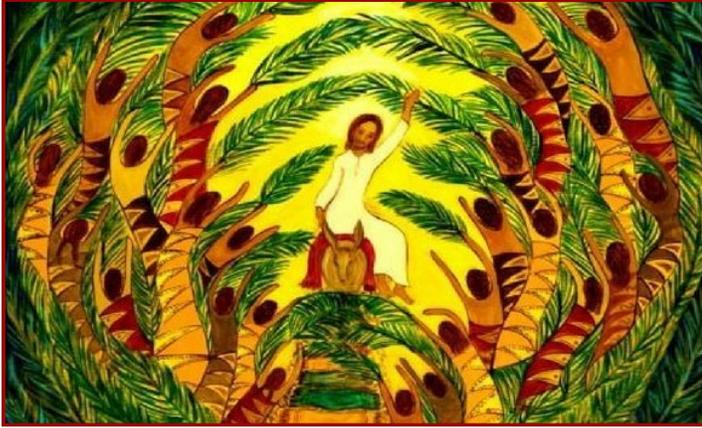


# Saint Matthias Parish

409 Hemenway Street  
Marlborough, MA 01752

Phone: 508-460-9255

Fax: 508-480-8801



## Parish Leadership

Francis P. O'Brien, Pastor

frobrien@stmattpar.org

Doug Peltak, Deacon

dcpeltak@stmattpar.org

Paul G. Coletti, Deacon

dncoletti@stmattpar.org

Theresa Salafia, Faith Formation Director

tsalafia@stmattpar.org

Judy McManus, Director of Music Ministry, Emerita

jmsweetums@aol.com

Joyce Belliveau, Choir Director

jbbelle@comcast.net

Diane Balinski, Office Manager

dbalinski@stmattpar.org

April Lowe, Communications Administrator/Receptionist

alowe@stmattpar.org

Darleen Doona, Bookkeeper

ddoona@stmattpar.org

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, April 13 — 4:00 p.m.**

Susan DiAngelo  
Memorial

**Sunday, April 14 — 10:00 a.m.**

Joseph Frane and Betty Montgomery  
Memorial

**Thursday, April 18 — 7:00 p.m.**

Sue Dolesh and Family  
Birthday Intention

**Saturday, April 20 — 8:30 p.m.**

Grace and Frank O'Brien  
Memorial

**Sunday, April 21— 9:00 a.m.**

Bob Sears  
6th Anniversary Memorial

**Sunday, April 21— 11:00 a.m.**

Marian Cox, Brendan Cox and Martin Cox  
Memorial

**NO 4:00 PM SATURDAY MASS—APRIL 20**  
**Please attend Saturday Easter Vigil Mass 8:30 p.m.**

## Weekday Masses for the Week of April 14

**Monday and Tuesday**  
**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 April 14

**Tuesday and Thursday**

9:00 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.

**Wednesday**

9:00 a.m. — 12:00 p.m.

**Parish Office will be closed**

**Monday, April 15**

**In Observance of Patriots' Day**



## **CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST WORSHIP BOOKLET**

The Worship Aid for the Palm Sunday Mass will be distributed at the entrances. This booklet contains Mass responses as well as our musical selections. Lift your voices in celebration.

After use, please return the booklet to the basket located at the church entrances. *Thank You.*

## THIS WEEK AT ST. MATTHIAS

**Saturday, April 13**

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

**Sunday, April 14—Palm Sunday**

- **Celebration of the Eucharist with Palm Sunday Procession**  
Church, 10:00 a.m.
- **Coffee Social**  
Parish Hall, following Mass
- **Marlborough Community Cupboard**  
Collection Bins at Church Entrances

**Monday, April 15**

- **Parish Office Closed**  
Observance of Patriots' Day

**Tuesday, April 16**

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

**Wednesday, April 17**

- **Rosary Recitation**  
Church, 6:00 p.m.
- **Shawl Ministry**  
Downstairs Conference Room, 6:45 p.m.
- **St. Vincent dePaul Society Meeting**  
Parish Hall, 7:00 p.m.

