

# Saint Matthias Parish

409 Hemenway Street

Marlborough, MA 01752

Phone: 508-460-9255 Fax: 508-480-8801



## Parish Leadership

Francis P. O'Brien, Pastor

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Doug Peltak, Deacon

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Paul G. Coletti, Deacon

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Russ Morey, Deacon

Theresa Salafia, Faith Formation Director

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Judy McManus, Director of Music Ministry, Emerita

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Darleen Doona, Bookkeeper

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Sinara Silva, 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., Downstairs Chapel

### Holy Day

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

### Easter Sunday

9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.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, January 25 — 4:00 p.m.**

Christie Rembetsy — Memorial

**Sunday, January 26 — 10:00 a.m.**

St. Matthias Parish Community

**Saturday, February 1 — 4:00 p.m.**

Leonard Weibel — Memorial

**Sunday, February 2 — 10:00 a.m.**

Jean Peltak — Memorial

## THIS WEEK AT ST. MATTHIAS

**Saturday, January 25**

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

**Sunday, January 26**

- **Faith Formation Grades 1 through 5**  
Classrooms, 8:30 to 9:45 a.m.
- **Celebration of the Eucharist**  
Church, 10:00 a.m.
- **Faith Formation Grades 9 and 10**  
Mass 10:00 a.m./Downstairs Conf. Rm. 11:15 to Noon
- **Coffee Social**  
Parish Hall, following the 10:00 a.m. Mass
- **Faith Formation Grades 6 through 8**  
Parish Hall, 6:00 p.m. — 7:15 p.m.

**Wednesday, January 29**

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

**Thursday, January 30**

- **Choir Rehearsal**  
Church, 7:00 p.m.
- **Bereavement Group Meeting**  
Downstairs Conference Room, 7:00 p.m.

**Saturday, February 1**

- **Celebration of the Eucharist**  
Church, 4:00 p.m.
- **Faith Formation—Confirmation 1 (Grade 9) Retreat**  
Parish Hall, 9:00 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.

**Sunday, February 2**

- **Faith Formation Grades 1 through 5**  
Classrooms, 8:30 to 9:45 a.m.
- **Celebration of the Eucharist with Liturgy of the Word For Children**  
Church, 10:00 a.m.
- **Faith Formation Grade 10**  
Mass 10:00 a.m./Downstairs Conf. Rm. 11:15 to Noon
- **Coffee Social**  
Parish Hall, following the 10:00 a.m. Mass
- **St. Vincent dePaul Meeting**  
Parish Hall, during the Coffee Social

## Office Hours for the Week of January 26

**Monday, Tuesday and Thursday**

**9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.**



## NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Readings for Presentation of the Lord  
February 1 and 2

*First Reading:* Malachi 3:1-4

*Second Reading:* Hebrews 2:14-18

*Gospel:* Luke 2:22-40



## Weekday Masses for the Week of January 26

**Monday, Tuesday and Friday**

**9:00 a.m. in the**

**Downstairs Conference Room Chapel**

**For Mass updates, please check the website  
and voice message**



## **MASS, FAITH FORMATION, AND EVENTS WEATHER CANCELLATION POLICY**

Weather related cancellation of Mass, Faith Formation classes, and St. Matthias Parish Events are found on the website's homepage ([www.stmattpar.org](http://www.stmattpar.org)). The Parish Office voicemail message will provide updated information. Faith Formation class cancellations will be reported on WBZ (Channel 4), WCVB (Channel 5) and NBC CW56 7 News (Channel 56) as well as WBZ (1030) or WRKO (608) AM radio.

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

## **MUSIC FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST**

The Worship Booklet for Ordinary Time is located in the book rack in the pews. This booklet contains Mass responses as well as our musical selections. At the end of Mass, please return the booklet to the book rack.

FROM FATHER FRAN

Last weekend, as I was scrolling through the many articles and quotes on-line celebrating the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. , I came across an article that stunned me. The story, which I don't recall hearing about at the time, related the events of a Sunday morning in 1974, during a church service at Atlanta's Ebenezer Baptist Church, where Martin Luther King Sr. was pastor and his wife Alberta was organist.

As Mrs. King began playing the Lord's Prayer, and as the congregation of 500 began lifting their voices in song, a young man jumped up from a pew and yelled: "I'm taking over here....I'm tired of all this." The man then drew two pistols and for 90 seconds fired into the congregation. He was wrestled to the ground as he tried to reload, but not before wounding an elderly woman and killing a church deacon and Alberta King. The killer later claimed that his intended target was King Sr., but Alberta King was closer.

