

# Saint Matthew Catholic Church



December 27, 2020 · The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

*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!*

Father John Dietrich, **Pastor**  
Deacon James P. McCluskey  
Deacon Brian Armstrong  
Sonia Shavel, **Parish Secretary**  
R. Greg Romans, Mary Pat Caputo,  
**Parish Trustees**

#### MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil: 4 PM  
Sunday: 7:00, 8:30, 10:00, 11:30 AM and 5:00 PM  
Daily: Monday through Friday 7:30 AM  
Saturday: 8:30 AM

#### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (Confession):

Saturday 3:00–3:45 PM or  
by appointment. Call the Parish Office.

#### ADDITIONAL SACRAMENTS

For information on the Sacrament of Baptism, the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults, the Sacrament of Marriage and the Sacrament of the Sick (Anointing of the Sick) please contact the Parish Office or go to our website.

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Email: [rectory@stmatthewrcc.com](mailto:rectory@stmatthewrcc.com) • Web: [www.stmatthewrcc.com](http://www.stmatthewrcc.com)

Office Hours: Monday through Friday: 9:00AM-4PM

#### New Parishioner Registration:

Census/Registration Forms at church entrance and web page.



The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph



As 2020 is about to end—a year we will never forget—we give thanks to God for the grace to help us through the sorrows, hardships and anxieties that have marked this most unusual year. Despite the many difficulties, we can look ahead to 2021 and dare to hope for daily life to return to something as close to normal as possible.

Therefore as we begin this New Year, I wish to thank everyone for your patience and understanding during the ongoing Covid-19 health crisis. From the first days in March when we couldn't dip our fingers in the holy water font, to the suspension of the Sign of Peace at Mass and the removal of the missalettes and hymnals and collection baskets, and then to the actual cancellation of daily and Sunday Masses (including confessions, baptisms, weddings and funerals), we have seen it all! And as things stand today, albeit under less restrictive protocols, still, there is the ever-present *mask* to remind us that we still have a way to go. Throughout it all I commend your resolve and determination not to lose your connection to St. Matthew's. For despite these trying conditions, all during the shutdown you have given your consistent support to our parish. You

mailed in your envelopes or dropped them through our the “deposit” window on the rectory porch. As a result, your faithful generosity has helped to maintain the essential ministries of St. Matthew's.

Most importantly, it is the spirit of St. Matthew's parish that is alive and well. You donated dozens of turkeys for Thanksgiving and continue to give generously to the St. Ann Pantry each month. Some parishioners have given thousands in cash and grocery cards to help those in need. Thus the people of St. Matthew's really live the words of our Lord, “**What you did for the least of my brethren you did for me**” (Matthew 25:40).

Finally, I wish to thank our Readers and Ushers and also the volunteers who thoroughly clean and sanitize the church pews after each Mass. Many thanks also to the Men's Club and other volunteers who did the hard work of setting up the outdoor crèche and decorating the church interior. All your efforts are greatly appreciated!

2020 is about to end, but clearly the spirit and good will of St. Matthew's parish never ends! May God send His blessings upon you and your families!



Friday, January 1, 2020  
HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

Solemnity of Mary, The Holy  
Mother of God

Mass Schedule

Thursday, December 31st  
4 p.m.. (vigil)

Friday, January 1st  
9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

## The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

### First Reading: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14

“God sets a father in honor over his children; a mother’s authority he confirms over her sons. Whoever honors his father atones for sins, and preserves himself from them. When he prays, he is heard; he stores up riches who reveres his mother. Whoever honors his father is gladdened by children, and, when he prays, is heard. Whoever reveres his father will live a long life; he who obeys his father brings comfort to his mother. My son, take care of your father when he is old; grieve him not as long as he lives. Even if his mind fail, be considerate of him; revile him not all the days of his life; kindness to a father will not be forgotten, firmly planted against the debt of your sins—a house raised in justice to you.”

### Responsorial Psalm: Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5

R. (cf. 1) **Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.**

Blessed is everyone who fears the LORD, who walks in his ways! For you shall eat the fruit of your handiwork; blessed shall you be, and favored.

