Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil: 5:00 p.m.    Sunday: 8:30 a.m.  10:30 a.m.  7:00 p.m.
Monday – Friday: 7:30 a.m.    Saturday: 8:00 a.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confessions): Saturdays at 4:15 PM, also by appointment

Reverend Monsignor Gerard C. Mesure, J.D., J.C.D., M.A. … Pastor
Reverend Sean P. Bransfield, J.C.L., M.A., M.Div.… Parochial Vicar
Reverend John A. McGinnis, Retired Priest
Brandon M. Artman, Parish Seminarian

Director of Parish Outreach: Peggy Haley
Director of Liturgical Music: Berthilla Wiscount
Coordinator of Religious Education: Peggy Haley
Director of Youth/Young Adult Ministry: Katie Bryson

NEW PARISHIONERS: Welcome to Saint Matthias Parish! Please see one of the priests after any weekend Mass, or call the Rectory if you are interested in registering at Saint Matthias Parish.

RECTORY OFFICE HOURS: The office staff is available for business matters Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

APPOINTMENTS: You are asked to arrange an appointment in advance by telephone with the Priest you wish to see.

SICK CALLS: Emergencies – Please call the Rectory. Hospital Visitation – The Parish Priests will be happy to visit any Parishioner who is hospitalized. Please contact the Rectory, since hospitals do not contact the Rectory.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM: The Sacrament of Baptism is administered most Sundays at 11:30 a.m. Arrangements are made in advance at the Rectory. Sponsors must provide proof of eligibility by a letter from their respective Pastors. First-time parents attend a Pre-Jordan Meeting prior to Baptism, which is arranged at a mutually convenient time.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE: Arrangements must be made with the Pastor at least six months before the date of the Wedding. Pre-Cana instructions are required. Weddings may be scheduled on Saturdays between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., or on Friday evenings.

I once was blind …

… but now I see.

MARCH 26, 2017 – FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT
**March 26, 2017**

*Fourth Sunday of Lent/Laetare Sunday*

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**Mass Intentions for the Week**

**Saturday, March 25** – *Vigil, Fourth Sunday of Lent*
5:00 Raymond Henry

**Sunday, March 26** – *Fourth Sunday of Lent/Laetare Sunday*
8:30 Fred Alessandro
*10:30* The Keenan and Farrelly Families
7:00 Eleanor and Jim McDonald

**Monday, March 27** – *Lenten Weekday*
7:30 Deceased Members of the Rosary Group

**Tuesday, March 28** – *Lenten Weekday*
7:30 James Strazzella

**Wednesday, March 29** – *Lenten Weekday*
*7:30* In Memory of Dr. Patrick S. Pasquariello

**Thursday, March 30** – *Lenten Weekday*
7:30 Rev. Michael McCleane

**Friday, March 31** – *Lenten Weekday*
7:30 Virginia Citola

**Saturday, April 1** – *Lenten Weekday*
8:00 Robert Fantini
5:00 Andrew G. Block

**Sunday, April 2** – *Fifth Sunday of Lent*
8:30 Robert McQuistion
*10:30* In Thanksgiving for the Butac and Holgado Families, and In Memory of Benito & Cerila Holgado and Dionisio & Fermina Butac
7:00 For Our Parishioners

*Extraordinary support through the Saint Matthias Day Program*

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**H.O.P.E. – Helping Other People Enthusiastically**

H.O.P.E. volunteers assist fellow Parishioners by providing transportation to doctors’ offices, banks, and supermarkets. The H.O.P.E. Captain for March 27 – April 2 is Peggy Haley: 610-664-0207.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH:** Martha Eckert, Frank Diebold, Marie Damas, Eleanor Kuhl, Louise Owens, Michele Smith, Louise Vesci, Lorraine Beaulieu, Dr. Joan Hurlock, Rev. Thomas Wheeler, S.J., Rev. James Moore, S.J., Chadd Kraus, Bill Duffy, Louis Owens, Lynne Dotsey, Toni Mastrocola, Jack Yura, Rev. John McGinnis, Nancy Lawler, Peggy Haley, Michelle Smith, Jenny Custer, Dolores DiGiacomo, and George Light. We also pray for those served by our Parish in Inglis House and Bala Nursing Home. Please help us keep this list current: if you wish to have someone’s name added to or removed from our Sick List, please contact the Rectory.

