

Saint Matthew Catholic Church



March 21, 2021 — 5th 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.

SCHOOL • (860) 583-5214

33 Welch Dr. • Forestville, CT 06010-6790

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

PARISH CENTER • (860) 583-7806

119 Church Ave. • Forestville, CT 06010-6799

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 Annunciation of the Lord

March 25th

The Lenten tradition of covering the crucifix and other images dates at least as far back as the 9th century in Germany. Then, the veiling sacred images was to begin a kind of visual “fast” from them, and therefore more deeply appreciate the truth of what the images represent. In some churches a large screen was erected in front of the entire sanctuary to remind everyone that sin separates us from God; and that we must seek forgiveness and do penance to receive the Lord in the Eucharist. Besides crucifixes and statues, altars were also covered. During the reading of the Passion on Good Friday, at the words, “**then the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was torn in two**” (Luke 23:45), the altar cloth would be slowly removed. Indeed in many churches it became customary to veil all statues and crosses for the entire 6 weeks of Lent. However by the 17th century, the veiling of crosses was modified to begin on the 5th Sunday of Lent, ending on Good Friday, and all other sacred images to remain covered until the start of the Easter Vigil.

For the spiritual life, this venerable custom allows us to focus on the penitential aspect of Lent. It is a vivid reminder that our faith is possible only through the redemptive sacrifice of Christ on the Cross and His triumphant Resurrection on Easter Sunday. Thus for the brief time that we cover sacred images, we are confronted with the profound love of God in Jesus Who hangs on a cross underneath the veil.



Covering the crucifix also elevates our anticipation of Easter. For indeed, the coverings are not meant to remain in place but are to be removed. We see this clearly today when on Good Friday, the crucified Lord is gradually unveiled as it is carried in procession up the church’s main aisle.

It is a simple gesture—the veiling of the crucifix and other sacred images—and yet its purpose is profound. In our times, when countless images flit across our phones and laptops, it is good for us to walk into church and notice that, unlike every other time, the image of the crucified Lord is unseen. There is a sense of stillness. However, what should stir within is a kind of “unveiling” or spiritual awakening of the human heart. We know Whose image is underneath the veil; but do we reveal to the Lord in prayer what is in our own hearts?

Finally the covering of the crucifix and statues reminds us that the Lord willingly hid His glory during His Passion, and no more so than when He was Himself

naked and exposed on the Cross. Upon the cross He was mocked and taunted to reveal His glory: “. . . the **“rulers scoffed at him, saying, ‘He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One’**” (Luke 23:35). What they did not know was that the glory of the Lord—God’s love for mankind—was there for all to see; and it was as bright as the blood that was poured out for the forgiveness of our sins.

May these final weeks of Lent intensify our spiritual preparation for Holy Week and culminate in a joyous Easter!



HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Holy Week Confession Schedule

- Monday, March 29th: 6:00 to 7:00 pm
- Tuesday, March 30th: 6:00 to 7:00 pm
- Friday, April 2nd: 10:00 to 11:00 am

Holy Thursday, Mass of the Lord’s Supper April 1st 7:00 p.m.

Holy Thursday celebrates Christ’s institution of the Priesthood and the Holy Eucharist. Following Mass **the church will remain open for private prayer until 10:00 p.m.** (No 7:30 a.m. Mass, Thursday morning).

Good Friday, Passion of the Lord Friday 2nd 3:00 p.m.

Good Friday is a day of fast and abstinence. The Celebration of the Lord’s Passion begins at 3:00 p.m. with the Reading of the Passion, Veneration of the Cross (genuflect or bow before cross), and distribution of Holy Communion.

Blessing of the Food * Saturday April 3rd 11:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Easter Vigil Mass, Saturday April 3rd 7:30 pm

(No 4 pm, Saturday Mass)

Easter Sunday Masses, Sunday April 4th

Masses will be celebrated at 7:00, 8:30, 10:00 and 11:30 a.m. (No 5:00 p.m. Mass)

**St. Matthew Church Holy Hour
YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH
Wednesday – March 24, 2021
6:00 p.m.**



- Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
- Rosary – With Hymns Sung Between Decades
- Adoration of The Blessed Sacrament will be available throughout the day
- Benediction



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

“If you would be free from sin, fly temptation: he that does not endeavor to avoid the one cannot expect Providence to protect him from the other. If the first sparks of ill were quenched, it would be no flame, for how can he kill that dares not be angry; or be an adulterer in act, who does not transgress in thought; or be perjured, that fears an oath; or defraud, that does not allow himself to covet?” -Palmer

“The wages that sin bargains for with the sinner are life, pleasure, and profit; but the wages it pays him are death, torment, and destruction. To understand the falsehood and deceit of sin, we must compare its promises and payments together.” -South



St. Matthew Bereavement Support Group will meet on **Monday, April 5, 2021 from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. in the Fr. Blaney Room.** Please call Rita Lagasse at 860-583-6674 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!



