

Saint Matthew Catholic Church



May 9, 2021 — 6th 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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Mrs. Helen Treacy, *Principal* Kate Ricci, *Secretary*

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YOUTH MINISTRY Amanda Binghi, *Director*

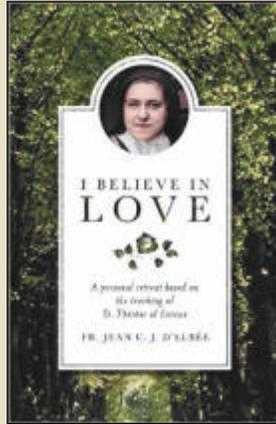
MUSIC MINISTRY William L. Hively, *Director*

ACCOUNTING Deborah P. York, *Finance Manager*



Il Garofalo, 1510–1520

Given the frequency which the word *love* appears in this Sunday's readings, especially in the reassuring words of Jesus to His disciples in the gospel, it therefore seems appropriate to cite excerpts from *I Believe in Love*, by Fr. Jean C.J. d'Elbée. In this widely popular book on the spiritual life, Fr. d'Elbée conveys the message of joyful confidence and total abandonment to the Heart of Jesus that is the spirit of St. Thérèse of Lisieux.



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“Love is the uniting of our will to the will of God. It is abandoning ourselves totally into his hands, as a habitual disposition, even if we feel nothing. When Jesus sees this disposition in our hearts, he looks on us as his cherished children. Is not a father, very indulgent toward his child? He finds excuses for his child's failings, and he admires the least of his good qualities. Jesus is like this with those who are his children, because they sincerely want to be such.

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“People examine themselves in terms of what is forbidden them and not in terms of what is asked of them. People examine themselves on faults and failings, and not on their intimacy with Jesus. It has been rightly said that sins of omission -- of which we so rarely think to accuse ourselves -- are more frequent than the others: lack of faith, of hope, and charity, failure to believe in God's merciful love and to live in it.

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“This is what Jesus is like with those who love him. He does not grant the first prayer; he permits a greater trial. And we become distressed: *‘have prayed, and I have not been heard. All is lost; all is finished. God does not listen to me. He does not love me.’* Because God loves you, he wants to see how far you will push your confidence. He wants to be able to say to you, as he did to the Canaanite woman, *‘How great is your faith!’*

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“As much as you can, ascribe a good intentions to your neighbor (I say as much as you can, because at times, of course, the contrary is as plain as daylight).

Do not put final labels on others, as if no correction were possible. Shun definitive labels, . . . If you are tempted to prefer yourself to others, you can always think, *‘If so-and-so had received the graces I have received, would he not be much better than I am?’*

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“Perfect charity consists of enduring the faults of others, of not being at all astonished at their weaknesses, of being edified by the smallest acts of virtue, which one sees them practice.”

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“The most intimate movements of the Heart of Jesus always found their echo in the heart of John. So Jesus gave him His Mother. He confided her to his care. John believed that he was loved -- and this was a secret of his love.

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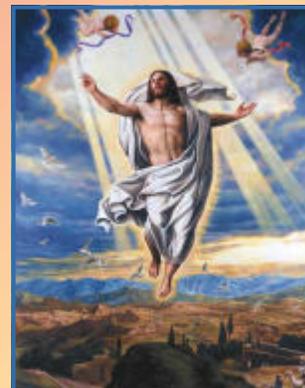
“How do you learn that God is love? By your intimacy with Jesus. Where do you learn to live in this intimacy? At the foot of the tabernacle, at the Mass, and in the Gospel.

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“If there is a definition of charity to which we must constantly come back, as to the source of our youth and wonder, it is certainly that of St. Thomas Aquinas: *‘Charity is friendship with God. Truly Jesus speaks to us as two friends: ‘As the Father has loved Me, I also have loved you’*“(John 15:9).

**SOLEMNITY OF THE
ASCENSION OF OUR LORD
HOLY DAY OF
OBLIGATION
THURSDAY, MAY 13TH**

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



6th Sunday of Easter

First Reading: Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48

“When Peter entered, Cornelius met him and, falling at his feet, paid him homage. Peter, however, raised him up, saying, “Get up. I myself am also a human being.” Then Peter proceeded to speak and said, “In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him.” While Peter was still speaking these things, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who were listening to the word. The circumcised believers who had accompanied Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit should have been poured out on the Gentiles also, for they could hear them speaking in tongues and glorifying God. Then Peter responded, “Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit even as we have?” He ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.”

Responsorial Psalm: 98:1, 2-3, 3-4

R. Alleluia.

Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done wondrous deeds; His right hand has won victory for him, his holy arm.

R. Alleluia.

The LORD has made his salvation known: in the sight of the nations he has revealed his justice. He has remembered his kindness and his faithfulness toward the house of Israel.

R. Alleluia.

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation by our God. Sing joyfully to the LORD, all you lands; break into song; sing praise.

R. Alleluia.

Second Reading: 1 Jn 4:7-10

“Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God; everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God. Whoever is without love does not know God, for God is love. In this way the love of God was revealed to us: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might have life through him. In this is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as expiation for our sins.”

Alleluia: Jn 14:23

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Whoever loves me will keep my word, says the Lord, and my Father will love him and we will come to him.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel: Jn 15:9-17

Jesus said to his disciples: “As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and remain in his love. “I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy might be complete. This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I no longer call you slaves, because a slave does not know what his master is doing. I have called you friends, because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father. It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you. This I command you: love one another.”

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!



A Mother's Love

There are times when only a mother's love
Can understand our tears,
Can soothe our disappoints
And calm all of our fears.

There are times when only a mother's love
Can share the joy we feel
When something we've dreamed about
Quite suddenly is real.

