

Saint Matthew Catholic Church



February 28, 2021 — 2nd Sunday of Lent

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.

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

Web: 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*

PARISH CENTER • (860) 583-7806

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RELIGIOUS EDUCATION Maryann Wisniewski, *DRE*

YOUTH MINISTRY Amanda Binghi, *Director*

MUSIC MINISTRY William L. Hively, *Director*

ACCOUNTING Deborah P. York, *Finance Manager*

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.



The Transfiguration of Jesus (1876), by William Hole (1846-1917) of the Royal Scottish Academy of Art

Kalwaria Zebrzydowska is one of Poland's oldest shrines dedicated to the Lord's Passion. Commonly referred to as the "Polish Jerusalem" or Poland's "Calvary," Kalwaria dates back to 1601, when a wealthy landowner from Krakow built a small shrine there to resemble the scene of the Crucifixion of Jesus. The shrine quickly became popular, and eventually the local clergy consecrated it formally as a place of pilgrimage. Later, the local Bishop entrusted the shrine to the Franciscans of Poland.

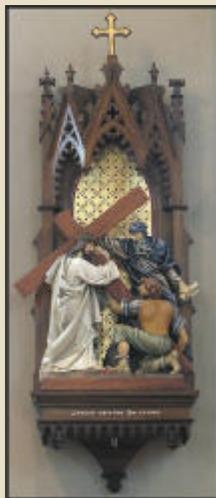
As a young boy, Karol Wotjyla often visited the shrine from his home only 8 miles away. In fact, for a time Karol's father worked there as a shrine tour guide. Much later, Archbishop Wotjyla could be found walking the grounds of the shrine in prayer. No matter the weather, Archbishop Wotjyla would walk and pray the 14 outdoor Stations of the Cross of Kalwaria. And every Friday the Archbishop would leave his bishop's residence and walk across the street to the Franciscan Basilica where he prayed the Stations of the Cross.



In 1976, just two years before he was elected pope, then Cardinal Wotjyla received a letter informing him that Pope Paul VI wanted the Cardinal to give the annual Lenten Retreat to the Vatican household, March 7-14. The letter was received on February 14, which left only three weeks to prepare a retreat for the Holy Father! So Cardinal Wotjyla did what came naturally to him: he asked for prayers from the pilgrims of Kalwaria. In typical understatement, the Cardinal wrote to the Shrine's caretaker, Fr. Gwardin: *"I would like to turn to you with a special request. This year, the Holy Father entrusted me with the task of conducting the Lenten retreat at the Roman Curia from March 7-14. The timeframe is relatively short . . ."*

For Catholics, the Stations of the Cross is one of the most ancient forms of prayer and devotion. After Emperor Constantine (272-337) issued his edict officially tolerating Christianity in 313, and following his mother's, St. Helena, discovery of the true Cross of Jesus, Christians have desired to walk the very footsteps of Jesus' Passion to the hill of Golgotha. However in the early Church travel to the Holy Land was virtually impossible; very few could afford the time and expense to make the journey. Thus was born the idea to create replicas of the *Via Dolorosa* (Way of Sorrows) in one's homeland, the first being in the 5th century monastery of San Stefano in Bologna, Italy.

In the 14th century, an English pilgrim named



William Wey, referred to the *Via Dolorosa* as "stations" because that was what he observed when he visited the Holy Land. Pilgrims would stop at each part of the Passion and stand to pray. Soon replicas of the Stations of the Cross were built in other European cities, and prayers for each station were composed.

The opportunity to pray the Stations expanded further in 1686 when Pope Innocent XI gave permission to the Franciscans to display Stations inside their churches. By the mid-18th century all Catholic churches were being urged to have Stations. Keep in mind that during this time from church-to-church the number of stations varied between as few as 7 to more than 30, with 7 being most common. It wasn't until 1731 that the Church settled on 14 Stations of the Cross.

In fact, today what we consider to be the usual way of praying the stations—beginning with Jesus' condemnation before Pilate and ending with Jesus' Body being placed in the tomb—was for many centuries the *reverse*. It probably seems strange to us to pray the Stations this way; but one reason people did then was to follow how Mary the disciples might have *themselves* retraced the steps of Jesus' Passion and Death. Praying the Stations in reverse was a way to recall the Lord's Passion through their eyes.