The killer's lawyer issued a plea of insanity. Nevertheless, the man was convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to death. The sentence was upheld on appeal but, through the advocacy of Alberta King's family, it was reduced to life in prison. The man died in prison at the age of 44 from complications due to a stroke.

As we celebrate January as Respect for Life Month in the Catholic Church, the tragedy of Alberta King and her family bears witness to the burden and the cost of respect for life. This family, already marked with unbearable pain from gun violence, advocated that a killer's life should not be taken. What an amazing example of discipleship in Christ.

The King family's advocacy is, of course, in line with our Catholic teaching against the death penalty. It is a reminder that respect for life is respect for the *whole of life*, from beginning to end, regardless of how well a life is lived or how despicable an act may be.

We often hear impassioned pleas for the safety of life in the womb - as we should. (See Cardinal Sean's letter elsewhere in this bulletin). However, there are many other respect for life issues that often get overlooked or just plain ignored. A glance at the headlines any day of the week will open up a plethora of these issues.

Immigration and safety for refugees is a respect for life issue. The effects humans have on the warming of our planet is a respect for life issue. Violence against women is a respect for life issue. Sexual exploitation and abuse is a respect for life issue. Racism in all its forms is a respect for life issue. Responsible gun ownership is a respect for life issue. Name calling, bullying, and tearing people down is a respect for life issue. In short, if it deals with humanity and life on this planet, then it is a respect for life issue.

This might be a good time to do some soul searching and gospel reading as we reflect upon respect for life issues. This exercise is crucial in an election year, when we as Catholics are obliged to cast our vote from within our faith life and with an informed conscience.

This means researching issues and candidates well. If we make our decisions by listening to sound bites or cable news alone, we risk not understanding the true parameters of an issue, or the whole of a candidate's platform. This is not an easy task in an era when it's often quite difficult to discern the truth through all the noise.

After we've done our "civic" research, it's time to bring what we find to the gospels and Catholic teaching. The big question: How does this candidate or this issue align with Christ's message of love and compassion? As Baptized Christians this question is not an option, it is an obligation.

After spending some time with the scriptures and researching church teaching, it's time to take a personal inventory. The big question here is: are my attitudes and beliefs shaped more by my faith, or more by my personal preferences, prejudices, and the mentality of the crowd?

If we are honest, we will find that some of what we believe in as individuals is not compatible with how Christ is calling us to live as disciples. Once we locate that dissonance, then it's time for prayer, and maybe lots of it!

And here's the biggest question of all: Are we fearless and trusting enough to allow the Holy Spirit to change our hearts, minds, and actions, so that what we do at the ballot box will align, as much as possible, with Christ's message of love?

**Weekly Financials—Weekly Goal: \$4,000**

<b>Offertory Collection - January 18 and 19</b>	\$2,988.05
Of that amount WeShare donations	\$1,164.55

**Deficit to meet weekly goal: \$ 1,011.95**

Parishioners celebrating Mass January 18 and 19 256



**Special Collection—Church in Latin America**

This week's special collection supports the Church in Latin America (CLA). The CLA provides support for pastoral projects in financially poorer dioceses in Latin America and the Caribbean. CLA funds catechetical and lay leadership programs, youth ministry, evangelization programs, and formation programs for religious, priests, and deacons. CLA is making it possible for the Catholic faithful in the Western hemisphere to help each other. Please visit [www.usccb.org/catholic-giving/opportunities-for-giving/latin-america/index.cfm](http://www.usccb.org/catholic-giving/opportunities-for-giving/latin-america/index.cfm) for more information.



January 26, 2020

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

### FAITH FORMATION

Welcome Faith Formation families and catechists to the beginning of Session II and our journey of faith in 2020.

#### Gatherings for Sunday, January 26, 2020

**Grades 1 through 5** 8:30 – 9:45 a.m.

#### Confirmation I and II (Grade 9 and Grade 10)

Participants in these grades will attend 10:00 a.m. mass followed by coffee social and meeting until noon.

**Grades 6-8** 6:00 – 7:15p.m.

**Saturday, February 1 St. Matthias Confirmation I** (Grade 9) members will participate in a retreat with St. Michael's Grade 9 Confirmation members.

This retreat will be facilitated by Justin Richardson from LaSalette Attleboro, MA. Time: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. and will be held in St. Matthias parish hall.

#### Faith Formation Classes Super Bowl Sunday — February 2

**Grades 1 through 5** 8:30 – 9:45 a.m.

#### Confirmation II (Grade 10)

Participants in these grades will attend 10:00 a.m. mass followed by coffee social and meeting until noon.

