I think we all appreciated having the time to stop and sit with God in prayer and sit with one another in friendship. Thank you to all of our families in Faith Formation who coordinated the supper along with our Faith Formation Director, Terry Salafia. A special word of thanks to Melissa Auclair who presided beautifully over our prayer, assisted by her daughter Madison, Jared Auclair who gave us much food for thought in his reflection on scripture (with his son Jackson standing by him for moral support) David Kushi for being our incense bearer, Chris Doona for reading, and Judy McManus for leading us in song.

Beginning next weekend St. Matthias Parish will be conducting a survey of parishioners. This is your chance to let us know how we are doing in the many areas of parish life. The survey will be included with next Sunday's bulletin and be available on line as well.

This project comes as the fruit of Parish Pastoral Council discussions during this fall. A subcommittee was formed to help those in leadership get a better sense of who we are and what needs folks may have that may be going unmet in parish life. You may remember that the first phase of this inquiry was the updating of our parish directory. If you have not filled out a directory card, I encourage you to please do so. This will help us better communicate with parishioners about important moments in the life of our parish. All information is, of course, confidential. Many thanks to those PPC members who have put great thought and effort into this project.

I don't want to sound like a broken record, but I'd like to once again remind parents that, for safety reasons, it is essential that you accompany your children to the restroom during mass. While we make every effort to keep a safe environment, I urge you to play your part in helping with our safety issues. And thanks again for coming to Mass as a family! You are not only nurturing the faith life of your children but of our entire community as well.

You may remember that during the summer a few turkey vultures took up residence on our grounds. Well, they seem to have left for warmer territory. However, we have a new woodland friend that has been spotted on our campus. Apparently a young buck

with an impressive antler span has moved into the neighborhood. He was seen in the parking lot last Sunday as our Pot Luck Supper was breaking up. Perhaps he is one of Santa's reindeer sent to see how the children of St. Matthias are preparing for Christmas! In any event, just be cautious on our property, especially after dark. And if you do see our new friend, snap a photo of him so we can post it on our Facebook wall!

Next Sunday is, of course Christmas Day. Everything is (almost) ready to go here at St. Matthias. Our adult and children's choirs invite you to a presentation of songs and carols before the 4 PM Mass on Christmas Eve. The program will begin at 3:30 PM. Since this Mass is always packed, plan now to arrive early and be spiritually lifted by the beautiful song of our Music Ministry. If you are looking for a less crowded experience, join us for the 7 PM Mass Christmas Eve, where the choir will once again lead us in song as they will at the 10 AM Mass on Christmas Day.

As has been tradition for many years, the collection on Christmas is for the sick and retired priests of the Archdiocese of Boston. Your generosity will go towards the continued care and wellbeing of many faithful men who have given a lifetime of service to our parishes. Thank you for your generosity.

Concerning this collection, please remember that everything collected at the Christmas Masses goes to the work of the Archdiocese. If you would like to give a Christmas donation specifically to St. Matthias Parish, may I suggest clearly marking your gift and either mailing it to us, or dropping it in the collection basket at any mass during the Christmas season, other than that of Christmas Day. Again, thanks for your generosity.

Speaking of generosity, thank you to all those parishioners who have contributed to our 2017 Grand annual Collection. Being the end of the tax year, now would be a great time to donate to this important fundraiser. All donations go directly to the parish operating budget so your donation is vitally important to the work we do as a parish.

A very blessed Christmas to all who will not be with us next weekend. May you have a wonderful time wherever you may be going. May the weather be great for your travels, and may your time with family and friends be relaxing and joyful. And for everyone else – see you on Christmas!

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**FAITH FORMATION**

Faith Formation gatherings for **Grades 1-5** will meet **Sunday, December 18 from 8:30 – 9:45 am**. This is the last class for 2016. These grades will meet again Sunday, January 22, 2017.

**Grades 6-10 will be in recess until January 22, 2017.**

Thank you to all families who joined in the Advent Prayer and Pot Luck Supper. Thank you to Jared and Melissa Auclair with their family who presided over this service. Thank you to Donna Jensen, Cathy Donohue, Judy Smith, Cindy Roberge and their families who coordinated the Pot Luck Supper.

Choicest Christmas blessings to all our families and friends from the students and catechists of Saint Matthias Faith Formation.

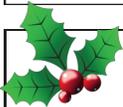


**ST. VINCENT DEPAUL JANUARY MEETINGS**

The St. Matthias conference of St. Vincent de Paul has had 2 organizational meetings and there are 2 dozen parishioners who have shown an interest in being part of it. In the month of January there will be 2 meetings January. At these meetings we plan to elect a president and start formalizing our procedures and protocols.

