

# Saint Matthew Catholic Church



December 6, 2020 · 2nd Sunday of Advent

## Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the Devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan, and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

## PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD

Lord Jesus, increase the faith life of our parish and strengthen our families. Bless our parish with vocations to the priesthood. Call forth young men to great challenges and heroic deeds. We pray that they hear your voice and listen to your call. Give them courage, Lord, to follow in your footsteps and become priests for the salvation of souls. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Welcome to the Catholic Church of Saint Matthew. Whether you are celebrating with us for the first time, visiting our community or have decided to make this your parish home, the Saint Matthew parish family welcomes you!*

120 Church Avenue

P.O. Box 9216, Forestville CT 06011-9216

Phone: 860-583-1833 • Fax: 860-582-6152

Email: [rectory@stmatthewrcc.com](mailto:rectory@stmatthewrcc.com)

Web: [www.stmatthewrcc.com](http://www.stmatthewrcc.com)

Office Hours: Monday through Friday: 9:00a.m.-4p.m.

Father John Dietrich, *Pastor*

Deacon Brian Armstrong

Sonia Shavel, *Parish Secretary*

R. Greg Romans, Mary Pat Caputo, *Parish Trustees*

### MASS SCHEDULE

Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m.

Saturday: 8:30 a.m.; Saturday Vigil, 4p.m.

Sunday 7 a.m.; 8:30 a.m.; 10 a.m.; 11:30 a.m.; 5 p.m.

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (Confession):

Saturday 3:00 – 3:45 p.m. (\* please remember to wear a mask) or by appointment. Call the Parish Office.

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Mrs. Helen Treacy, *Principal* Kate Ricci, *Secretary*

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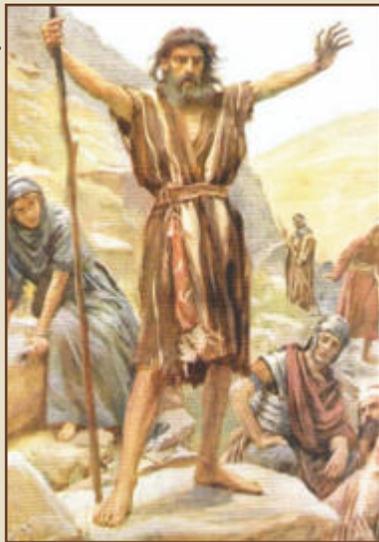


One thing we can say about John the Baptist is that he stood out. Certainly living alone in the desert and wearing camel's hair will do it. Actually, while John's choice of clothing was admittedly unusual, it was what the prophet Elijah wore in his day: **"He wore a garment of haircloth, with a girdle of leather about his loins." And he said, 'It is Elijah the Tishbite'"** (2 Kings 1:8). Moreover in Matthew's gospel Jesus expressly links John with the prophet Elijah: **"For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John; and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come"** (Matthew 11:13-14).

The point is that John dressed this way because that's what prophets wore. It was a kind of "uniform" that identified them—at least Elijah and John the Baptist—as would a white lab coat today identify a doctor. In fact, such was the acceptable garb of prophets that some in the Old Testament tried to pass themselves off as prophets by dressing in similar fashion: **"On that day every prophet will be ashamed of his vision when he prophesies; he will not put on a hairy mantle in order to deceive, but he will say, 'I am no prophet, I'm a tiller of the soil;...'"** (Zechariah 13:4-5.). The Book of Deuteronomy explicitly warns the Jews not to follow such false prophets: **"If a prophet arises among you or a dreamer of dreams, and gives you a sign or a wonder, and the sign or wonder which he tells you comes to pass, and if he says, 'Let us go after other gods,' which you have not known, and 'let us serve them,' you shall not listen to the words of the prophet or to the dreamer of dreams; . . ."** (Deuteronomy 13:1-3).

Finally, for both Elijah and John there was also a kind of humorous double-entendre in their wearing of camel's hair; for both were considered "hair-raising" in their fearsome preaching!

Then there is the question, why did John eat only locusts and wild honey? For centuries people have eaten locusts, and still do today in large parts of the world. They strip off the heads, legs, and wings and roast them. It was certainly a staple for Jewish nomads wandering in the desert with limited food resources. And the Law or Torah



permitted them to do so: **"These of them you may eat: the locust in its kind, and the devastating locust in its kind, and the cricket in its kind, and the grasshopper in its kind. But all other winged insects which are four-footed are detestable to you"** (Leviticus 11:22-23). In our own country, around the time of the Great Dust Bowl of the 1930s, eating locusts was not unknown. One young farmer at the time, Andy James of Boise City, Oklahoma, was once asked what he ate "out there" mending fence on the vast open prairie all day.