R. **Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.**

Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine in the recesses of your home; your children like olive plants around your table.

R. **Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.**

Behold, thus is the man blessed who fears the LORD. The LORD bless you from Zion: may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life.

R. **Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.**

### Second Reading: Col 3:12-21

Brothers and sisters: Put on, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do. And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection. And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to

God the Father through him. Wives, be subordinate to your husbands, as is proper in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and avoid any bitterness toward them. Children, obey your parents in everything, for this is pleasing to the Lord. Fathers, do not provoke your children, so they may not become discouraged.

### Alleluia: Col 3:15a, 16a

R. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

Let the peace of Christ control your hearts; let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.

R. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

### Gospel: Lk 2:22-40

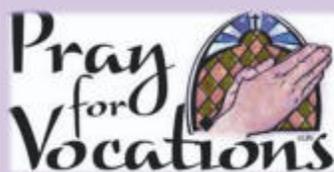
When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, They took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, just as it is written in the law of the Lord, Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord, and to offer the sacrifice of a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons, in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord. Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Christ of the Lord. He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to him, He took him into his arms and blessed God, saying: “Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel.” The child’s father and mother were amazed at what was said about him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted—and you yourself a sword will pierce—so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.” There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived seven years with her husband after her marriage, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple, but worshiped night and day with fasting and prayer. And coming forward at that very time, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

## 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



**St. Matthew Bereavement Support Group** will meet on Monday, January 4, 2021 from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. in the Parish Center. Please call Rita Lagasse at 860-583-6674 to register.



**Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

Share an expression of gratitude for the gift of

your family today. Pray for wholeness and holiness for all members of the family of God. If a member of your family is considering becoming a priest, deacon, brother, or sister have them call **Fr. Michael Casey**, Director of Vocations, Pastoral Center, 860-761-7456, e-mail [vocations@aohct.org](mailto:vocations@aohct.org) or visit the web at [www.hartfordpriest.com](http://www.hartfordpriest.com).



**Holy Hour**  
**Respect for Life**  
**Our Lady of Guadalupe**  
**Protectress of the Unborn**

**St. Matthew Church**  
**Wednesday, January 13, 2020**  
**6:00 p.m.**

- **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**
- **Rosary**
- **Songs - Respect for Life - sung between decades**
- **Benediction**

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be available through the day immediately following the **7:30 a.m. Mass** and concluding with **6:00 p.m. Holy Hour**.

... Please join us in prayer ...



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.

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

## **Office Holidays Hours:**



The Parish Office will be closed on :  
**Friday, January 1, 2021**

## Rooted in Faith, Opening Wide Our Hearts



“Trafficking in persons and other contemporary forms of enslavement are a worldwide program that needs to be taken seriously by humanity as a whole.” (Pope Francis, *Message for the 2015 World Day of Peace*)

**On Wednesday, Jan. 13, 7:00 PM,** The Office for Catholic

Social Justice Ministry of the Archdiocese of Hartford will continue its conference series with the webinar: **“Race and Human Trafficking”**.

Yvette Young, Associate Vice President of Programs and Advocacy at the Village for Families & Children will be the speaker. She will discuss how race plays a role in child exploitation, and how we must be racially inclusive in our response.

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)

## PRAYER TO END THE PANDEMIC



Jesus of Nazareth, look upon the tribulations that have surrounded us on every side. I beg You with all my

heart, contrite and humble and in the spirit of humility, to hear me about this tribulation.

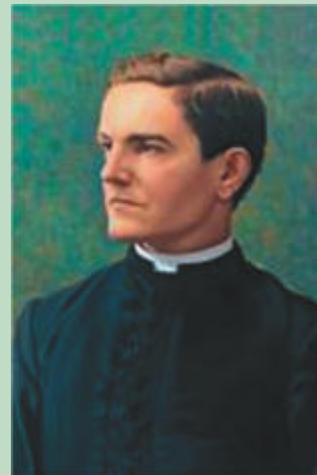
I invoke You and call out to You, Alpha and Omega, Jesus Christ, Lord of all believers and all creatures, that just as You took on true flesh from Blessed Mary, so truly we might receive healing and strength from You. Amen.



