

INTENTIONS OF THE EUCHARIST

Saturday, April 8 — 4:00 p.m.

Theresa Harris — Memorial

Sunday, April 9 — 10:00 a.m.

Joseph Frane — 8th Anniversary Memorial

Saturday, April 15 — 8:00 p.m.

Marion L. Cox — 20th Anniversary Memorial

Sunday, April 16 — 9:00 a.m.

Joan and David Martin

Phyllis and Gene Balinski — Memorial

Sunday, April 16 — 11:00 a.m.

Frank and Grace O'Brien — Memorial

THIS WEEK AT ST. MATTHIAS

Saturday, April 8

- **Celebration of the Eucharist**
Church, 4:00 p.m.
- **Marlborough Community Cupboard**
Bins at Church Entrances

Sunday, April 9

- **Faith Formation Grades 1 to 5**
Classrooms, 8:30 a.m. — 9:45 a.m.
- **Celebration of the Eucharist**
Church, 10:00 a.m.
- **Marlborough Community Cupboard**
Bins at Church Entrances
- **Coffee Social**
Parish Hall, following Mass

Monday, April 10

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

Thursday, April 13—Holy Thursday

- **Holy Thursday Mass**
Church, 7:00 p.m.

Friday, April 14—Good Friday

- **Stations of the Cross**
Church, 3:00 p.m.
- **Celebration of the Lord's Passion**
Church, 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 15

- **Easter Vigil—Celebration of the Eucharist**
Church, 8:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 16

- **Celebration of the Eucharist**
Church, 9:00 a.m.
- **Easter Coffee Social**
Parish Hall, 10:00 a.m.
- **Celebration of the Eucharist**
Church, 11:00 a.m.

Weekday Masses for the Week of April 9

Weekday Celebration of the Eucharist will be held

Monday at 9:00 a.m.
Downstairs Conference Room

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Mass will not be held on  
Tuesday and Friday morning.



Gifts of Sanctuary and Altar Candles for the month of April are donated in loving memory of

*Joseph Calore*

Saturday Celebration of the Eucharist

On April 15

**Please note:** There is no 4:00 p.m. Celebration of the Eucharist on Saturday, April 15. The St. Matthias Parish will celebrate the Easter Vigil at 8:00 p.m. All are welcome.

Easter Sunday Coffee Social

April 16—10:00 a.m.

All are invited to the Easter Sunday Coffee Social, held in the parish hall after the 9:00 a.m. Mass. This is a perfect time to visit with one another and welcome many visitors to our Parish. If you are interested in donating baked goods or other brunch items, please contact the parish office 508-460-9255 or drop them off at the Parish Hall on Sunday morning before 9:30 a.m.



Office Hours for the Week of April 9



Monday, Tuesday and Thursday  
9:00 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.

Wednesday  
9:00 a.m. — Noon

FROM FR. FRAN

**The Holiest Day of the Year**

Today we begin once again the journey through Christ’s passion, death, and resurrection. The Church calls this the “Paschal Mystery”, and indeed it is a mystery. Why would we be celebrating this man of first century Palestine whose failed mission brought him a shameful death if this wasn’t the mystery of God living in our human frame, dying for our sins and rising to bring us to new life? This is all something our minds cannot fully comprehend and that our science cannot explain.

Christ is inviting each one of us to take a journey into mystery this week. I would like to invite each of you personally to be a part of our Easter Triduum services on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Saturday’s Easter Vigil and the Masses of Easter Sunday. Through coming together as a community to experience this mystery we enrich the life of our parish and our own lives as we experience the love which God pours upon us.

**“The Jews” in the Gospels**

Each Holy Week we hear two of the accounts of the Passion of the Lord, one on Palm Sunday (either from Matthew, Mark or Luke), and one on Good Friday (always from John). In both of these accounts the writers pit Jesus against the Roman occupying force in the form of Pilate. They also place blame on the “Jews”, in a seemingly sweeping condemnation of all Jewish people. This later false identification has allowed the ugliness of anti-Semitism to exist down through the ages. A closer look reveals a much more nuanced, if more complicated, reality. Let’s look at the Gospel according to John, which we hear on Good Friday.