"Grasshoppers," he answered. "How do they taste?" Andy replied, "Mighty crunchy" (*The Worst Hard Time*, Timothy Egan, pp. 40-41).

But of course it was John the Baptist's call to repent and be baptized, not his clothing or his diet, that most impressed the hearts of his listeners. For it had been at least 400 years since the last great prophet, Malachi, preached with such conviction. So the people came in large numbers to see and hear this strange man's message in the desert. Sure enough, this got the attention of the religious leaders who were suspicious of anyone who garnered that much attention. Yet for all their scrutiny, the chief priests and scribes could not have disagreed with the Baptist's basic exhortation, which was, **"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand"** (Matthew 3:2). The religious leaders themselves regularly taught the need to repent for sin. However what troubled them was that John went further. John preached that everyone must prepare *now* for the coming of the Kingdom. John was not only exhorting his fellow Jews to look back to Abraham their father in faith, but also to look *forward* to the fulfillment of that faith, that is, the fulfillment promised in Isaiah's prophecy of the *messiah* to come, **"Behold, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him"** (Isaiah 40:10). So not only repentance for sins but also this "looking forward" to a liberating Savior are what attracted so many to come to the River Jordan.

John the Baptist captured the attention of many who saw and heard him. He did so for one reason: **"to prepare the way of the Lord"** (Mark 1:3). On this 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent, let our hearts be contrite and our spirits eager, so that we also will be ready to welcome the Savior.



Are you an adult who has not received the **Sacrament of Confirmation**? Adult Confirmation classes with Fr. Dietrich begin soon. Please call the parish rectory, 860-583-1833 to register.

## 2nd Sunday of Advent

### **First Reading: Is 140:1-5, 9-11**

“Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her service is at an end, her guilt is expiated; indeed, she has received from the hand of the LORD double for all her sins. A voice cries out: In the desert prepare the way of the LORD! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God! Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill shall be made low; the rugged land shall be made a plain, the rough country, a broad valley. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken. Go up on to a high mountain, Zion, herald of glad tidings; cry out at the top of your voice, Jerusalem, herald of good news! Fear not to cry out and say to the cities of Judah: Here is your God! Here comes with power the Lord GOD, who rules by his strong arm; here is his reward with him, his recompense before him. Like a shepherd he feeds his flock; in his arms he gathers the lambs, carrying them in his bosom, and leading the ewes with care.”

### **Responsorial Psalm: Ps 85:9-10-11-12, 13-14**

**R. (8) Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.**

I will hear what God proclaims;  
the LORD—for he proclaims peace to his people.  
Near indeed is his salvation to those who fear him,  
glory dwelling in our land.

**R. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.**

Kindness and truth shall meet;  
justice and peace shall kiss.  
Truth shall spring out of the earth,  
and justice shall look down from heaven.

**R. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.**

The LORD himself will give his benefits;  
our land shall yield its increase.  
Justice shall walk before him,  
and prepare the way of his steps.

**R. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.**

### **Second Reading: 2 Pt 3:8-14**

“Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years and a thousand years like one day. The Lord does not delay his promise, as some regard “delay,” but he is patient with you, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a mighty roar and the elements will be dissolved by fire, and the earth and everything done on it will be found out. Since everything is to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be, conducting yourselves in holiness and devotion, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God,

because of which the heavens will be dissolved in flames and the elements melted by fire. But according to his promise we await new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, since you await these things, be eager to be found without spot or blemish before him, at peace.”

### **Aleluia - Lk 3:4-6**

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:  
All flesh shall see the salvation of God.

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

### **Gospel: Mk 1:1-8**

“The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet: Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way. A voice of one crying out in the desert: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.” John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. People of the whole Judean countryside and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins.

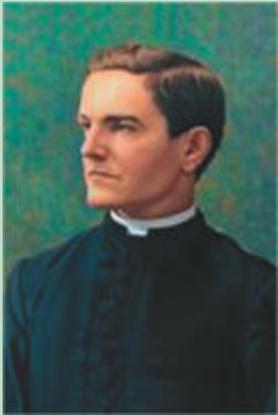
John was clothed in camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He fed on locusts and wild honey.