**MEMBERS OF THE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:**

Patricia Black, Katherine Bryson (ex-officio), Andrea Constantino, Mike DeMonte, Maggie Duffy, Peggy Haley (ex-officio), Ross Holgado, Claudia Martinez, Ray Nepomuceno, Mark Rooney, Gina Sullivan, H. Nelson Keyser (finance rep), Mike Utkus, Berthilla Wiscount (ex-officio).

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**Sacrificial Giving ~ Stewardship**

Sunday Collection – March 18/19: $ 8,032.50
Sunday Collection – March 19/20, 2016: $ 7,024

Military Services Second Collection – March 18/19: $ 671

Thank you for your continued sacrificial generosity!

**Second Collection Envelopes:**

This Weekend – Rice Bowl Collection. Next Weekend – Easter Flowers.

Thank you for your generosity. (All second collection envelopes, clearly marked, should be placed in the main collection at Mass.)

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**TAX SEASON IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER!** If you need a statement of your contributions, contact the Rectory.

**PB&J Sandwiches for the Homeless**

Our PB&J sandwich-making night was a big success! Approximately 30 kids and their parents made a whopping 200 sandwiches. Thank you to all who participated. A great way to spend a Friday evening during Lent. Sandwiches were delivered to Saint Francis Inn in Kensington. Next time, we’ll have more bread available!
**Our Parish Lenten Schedule**

**Lent**

**Daily Mass During Lent:**
Monday – Friday: 7:30AM  
Saturday: 8:00 AM

**Tuesdays of Lent**
7:00 PM – Stations of the Cross  
followed by Confessions

**Confessions During Lent:**
Tuesdays after Stations  
Saturdays at 4:15 PM  
Other times by appointment

**Stations of the Cross**
**Tuesdays of Lent**
7:00 p.m.
Followed by Confessions

**Parish Phillies trip** June 26 @ 7:05 PM at Citizens Bank Park! The Phillies will play the Diamondbacks. Ticket cost will be about $20. There is an option to ride the bus we will have available. This is a first come, first serve event, so sign up early! Please contact the Rectory for more information or to register. Please let us know no later than TODAY: March 26.

**Mark your calendar!** The American Red Cross Blood Drive will be held April 25 from 1-6 PM in the gym. More information to come.

**First Holy Communion**  
Parent Meeting  
Sunday, March 26, 2017  
9:00 AM  
Parish Center

**TOILETRIES DRIVE: MARCH 27 – APRIL 9**  
Please place your donation of toothpaste, toothbrushes, combs, razors, deodorant, small bar soap, and small tissue packs in the baskets at the Church doors. Thank you for helping the homeless!

**Saint Matthias Young Professionals**  
Parishioners in their 20s, 30s, and 40s are invited to attend a Wine and Cheese Social on Monday, April 3 at 7:00 PM in the Parish Center. Take a break from your week to enjoy some refreshments, connect with other young adults in your parish, and find out how to get involved with our Young Professionals group! For more information, contact Katie at 610-664-0207 or katieb@saintmatthias.org.

**Lenten Regulations for Fasting and Abstinence**

The Bishops of the United States prescribe, as a minimal obligation, that all persons who are fourteen years of age and older are bound to abstain from eating meat on Ash Wednesday, all the Fridays of Lent and Good Friday. Further, all persons eighteen years of age and older, up to and including their fifty-ninth birthday, are bound to fast by limiting themselves to a single full meal on Ash Wednesday and on Good Friday, while the other two meals on those days are to be light.
Saint Matthias Parish
Holy Week and Easter Schedule

Palm Sunday of the Lord’s Passion – April 9
Palms will be blessed at each Mass in memory of Jesus’ triumphant entry into Jerusalem
Saturday, April 8:
Confessions 4:15 – 4:45 PM
Vigil Mass: 5:00 PM
Sunday, April 9:
Masses: 8:30 & 10:30 AM, and 7:00 PM