Immaculate Conception volunteered to help train us and shared their procedures and resource guide with us. People are still needed for home visits, help with fundraising and are in need of an IT person to help with a website and developing forms for our use.

If you are interested in being part of the conference and would like more information, please contact the parish office. The more people we have involved the easier it will be to help those who need our assistance.



**CHRISTMAS ENVIRONMENT**

One of the many delights of the Christmas season is the beautiful decorations. You are invited to help make this possible with a contribution towards the Christmas Environment. You will find special envelopes at the back of the church over the next few weeks. Please place your donation and the names of those you wish to memorialize in the envelopes. You may place the envelope in the weekly collection basket or return it to the parish office. If you choose to donate via ParishPay please be sure to send the memorial information to the parish office. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

**PRAY FOR THE HEALING OF THE SICK**



*Please Pray For...*

*Richard Abraham, Boyle Family, Nancy Bradford, Laurie Burt, Deacon Paul Coletti, Peggy Cronin, Delia Cruz, Connie Cyr, Del Cyr, Clara Mae Dickerson, John Gifford, Joe Gillis, Russ Hokanson, Emma Johnson, Kathryn Keeler, Emma Larrivee, Kay McNeill, Holly McIntyre, Roger Melenson, Theresa Perry, Deacon Doug Peltak, Jean Peltak, Andy Rivers, Benjamin Smith, Edward Suzano, Ray Thomas, Trunfio Family, Ann Vigeant and Amy Noel Wyman.*

To add someone to this prayer list, please call the Parish office at 508-460-9255 or email [admin@stmattpar.org](mailto:admin@stmattpar.org).

**PARISH FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP**

<b>Weekly Offertory Goal:</b>	<b>\$4,000.00</b>
Total Collection of December 10, 11	\$4,038.00*
Of that amount ParishPay donations were	\$1,127.00
Collection for Parish Maintenance	\$2,375.00
Of that amount ParishPay donations were	\$ 547.00
Parishioners celebrating Mass December 10, 11.....	309
*This represents an increase of \$38.00 above the Weekly Offertory goal. Thank you.	
Immaculate Conception Collection	\$ 482.00
Of that amount ParishPay donations were	\$ 10.00
Parishioners celebrating Mass December 8 .....	98

**Special Collections for December**

December 24, 25 — Clergy Health and Retirement Trust

**Grand Annual Collection**

<b>GOAL:</b>	<b>\$80,000.00</b>
Total Pledged:	\$43,085.00
Total Received:	\$37,895.00
Total Number to Reach Goal:	\$36,915.00
Number of Families Pledged:	79

**ParishPay Grand Annual Donations**

If you would like to make your Grand Annual donation via ParishPay you will find a tab at the top of the donation screen entitled "Campaign/Appeal". When you click on the tab there are options: a lump sum payment, 3 payments and 8 monthly payments. Please note that the Grand Annual campaign **does not** appear under the tab "Collections". If you have any questions about ParishPay please contact the parish office.

**CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST  
ST. MATTHIAS PARISH**

**Saturday, December 24**

4:00 p.m. Christmas Vigil Mass  
With Children's Choir

7:00 p.m. Christmas Vigil Mass

**Sunday, December 25**

10:00 a.m. Christmas Mass



**EPIPHANY BREAKFAST**

**Sunday, January 8 at 11:00 a.m.**

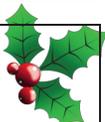
You are invited to join the St. Matthias Parish community on **Sunday, January 8, 2017 at 11 a.m.** for an **Epiphany Breakfast**. This gathering offers many of your breakfast favorites, such as French toast bake, quiches, freshly baked muffins, eggs, sliced ham and other select goodies. Come enjoy a delicious meal and friendship with your fellow parishioners.

Help with the coordination is needed so if you are interested in helping or would like to share your favorite dish, please call the parish office at 508-460-9255.

**Monetary Donations** for this event will be collected to support the *Our Father's Table* ministry. Everyone is welcome and we look forward to seeing you there!



**THANK YOU FROM THE  
ST. MATTHIAS GREENS TEAM**



The St. Matthias Greens Team sends thanks all of you who contributed to our table at the Christmas Bazaar. We would not be able to produce such lovely arrangements without your donations of greens, berries, ribbons and containers. Thanks too, go out to those who attended the bazaar and purchased an arrangement from the table. We hope that you enjoy your purchase throughout the Christmas season!