It should also be noted that Catholics were not the only ones praying the Stations of the Cross. For centuries Anglicans prayed the Stations. Lately, other Protestant denominations—Lutherans, Presbyterians, and others—have begun to observe the devotion. However, there are some Christian denominations which do not pray the Stations because they consider them "manmade," i.e., not based on Sacred Scripture. These few evangelical denominations contend that while the Stations recall Jesus' physical suffering, they do not mark His "spiritual" suffering. For example, they claim that the Stations do not account for Jesus being "cursed for our sins" (**"Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us—for it is written: 'Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree.'**" (Gal. 3:13; Deut. 21:23), and suffering God's wrath, and the Father's subsequent forsaking of Jesus on the Cross (**"My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken Me?"** Mt. 27:46). Therefore it is claimed that the Stations lack the fulness of the Christ's atoning sacrifice, and thus are not a biblical form of prayer.

To pray the Stations of the Cross is a venerable spiritual exercise by which we honor the Passion of the Lord by following the way of His Cross to Calvary; and to which the Holy Father remained faithful till the end. *"The day before he died, April 1st, 2005, around 10 a.m., Pope John Paul II tried to communicate to the people near him something that they could not understand. His raging fever, his difficulty in breathing, made it almost impossible for him to articulate words. And so he was brought a pen and a sheet of paper, upon which the Pope wrote that, since it was Friday, he wanted to do the Via Crucis. One of the nuns who was present therefore began to read it aloud while he, with some difficulty, traced the sign of the cross every time one of the stations began"* (*Why He Is A Saint*, by Slawomir Oder with Saverio Gaeta).

St Matthew Parish & School Raffle needs volunteers to help in organizing this year's raffle program.

Organizing meetings will be held remotely. Please consider joining this committee...no experience needed.

Contact the rectory office to provide your contact information. Thanks for considering !



St. Matthew Bereavement Support Group will meet on **Monday, March 1, 2021 from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. in the Fr. Blaney Room.** Please call Rita Lagasse at 860-583-6674 to register.



The IHM Companions in Prayer Group will meet on **Saturday, March 6, 2021 after 8:30 a.m. Mass** in the Fr. Blaney Room.

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 and click **WAYS TO GIVE.**

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

2020 Tax Statements



Statements for tax purposes have been mailed to parishioners whose 2020 contributions to the Church of Saint Matthew totaled \$250 or more. Statements for less than that amount are available **upon request** by calling the rectory at **(860)583-1833.**

LENT

On Prayer, Fasting and Abstinence

These several weeks of **prayer**, **fasting** and **abstinence**—including works of charity—are in preparation to celebrate Christ's Resurrection this Easter.

All Catholics age 14 and older are obliged to **abstain** from meat on all Fridays of Lent, including the Paschal fast of Good Friday. To **fast** is to limit oneself to one full meal and two smaller meals (which together do not equal a full meal) and no solid-food snacks in-between. The drinking of ordinary fluids does not break the fast. Excused are the sick and infirm and those for whom these rules do not meet their real physical needs and who may therefore adjust their fast as necessary.

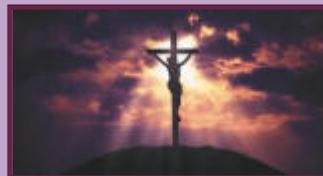
Lent Confession Schedule

Mondays during Lent, 6 to 7 p.m.
(in addition to 3:00 p.m. Saturdays)
***NO Monday confessions on March 15th** due to Confirmation Mass.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS **Fridays of Lent – 7:00 p.m.**

St. John Paul II prayed the **Stations of the Cross** each Friday of the year and *every day* during Lent. All are invited to come and pray this ancient and venerable tradition of our church to follow the *Via Dolorosa* of our Lord Jesus.



**“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand”
(Matthew 4:17)**

“He who sins against men may fear discovery, but he who sins against God, is sure of it.” –Jones

“Sin is never at a stay; if we do not retreat from it, we shall advance in it; and the further on we go, the more we have to come back. –Barrow

2nd Sunday of Lent

First Reading: Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18

God put Abraham to the test. He called to him, "Abraham!" "Here I am!" he replied. Then God said: "Take your son Isaac, your only one, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him up as a holocaust on a height that I will point out to you." When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. Then he reached out and took the knife to slaughter his son. But the LORD's messenger called to him from heaven, "Abraham, Abraham!" "Here I am!" he answered. "Do not lay your hand on the boy," said the messenger. "Do not do the least thing to him. I know now how devoted you are to God, since you did not withhold from me your own beloved son." As Abraham looked about, he spied a ram caught by its horns in the thicket. So he went and took the ram and offered it up as a holocaust in place of his son. Again the LORD's messenger called to Abraham from heaven and said: "I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you acted as you did in not withholding from me your beloved son, I will bless you abundantly and make your descendants as countless as the stars of the sky and the sands of the seashore; your descendants shall take possession of the gates of their enemies, and in your descendants all the nations of the earth shall find blessing—all this because you obeyed my command."