Monday of Holy Week – April 10
Mass: 7:30 AM

Tuesday of Holy Week – April 11
Mass: 7:30 AM
Stations of the Cross: 7:00 PM
Confessions available after Stations

Wednesday of Holy Week – April 12
Mass: 7:30 AM

Holy Thursday – April 13
Morning Prayer (Lauds): 8:00 AM
Mass of the Lord’s Supper: 7:00 PM
The Church will remain open until 10:00 PM for adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament at the Repository

Good Friday – April 14
Morning Prayer (Lauds): 8:00 AM
The Church will remain open all day for visitation
Confessions: 1:00 – 1:30 PM
Solemn Celebration of the Lord’s Passion: 3:00 PM
(Reading of the Passion, Veneration of the Cross, and Holy Communion)
Stations of the Cross: 7:00 PM

Holy Saturday – April 15
Morning Prayer (Lauds): 7:30 AM
Easter Egg Hunt: 11:00 AM
Blessing of Easter Food: 11:30 AM
Confessions: 1:00 – 1:30 PM
Easter Vigil: 7:30 PM  No 5:00 PM Mass

Easter Sunday – April 16
Masses: 8:30 & 10:30 AM, and 12 Noon
No 7:00 PM Mass

Easter Egg Hunt and Blessing of the First Food of Easter

Annual Easter Egg Hunt
Hosted by our Parish Religious Education Students

On Holy Saturday, April 15th
At 11:00 a.m. SHARP
Parish Parking Lot and Rectory Front Lawn
All adults must be accompanied by a child!

In case of rain, the hunt will be held in the Parish Center

Blessing of Easter Food and
Easter Baskets in Church at 11:30 AM

Teen Volunteers needed for Annual Egg Hunt.
If you are available on Holy Saturday at 10 AM to help at the Egg Hunt, please contact Peggy Haley at 610-664-0207 or peggyh@saintmatthias.org.
The theme of this year’s Catholic Charities Appeal is “Giving Hope to All.” The gift of hope is a precious treasure, especially to someone on the verge of despair.

It’s the hope of the homeless person that the world has not completely forgotten him. It’s the hope of a mother that a quality education is possible for her special needs child. It’s the hope of the immigrant struggling with a new language in a new land. And it’s the hope of the Church herself for new priestly vocations while being able to care for retired Clergy who devoted their lives to the Church and her people.

Hope is the opposite of despair. Where despair is darkness, hope is light. Where despair is helplessness, hope is empowerment. And this year the Catholic Charities Appeal will be a channel of hope for hundreds of thousands of people through countless organizations and ministries in the Archdiocese, and a positive source for good in all facets of the Church in Philadelphia including: Education; Social Services; Evangelization, parish and spiritual life; Clergy; and Local Mission Activities.

Each year, we regularly exceed our parish goal. A job well done ~ thank you for your generous response! This year, our goal is $50,536. So far, we have collected $16,852, or 33% of our goal, in 32 gifts of our parishioners.

The Archdiocese also sent out information and envelopes which you may use directly. You may also contribute online at www.catholiccharitiesappeal.org. Be sure to use the pull down menu to designate Saint Matthias as your parish. Additionally, you may place your contribution in any weekend collection, clearing marking the envelope for Catholic Charities.

Together we can truly make a difference in the lives of those who are in need!!

Laetare Sunday is the popular name for the Fourth Sunday in Lent. *Laetare* means “Rejoice” in Latin, and the Introit (entrance antiphon) is Isaiah 66:10-11, which begins “Laetare, Jerusalem” (“Rejoice, O Jerusalem”).

Because the midpoint of Lent is the Thursday of the third week of Lent, Laetare Sunday has traditionally been viewed as a day of celebration, on which the austerity of Lent is briefly lessened. The passage from Isaiah continues, “rejoice with joy, you that have been in sorrow,” and traditionally on Laetare Sunday, the purple vestments and altar cloths of Lent are set aside, and rose ones are used instead (where available). Flowers, which are normally forbidden during Lent, may be placed on the altar. Traditionally, the organ was never played during Lent, except on Laetare Sunday.