There are times when only a mother's faith
Can help us on life's way
And inspire in us the confidence

We need from day to day.
For a mother's heart and a
mother's faith
And a mother's steadfast
love
Were fashioned by the
angels
And sent from God above.
- author unknown



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!**





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



CRAFTERS WANTED

St. Ann Craft Fair is a “**Handmade Crafters Only**” Event
Saturday, November 20, 2021
215 West St., Bristol, CT

This is our 10th year sponsoring this event. We are experienced, organized, and we heavily advertise to bring in high foot traffic. We have 50+ craft tables available, offer ample parking, provide helpers to assist crafters in bringing items in and out and are handicap accessible. Food is also available throughout the event.

For an application & event documents, please contact: Rachel at urieldionne@sbcglobal.net or 860 989-1560

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!



*2021 Archbishop’s
Annual Appeal*

Reaching Out, Healing Together

Thank you to the **358** parish families who have made a gift or pledge commitment to the 2021

Archbishop’s Annual Appeal. Our parish has already raised **\$72,531.21** out of our initial goal of \$92,000 . If you have not yet had the opportunity, please consider prayerfully supporting the many Good Works of the Archdiocese. Every gift will be gratefully received and sincerely appreciated.



Next week, our second collection is for the Catholic Communication Campaign. This campaign connects people with Christ, here and

around the world in developing countries, through the internet, television, radio, and print media. Fifty percent of funds collected remains in our diocese to fund local communications efforts. Your support helps spread the gospel message! To learn more, visit www.usccb.org/ccc.

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!



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-kofxl70s27ZOcz_hog
(recorded Masses only—available 1 hour after Mass ends).



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.



Jill Synnott, Rita Lagasse, Ann Conroy, Kim Romano, Blanche Adamczyk, Ada Zoccoli, Donald Theriault, Nancy Palmisano, Frank Baldino, Bob Mikulak, Diane Bouchard, Barbara Morgan Young, Paul D'Aprile, Paul Berard, Frank Cammariere and Claudette Despray.

Family Chalice For Vocations

4:00 p.m.

The **Bialobrzewski 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.



May 9—May 15

The seven-day candle before the statue of the **Blessed Mother** is lit as a prayerful vigil for Domenica Spinelli requested by William and Lela Lalli.

The seven-day candle before the statue of the **St. Joseph** is lit as a prayerful vigil for Mary Savio requested by her daughter, Donna Savio

Daily Mass Readings

10 Monday — *St. Damien de Veuster*
Acts 16:11-15; Ps 149:1b-6a, 9b; Jn 15:26—16:4a

11 Tuesday—
Acts 16:22-34; Ps 138:1-3, 7c-8; Jn 16:5-11

12 Wednesday — *Sts. Nereus and Achilleus, St. Pancras*
Acts 17:15, 22—81:1; Ps 148:1-2, 11-14 Jn 16:12-15

13 Thursday— *The Ascension of the Lord (holy day of obligation)*
Acts 1:1-11; Ps 47:2-3, 6-9; Eph 1:17-23; Mk 16:15-20

14 Friday— *St. Mathias*
Acts 1:15-17, 20-26; Ps 113:1-8; Jn 15:9-17

15 Saturday— *St. Isidore*
Acts 18:23-28; Ps 47:2-3, 8-10 Jn 16:23b-28

Mass Intentions



Saturday

May 8th

8:30 a.m.

† Mr. & Mrs. Van Vanheuvel by their beloved niece, Deborah Purvis

4:00 p.m.

† All living and deceased mothers of St. Matthew Parish

Sunday

May 9th* 6th Sunday of Easter

7:00 a.m.

† All living and deceased mothers of St. Matthew Parish

8:30 a.m.

† All living and deceased mothers of St. Matthew Parish

10:00 a.m.

† All living and deceased mothers of St. Matthew Parish

11:30 a.m.

† All living and deceased mothers of St. Matthew Parish

5:00 p.m.

† All living and deceased mothers of St. Matthew Parish

Monday

May 10th

7:30 a.m.

† Debbye Vitti by Colin Lane

Tuesday

May 11th

7:30 a.m.

† Kathleen Gorneault by Jackie Sanchez

Wednesday

May 12th

7:30 a.m.

Erick Kulig (living) by Lisa Kulig

Thursday

May 13th The Ascension of the Lord

7:30 a.m.

God's blessings for Michal Polomka (Living) by Monika Serwinski

12:10 p.m.

† George and Mary Gagnon by Barbara

7:00 p.m.

† Rita Despault by Amy Lausier by family

Friday

May 14th

7:30 a.m.

† Theresa, Angelo and Thomas Delfino

Saturday

May 15th

8:30 a.m.

† Paul and Angela Christophy by Barbara Badore

4:00 p.m.

† Domenica Spinelli by Vonda and Mike Constantiello

Sunday

May 16th* 7th Sunday of Easter The Ascension of the Lord

7:00 a.m.

† James and Sharon (living) Albert by mom

8:30 a.m.

† Angela and Paul Christophy by family

10:00 a.m.

† Ted and Matthew Zalevski by daughter and family

11:30 a.m.

† Joan Guerrette (1st anniversary) by the Guerrette and Dangel family

5:00 p.m.

† James Littlefield by Amy Lausier



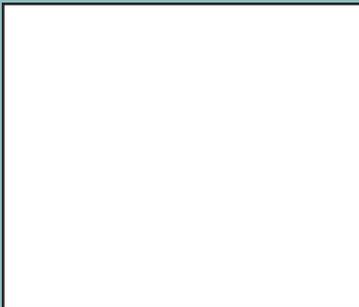
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