Responsorial Psalm: 116:10, 15, 16-17, 18-19

R. (116:9) I will walk before the Lord, in the land of the living. I believed, even when I said, "I am greatly afflicted." Precious in the eyes of the LORD is the death of his faithful ones.

R. I will walk before the Lord, in the land of the living. O LORD, I am your servant; I am your servant, the son of your handmaid; you have loosed my bonds. To you will I offer sacrifice of thanksgiving, and I will call upon the name of the LORD.

R. I will walk before the Lord, in the land of the living. My vows to the LORD I will pay in the presence of all his people, In the courts of the house of the LORD, in your midst, O Jerusalem.

R. I will walk before the Lord, in the land of the living.

Second Reading: Rom 8:31b-34

Brothers and sisters: If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all, how will he not also give us everything else along with him? Who will

bring a charge against God's chosen ones? It is God who acquits us, who will condemn? Christ Jesus it is who died—or, rather, was raised—who also is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.

Verse Before the Gospel: Cf. Mt 17:5

From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard: This is my beloved Son, listen to him.

Gospel: Mk 9:2-10

Jesus took Peter, James, and John and led them up a high mountain apart by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no fuller on earth could bleach them. Then Elijah appeared to them along with Moses, and they were conversing with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus in reply, "Rabbi, it is good that we are here! Let us make three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He hardly knew what to say, they were so terrified. Then a cloud came, casting a shadow over them; from the cloud came a voice, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him." Suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone but Jesus alone with them. As they were coming down from the mountain, he charged them not to relate what they had seen to anyone, except when the Son of Man had risen from the dead. So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what rising from the dead meant.

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

Saint Matthew Church Parish Survey

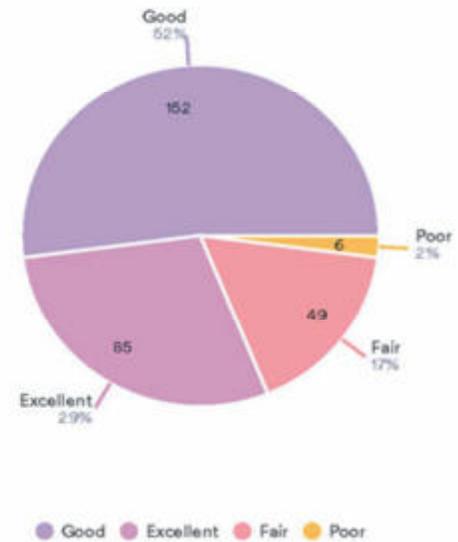
3. Efforts to educate Saint Matthew parishioners in the faith are:

296 Responses- 6 Empty



4. Encouragement to share your time, talent, and treasure within Saint Matthew Parish is:

292 Responses- 10 Empty



From Connecticut Catholic Public Affairs Conference

Help Stop State Sponsored Suicide

Politicians in Hartford are again considering assisted suicide legislation. The Public Health Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly is considering legalizing a form of suicide in our state commonly referred to as "aid-in-dying" or "physician-assisted suicide". The Committee has raised House Bill 6425 "An Act Concerning Aid in Dying for Terminally Ill Patients".

Modern hospice care and the proper use of pain medications render suicide unnecessary, and we need to be mindful of the threat that a suicide mentality poses to vulnerable people and to people with disabilities

Many people believe that a physician is deeply involved in this process. This not true. The physician orders the mixture of medications, the patient must then consume the deadly cocktail of drugs without assistance. Many times without even a physician or nurse present.

We should never allow legislators to establish suicide as a solution to medical issues. Don't let the state persuade us that it's dignified for an ill person to sign their own execution order. Don't let the state create an environment where ill people will feel they have a "responsibility to die".