**No evening classes** — Grade 6 through 8



### PRAY FOR THE HEALING OF THE SICK



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

*Richard Abraham, Donna Anastas, Conor Canavan, William Connors, Carol Chatalian, Danielle and Melissa Chiasson, Steven Chiasson, Joseph Cox, Adelbert Cyr, Kent Dudley, Stella Fettig, Jason Fournier, David Giugno, Russ Hokanson, Emma Johnston, Alice Kimball, Daniel Lopes, Fr. Mike MacEwen, Dave Mackenzie, Doreen Martin, Pat McNeil, Patrick Mauro, Maura McGuinness, Judy McManus, Michael Messom, Theresa Morrill, Deborah Natoli, Jennifer Natoli, Mary and Bob O'Connor, Johnny Pellrine, Theresa Perry, Kathleen Shine, Andrew Tivnan, Pedro Torres, Trunfio Family, Ronald Vaudreuil, Vanessa Viega, AnnMarie Walters, Paul and Jenny Weibel, and Bobby Whelan*

**Contact the Parish office 508-460-9255 or email admin to add a loved one to the Prayer List.**

### END OF YEAR DONATION STATEMENTS



As another year comes to an end, we review our finances and look toward tax season! If you would like a copy of your end of year donation statement, please call or email April Lowe at 508-460-9255/alowe@stmattpar.org. Statements will not be automatically sent out to parishioners, but will be sent out upon request only. For those who donate to the parish through WeShare, you should receive a year-end report from WeShare, but you may also request a report from St. Matthias as that information is included in our parish database.

Thank you for your generous contributions to support St. Matthias in 2019.

### COLD AND FLU SEASON

During this year's flu and cold season, please consider staying at home until you are symptom free.

If you *do* come to Mass while under the weather, you are asked to refrain from taking the precious blood at communion time. A simple bow of reverence to the cup as you pass by it would be very appropriate. Also, during the Sign of Peace, a reverent bow, or the simple phrase "peace be with you" will convey our sharing in Christ's peace



*The Following is the text of the letter Cardinal Seán P. O'Malley urging Catholics to contact their legislators in opposition to the ROE Act.*

As we proceed with the New Year in the life of the Church allow me this opportunity to bring to your attention two very serious and deeply troubling legislative bills being considered by the Joint Committee on the Judiciary at the Massachusetts State House.

If enacted into law these proposals would significantly expand abortion access in Massachusetts beyond what is currently permitted. The proposed legislation goes far beyond the Roe v. Wade decision of the Supreme Court. I urge you to learn about the specific details of the proposals by way of information provided online at [bit.ly/ROEmessage](http://bit.ly/ROEmessage).

With your help and the help of your family, friends and neighbors, we must make every effort to ensure that these bills do not become law in Massachusetts. Your voice and the voices of all opposed to unprecedented expansion of abortion will make a difference. It is of critical importance that the women and men who represent us in the Legislature know where we stand on the protection of life.

- Cardinal Seán P. O'Malley, OFM Cap. Is Archbishop of Boston

## 2020 GRAND ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

Thank you to everyone who has pledged or given to the 2020 Grand Annual Campaign. As of January 5 our Grand Annual numbers are:

100%	<b>Grand Annual Goal</b>	<b>\$65,000</b>
90%	Total Received	\$61,125
80%	Total to Reach Goal	\$ 3,875
70%	Families	108

To make your contribution, envelopes are located at the church entrance. You may also give on-line through our WeShare program. Thank you for your support of the parish community.

### Adult Formation Series Session

**Saturday, February 8**

**following 4:00 p.m. Mass—Parish Hall**

Adult Faith Formation Series Part II Saturday, February 8 following 4:00 p.m. mass The focus of this presentation, led by Dr. Richard Pulice, will be “The Informed Vote”. As Catholic Christians this is an important topic as we move through the 2020 election year. There will be a light collation prior to Richard’s presentation.

### IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Immaculate Conception Parish School will be having two Open Houses in February! Please, join us if you are interested in a Catholic education for your children and to learn more about what we have to offer. We invite you to come to our morning **Open House on February 5th 7-10 AM** or our evening **Open House on February 11th 6-8 PM**. For more information, please call 508-460-3400 and speak to our Enrollment Coordinator, Ms. Teo.

### HIGHLIGHTED MINISTRY OF THE WEEK St. Matthias Choir



The **Parish Choir** is always looking for new members to bring joy to the weekly masses. If you have a love of music, a love for singing, or play an instrument, come take part in a Thursday rehearsal session beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the church. We welcome interested singers from high school age and beyond to join us. Additional rehearsals are held for Christmas and Easter masses.

The Choir Director, Joyce Belleveau is available after each mass if you have any questions regarding the Choir.

*Let us welcome Peter Brockmann as accompanist for the Parish Choir and we thank him for sharing his talent of music with us.*