And this is what he proclaimed: “One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

## Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen

**Prayer for the Canonization of  
Blessed Michael J. McGivney**  
*Founder of the Knights of Columbus*



God, our Father, protector of the poor and defender of the widow and orphan, you called your priest, Blessed Michael McGivney, to be an apostle of Christian family life and to lead the young to the generous service of their neighbor. Through the example of his life and virtue, may we follow your Son, Jesus Christ, more closely, fulfilling his commandment of charity and building up his Body which is the Church. Let the inspiration of your servant prompt

us to greater confidence in your love so that we may continue his work of caring for the needy and the outcast. We humbly ask that you glorify Blessed Michael McGivney on earth according to the design of your holy will. Through his intercession, grant the favor I now present (*here make your request*). Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



**Rooted in Faith,  
Opening Wide Our Hearts**

**On Wednesday Dec. 9, 7:00 p.m.,** The Office for Catholic Social Justice Ministry will continue its conference series with the webinar: **“The Influence of Racism in our Healthcare System”**. The speakers are: Vernetta Townsend RN,MSN, Marlene Harris, RN, MSN and Samantha Lew from Health Equity Solutions. Is being black bad for your health? Is racism a public health issue?

Join us to learn more of this timely and important topic. The Webinar is free; advanced registration is required and available at:

[www.catholicsocialjustice.org/open-wide-our-hearts.html](http://www.catholicsocialjustice.org/open-wide-our-hearts.html)



**Collection for  
Retirement Religious  
Fund  
Next weekend  
December 12-13**

Do you remember the sisters, brothers, or religious order priests who made a positive difference in your life? Today many are elderly and need assistance. Their religious communities struggle to meet retirement needs while continuing to serve the People of God. Please give to next week's second collection.



The Advent Wreath plays a prominent role in the celebration of this special liturgical season. Each Sunday during Advent a candle is lit in anticipation of Christmas.

Three of the candles are violet in color for the penitential nature of the season. The third candle is rose, signifies the joy that the nativity of the Lord is near. The fourth candle is rose and is lit on the Third Sunday of Advent. At each of the Masses a family from our parish will be invited to light the candles at the beginning of the Mass.

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5TH**

**4:00 p.m. Romano Family**

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29TH**

**7:00 a.m. Tim Gamache**

**8:30 a.m. Jurado Family**

**10:00 a.m. Dan Salce**

**11:30 a.m. Slusz Family**

**5:00 p.m. Serwinski Family**

Those interested in participating in the lighting ceremony are asked to fill in the box below and drop it off or mail it to the rectory office.

**Advent Wreath  
Lighting of Candles**

**Circle a Mass**

**Vigil, 4:00 p.m. 7:00 a.m. 8:30a.m. 10:00 a.m.  
11:30 a.m. 5:00 p.m.**

**Circle a Weekend**

**Dec 12 & 13 Dec 19 & 20**

**Family Name**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**St. Matthew School  
Virtual Craft Fair  
November 27th - December 7th**



Join us to help support St. Matthew Catholic School (Forestville, CT) in their first Virtual Vendor and Craft Fair. Thank you to all of our vendors that have decided to be part of this event.

Come and join us and shop for your holiday gifts. Make sure you look at everything that is being offered to fill your holiday gift needs.

Below are our vendors:

- <http://www.pamperedchef.com/party/stmatthews>
- <http://www.leslieneiditz.arbonne.com/>
- <http://www.chalkcouture.com/timi>
- <http://www.ksylvia.towergarden.com/>
- <http://www.skybluedesigns.com/>
- <http://www.pamperchef.com/pws/tifcaron>
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- <https://powerful-purpose.com/product/planner/>
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Please support our vendors and do your Holiday Shopping!

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1431284310545902/>

**St. Matthew's  
Weekly Offertory Collection**



We are very grateful for our parishioners who continue to make their weekly contribution to St. Matthew's. Your generosity is vital to meet our expenses and serve our parishioners. For your contributions please note that you can . .

- 1) Mail your envelopes to the rectory office.
- 2) Use our Offertory "drop-off" window in the rectory office entrance.
- 3) Use our online giving app. Registering is easy! Just go to our webpage at [www.stmatthewrcc.com](http://www.stmatthewrcc.com) and click **WAYS TO GIVE**.

Thank you very much for your faithful support during this difficult time!

**Brian's Angels**  
HOMELESS OUTREACH



Brian's Angels was founded by Pat Stebbins in memory of her son, Brian, who died homeless two weeks before his 25th birthday. Today

Brian's Angels helps hundreds of homeless and under-served people in Bristol, Connecticut. All of our clients suffer from food insufficiency. To combat this, Brian's Angels provides daily snack bags with food items that have been graciously donated to us. We also supply them with toiletry kits which include toilet paper, toothpaste, toothbrushes, sanitary wipes, deodorant, and more. If you can donate canned goods, clothing, or toiletries, or would like to make a monetary donation, we would greatly appreciate it! **We**

**couldn't do what we do without the generosity of our community!**

**Our 100% volunteer also organization needs YOU!**

From handing out meals and supplies, to sorting toiletry items, to helping us here at the office or



helping beautify Bristol – every hour you spend supporting our mission really and truly helps. There are many ways that you can lend a helping hand to Brian's Angels. This includes but is not limited to:

- **Handing out locally donated hot meals**
- **Volunteer time to hand out snack bags at Brian's Angels**
- **Debris/trash pickup around the city of Bristol**
- **Collection and sorting of donated items**

Contact us today and we'll help you find a way to volunteer that best suits you.

