

Saint Matthias Parish

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Parish Leadership

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James Cannava, Maintenance

Joe Grimaldo, Co-Chair, Finance Council

Paul G. Coletti, Co-Chair, Finance Council

St. Vincent dePaul Society tel. no. 978-493-3037

Celebrations of the Eucharist

The Lord's Day

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 p.m.

Sunday: 10:00 a.m.

Liturgy of the Word for Children

Liturgy of the Word for Children is Celebrated at the
10:00 a.m. Mass on the 1st Sunday of the month
(October through April)

Weekday

Monday, Tuesday, and Friday: 9:00 a.m.

Holy Day

9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Mission Statement

To live out the message of Jesus Christ and become, in fact and appearance, a true Christian community.

Faith Formation

Faith formation is a lifelong process: an ongoing interaction with God's creative goodness. We allow the Gospel to transform us and then bring transformation to the world. The Faith Formation Program at St. Matthias Parish provides opportunities to grow as individuals and as a community. We offer classroom sessions for children, a comprehensive Confirmation program, intergenerational learning in a variety of formats, and an adult enrichment program. For more information, contact Theresa Salafia (tsalafia@stmattpar.org).

Community Prayer Line

Our prayer line, coordinated by Marie Mangan (978-562-2891), offers prayers for you, your loved ones and friends. Requests may also be placed in the "Prayer Request" box at the rear of the Church. All requests will be kept confidential.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Those who are not baptized or have been baptized into another Christian community and are interested in learning more about initiation into the Catholic faith are invited to speak with Theresa Salafia (tsalafia@stmattpar.org).

Infant Baptism

Our parish celebrates the sacrament of Baptism for infants and children under the age of 7 at regularly scheduled Sunday Masses. Please call Deacon Doug at any time during pregnancy or at least two months in advance for information on baptismal catechesis and the choosing of godparents.

Adult Confirmation

Adults desiring to complete their Christian Initiation with the sacrament of Confirmation are encouraged to contact Fr. Fran

Reconciliation

This sacrament of God's infinite forgiveness, also known as Penance and Confession, is celebrated on Saturdays at 3:15PM or by appointment with Fr. Fran. Communal celebrations of the sacrament occur during Advent and Lent.

Anointing of the Sick

The Church encourages all who are ill, about to undergo surgery, or confined to their homes due to illness to be prayed over and anointed with sacred oil. This can take place at a parish Mass, in the home or in the hospital. Please speak with Fr. Fran for more details.

Marriage

Congratulations to engaged couples! Please contact Fr. Fran eight months to a year before your wedding to plan a program of marriage preparation.

Welcome New Parishioners!

We invite you to share in our life as a Eucharistic Community. Please complete a registration card found at the church entrances or register at the parish office. We look forward to welcoming you to our parish community.

St. Matthias Parish

INTENTIONS OF THE EUCHARIST

Saturday, March 30 — 4:00 p.m.

Carl Dahlquist — Memorial

Sunday, March 31 — 10:00 a.m.

Edward Surprenant
1st Anniversary Memorial

Monday, April 1 — 9:00 a.m.

Fr. Ray Goulet — Memorial

Tuesday, April 2 — 9:00 a.m.

Paul Goulet — Memorial

Friday, April 5 — 9:00 a.m.

Paul Goulet — Memorial

Saturday, April 6 — 4:00 p.m.

Ernest and Albina Mauro
Ernest A. Mauro — Memorial

Sunday, April 7 — 10:00 a.m.

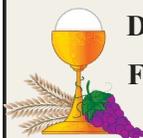
Maureen O'Connell
9th Anniversary Memorial

Weekday Masses for the Week of March 31

Monday, Tuesday and Friday
9:00 a.m. in the

Downstairs Conference Room Chapel

For Mass updates, please check the website
and voice message
on the Parish Office phone.



Office Hours for the Week of March 31

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday

9:00 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.

Wednesday

9:00 a.m. — 12:00 p.m.