**Thursday, April 18 — Holy Thursday**

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

**Friday, April 19 — Good Friday**

- **Stations of the Cross**  
Church, 3:00 p.m.
- **Good Friday Liturgy — Veneration of the Cross**  
Church, 7:00 p.m.

**Saturday, April 20 — Easter Vigil**

- **Celebration of the Eucharist—Easter Vigil**  
Church, 8:30 p.m.
- **Easter Vigil Reception**  
Parish Hall following Mass

**Sunday, April 21 — Easter Sunday**

- **Celebration of the Eucharist**  
Church, 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
- **Easter Sunday Reception**  
Parish Hall, following the 9:00 a.m. Mass

## **EASTER VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY**

Looking for an opportunity to assist with the Easter celebration? The candle holders for the vigil are being prepared in the **Flower Resource Room, Tuesday, April 16 at 9:30 a.m. Join us.**

## FROM FR. FRAN

**The Holiest Days 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 weren'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 all 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 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, it's not surprising that we see old prejudices and hatreds rearing their heads once more. Acts of Anti-Semitism are increasing alarmingly in our country. Just last month, dozens of graves at a Jewish cemetery in Fall River were desecrated with anti-Semitic graffiti. As Catholic Christians we need to do whatever we can to support our sisters and brothers of all faiths and to root out any hate that people might justify by an incorrect interpretation of the scriptures.

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 his 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.

**CLERGY HEALTH AND RETIREMENT TRUST**

From offering First Communion and daily Eucharist to blessing our marriages or our loved ones as they are called home to God, our priests in good standing, especially our senior priests, have always answered our calls. Like us, they are troubled by the current events taking place in the church, yet they are still here for us. **Help us care for the health and well-being of our senior priests in good standing by graciously supporting them in our annual Easter collection next week.**

*Funds from this special collection are managed by the Clergy Health and Retirement Trust—an independently managed trust with a majority lay board of trustees. The funds are used for the sole benefit of active and senior priests in good standing.*

**FAITH FORMATION**

Faith Formations gatherings are complete for this school year. Registration information for the 2019-2020 year will be forthcoming in June. Much gratitude goes to the many catechists who have given personal time to help families in their journey of faith with their children.

Thank you for keeping the children in your prayers.

**May 5 and May 19** our 2nd grade children will receive First Eucharist.

Please remember them and their families as they prepare for this sacrament.

**Sunday, May 19** Confirmation candidates will be honored at a Recognition Dinner at 6:00 p.m. in the parish hall. Joining the St. Matthias parish reception are the members of St. Michael's Parish candidates and their sponsors. Congratulations to all Confirmation candidates.

**EASTER FLOWERS**

The joy of Easter begins next weekend; a time of beauty and reflection on the incredible sacrifice Christ made for us. A small part of that Easter joy is the beautiful arrangements of flowers adorning the church. The floral displays last throughout the 50 days of the Easter season. You may help offset the cost of the flowers with an Easter flower donation. Your contribution may be made in honor of a deceased loved one or other special intention. Envelopes may be found at the church entrances. Simply place your contribution in the envelope, put your name and the names of those you wish to honor on it and drop it in the collection basket. Contributions may also be made on-line through WeShare. All contributions are greatly appreciated.



**PRAY FOR THE HEALING OF THE SICK**

*Please Pray For...*



*Richard Abraham, Conor Canavan, Carol Chatalian, Joseph Cox, Adelbert Cyr, The Del Raso Family, 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, 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.**

**Easter Vigil Reception and Coffee Social**

There will be a reception in the parish hall following the Easter Vigil and an Easter Coffee Social on Sunday following the 9 AM mass. We welcome our parish family as well as the many visitors who will be joining us. Please consider helping with contributions to the Easter Vigil reception with items such as finger foods, cheese and crackers, your favorite snacks or baked goods. For the Easter morning Coffee Social breakfast items, baked goods or fruit would be most welcome. Assistance with set-up and clean-up is needed as well.

