

# Saint Matthew Catholic Church



**May 16, 2021 – 7th 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](mailto:rectory@stmatthewrcc.com)**

**Web: [www.stmatthewrcc.com](http://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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### **PARISH CENTER • (860) 583-7806**

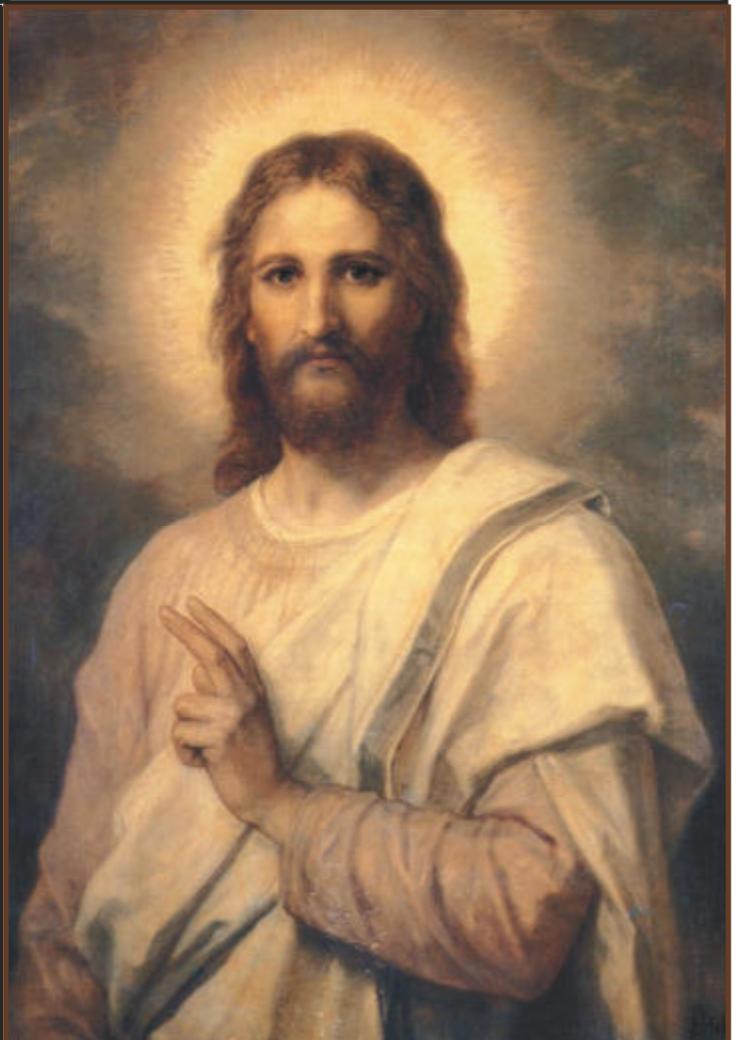
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**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION** Maryann Wisniewski, **DRE**

**YOUTH MINISTRY** Amanda Binghi, **Director**

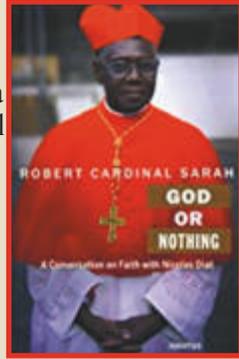
**MUSIC MINISTRY** William L. Hively, **Director**

**ACCOUNTING** Deborah P. York, **Finance Manager**



"Holy Father, keep them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one just as we are one." John 17:1

**Robert Cardinal Sarah** was born in Guinea, West Africa. Made Archbishop Metropolitan of Guinea by Pope John Paul II and a Cardinal by Pope Benedict XVI, he was named the Prefect of the Congregation for Divine worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments by Pope Francis in 2014. In February, 2021, Pope Francis accepted Cardinal Sarah's resignation from the Congregation upon the Cardinal reaching the mandatory retirement age of 75. In his autobiographical interview, *God or Nothing – A Conversation on Faith with Nicolas Diat*, Cardinal Sarah comments on many current issues, including the "heresy of activism," the definition of marriage, gender "identity," and the mission of the Church.



