

Saint Matthew Parish

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www.SaintMatthewPgh.org

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July 2021

Dearest Parishioners:

Peace and greetings to you. I hope this letter finds you well.

With God's blessing, let's hope that we are moving on after the pandemic! I, for one, can't wait for some "normalcy", whatever that may look like.

As we move on, we need to look to getting busy at being a parish. Part of that is social and part of that is financial. Let me address these two issues.

Part of being a parish is social. With that in mind, there are plans developing for Sunday, September 19, 2021. When we were in the process of picking a name, I was adamant about having a name that can easily be transferred to a Sunday so that we all can celebrate. With St. Matthew we are able to do that. His day, traditionally on 21 September, will be transferred to the weekend of 18-19 September. All Masses that weekend will use the orations (prayers) for the celebration of Matthew. In addition, there will be a special event at AS. At the conclusion of the 11:30 am Mass, the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed. Some time of fellowship is being planned in the Activities Building. There will then be the solemn celebration of Evening Prayer and Benediction. Stay tuned for details.

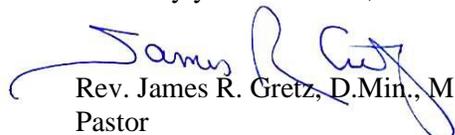
The other part of being a parish is financial. COVID affected the economy greatly. As it was an issue for you, it was an issue for the parish as well. While we were able to weather the storm, it is necessary to replace funds and prepare for the many great programs that are in store for the parish. Since three of our predecessor parishes had festivals and the like, the question was how do we make that work for St. Matthew? In meeting with some parishioners, the thought was to begin easy. As HS has had a tradition of being part of Millvale Days (16-18 September), the thought was for SMP to have a booth. We would continue the tradition of a basket raffle as well as a cash raffle.

The purpose of this mailing is to introduce you to the St. Matthew Parish Cash Raffle. The drawing will be held Saturday, September 18, 2021, at 9:00 pm, as a part of Millvale Days. There are \$6,000.00 worth of cash prizes available: 1st Prize - \$3,000; 2nd Prize - \$1,500; 3rd Prize - \$600; 4th Prize - \$400; 5th Prize - \$300; and 6th Prize - \$200. The donation is \$5.00 per ticket or book of 6 for \$25.00.

Tickets will be distributed in the churches beginning the weekend of 17-18 July, and available to pick up in the parish offices or in the churches until the 18 September drawing. Due to US Postal service rules, we are not allowed to mail tickets. If you're homebound or if you have a situation that does not allow you to pick up tickets, we can arrange to deliver your tickets. Please call Carol at ext. 380 to make that request. Each ticket entitles you an entry to this raffle. Don't forget to put your name on each ticket stub that you return to be eligible for this raffle. Just put your stubs and money in an envelope marked "Cash Raffle" and drop in a collection basket or rectory mail slot. Checks are to be made payable to "St. Matthew Parish".

Hoping that you can participate in either or both events! Whichever, please keep these efforts in your prayers.

Sincerely yours in Christ,


Rev. James R. Gretz, D.Min., M.T.S.
Pastor

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