Laetare Sunday has a counterpart in Advent: Gaudete Sunday, the Third Sunday of Advent. The point of both days is to provide us encouragement as we progress toward the end of each respective penitential season. (Information taken from http://catholicism.about.com)

Quo Vadis Days 2017
June 26-29, 2017
Black Rock Retreat Center

Retreat for young men graduating 8th – 12th grade

Early Bird Registration thru 4/1: $20 per person
After 4/1: $35 per person

Gather with the Philadelphia Seminarians and other high school men for 4 days of dynamic talks, small group discussions, meaningful prayer experiences, and a fun environment including a ropes course, swimming pool and a lake, basketball, soccer, ultimate frisbee, and more.

To register, or for more information, visit www.heedthecall.org or call (610) 667-5778.
Help Wanted
Our Mother of Good Counsel Parish in Bryn Mawr is looking for a Receptionist/Secretary to assist parishioners, staff, and clergy. Please contact liamod@omgcparish.net for details.

Volunteers Needed
The American Diabetes Association, located in Bala Cynwyd, is looking for 1 – 2 volunteers to handle basic office duties for four hours per day, 1 – 2 days per week. We need help from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. each day, and the duties include answering phones and providing minor support to the office. For more information, please contact Kevin Kelly, Executive Director, at kkelly@diabetes.org, or 610-828-8003, ext. 4657.

The Evidence for God from Contemporary Science: Extending the Legacy of Monsignor George Lemaître, a lecture by Father Robert Spitzer, S.J., will be given March 27 at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Vianney Hall Auditorium.

Rachel’s Vineyard Retreats provide an extraordinary opportunity for any person who struggles with emotional and spiritual pain of past abortion(s). Rachel’s Vineyard Retreat for Healing after Abortion, April 7-9. This retreat will be held in Doylestown. Info: 215-317-5752, evelynwalsh59@gmail.com, or www.rachelsvineyard.org. All requests are confidential.

Monthly Taizé with Nocturnal Adoration
Come to join us for a monthly Taizé prayer, including Eucharistic Adoration that will extend through the night. Taizé is a contemplative communal prayer that consists of repeated, sung refrains, a Scripture reading, and times of silence. 7:30-8:30 PM, with Adoration continuing throughout the night, on the 2nd Wednesday of each month – next date is April 12. Saint Raphaela Center, 616 Coopertown Rd., Haverford. Information: www.straphaelacenter.org.

Rediscover the Love in Your Marriage!
Retrouvaille offers a loving and welcoming space to couples struggling with a failing marriage. The next program is the weekend of April 21 at the Family Life Center in Malvern. Another weekend will be held in August. For more information, please call 215-766-3944 or email www.HelpOurMarriage.com.

Main Line Singles Dinner Club (Ages 52-64)
Catholic men & women are cordially invited to join others to share common interests & dine together. Next event: St. Patty’s/St. Joe’s House Party, April 22 at 6 PM at a member’s home in Haverford. Info: 610-896-6542.

John W. Hallahan CGHS Alumnae Association is sponsoring their annual 50 Years and Beyond Luncheon on May 3 at Connstatler Volksfest-Verein, 9130 Academy Road, Phila. Cost is $35 per person ($25 for religious). If you are a graduate of Hallahan for over 50 or more years and are interested in attending this event, please contact Chairperson, Marge West Kiefski ’66 at 215-913-4482 or mmkiefski@aol.com, or the Alumnae Office at 215-568-3081 for more information.

Pilgrimage to Lourdes and Fatima for Fatima 100th Anniversary
Join us for the Archdiocesan pilgrimage in honor of the 100th anniversary of Our Lady’s apparitions in Fatima, Portugal! This promises to be a deeply spiritual event, with prayers for peace and healing for all. Visit Fatima, Lourdes, and other major shrines. June 5-12, 2017. Information/pricing: archphila.org/fatima.

Intentions of Pope Francis
March, 2017: Support for Persecuted Christians
That persecuted Christians may be supported by the prayers and material help of the whole Church.