Materialism

“Western societies are organized and live as though God did not exist. Christians themselves, on many occasions, have settled down to a silent apostasy. If the concerns of contemporary man are centered almost exclusively on the economy, technology, and the immediacy of material happiness that has been wrongly sentimentalized, God becomes distant; often in the West the last of things and eternity have unnecessarily become a sort of psychological burden.

Gender ideology

“Gender ideology conveys a crude lie, since the reality of the human being as man and woman is denied. The lobbies and the feminist movements promote it with violence. It has rapidly been transformed into a battle against the social order and its values. Its objective does not stop just at the deconstruction of the (human) subject; it is interested above all in the deconstruction of the social order. It is about sowing discord over the legitimacy of social norms and introducing a suspicion over the model of heterosexuality; for (proponents of) gender (theory), it is necessary to abolish Christian civilization and construct a new world.

“The profound falsehood of this theory and of the anthropological revolution contained within it is obvious. People dispute the idea that they have a nature, given by their bodily identity, that serves as a defining element of the human being. They deny their nature and decide that it is not something previously given to them, but that they make it for themselves . . . man and woman as created realities, as the nature of the human being, no longer exist. Man calls his nature to question. From now on he is merely spirit and will. The manipulation of nature, which we deplore today where

our environment is concerned, now becomes man's fundamental choice where he himself is concerned.

The courage to be intolerant

“In the search for truth, I think it is necessary to acquire the ability to come to terms with oneself as “intolerant,” in other words, to have the courage to tell someone else that what he does is bad or wrong. All this presupposes that man is not the measure of reality and that he therefore has to receive the true and the good.

Man re-creates himself

“(For) we no longer know who man is once he detaches himself from his Creator. Man intends to re-create himself; he rejects the laws of his nature, which become contingent. Man's rupture with God obscures his way of looking at creation. Blinded by his technological successes, his worldview disfigures the world: things no longer possess ontological truth (arguments that conclude for God's existence) or goodness but, rather, are neutral, and man is the one who must give them meaning.

Euthanasia

“Euthanasia is the most acute indication of a Godless, subhuman society that has lost hope. . . . With the help of the media, the wolves persuade the unwary that they are well-meaning lambs siding with the weak! . . . If we do not overcome the culture of death, mankind is headed for its perdition.

Western civilization

“Sometimes I get the feeling that the western part of the world definitely intends to lock everything up in this world, in an aggressive rejection of transcendental relations. . . . The fact remains that man lives in two dimensions, the heavenly and the earthly. He is created for this life and for the next.

“The moment God is no longer Creator, man is debased. In Genesis it says that God has a plan for man, to which the latter must be faithful. If man tries to liberate himself from God, he loses his Trinitarian structure and becomes dehumanized. Humanism that tries to ignore Christ empties out its own substance and becomes merely materialism.

By preserving a few meager spiritual roots, materialism can sometimes create an illusion. But it no longer has anything in common with humanism that is shaped by Christianity, which is absolutely centered on the face of man, the unique reflection of God.

“Without a Christian reference, in ignorance of God, a democracy becomes a sort of oligarchy, an elitist inegalitarian regime. As always, the eclipse of what is divine means the debasement of what is human.

Eternity

“Confronted with all these difficulties, it is necessary to return to the foundations of Christian hope and to declare that life on this earth is only part of our existence, which will be prolonged and completed in eternity.”

## 7th Sunday of Easter

### **First Reading: Acts 1:15-17, 20a, 20c-26**

“Peter stood up in the midst of the brothers—there was a group of about one hundred and twenty persons in the one place —.He said, “My brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand through the mouth of David, concerning Judas, who was the guide for those who arrested Jesus. He was numbered among us and was allotted a share in this ministry. “For it is written in the Book of Psalms: *May another take his office.* “Therefore, it is necessary that one of the men who accompanied us the whole time the Lord Jesus came and went among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day on which he was taken up from us, become with us a witness to his resurrection.” So they proposed two, Judas called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed, “You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this apostolic ministry from which Judas turned away to go to his own place.” Then they gave lots to them, and the lot fell upon Matthias, and he was counted with the eleven apostles.”