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Readings for the Fifth Sunday of Lent
April 6 and 7

Ezekiel 37:12-14; Romans 8:8-11; John 11:1-45

CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST WORSHIP BOOKLET

The Worship Aid for the Lenten Season 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, March 30

- **Celebration of the Eucharist**
Church, 4:00 p.m.
- **Knights of Columbus—Informational Session**
Church entrances following Mass

Sunday, March 31

- **Faith Formation Grades 1 through 5**
Parish Hall / Classrooms, 8:30 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.
- **Celebration of the Eucharist**
Church, 10:00 a.m.
- **Coffee Social**
Parish Hall, following Mass
- **Knights of Columbus—Informational Session**
Church entrances following Mass
- **Faith Formation Grade 10**
Mass followed by Meeting till 12:00 Noon
- **Faith Formation Grades 6 through 8**
Parish Hall, 6:00 to 7:15 p.m.

Monday, April 1

- **St. Vincent dePaul Society—Informational Session**
Downstairs Conference Room, 7:00 p.m.
- **Finance Council Meeting**
Upstairs Conference Room, 7:15 p.m.

Wednesday, April 3

- **Rosary Recitation**
Church, 6:00 p.m.
- **Shawl Ministry**
Downstairs Conference Room, 6:45 p.m.

Thursday, April 4

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

Saturday, April 6

- **Celebration of the Eucharist**
Church, 4:00 p.m.
- **Saturday Lectors' Rehearsal for Palm Sunday**
Church, following Mass

Sunday, April 7

- **Faith Formation Grades 1 through 5**
Parish Hall / Classrooms, 8:30 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.
- **Celebration of the Eucharist with
Liturgy of the Word for Children**
Church, 10:00 a.m.
- **Coffee Social**
Parish Hall, following Mass
- **St. Vincent dePaul Society Meeting**
Parish Hall, following Mass
- **Palm Sunday—Processional Rehearsal**
Church, following Mass
- **Sunday Lectors' Rehearsal for Palm Sunday**
Church, 12:00 Noon
- **Faith Formation Grade 9**
Mass followed by Meeting till 12:00 Noon

FROM FR. FRAN

The Paschal Triduum:

Holy Thursday, Good Friday and The Easter Vigil

The holiest days of our church year are approaching. We call them the Paschal Triduum. Paschal refers to the death and resurrection of Jesus, and Triduum means three. What we celebrate is a three day feast, a season unto itself to recall the last hours of Jesus' earthly life and his passing over into the glory of resurrection.

This three day event begins with Holy Thursday, when we celebrate the Last Supper and Jesus' command to serve others as he has served. It continues with Good Friday's celebration of the cross of Christ as our victory over the powers of sin and death. We move from this mediation into a yearly rebirth of the church during the Easter Vigil where we gather at the Easter fire and declare Christ as our light, and enter a darkened church with the solitary light of the Paschal Candle leading the way. As we light our own candles from this new flame, we become one with our ancestors in faith as we listen to the biblical passages that have shaped us as God's own beloved ones. Then, as our Alleluias ring out, we recommit ourselves to our baptismal promise to love and serve God by loving and serving one another.

The three day festival concludes at St. Matthias on Easter Sunday morning, when we declare Christ is risen and begin to celebrate the Easter Season which will last for fifty days, culminating in the Feast of Pentecost, when we invoke the power of the Holy Spirit to help us live the message of Easter every day of our lives.

I know that in our busy world it is hard to carve out the kind of time that participation in the Triduum entails. Yet, if we see this time as a kind of retreat and renewal to help us navigate the ups and downs of life, then carving out the time to participate is truly worth the effort. God is inviting each one of us into a possibly life-changing event. Will you take up the call and the challenge to set aside a few hours to gather with our parish family in this annual celebration of renewal?

In order to help us celebrate the Paschal Triduum well, we have a great booklet available at the doors of the church called "**What Am I Doing For Triduum This Year**". It serves as an easy to follow guide to all the rituals and, more importantly, it serves as a reflection booklet so that you can truly make the time of Triduum a time of retreat and renewal. I encourage every parishioner to take home a copy and plan now to join in the celebrations of the Paschal Triduum, April 18-21.

