

Saint Matthew Catholic Church



April 11, 2021 — 3rd Sunday of Easter

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

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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“Look at my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me and see, because a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you can see I have.” And as he said this, he showed them his hands and his feet.” Luke 24:39

“He said to them, ‘These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the law of Moses and in the prophets and psalms must be fulfilled.’”

Luke 24:44

Listening to these words of Jesus in today’s gospel, it is no wonder that St. Jerome famously said, *“Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ.”* Without knowing the Old Testament prophecies of the Christ, the New Testament can seem entirely separate from the Old. In fact, in God’s Providence, Jesus of the New Testament is the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets in the Old Testament. For the history of the Jewish people is the history of God preparing them to welcome their long-awaited *messiah*, the Savior of the world.

More numerous than can be included in this brief column, below are several passages from the Old Testament that Jesus may have included when He **“opened their minds to understand the scriptures”** (Luke 24:45).

Genesis 3:15 **“I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”**

This passage from Genesis is known as the first hint of the gospels, the centuries-later victory of Christ on Easter Sunday. Here, the **“seed of the woman”** is the considered the prophecy of the Virgin Birth of Jesus. In fact, in Romans 1:3, Jesus is called the **“seed of David.”**

Moreover the bruising of the heel of the seed of the woman is taken to mean the crucifixion of Christ, Who ultimately vanquishes death in the Resurrection. The reference to the bruising of the serpent’s head, however, refers to the ultimate defeat of Satan; the head being a more critical part of one’s anatomy. Because of the seriousness of the Fall of Man, “bruising” the serpent’s head is taken to be the actual crushing of it.

Isaiah 7:14 **“Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and she will name Him Immanuel.”**

—that the Savior would be born of a virgin.

Deuteronomy 18:15 **“The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brethren—him you shall heed . . .”**

--that Jesus is seen as the **“prophet like Moses”** (Acts 3:18-24; John 1:45; 6:14; 7:40).

Isaiah 9:1 **“But there will be no more gloom for her who was in anguish. In earlier times He treated the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali with contempt, but later on He will make it glorious, by the way of the sea, on the other side of the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles.”**

--that the Messiah’s ministry would begin in Galilee.

Isaiah 9:6 **“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called Wonderful Counselor,**

Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

--that the Messiah would represent the best qualities of Israel’s patriarchs.

Micah 5:2 **“But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Too little to be among the clans of Judah, From you One will come forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His times of coming forth are from long ago, From the days of eternity.”**

--that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem.

Isaiah 35:5 **“Then the eyes of the blind will be opened and the ears of the deaf will be unstopped.”**

--that He would work miracles.

Psalms 78:2 **“I will open my mouth in a parable; I will tell riddles of old.”**

--that He would teach in parables.

Zechariah 9:9 **“Rejoice greatly, daughter of Zion! Shout in triumph, daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; He is righteous and endowed with salvation, Humble, and mounted on a donkey, Even on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”**

--that He would one day enter Jerusalem on a donkey.

Psalms 41:9 **“Even my close friend in whom I trusted, Who ate my bread, Has lifted up his heel against me.”**

--that He would be betrayed by a friend.

Psalms 22:16 **“For dogs have surrounded me; A band of evildoers has encompassed me; They pierced my hands and my feet.”**

--that His hands and feet would be pierced.

Isaiah 53:12 **“Therefore, I will allot Him a portion with the great, And He will divide the plunder with the strong, Because He poured out His life unto death, and was counted with wrongdoers; Yet He Himself bore the sin of many, and interceded for the wrongdoers.”**

--that He would be crucified with thieves.

Psalms 22:18 **“They divide my garments among them, And they cast lots for my clothing.”**

--that His garments would be torn and lots cast for them.

Psalms 34:20 **“He protects all his bones, Not one of them is broken.”**

--that none of His bones would be broken.

Zechariah 12:10 **“And I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and of pleading, so that they will look at Me whom they pierced; and they will mourn for Him, like one mourning for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him like the bitter weeping over a firstborn.”**

--that His side would be pierced.

Psalms 16:8-11 **“I keep the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. Therefore my heart is glad, my soul rejoices; and my body also dwells secure. For thou dost not give me up to Sheol, nor let thy godly one see the Pit.”**

--that He would be resurrected!

3rd Sunday of Easter

First Reading: Acts 3:13-15, 17-19

“Peter said to the people: “The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and denied in Pilate’s presence when he had decided to release him. You denied the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. The author of life you put to death, but God raised him from the dead; of this we are witnesses. Now I know, brothers, that you acted out of ignorance, just as your leaders did; but God has thus brought to fulfillment what he had announced beforehand through the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer. Repent, therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be wiped away.”

Responsorial Psalm: 4:2, 4, 7-8, 9

R. Alleluia.

When I call, answer me, O my just God, you who relieve me when I am in distress; have pity on me, and hear my prayer!