If you are able to help with the Easter Vigil, please contact Denise Wade at [neicy1960@hotmail.com](mailto:neicy1960@hotmail.com) or 781-640-2334; or for the Easter Coffee Social contact Leslie Gannon at [lsgannon@hotmail.com](mailto:lsgannon@hotmail.com) or 978-562-3766. Thank you!

**NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURE READINGS**

Readings for Easter Sunday

April 21

Acts of the Apostles 10:34a, 37-43, Colossians 3:1-4  
John 20:1-9

**Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Rice Bowls Collection on Holy Thursday**

Rice Bowls may be *placed in the Catholic Relief Services collection box at the main entrance on Holy Thursday*. During the offertory, you will be invited to bring gifts of food to the altar for the Marlborough community cupboard.

**PARISH FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP**

**Weekly Financials for April 6 and April 7**  
**Weekly Goal \$4,000.00**

<b>Offertory Collection</b>	\$3,828.05
A <b>\$171.95</b> deficit to the weekly goal.	
Of that amount WeShare donations	\$ 435.55
Parishioners celebrating Mass	334

**Special Collections for April**

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

**2019 GRAND ANNUAL COLLECTION**

<b>Grand Annual Goal</b>	<b>\$80,000</b>
Total Pledged	\$49,040
Total Received	\$44,430
Total to Reach Goal	\$30,960
Number of Families Pledged	100

## Good Friday Catechesis by Fr. Francis O'Brien, Pastor

The liturgy of Good Friday is one of the most unique and solemn of the church year. It consists of three parts, The Liturgy of the Word, The Veneration of the Cross and the Rite of Communion. The celebration has its origins in 4<sup>th</sup> century Jerusalem, where, early in the morning on Good Friday, people gathered at Golgotha, believed to be the place of the crucifixion of Christ. They brought with them a reliquary which they believed contained a part of the true cross. A deacon would hold the reliquary while the people approached to venerate it. Later in the day, from 12 noon until 3 PM, the people gathered for a scripture service during which the passion was read along with prayers and psalms.

Travelers from Europe who witnessed these rituals brought them back home. They made their way to Rome, and by the 17<sup>th</sup> century they were developed into the order of the Good Friday service we have now. However, over the centuries, the full rituals of Good Friday and the Paschal Triduum fell out of use or became minimalized until 1955, when Pope Pius XII restored them.

The liturgies of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil are seen as three movements in one celebration. That is why the Good Friday service does not begin with a song or a communal prayer or even the sign of the cross. It is seen as the continuation of the liturgy begun on Holy Thursday evening. The Good Friday liturgy begins instead with an act of humility. The priests and deacons prostrate themselves before the altar as the assembly kneels in silent prayer. Then, without the usual introduction of "let us pray", the priest chants a prayer.

The Liturgy of the Word proceeds as it does at a celebration of the Mass. The gospel for the day is always St. John's account of the passion. The General Intercessions, or Prayer of the Faithful, are unique on this day in that the church gives us ten specific prayers which include petitions for the church, the world, those who believe, and those who do not.

Next comes one of the most unique rituals in our church year, the showing and veneration of the cross. This ritual comes directly down to us from the ritual at Jerusalem explained above. Each person is invited to honor the cross with a kiss, a bow, a genuflection or another sign of reverence. In what is perhaps the greatest paradox of our faith, we honor the instrument of Jesus death, knowing that his death upon the cross brought about the conquering of all death through resurrection, of which we all have a share.

The service closes rather quietly with the distribution of communion which was consecrated at the Holy Thursday Mass. We then dismiss in silence.

When we participate in the liturgy of Good Friday we are uniting ourselves with our sisters and brothers in the faith who, down through the centuries, paused on one day out of the year to reflect deeply upon the self-giving nature of our God. Namely, that the man Jesus who was falsely accused, convicted, and executed is both fully human and fully divine.