PARISH FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Weekly Financials for March 23 and 24
Weekly Goal \$4,000.00

Offertory Collection	\$3,405.05
A \$594.95 deficit to the weekly goal.	
Of that amount WeShare donations	\$1,660.88
Parochial Schools Collection	\$ 822.00
Parishioners celebrating Mass	358

February 2019 Financial Review

Parish Income:	\$38,088.45*
Parish Expenses:	\$27,184.60
February Net Income:	\$10,903.85

*This income total reflects donations to the Grand Annual of \$17,205.00 which are not typical month to month.

Special Collections for April

Parish Maintenance	April 13 and 14
Holy Land Shrines—Good Friday	April 19
Easter Clergy Health and Retirement Trust	April 21
St. Vincent dePaul Society Collection	April 27 and 28

CATHOLIC APPEAL 2019
LIVING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

As of March 25 contributions from the St. Matthias Parish community total: **\$10,735** towards the **goal of \$22,689**. One program that relies on our support is **The Permanent Diaconate program**. This program provides the formation for more than 160 deacons working with our priests to serve our parishes. This annual fund provides nearly half of the funding for many life-changing programs within the Archdiocese of Boston. Please consider a pledge today.

For more information or to donate visit bostoncatholicappeal.org.

Easter Vigil Service and Reception Volunteers

Volunteers are needed for the Easter Vigil Service on Saturday evening April 20. Please contact Jared Auclair for more information at jared.auclair@gmail.com.

Additionally, help is needed for the reception in the parish hall following the Easter Vigil. Finger foods, cheese and crackers, your favorite snacks or baked goods would be greatly appreciated. We could also use help with set-up and clean-up. Many hands make light work! If you are able to help out in any way please contact Denise Wade at neicy1960@hotmail.com or call 781-640-2334.

FAITH FORMATION

Faith Formation meetings for **Sunday, March 31** are:

- Grades 1 through 5 8:30 - 9:45 a.m.
- Grade 10 10:00 - Mass followed by meeting until noon in the classrooms.
- Grades 6 through 8 6:00 - 7:15 p.m.
- Grade 9: **No Meeting**

Faith formation schedule for **Sunday, April 7:**

- Grades 1 through 5 8:30 - 9:45 a.m.
- Grade 9 10:00 - Mass followed by meeting until noon in the classrooms
- Grades 6 through 8 and Grade 10: **No Meeting**



**St. Vincent DePaul
Informational Meeting Rescheduled Date
April 1, 2019 – 7:00 p.m.**

The St. Matthias St. Vincent de Paul conference informational meeting has been rescheduled for **Monday, April 1, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the downstairs conference room**. We invite you to attend this meeting to learn more about our conference and the ways we dedicate our time and talent to the Marlborough community.

If you are interested in learning more but are unable to attend this meeting, please email Dale or Sue Dolesh at daledolesh@gmail.com.

**PRAY FOR THE
HEALING OF THE SICK**

Please Pray For...



Richard Abraham, Conor Canavan, Carol Chatalian, Joseph Cox, Adelbert Cyr, The Del Raso Family, Rita Dennison, Dale Dolesh, W. Joseph Doyle, Kent Dudley, Stella Fettig, David Giugno, Hannah Gluck, Thomas Gluck, Russ Hokanson, Emma Johnston, Fr. Mike MacEwen, Dave Mackenzie, Kay McNeill, Mike Mauro, Maura McGuinness, Judy McManus, Michael Messom, Betty Montgomery, Theresa Morrill, Deborah Natoli, Jennifer Natoli, Mary and Bob O'Connor, Johnny Pellrine, Jean Peltak, Salvatore Ponterella, Andy Rivers, Joan Russo, Kathleen Shine, Andrew Tivnan, Pedro Torres, Trunfio Family, Ronald Vaudreuil, Phil Verdino and Jenny Weibel.