Dear Parishioners, Please let us know if you have an **address change**. Many of you let us know you've moved by updating your address on your weekly envelopes. This is a great way to keep our census current. Thank you!



**St. Matthew Parish and School
is holding a
Goods & Business Services Raffle!**

The raffle committee is still collecting raffle prizes. Please consider the following gift certificates:

99 Restaurant	25\$
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Wojutisk Nursery	30\$
Winterbury Garden	30\$
Shell Gas Station	25\$
Sunoco	25\$
Stop & Shop	25\$
Shop Rite	25\$
Price Chopper	25\$

Please deliver to Rectory office or drop off in collection basket at church.

Please deliver by Sunday March 28th.
For more information please contact Marcia Curtin at 860-877-8240 .



St. Matthew Men's Club

COVID-19 VACINATION



If you are having difficulty scheduling your vaccination appointment online, **St. Matthew Men's Club** is offering assistance. They will help you to find the nearest available clinic for your 2 shots. Please call the Rectory office: 860-583-1833.

St. Joseph Cemetery

Notice of Winter Clean Up

All winter decorations must be removed from all cemeteries in the next two weeks.

Due to inclement weather we are a little behind. We ask that if you wish to keep any of the items you placed on the graveside during the Christmas season, please come and remove them *before* clean up begins.

The cleanup of all cemeteries takes some time, and depending on weather and the number of burials, may take a week to complete.

During the cleanups, cemetery staff removes and discards all items from graves. Items placed in violation of cemetery rules and regulations or in disrepair may be removed and discarded at any time. Please obtain a copy of cemetery rules and regulations from the cemetery office. We thank in advance for helping us keep our cemeteries clean and beautiful.

5th Sunday of Lent

First Reading: Jer 31:31-34

“The days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their fathers the day I took them by the hand to lead them forth from the land of Egypt; for they broke my covenant, and I had to show myself their master, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD. I will place my law within them and write it upon their hearts; I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer will they have need to teach their friends and relatives how to know the LORD. All, from least to greatest, shall know me, says the LORD, for I will forgive their evildoing and remember their sin no more.”

Responsorial Psalm: 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15

R. (12a) Create a clean heart in me, O God.

Have mercy on me, O God, in your goodness; in the greatness of your compassion wipe out my offense. Thoroughly wash me from my guilt and of my sin cleanse me.

R. Create a clean heart in me, O God.

A clean heart create for me, O God, and a steadfast spirit renew within me. Cast me not out from your presence, and your Holy Spirit take not from me.

R. Create a clean heart in me, O God.

Give me back the joy of your salvation, and a willing spirit sustain in me. I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners shall return to you.

R. Create a clean heart in me, O God.

Second Reading: Heb 5:7-9

“In the days when Christ Jesus was in the flesh, he offered prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered; and when he was made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.”

Verse Before the Gospel: Jn 12:26

Whoever serves me must follow me, says the Lord; and where I am, there also will my servant be.

Gospel: Jn 12:20-33

“Some Greeks who had come to worship at the Passover Feast came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, “Sir, we would like to see Jesus.” Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be. The Father will honor whoever serves me. “I am troubled now. Yet what should I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it and will glorify it again.” The crowd there heard it and said it was thunder; but others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” Jesus answered and said, “This voice did not come for my sake but for yours. Now is the time of judgment on this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself.” He said this indicating the kind of death he would die.”

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

Confirmation

March 15—16, 2021

Prayerful best wishes and congratulations to the young men and women who received the Sacrament of Confirmation last Monday and Tuesday evening here at St. Matthew Church.