R. Alleluia.

Know that the LORD does wonders for his faithful one; the LORD will hear me when I call upon him.

R. Alleluia.

O LORD, let the light of your countenance shine upon us! You put gladness into my heart.

R. Alleluia.

As soon as I lie down, I fall peacefully asleep, for you alone, O LORD, bring security to my dwelling.

R. Alleluia.

Second Reading: 1 Jn 2:1-5a

“My children, I am writing this to you so that you may not commit sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous one. He is expiation for our sins, and not for our sins only but for those of the whole world. The way we may be sure that we know him is to keep his commandments. Those who say, “I know him,” but do not keep his commandments are liars, and the truth is not in them. But whoever keeps his word, the love of God is truly perfected in him.”

Alleluia: Cf. Lk 24:32

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Lord Jesus, open the Scriptures to us; make our hearts burn while you speak to us.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel: Lk 24:35-48

“The two disciples recounted what had taken place on the way, and how Jesus was made known to them in the breaking of bread. While they were still speaking about this, he stood in their midst and said to them, “Peace be with you.” But they were startled and terrified and thought that they were seeing a ghost. Then he said to them, “Why are you troubled? And why do questions arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me and see, because a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you can see I have.” And as he said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While they were still incredulous for joy and were amazed, he asked them, “Have you anything here to eat?” They gave him a piece of baked fish; he took it and ate it in front of them. He said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the law of Moses and in the prophets and psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. And he said to them, “Thus it is written that the Christ would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached in his name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.”

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



Rite of Christian Initiation
for Adults

Have you been thinking about becoming a Catholic?

If you or someone you know may be interested, here is an opportunity to ask questions about all things Catholic, including what Catholics believe and do. Issues that are on people's minds and hearts that relate to the faith are also discussed. There is plenty of information with no commitment.

For example . . .

- *those who have never been baptized can investigate what it means to be a Christian;
- *those baptized in another Christian tradition can explore the process to come into full communion with the Catholic Church;
- *and those baptized Catholic as infants but were not raised as Catholic can learn about being Confirmed and receiving the Eucharist.

The RCIA program at St. Matthew's will be holding two inquiry meetings for questions about Catholicism and how to become a Catholic. The meetings are **Wednesday, September 22nd**, 6:00 p.m. and **Wednesday, October 6th**, 6:00 p.m. Both meetings are in the Fr. Blaney Room.

There is no obligation to continue after these initial inquiry meetings, which are for adults 18 and older. More information may be found on our website, www.st.matthewrcc.com, or by calling, 860-583-1833 or e-mailing the parish rectory, rectory@st.matthewrcc.com.

A recent survey of those who joined an RCIA program shows that many wanted to fill the need for family and security in their life. For them, becoming Catholic was a means to find what was missing in their spiritual life.

Almost all RCIA enrollees were invited by a co-worker, friend, or family member. A simple and sincere invitation is often all that is needed. If you know someone who may be looking for the peace that comes through faith, please extend the invitation to come and see and learn!



Some Basic Church Norms Concerning Godparents/ Sponsors

It is the very ancient custom of the Church that at the celebration of the sacrament of Baptism or Confirmation, a godparent/sponsor is present. The function of the godparent/sponsor is: A) together with the celebrant who baptizes or confirms, to represent the Church in receiving the person into the communion of the Church; and B) to support the person in living the Catholic Christian life.

In accord with Canon 874 of the Code of Canon Law, the Church can admit a person to the role of godparent/sponsor if..

- A) he or she is more than sixteen years of age; B) is a baptized Catholic who has been Confirmed and has already received the Blessed Eucharist and lives a life of faith which befits the role to be undertaken; and C) is neither the father nor the mother of the person.

Given the functions and role a godparent/sponsor exercises, a non-Catholic Christian cannot be admitted as a godparent/sponsor; however, he or she can serve as a Christian witness (c. 874 §2). A person baptized as a Catholic who is now sacramentally or canonically ineligible to serve as a godparent may not serve as a Christian witness. These include those who subsequently renounced the faith in favor of another church community or entity. Those unbaptized and those whose Baptism is not recognized by the Catholic Church may not serve in the role of Christian witness, but are welcome to be present at the ceremony.

Note that the Catholic seeking to be admitted as a godparent/sponsor "lives a life of faith which befits the role to be undertaken." This phraseology means that the candidate for godparent/sponsor...

- A) sincerely believes and strives to put into practice the Word of God as taught by the Catholic Church;
- B) regularly takes part in the Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation; and C) if married, was married in accordance with the requirements of the Catholic Church.



