

ST. MATTHIAS PARISH, MARLBOROUGH, MA

INTENTIONS OF THE EUCHARIST

Saturday, December 30 — 4:00 p.m.

Margaret Thornbury — Memorial

Sunday, December 31— 10:00 a.m.

Anthony Sirignano — Memorial

Tuesday, January 2 — 9:00 a.m.

Mary Masciarelli — Memorial

Friday, January 5 — 9:00 a.m.

Walter Keefe — Memorial

Saturday, January 6 — 4:00 p.m.

Richard (Rick) Welsh — Memorial

Sunday, January 7 10:00 a.m.

People of St. Matthias Parish

Weekday Mass for the Week of December 31

Weekday Celebration of the Eucharist will be held on:



Tuesday and Friday
9:00 a.m. Downstairs Conference Room

Office Hours for the Week of December 31

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

Wednesday
9:00 a.m. — Noon

**The Parish Office will be closed for
New Year's Day Monday, January 1**

**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 pew. *Thank You.*

THIS WEEK AT ST. MATTHIAS

Saturday, December 30

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

Sunday, December 31

- **Celebration of the Eucharist**
Church, 10:00 a.m.
- **Coffee Social December 31**
Parish Hall, 11:00 a.m.

Monday, January 1 — Happy New Year 2018

- **Parish Office Closed**
Observance of New Year's Day

Tuesday, January 2

- **Triduum Kick-Off Meeting**
Downstairs Conference Room, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, January 3

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

Thursday, January 4

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

Saturday, January 6

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

Sunday, January 7

- **Celebration of the Eucharist
with Liturgy of the Word for Children**
Church, 10:00 a.m.
- **Epiphany Breakfast**
Parish Hall, 11:00 a.m.



NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Readings for January 6 and January 7
Epiphany of the Lord

Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:2-3A, 5-6; Matthew 2:1-12

FROM FR. FRAN

A Season of Peace?

Each Christmas Season we welcome in the Christ Child as the Prince of Peace and wish “peace on earth to people of good will”. As Catholic Christians, we pray that in our homes, towns, and within each nation on earth, there be a true and lasting peace, a peace that comes directly from God.

Some may look at the situation in the world and think us naïve or cynical to have this belief in the Peace of Christ when there is so much war, violence, terrorism, and injustice all around us. Others question the presence of God’s peace when they see individuals or groups do harm to others in God’s name.

There doesn’t seem to be much peace within our own country these days either. We seem to be at war with one another over fundamental beliefs. Civil discourse may be at an all-time low, and I don’t think anyone is happy with the way things are going in Washington.

And now, with the recent death of Cardinal Bernard Law, many old wounds have reopened in the lives of those victims of clergy abuse and in the general population of our archdiocese. It seems like a lasting peace is beyond our grasp.

However, for those of us who put our hope in Christ’s message of peace, we are willing to trust that, through the difficulties and injustices human beings bring upon each other, God *is* guiding us. God *is* bringing us peace and forgiveness and love, even from within the storms that often surround us.

The challenge for us is to not lose heart and most importantly, to recognize God’s hand in our daily lives. God means for us to be active peacemakers for the kingdom. God is relying on *us* to continue Christ’s work.

Let us celebrate well in this Christmas Season the one known as the Prince of Peace, remembering that he welcomed everyone – especially sinners, the poor, the alien, the outcast – to be a part of the feast. If we make our best effort to do the same, then we will be allowing the peace of Christ to blossom in our own corner of the world.

Here at St. Matthias Parish we are makers of peace when we welcome, respect and rejoice in each other and in the many gifts and talents we share together. Throughout the year, the Holy Spirit calls us to be a community of peace and justice. Perhaps we can recommit ourselves to this work as we move into 2018. We are called to be lights for the world, unique and holy. May the Prince of Peace continue to strengthen us in this vocation.

January 1st

Forty years or so ago, the church declared that if a holy day of obligation falls on a Saturday or a Monday, the obligation is lifted, (with the Feast of Christmas being a notable exception). This year, the Solemnity of Mary, the

Mother of God falls on Monday, January 1st. So, the obligation is lifted. Taking this into consideration, *we will not be having a Mass on January 1st*. If you would like to go to Mass on that day, please check out the schedules of our neighboring parishes.

Epiphany Breakfast

Next weekend, after the 10 AM Mass we will have an opportunity to gather as a parish family for our annual **Epiphany Breakfast**, coordinated this year by parishioners Sue and Dale Dolesh. I encourage everyone to come to the breakfast and celebrate our St. Matthias family on the great Feast of the Epiphany which will bring to a close our parish celebrations of the Christmas Season.

All are welcome, especially those who are new to our parish and those who may not have participated in parish activities in the past. And, in the spirit of today’s Feast of the Holy Family, how about inviting someone you know who is hurting or lonely, or hasn’t been to church in a while, to come celebrate Mass and breakfast with our parish family next Sunday.

Thanks!

Our Christmas Masses were beautiful and prayerful in great part due to the talents and dedication of many parishioners who participated in our many liturgical ministries. You always exercise your ministries with great care and with joy. Thank you so much.

Those who prepared our environment had a special challenge this year, switching from Advent to Christmas in just a few hours! You did a wonderful job! The festive atmosphere you have created truly enhances our prayer experiences.