At the time the gospel was written, around 90-100 AD, the Romans had decimated the Jewish people and destroyed the temple in Jerusalem. There were a number of factions among the Jews trying to rebuild from this disaster. Apparently there was a lot of infighting among groups. St. John’s attitude towards “the Jews” may have been directly influenced by this infighting.

Also, many of the early Christians who had come to follow Christ did not see the need to renounce their Jewish heritage. After all, they believed that Jesus, as a Jew, was

the long awaited Messiah. For a time, these Jewish Christians continued attending Jewish places of worship until they were “thrown out”. What this means is up for interpretation. They could have been given the ultimatum: either worship as a Jew or leave and follow Christ.

In any event, when the Gospel of John was written there was much antagonism going on. This was reflected in how the gospel was shaped, especially in regard to “the Jews”. Most scholars theorize that John was not talking about the whole Jewish people but a specific group, perhaps the religious leaders, or a sect of Judaism. Some have suggested that English translations of John’s Gospel could be amended to speak of “the Jewish authorities” rather than “the Jews” in the passion narrative. Scholars agree that there is no basis for a Christian anti-Semitism here. John was speaking of a specific group of people at a specific moment in time.

Unfortunately misinterpretations and literal readings of the John’s gospel have led many to believe to this very day that these passages justify calling all the Jews “Christ killers”. In our present time when civility is in short supply, when people feel free to say whatever they want, it’s not surprising that we see old prejudices and hatreds rearing their heads once more. (Threats against Jewish places of worship have increased significantly over the last few months.)

Most scripture scholars will say that the blame for Jesus’ death is upon the Romans and a narrow band of leaders of the Jewish people. But, when it comes right down to it, are we not all complicit in the death of Christ when we wound with our words and actions, when we taunt each other, put each other down, or make life miserable for people we don’t like.

Jesus was killed because of God’s great love for humanity shown forth in Christ’s forgiving and healing ways. Because his radical love was seen as a threat to the status quo, the people in power wanted him gone. Perhaps in this age of incivility his radical love is still seen as a threat, especially when he comes to us in the poor, the immigrant, the stranger and in anyone who we perceive as outside our own comfort zone.

**PARISH FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP**

**Weekly Offertory Goal: \$4,000.00**  
Total Collection of April 1 and 2..... \$4,278.00 \*  
Of that amount ParishPay donations were \$ 892.00  
Parishioners celebrating Mass April 1 and 2 .....315

\*This represents a surplus of \$278.00 to the Weekly Offertory goal. Thank you.

**SPECIAL COLLECTION**

**Parish Maintenance** April 8 and 9  
**Rice Bowl Collection** Thursday, April 13  
**Holy Land** Friday, April 14  
**Clergy Health & Retirement** All Easter Masses  
**Home Missions** April 22 and 23

## PALM SUNDAY

### FAITH FORMATION

Faith Formation meeting for **Sunday, April 9:**

**Grades 1-5      8:30 - 9:45 am**

We were blessed to have Bishop Robert Reed celebrate the Eucharist last Saturday with us. Bishop Reed met with confirmation candidates during their retreat afternoon. During the Eucharist the Confirmation and First Eucharist candidates received a blessing from Bishop Reed as each group journeys to their reception of the sacraments.

Bishop Reed will confirm our candidates on the Feast of Pentecost, June 4, during the 10:00 am Mass. First Eucharist will be celebrated Sunday, April 30 at the 10:00 am Mass.



### ST. MATTHIAS ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CONFERENCE UPDATE

Our new St. Vincent de Paul conference has been officially sanctioned by the Archdiocese of Boston and is in the final stages of becoming active. We are currently making visits with other conferences to get training in how to best determine the needs and how to utilize our resources to meet the needs. We have a checking account with \$500 in it. We have started fundraising, but have a need for considerably more funds if we hope to help the needy in our community! A special collection to support SVdP will be held the weekend of May 6 and 7.

Thank you for your consideration and prayers.