The Mother Theresa Food Pantry at St. Ann Church (215 West Street, Bristol) is open on **Tuesday & Thursday mornings** from 8:45 to 11:30 am. (masks must be worn). **Pre-registration is required.**



Food collection every **first Monday** of each month. Please leave your donation at St. Matthew's Church vestibule. Thank you for your support!



**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 out-cast. 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.

## 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, Nancy Palmisano, Frank Baldino, Michael Butler, Jacqueline Young, Deborah Bachman, Paul Dearer and Joseph Swenton.*



## Family Chalice For Vocations

**8:30 a.m. - Patrick and Karen Collins**

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 27th —2January 2nd



**The Sanctuary Lamp** is burning this week in honor of **Kathie Felice** by sister Nancy, daughter Sandy and grandson Aaden

The seven-day candle before the statue of **St. Joseph** is lit as a prayerful vigil to **Vito J. Delfino** requested by his wife and daughters.

## Daily Mass Readings

**28 Monday—** *The Holy Innocents*  
*Jn 1:5-2:2 Ps 124:2-5, 7c-8 Mt 2:13-18*

**29 Tuesday—** *St. Thomas Becket*  
*Jn 2:3-11 Ps 96:1-3, 5b-6 Lk 2:22-35*

**30 Wednesday—**  
*Jn 2:12-17 Ps 96:7-10 Lk 2:36-40*

**31 Thursday—**  
*Jn 2:18-21 Ps 96:1-2, 11-13 Jn 1:1-18*

**1 Friday—** *Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God*  
*Nm 6:22-27 Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 Gal 4:4-7*

**2 Saturday—** *Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen*  
*Jn 2:22-28 Ps 98:1-4 Jn 1:19-28*

## Mass Intentions

- Saturday** **December 26th**  
**8:30 a.m.** †Elizabeth Brown Dumais by her children Reagan and Quinn  
**4:00 p.m.** †Phillip Pelletier by his wife and family
- Sunday** **December 27th \* Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**  
**7:00 a.m.** †Vito J. Delfino by his wife and daughters  
**8:30 a.m.** † Marie Roy Levasseur (2nd anniversary) by David and Deborah Gesner  
**10:00 a.m.** †Carla Holyst by family  
**11:30 a.m.** †Joseph Procko Sr. by Florence and Charles Procko  
**5:00 p.m.** † Jeff Kavanaugh, Tim Scully, David John Korytkowski, John D. Korytkowski Jr., Lisa Korytkowski-Michaud by Lois, Kevin and Lexi
- Monday** **December 28th**  
**7:30 a.m.** All living and deceased members of Roger Albert Family
- Tuesday** **December 29th**  
**7:30 a.m.** †All souls in Purgatory by Angie Nunes
- Wednesday** **December 30th**  
**7:30 a.m.** †Alda Ferreira by Connie Ferreira and family
- Thursday** **December 31st**  
**7:30 a.m.** All living and deceased members of St. Matthew Parish  
***Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God, Vigil***  
**4:00 p.m.** All living and deceased members of St. Matthew Parish
- Friday** **January 1st**  
***Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God***  
**9:00 a.m.** All living and deceased members of St. Matthew Parish  
**11:00 a.m.** All living and deceased members of St. Matthew Parish
- Saturday** **January 2nd**  
**8:30a.m.** † Robert and Gaetane Blais by Jean Pierre and Claudette Blais  
**4:00 p.m.** †Ronald Savio (20th anniversary) by his sister, Donna Savio
- Sunday** **January 3rd 6th Sunday of Advent**  
**7:00 a.m.** † Jeff Mellow by Nancy Mellow  
**8:30 a.m.** †All living and deceased members of St. Matthew Parish  
**10:00 a.m.** † Noah Steven Felix by Judith Perez by Judith Perez  
**11:30 a.m.** †Edward Faryniarz (first anniversary) by family  
**5:00 p.m.** †Diane Bouchard (healing prayers) by family



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