**St. Matthew Church
Bereavement Support Group
“New Day/New Life”**

Our Parish offers a bereavement ministry to help those who are grieving the loss of a loved one. Past participants in our bereavement ministry have told us how beneficial it was to them. Our 10-week bereavement group program entitled “**New Day/New Life**” is a combination of prayer, reflection and sharing. It will begin on **Wednesday, April 28th from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Center.**

For more information and to register, please call Rita Lagasse at 860-583-6674.

The program is free and open to all. Please extend this invitation to members of your family who might benefit from our bereavement ministry.



**PRESCRIPTION DRUG
TAKE BACK EVENT**

**Saturday, April 24, 2021
From: 10a.m. to 1:00p.m.**

The City’s Police Dept. and Opioid Prevention Task Force will be hosting a “Drug Take Back Day” on Saturday, April 24, 2021 from 10am-1pm on Meadow Street, which is the street to the rear of City Hall and the Police dept.

It will be a drive by event so you don’t even have to get out of your car. Please take the opportunity to clean out medicine cabinets and rid your homes of unwanted or unused prescription medications.



**St. Matthew Church
Holy Hour in honor of the
Blessed Mother
Wednesday, May 12, 2021
6:00 p.m.**

- ◆ All day exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (starting after 7:30 a.m. Mass)
- ◆ Holy Rosary—joyful mysteries of the rosary with meditations
- ◆ Hymns —sung between decades
- ◆ Benediction



Leftover Candle Wax

Around this time of year there are a lot of altar candle stubs and the remains of other wax candles which no longer can be used. If you have use for such extra wax, you are welcome to take some or all that we have. Please contact the rectory: 860-583-1833



The Mother Teresa 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.

**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!

**Further Extension of the
Dispensation from the
Obligation of Sunday Mass**

With the continuation of limitations on Mass attendance and our responsibility to ensure the health and safety of our Catholic people, the Archbishop is extending the dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days up to and including **Sunday, May 23rd, Pentecost Sunday** .



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, Norma Tracz, Raymond Joseph Pepin, Donald P. Theriault, Mario Vitti, Kathy Curry, Theresa Darby, Maureen Howley, Diane Bouchard, Barbara Morgan Young and Phyllis Del Mastro.

Daily Mass Readings

19 Monday —

Acts 6:8-15 Ps 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30 Jn 6:22-29

20 Tuesday—

*Acts 7:51—8:1a Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 7b, 8a, 17, 21ab
Jn 6:30-35*

21 Wednesday — St. Anselm

Acts 8:1b-8 Ps 66:1-3a, 4-7a Jn 6:35-40

22 Thursday—

Acts 8:26-40 Ps 66:8-9, 16-17, 20 Jn 6:44-51

23 Friday— St. George, St. Adalbert

Acts 9:1-20 Ps 117:1bc, 2 Jn 6:52-59

24 Saturday— St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen

Acts 9:31-42 Ps 116:12-17 Jn 6:60-69

April 18—April 24



The seven-day candle before the statue of the **St. Joseph** is lit as a prayerful vigil for **Bill and Mary Parker** by the Parker Family

Family Chalice For Vocations Renard and Monique Lessard * 8:30 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.



Mass Intentions



Saturday	April 17th
8:30 a.m.	† Alda Gianoni by daughters
4:00 p.m.	† Robert Kirchgessner by Barbara
Sunday	April 18th* 3rd Sunday of Easter
7:00 a.m.	† Pauline Grabelski by her daughter, Nancy Merrow
8:30 a.m.	† Jerry Plourde (8th anniversary) by his wife Pauline and family
10:00 a.m.	† Donna Dube by her husband, Jude
11:30 a.m.	† Mary Sisson by Gaudoin Family
5:00 p.m.	† Hugh O'Neill and by his wife and family † Roy Gagnon (birthday remembrance) by family
Monday	April 19th
7:30 a.m.	† Margaret B. Shannon by Mary Shanley
Tuesday	April 20th
7:30 a.m.	† All souls in purgatory by Lisa Kulig
Wednesday	April 21st
7:30 a.m.	† Robert and Loretta Gibson
Thursday	April 22nd
7:30 a.m.	All living and deceased members of St. Matthew Parish
Friday	April 23rd
7:30 a.m.	All priests, living and deceased by Lisa Kulig
Saturday	April 24th
8:30a.m.	† Paul Thibodeau by family
4:00 p.m.	† Armand Bechard (11th anniversary) by Judy Acklay
Sunday	April 25th* 4th Sunday of Easter
7:00 a.m.	† Bruce Alexander (Anniversary Remembrance) by his wife, Anne
8:30 a.m.	† Roger Albert by his wife, Therese Albert
10:00 a.m.	† Kathie and Irene Felice by family
11:30 a.m.	† Ryan Buckman by his mom, Donna and sister, Michelle
5:00 p.m.	† Conrad (Bill) Pinette (birthday remembrance) and Joshua Jarry by his wife and mémère



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