### **Responsorial Psalm: 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20**

#### **R. The Lord has set his throne in heaven.**

Bless the LORD, O my soul; and all my being, bless his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

#### **R. The Lord has set his throne in heaven.**

For as the heavens are high above the earth, so surpassing is his kindness toward those who fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far has he put our transgressions from us.

#### **R. The Lord has set his throne in heaven.**

The LORD has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom rules over all. Bless the LORD, all you his angels, you mighty in strength, who do his bidding.

#### **R. The Lord has set his throne in heaven.**

### **Second Reading: 1 Jn 4:11-16**

Beloved, if God so loved us, we also must love one another. No one has ever seen God. Yet, if we love one another, God remains in us, and his love is brought to perfection in us. This is how we know that we remain in him and he in us, that he has given us of his Spirit. Moreover, we have seen and testify that the Father sent his Son as savior of the world. Whoever acknowledges that

Jesus is the Son of God, God remains in him and he in God. We have come to know and to believe in the love God has for us. God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God and God in him.

### **Alleluia: Cf. Jn 14:18**

#### **R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

I will not leave you orphans, says the Lord.

I will come back to you, and your hearts will rejoice.

#### **R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

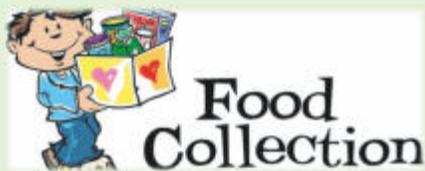
### **Gospel: Jn 17:11b-19**

Lifting up his eyes to heaven, Jesus prayed saying: “Holy Father, keep them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one just as we are one. When I was with them I protected them in your name that you gave me, and I guarded them, and none of them was lost except the son of destruction, in order that the Scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you. I speak this in the world so that they may share my joy completely. I gave them your word, and the world hated them, because they do not belong to the world any more than I belong to the world. I do not ask that you take them out of the world but that you keep them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world any more than I belong to the world. Consecrate them in the truth. Your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I sent them into the world. And I consecrate myself for them, so that they also may be consecrated in truth.”

## 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.

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!

*Bishop Peter Rosazza Social Justice Conference*

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*Beginning June 6th, 2020*

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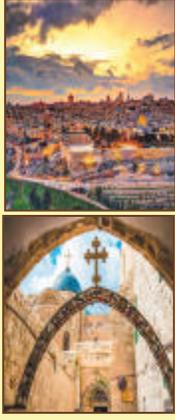
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**Dear Parishioners,** Please let us know if you have an **address change.** Many of you let us know you've moved by updating your address on your weekly envelopes. This is a great way to keep our census current. Thank you!

## St. Matthew'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](http://www.stmatthewrcc.com) and click **WAYS TO GIVE.**

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

## 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](http://www.stmatthewrcc.com).  
Click on YouTube: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC45F-kofxl70s27ZOcz\\_hog](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC45F-kofxl70s27ZOcz_hog)  
(recorded Masses only—available 1 hour after Mass ends).

## Family Chalice For Vocations



7:00 a.m.

**Ann Alexander** 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.

**The IHM Companions in Prayer Group** will meet on Saturday, **June 5, 2021** after **8:30 a.m. Mass** in the Fr. Blaney Room.



**St. Matthew Bereavement Support Group** will meet on **Monday, June 7, 2021** from **1:00 to 2:00 p.m.** in the **Fr. Blaney Room**. Please call Rita Lagasse at 860-583-6674 to register.

Prayerful best wishes and congratulations:



**Lilah Mae Wolf**  
**Brooke Elise Wolf**

**Jenna Rose Harmon**  
**Alexis Lauren Harmon**

Who recently received the Sacrament of Baptism here at St. Matthew Church.