Catholic teaching condemns physician-assisted suicide because it, like murder, involves taking an innocent human life:

Suicide is always as morally objectionable as murder. The Church's tradition has always rejected it as a gravely evil choice: To concur with the intention of another person to commit suicide and to help in carrying it out through so-called "assisted suicide" means to cooperate in, and at times to be the actual perpetrator of, an injustice which can never be excused, even if it is requested. Saint Augustine writes that "it is never licit to kill another: even if he should wish it." True "compassion" leads to sharing another's pain; it does not kill the person whose suffering we cannot bear. (John Paul II, The Gospel of Life, no. 66).

TAKE ACTION:

Go to the website below, read more on the issue and then sign the petition to stop the legalization of assisted suicide in Connecticut

www.ctstopsuicide.org



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, Nancy Palmisano, Frank Baldino, Michael Butler, Joanne Butler, Jacqueline Young, Debra Bachman, Paul Dearer, Joseph Swenton, Dean Paradis, Bob Mikulak, Robert Sims and Norma Tracz.



Family Chalice For Vocations

Jude Dube * 7:00 a.m.



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.



God called Abraham who then listened and demonstrated his devotion to God: he was then abundantly blessed. Peter, James, and John followed Jesus up the mountain, saw Jesus transfigured, then listened to Him before acting. Are you listening to God? Is He calling you to the priesthood? Come and see. Now is the time to act. **Call Father Michael Casey, Director of Vocations, 860-761-7456, or visit www.hartfordpriest.com.**

Daily Mass Readings

1 Monday —

Dn 9:4b-10 Ps 79:8-9, 11, 13 Lk 6:36-38

2 Tuesday—

Jer 18:18-20 Ps 31:5-6, 14-16 Mt 20:17-28

3 Wednesday — St. Katherine Drexel

Jer 18:18-20 Ps 31:5-6, 14-16 Mt 20:17-28

4 Thursday— St. Casimir

Jer 17:5-10 Ps 1:1-4, 6 Lk 16:19-31

5 Friday—

Mt 21:33-43, 12-13a, 17b-28a Ps 105:16-21 Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

6 Saturday—

Ex 20:1-17 Ps 19:8-11 1Cor 1:22-25 Jn 2:13-25

Mass Intentions



Saturday

February 27th

8:30a.m.

† Robert and Loretta Gibson

4:00 p.m.

† Josephine Foligno (birthday remembrance) by Ann Marie Ondirck

Sunday

February 28th* 2nd Sunday of Lent

7:00 a.m.

† Ronnie Batick by Charles and Florence Procko

8:30 a.m.

† Conrad (Bill) Pinette (1st month anniversary) by his wife and family

10:00 a.m.

† Roger Lagasse and Gloria Page by family

11:30 a.m.

† Robert Reeve, Sr. (1st anniversary) by Mary Ann and Eric

5:00 p.m.

† Robert Reeve (1st anniversary) by family

Monday

March 1st

7:30 a.m.

† Robert and Loretta Gibson by family

Tuesday

March 2nd

7:30 a.m.

All living and deceased member of St. Matthew Parish

Wednesday

March 3rd

7:30 a.m.

† James Barrante by Sharon Adkins

Thursday

March 4th

7:30 a.m.

† Jean Faryniarz (1st anniversary) by Charles and Florence Procko

Friday

March 5th

7:30 a.m.

† Ferdinando D'Amico by his wife and daughters

Saturday

March 6th

8:30 a.m.

Theresa (Living)

4:00 p.m.

† Olga Frechette by her niece, Lynne

Sunday

March 7th* 3rd Sunday of Lent

7:00 a.m.

† Herman Desprey (9th anniversary) by his wife, Claudette and children

8:30 a.m.

† Paul Levasseur by Deborah Gesner

10:00 a.m.

† Agnes Faryniarz by family

11:30 a.m.

† Domenica Spinelli by Lucy, Michael and Lisa Montelli

5:00 p.m.

† Edward and Kathleen Mennona by Sharon Adkins

LIVE STREAM MASSES Sunday at 10:00 a.m.

St. Matthew's Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/St-Matthew-Catholic-Church-Forestville-CT-121109094566837/>

*You do not need to be a Facebook subscriber to access the live stream

OR

Go to: www.stmatthewrcc.com.

Click on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC45F-kofx170s27ZOcz_hog

(recorded Masses only—available 30 min. after Mass ends).





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