Please let the office know if you would like our parish to pray for the health and support of your loved ones.



Knights of Columbus Council 81

The weekend of **March 30 and 31** the members of the Knights of Columbus will be having a recruitment drive. Members of Council 81 will be available after both masses that weekend to answer questions and give out information. They will be available in the vestibule and downstairs.

The Knights of Columbus is a catholic men's organization started in 1882 which supports the Church in its efforts to help the poor, the needy and the mentally impaired. Eunice Shriver, the late founder of the Special Olympics, stated " I don't think any organization in the country has given as much personal help and support as the Knights since we started." The late Pope John Paul II called us " the strong right arm of the Church ." The following are a few recently completed projects:

- The Knights assisted a physically disabled person in having a wheelchair ramp installed at their home.
- Collected and donated 24 winter coats for area children in need.
- Our members, along with a Northborough Knights council, prepared and celebrated a party for children at the Worcester State Hospital.

Do you think the Holy Spirit is calling you to draw on your faith to help others, get more involved in your community or want to join a group that supports our neighbors? Please take a few minutes to talk with a Knights of Columbus representative after Mass and learn how you can put your faith into action.

**CANCELED
LENTEN SIMPLE SUPPER**

Please note that the Lenten Simple Supper previously scheduled for April 5 is canceled.

2019 GRAND ANNUAL COLLECTION

Thank you for helping to make our Parish financially stable by achieving our annual goal.

Our numbers to date:

Grand Annual Goal	\$80,000
Total Pledged	\$48,840
Total Received	\$42,880
Total to Reach Goal	\$31,160
Number of Families Pledged	99

To make your pledge or contribution, envelopes are located at the church entrance. You may also visit our website to give on-line through our WeShare program. Thank you for your monetary donation and more importantly, your prayers for our parish community.

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

Reflection by Deacon Doug Peltak

We all refer to it as Palm Sunday but its proper title is Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion. It is the beginning of Holy Week when we reverently enter into the experience of who we have become through Christ's paschal mystery. To do so as authentically as possible requires the right attitude of faith and devotion.

At the principal Mass (10:00 a.m. here at St. Matthias) we begin out in front of the church with the blessing of branches of palms. The palm branch is a symbol of victory, triumph, peace and eternal life, originating in the ancient Near East and Mediterranean world. After the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem we begin our festive procession around and into the church. Doing so we recall how the crowd placed their clothes and palm branches in the path of Jesus as a way of acknowledging him as someone worthy of the highest honor, in this case a Messiah. Our procession is a parade-like atmosphere where we wave our palm branches and banners and joyfully sing our hosannas expressing our adoration and praise for Jesus who we have come to know intimately as the savior of the world. In our own lives, however, we are a fickle people, a people often swayed by crowds. The festive mood is to change in a few short days, for this joyful entrance into Jerusalem is to accomplish his paschal mystery. There are those of religious and political means, who will set in motion shouts of crucifixion.

Arriving into the church the Liturgy of the Word begins with the opening prayer and then we reverently listen to the Prophet Isaiah speak of the suffering servant faithful to God in the face of evil. In our second reading we hear how Jesus emptied himself to embrace human likeness and was obedient to God even to a shameful death. The moving and powerful proclamation of the gospel of the passion of Jesus, read in parts and interspersed with music and song is read from the gospel of Luke and shows us a Jesus who does not meet violence with violence and conquers hate with love. A Jesus, who exhibits compassion even as he is nailed to the cross and forgives the thief who is crucified along with him, with the promise of paradise.

This, of course, leads us to the liturgy of the Eucharist where as we come to the Lord's table to be nourished by his body and blood, we are better prepared to go forth to celebrate all this week means to us. In the publication called *Living Liturgy*, which helps those in ministry prepare to celebrate, we read, "We will not exhaust this story. It will exhaust us, and we shall return to it to gain insight, understanding and strength." May we joyfully and willingly spend the effort to do so.