Our music ministry led us into the deep mystery and joy of Christ’s birth through their gift of song. Thanks to all our musicians who lovingly put in many hours of rehearsal. A special shout out to the members of our Children’s Choir. I know how hard you worked on your songs for our pre-mass program. Great job! Our parish family is very proud of you.

Our parish property is all aglow this year, thanks to a group of parishioners who decorated our shrubs, and thanks to the donation of a crew of workers from the Cummings Foundation, owners of New Horizons, who dressed our trees in fine array.

The often unsung and unseen office and maintenance work in our parish is done by a very dedicated small group of people. While they do great work all year round, they are especially at their best during the weeks before Christmas. Thank you so much for keeping our parish running smoothly and looking great, especially during this whirlwind of a season!

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

FAITH FORMATION

Happy New Year to our Saint Matthias Community.
We wish you many blessings during 2018.

Faith Formation gatherings resume Sunday, January 21.



Loving God,

In the spirit of the Holy Family,
we ask for your blessing on all
families.

Let Mary's openness to your
wondrous ways be an inspiration
to place all trust in you.

Let Joseph's courage provide hope
during times of anxiety and
uncertainty.

Let Jesus' life ignite all families
with a spirit of light and love.

May the grace that encircled the
Holy Family widen to embrace all
families. For this we pray.

MASS, FAITH FORMATION, AND EVENTS WEATHER CANCELLATION POLICY

Information regarding cancellation of Mass, Faith Formation classes, and St. Matthias Parish Events will be published on the website's homepage. The voicemail message will also be changed to reflect any cancellations.

In addition, Faith Formation class cancellations will be reported on WBZ (Channel 4), WCVB (Channel 5) and NBC CW56 7 News (Channel 56).

During the week, the general rule is that if Marlborough Public Schools are closed the office will be closed and there will be no morning Mass. If there is a delayed opening the office will be open, but morning Mass will be cancelled.



EPIPHANY BRUNCH

**Sunday, January 7
at 11:00 a.m.
Parish Hall**

You are invited to join the St. Matthias Parish community on **Sunday, January 7, 2017 at 11 a.m.** for an **Epiphany Brunch**. Come enjoy a delicious meal and friendship with your fellow parishioners.

Donations of breakfast or brunch favorites are requested, such as French toast bake, quiches, freshly baked muffins, eggs, sliced ham or your favorite dish.

Help with the coordination is also needed. If you can help or would like to provide a donation of food, please call the parish office at 508-460-9255 or speak to Sue or Dale Dolesh.

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!

PARISH FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Due to the early submission of the bulletin, the financial report for the weekend collection of December 24 and 25 will be posted in next week's bulletin. Thank you.

GRAND ANNUAL

Goal	\$80,000	
Total Pledged		\$45,955
Total Received		\$38,445
Total to Reach Goal		\$34,045
Number of Families Pledged		86

PRAY FOR THE HEALING OF THE SICK



Please Pray For...

Richard Abraham, Joyce Belliveau, Boyle Family, Conor Canavan, Elisangela Cardoso, Peggy Cronin, Delia Cruz, Connie Cyr, Del Cyr, Rita Dennison, Clara Mae Dickerson, Grace Dowd, Doyle Family, Jack Duprey, Trevor Faulls, Colin Fawkes, Lee Ann Fital, John Gifford, Joe Gillis, Hannah Gluck, Philomena Hedin, Russ Hokanson, Cristina Janunas, Emma Johnson, Kathryn Keeler, Mary Martocci, Emma Larrivee, Maura McGuinness, Holly McIntyre, Kay McNeill, Roger Melenson, Michael Messom, Glenn Molloy, Theresa Morrill, Deborah Natoli, Jennifer Natoli, Theresa Perry, Jean Peltak, Michael Pilecki, Andy Rivers, Lois Schofield, Benjamin Smith, Edward Suzano, Andrew Tivnan, Ray Thomas, Trunfio Family, Jenny Weibel and Robert Vona.

ART AND ENVIRONMENT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

The Art and Environment Ministry is inviting you to join in the beautification of the church and its grounds. The Art and Environment group is responsible for planning and decorating the worship environment throughout the various seasons of the liturgical year. Not simply “flower arranging”, this committee plans the décor to make the church a warm and inviting place to encourage participation in the liturgy. The two major events of liturgical year – Triduum and Christmas – require planning months in advance. Feast days, November’s Month of Remembrance, Lent and Advent also require attention to detail.

Meetings take place monthly, and sometimes more frequently for major liturgical events. Set up for these special celebrations may take one or more days. If you have a creative streak (or wish to tap into that creative spirit buried deep inside), this is the group to join! Floral arranging and bow-making skills are welcome, but are not necessary. If you would like more information or to volunteer, please call the parish office.



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 labeled “Christmas Flowers” at the back of the church and in the pews, 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 WeShare please be sure to send the memorial information to the parish office. Thank you in advance for your generosity.



SAFETY AND HOUSEKEEPING

As we care about the safety of our families, please be sure that an adult family member accompanies your child (ren) to restrooms, other areas of the church, and throughout the Parish Hall.

Please silence your cell phones during mass so that everyone may enjoy the Eucharistic Celebration.

Thank you and have a Blessed Holiday Season