Sophie Bogdanski

Emily Crombie

Paige Dube

Alexa Gagnon

Jenna Lukaskiewicz

Katherine Lyman

Haileigh Orzel

Mary Frances Piazza

Eden Porowski

Nadia Riemer

Natalia Riemer

Suzonna Shackford

Teresa Strasser

Carolyn Wilson

Alison Wisz

Ethan Allen

Kyle Bacho

Michael Bakaysa

Mack Butkus

John Crowley

Kevin Grodecki

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Christopher Southey

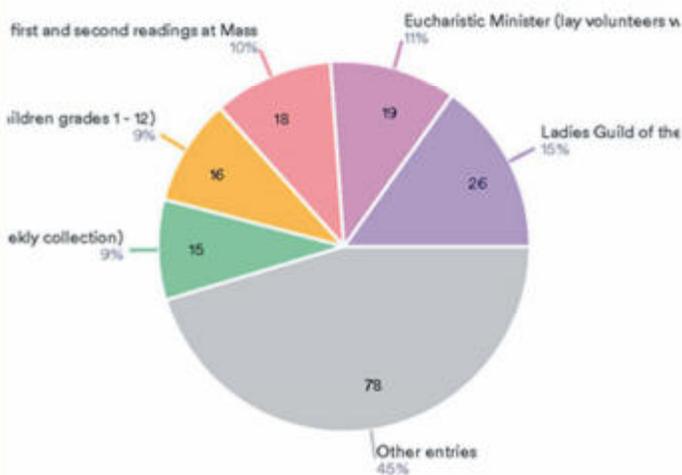
Adam Zwolinski



Saint Matthew Church Parish Survey

4. Saint Matthew Parish offers the following ministries. Please indicate if you participate in any of these:

172 Responses- 198 Empty



5. Are there any additional ministries that should be added?

34 Responses- 268 Empty

Data	Responses
Discussion group with Father Dietrich on current worldly events, news from the Vatican and Pope Francis's words of wisdom, some biblical history. A small gathering were we feel free to express our thoughts and concern	2
Maybe a retreat for women.	2
yes, for 3 to 8yrs old - would talk to you about	1
I believe the parish has quite a few ministries for now.	1
What is a ministry?	1
I would love F. Dietrich to to a Bible study.	1
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	1
I feel religious education was not flexible so I switched kids to St. Gregory	1

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 Adamecyk, 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, Norma Tracz, Raymond Joseph Pepin, Donald P. Theriault, Mario Vitti, Kathy Curry and Theresa Darby.



Family Chalice For Vocations

Edward and Hughette Sadowski, 11:30 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.

Daily Mass Readings

22 Monday —

*Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 Ps 23:1-6
Jn 8:1-11*

23 Tuesday—

Nm 21:4-9 Ps 102:2-3, 16-21 Jn 8:21-30

24 Wednesday —

Dn 3:14-20, 91-92,95 (Ps) Dn 3:52-56 Jn 8:31-42

25 Thursday—

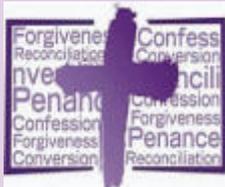
Is 7:10-14; 8:10 Ps 40:7-11 Heb 10:4-10

26 Friday—

Jr 20:10-13 Ps 18:2-7, Jn 10:31-42

27 Saturday—

Ez 37:21-28 (Ps) Jer 31:10-13 Jn 11:45-56



Lent Confession Schedule

Mondays during Lent, 6 to 7 pm
(in addition to 3:00 p.m. Saturdays)



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Fridays of Lent – 7:00 p.m.

Mass Intentions



Saturday

March 20th

8:30 a.m.

† Dorothy Flynn by family

4:00 p.m.

† Robert M. Lowndes
by the Roberts Family

Sunday

March 21* 5th Sunday of Lent

7:00 a.m.

† Robert and Loretta Gibson

8:30 a.m.

All living and deceased members of
St. Matthew Parish

10:00 a.m.

† Gloria and Alfred Lostocco by Larry
and Joanne Lostocco

11:30 a.m.

† Patricia Gay by Michael Drzewiecki

5:00 p.m.

† Conrad Pinette by Family

Monday

March 22nd

7:30 a.m.

Samantha Slusz (healing Mass)
by Richard and Donna Slusz

Tuesday

March 23rd

7:30 a.m.

Wednesday

March 24th

7:30 a.m.

Mount st. Marys seminary class of 2017
(Living) by Fr. Eric Burgener

Thursday

March 25th

7:30 a.m.

† Ryan Buckman by mom, Donna and
sister Michelle

Friday

March 26th

7:30 a.m.

† John Savio (49th anniversary)
by his daughter, Donna

Saturday

February 27th

8:30a.m.

† Clare Mino (2nd anniversary)
by St. Matthew Parish

4:00 p.m.

Lynne and John Bellemare,
Cynthia Adkins, Michelle Bartucca
(Living) by Lynne Bellamare

Sunday

March 28th * Palm Sunday
The Passion of the Lord

7:00 a.m.

All living and deceased members of
St. Mathew Parish

8:30 a.m.

† Verna Paradis (birthday remembrance)
by her husband, Norman

10:00 a.m.

† Kathie and Irene Felice by family

11:30 a.m.

† Robert and Loretta Gibson by family

5:00 p.m.

† Mary Wilson by Anne Chacovepes



March 21—March 27

The seven-day candle before the statue of the **Blessed Mother** is lit as a prayerful vigil for **Stella and Andrew Przywara**, requested by their daughter, Bernadette Parker.



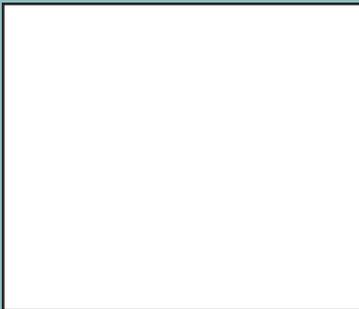
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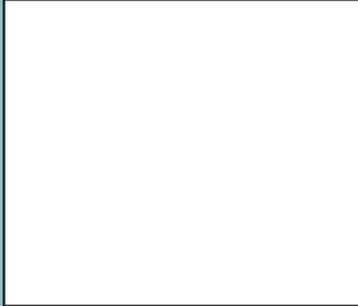


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