**\*St. Matthew's parishioners** may also support Brian's Angels by donating gift cards, specifically from McDonald's, Subway, Burger King and local grocery stores. During these weeks of Advent, you can place your gift cards in the offertory baskets at the church entrance. All gift cards will be forwarded to Brian's Angels in time for Christmas.

*Thank You!*

**Dear Parishioners:**

If you would like to have the name of a loved one included in our **prayer list**, please, call the parish office during business hours.

The prayer list is updated weekly.

Nicholas Del Mastro, Jill Synnott, Rita Lagasse, Ann Conroy, Kim Romano, Blanche Adamczyk, Ada Zoccoli, Donald Theriault, James Barto, Daniel Murzin, Kenneth Roy, Armand Roy, Nancy Palmisano, Jacqueline Young, Russel Ceneviva Mark Ceneviva and Frank Baldino.



**Family Chalice For Vocations**  
11:30 a.m.  
Steck Family

will receive the Family Chalice for Vocations and pray for Vocations during the next week. If you would like to sign up to receive the Family Chalice for Vocations please contact Rich and Donna Slusz at (860) 589-4318.



**December 6th —12th**

The seven-day candle before the statue of **St. Joseph** is lit as a prayerful vigil to **Gilman DuBois** requested by Bakaysa Family.



**Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

**Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>**  
*Holy Day of Obligation*

**Mass Schedule:**

7:30 a.m., 12:10 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

*Christmas Mass Schedule*

Christmas Eve: Thursday, December 24th

2:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.

Christmas Day: Friday, December 25th

8:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:30 a.m.



**Mass Intentions**



**Saturday**

8:30 a.m.

4:00 p.m.

**December 5th**

†Jeff Merrow by Nancy Merrow

†Dominic Ruggerio by his daughter, Rita Elliott and family

**Sunday**

7:00 a.m.

**December 6th 2nd Sunday of Advent**

†Bruce Alexander (2nd anniversary) by his wife, Anne and family

†Stanley Faryniarz by family

†Jean-Yves Laprise (2nd anniversary) by his wife, Judy

†John and Eugenia Czertak by family

†Aggie Hively by Bill Hively

**Monday**

7:30 a.m.

**December 7th**

†Nicolas Franco by his wife, Lucille

**Tuesday**

7:30 a.m.

12:10 p.m.

**December 8th**

†Jeff Merrow by Nancy Merrow

†George and Mary Gagnon by Barbara Gagnon

†All living and deceased members of St. Matthew Parish

**Wednesday**

7:30 a.m.

**December 9th**

†Deepest appreciation for many prayers answered by Blessed Mother, St. Therese, St. Jude and St. Anthony by parishioner

**Thursday**

7:30 a.m.

**December 10th**

†Roger and James Albert

by Therese Albert and family

**Friday**

7:30 a.m.

**December 11th**

†Gilman DuBois by Bakaysa Family

**Saturday**

8:30 a.m.

4:00 p.m.

**December 12th**

†Paul Thibodeau by family

†Marie Aspromonte by her sister, Rosemary

**Sunday**

7:00 a.m.

**December 13th \* 3rd Sunday of Advent**

†Henry Fiamengo by his wife, Henrietta Fiamengo and family

†Stanislawa Polomka (1st anniversary) by her granddaughter and family

†Arthur Crowley (5th anniversary) by the Crowley family

†Wilda Dionne

by Ed and Huey Sakowski

†Edward A Skorupski by his wife and family

**Daily Readings**

**7 Monday—St. Ambrose**

Is 35:1-10 Ps 85:9ab-14 Lk 5:17-26

**8 Tuesday—The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Mother**

Gn 3:9-15, 20 Ps 98:1-4 Eph 1:3-6, 11-12

**9 Wednesday—St. Juan Diego**

Is 40:25-31 Ps 103: 1-4, 8, 10 Mt 11:28-30

**10 Thursday—Our Lady of Loreto**

Is 41:13-20 Ps 145:1, 9-13b Mt 11:11-15

**11 Friday—St. Damasus I**

Is 48:17-19 Ps 1:1-4, 6 Mt 11:16-19

**12 Saturday—Our Lady of Guadalupe**

Zec 2:14-17 (Ps) Jdt 13:18bc, 19 Lk 1:39-47



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**Bruce Newman, Attorney at Law**  
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