The parish Family of St. Matthew expresses its deepest sympathy and prayerful support to the family of

**Apolonia Grabelski**  
**Lori Baranowski**  
**Daniel Marquis**  
**Robert Harrison Sr.**

whose Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. Matthew Church recently.



**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 22<sup>nd</sup>**, 6:00 p.m. and **Wednesday, October 6<sup>th</sup>**, 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](http://www.st.matthewrcc.com), or by calling, 860-583-1833 or e-mailing the parish rectory, [rectory@st.matthewrcc.com](mailto: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!



## 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 Cammarriere, Claudette Desprey and Joyce Lorraine.

## May 16—May 22



The seven-day candle before the statue of the **Blessed Mother** is lit as a prayerful vigil for **Ida Bakaysa** requested by Bakaysa Family

## Mass Intentions

The following Mass Intentions are available for the month of **June**. If you want to request an intention please contact the Parish Office from Monday to Friday during office hours.

- Sunday, 05/30/2021, 7:00 am
- Tuesday, 06/08/2021, 7:30 am
- Thursday, 06/10/2021, 7:30 am
- Monday, 06/14/2021, 7:30 am
- Tuesday, 06/29/2021, 7:30 am
- Wednesday, 06/30/2021, 7:30 am

## Daily Mass Readings

### 17 Monday —

*Acts 19:1-8; Ps 68:2-5d, 6-7b; Jn 16:29-33*

### 18 Tuesday — St. John I, Pope

*Acts 20:17-27; Ps 68:10-11, 20-21; Jn 17:1-11a*

### 19 Wednesday —

*Acts 20:28-38; Ps 68:29-30, 33-36b; Jn 17:11b-19*

### 20 Thursday — St. Bernardine of Siena, Priest

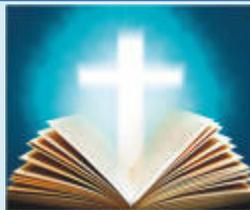
*Acts 22:30; 23:6-11; Ps 16:1-2a, 5, 7-11; Jn 17:20-26*

### 21 Friday — St. Christopher Magallanes, Priest

*Acts 25:13b-21; Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20b; Jn 21:15-19*

### 22 Saturday — St. Rita of Cascia, Religious

*Acts 28:16-20, 30-31; Ps 11:4-5,7; Jn 21:20-25*



## Mass Intentions



### 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

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 Dagele family

5:00 p.m.

† James Littlefield by Amy Lausier

### Monday

### May 17th

7:30 a.m.

† Bernard Kozikowski (birthday remembrance) by family

### Tuesday

### May 18th

7:30 a.m.

† George Pahl Sr. (birthday remembrance) by his children

### Wednesday

### May 19th

7:30 a.m.

† Ida Bakaysa by Bakaysa Family

### Thursday

### May 20th

7:30 a.m.

† Ferdinando D'Amico by his wife and daughters

### Friday

### May 21st

7:30 a.m.

Kulig and Gelineau (living) by Lisa Kulig

### Saturday

### May 22nd

8:30 a.m.

† Geraline Lemelin by Theresa Auclair and family

4:00 p.m.

† John Grabelski by Nancy Merrow

### Sunday

### May 23rd\* 8th Sunday of Easter

7:00 a.m.

† Bruce Alexander (birthday remembrance) by his wife, Anne

8:30 a.m.

† Winona Lamoureux by Mr. and Mrs. Dave Gesner

10:00 a.m.

† Kathie and Irene Felice by family

11:30 a.m.

† Wagner and Santos Families by Ronald and Jo-Ann Wagner

5:00 p.m.

God's Blessings for Sabina Serwinski (living) by Monika Serwinski



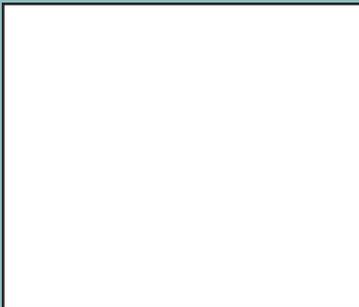
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## Allaire Elder Law, LLC

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