### PRAY FOR THE HEALING OF THE SICK

#### *Please Pray For...*

*Richard Abraham, Boyle Family, Nancy Bradford, Laurie Burt, Peggy Cronin, Delia Cruz, Connie Cyr, Del Cyr, Clara Mae Dickerson, Doyle Family, Colin Fawkes, John Gifford, Joe Gillis, Hannah Gluck, Russ Hokanson, Emma Johnson, Kathryn Keeler, Emma Larrivee, Maura McGuniess, Holly McIntyre, Kay McNeill, , Roger Melenson, Michael Messom, Theresa Morrill, Megan Murphy, Deborah Natoli, Theresa Perry, Deacon Doug Peltak, Jean Peltak, Elaine Pilecki, Andy Rivers, Benjamin Smith, Edward Suzano, Ray Thomas, Trunfio Family, Jenny Weibel and Amy Noel Wyman.*

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

### EASTER CLERGY HEALTH & RETIREMENT TRUST COLLECTION

Next week, at all our **Easter Masses**, our only collection will be to support the retirement, medical and financial needs of priests of the Archdiocese of Boston. On behalf of all of our priests, thank you in advance for your generosity.

For more information or to give on-line, please visit [www.clergyfunds.org](http://www.clergyfunds.org)

### PIANO CONCERT FEATURING MARIA KAPLUN

#### *FROM MOZART TO DEBUSSY*

**April 28 at 7:00 p.m.**

Enjoy an evening of piano classical favorites from great classical composers such as Mozart, Chopin and Shubert.

This recital is graciously held by Maria Kaplun as a fundraiser to support the St. Matthias Parish Chapter of the St. Vincent DePaul Society.

Suggested donation is \$10 per person.



### A WINE AND CHEESE RECEPTION

To follow in the Parish Hall.

### HOLY THURSDAY MASS SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Collection boxes for the return of the Operation Rice Bowl donations will be available at the church entrances as you enter into church. These gifts will be brought to the Altar during the offertory. Additionally, during the offertory, you are invited to bring gifts of food for the Marlborough Community Cupboard. Your generosity is greatly appreciated by those in need within the Marlborough community.

### SCRIPTURE READINGS

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

#### Readings for April 9 — Palm Sunday

Matthew 21:1-11; Isaiah 50:4-7; Philippians 2:6-11  
Matthew 26:14-27:66

#### Readings for April 16 — Easter Sunday

Acts 10:34A; 37-43; Colossians 3:1-4; John 20:1-9

## Good Friday of the Lord's Passion

### *Reflection by Jared Auclair*

On Good Friday we enter into the second day of the Holy Triduum, Good Friday of the Lord's Passion. The Priest and Deacons enter the Church in silence and prostrate themselves in prayer, as the congregation kneels, contemplating the sacrifice of His only Son on the Cross. Later, we will read the Passion of the Lord, in which one of the most powerful verses, for me, is read. In John's version, "It is finished." And bowing his head, he handed over his spirit." Just pause for a moment, and imagine the scene of Jesus on the cross saying those words and handing over his spirit; the moment when the sacrifice is made for the forgiveness of our sins. POWERFUL!

Holy Thursday, we observe a *servant* God, and today, Good Friday, we observe an *obedient* God. Have you ever thought of Jesus' complying with God's will, crucifixion for our salvation, as being observant? God, the father, is often depicted in the Bible as a parent figure, and this is a prime example of that. The Son being obedient to the Father, in much the same way we are obedient to our parents.

Obedience in today's culture is a taboo word. We are all taught from an early age to be independent and to question everything. And I agree, those are important qualities to foster, however I would argue to foster them within the context of obedience to God. Obedience is an exercise in faith, guided by the Holy Spirit. If Jesus were able to be obedient to his Father, in giving his life, then it is for us to be obedient to Him. I find this to be a liberating experience, trusting my life to God, guided by the Holy Spirit. That is not to say that I am not an independent person, but one who tries to live that independence as Jesus did. Do you live your life as Jesus did, in obedience to God, the Father?



### **CATHOLIC APPEAL UPDATE AS OF APRIL 3, 2017**

|           |             |             |
|-----------|-------------|-------------|
| Goal:     | \$21,536.00 |             |
| Received: | \$13,679.00 | 64% of Goal |
| Need:     | \$ 7,857.00 |             |

There is still time for Saint Matthias Parish to reach its stated goal for the 2017 Catholic Appeal. We are responsible for the total amount whether the goal is received in donations to the Catholic Appeal or from our parish finances.