# Saint Matthew Catholic Church



## December 19, 2021 — 4th Sunday of Advent

### 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.

#### 120 Church Avenue

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**Email:** rectory@stmatthewrcc.com **Web:** www.stmatthewrcc.com

Office Hours: Monday through Friday: 9:00a.m.-4p.m.

Father John Dietrich, *Pastor*Fr. Glen Dmytryszyn, *Parochial Vicar*Deacon Brian Armstrong
Sonia Shavel, *Parish Secretary*Roman Czuchta, Terry Roach, *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. and 5:00 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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YOUTH MINISTRY Amanda Binghi, Director
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### 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.



### Entrance: Come, O Long-Expected Jesus

- 1. Come, O long expected Jesus,
  Born to set your people free;
  From our fears and sins release us;
  Free us from captivity.
  Israel's strength and consolation,
  You, the hope of all the earth,
  Dear desire of ev'ry nation,
  Come, and save us by your birth.
- 2. Born your people to deliver;
  Born a child and yet a king!
  Born to reign in us for ever,
  Now your gracious kingdom bring.
  By your own eternal Spirit
  Rule in all our hearts alone;
  By your all sufficient merit
  Raise us to your glorious throne.



### Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 80

## R: (4) Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

O shepherd of Israel, hearken, from your throne upon the cherubim, shine forth. Rouse your power, and come to save us.

## R: Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

Once again, O LORD of hosts, look down from heaven, and see; take care of this vine, and protect what your right hand has planted the son of man whom you yourself made strong.

## R: Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

May your help be with the man of your right hand, with the son of man whom you yourself made strong. Then we will no more withdraw from you; give us new life, and we will call upon your name.

R: Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

## Offertory: Creator of the Stars of Night

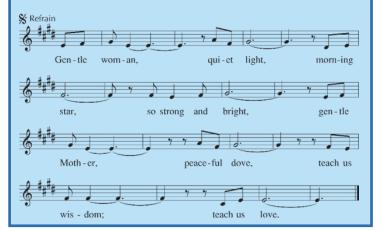
1. Creator of the stars of night, Your people's everlasting light, O Christ, Redeemer of us all, We pray you hear us when we call. 2. In sorrow that the ancient curse Should doom to death a universe, You came, O Savior, to set free Your own in glorious liberty. 3. When this old world drew on toward night, You came; but not in splendor bright, Not as a monarch, but the child Of Mary, blameless mother mild. 4. At your great Name, O Jesus, now All knees must bend, all hearts must bow: All things on earth with one accord, Like those in heav'n, shall call you Lord. 5. Come in your holy might, we pray, Redeem us for eternal day; Defend us while we dwell below From all assaults of our dread foe. 6. To God the Father, God the Son, And God the Spirit, Three in One, Praise, honor, might and glory be From age to age eternally.

## Communion: Hail Mary: Gentle Woman

Introduction

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women and blest is the fruit of your womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of death. Amen.

### R. Gentle woman, quiet light, morning star, so strong and bright, gentle Mother, peaceful dove,



- 1. You were chosen by the Father; you were chosen for the Son. You were chosen from all women and for woman, shining one. **R.**
- 2. Blessed are you among women, blest in turn all women, too.
  Blessed they with peaceful spirits.
  Blessed they with gentle hearts. **R.**

### Recessional: O Little Town of Bethlehem

- 1. O little town of Bethlehem,
  How still we see thee lie!
  Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
  The silent stars go by;
  Yet in the dark streets shineth
  The everlasting Light.
  The hopes and fears of all the years
  Are met in thee tonight.
- 2. For Christ is born of Mary
  And, gathered all above
  While mortals sleep, the angels keep
  Their watch of wond'ring love.
  O morning stars, together
  Proclaim the holy birth,
  And praises sing to God the King,
  And peace to all on earth!
- 3. How silently, how silently
  The wondrous gift is giv'n!
  So God imparts to human hearts
  The blessings of his heav'n.
  No ear may hear his coming,
  But in this world of sin,
  Where meek souls will receive him, still
  The dear Christ enters in.
- 4. O holy Child of Bethlehem,
  Descend to us, we pray;
  Cast out our sin and enter in,
  Be born in us today.
  We hear the Christmas angels
  The great glad tidings tell;
  O come to us, abide with us,
  Our Lord Emmanuel!

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## 4th Sunday of Advent

### First Reading: Mi 5:1-4a

"Thus says the LORD: You, Bethlehem-Ephrathah too small to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel; whose origin is from of old, from ancient times. Therefore the Lord will give them up, until the time when she who is to give birth has borne, and the rest of his kindred shall return to the children of Israel. He shall stand firm and shepherd his flock by the strength of the LORD, in the majestic name of the LORD, his God; and they shall remain, for now his greatness shall reach to the ends of the earth; he shall be peace."

### Responsorial Psalm: Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19

R. (4) Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

### Second Reading: Heb 10:5-10

"Brothers and sisters: When Christ came into the world, he said: "Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; in holocausts and sin offerings you took no delight. Then I said, 'As is written of me in the scroll, behold, I come to do your will, O God.' "First he says, "Sacrifices and offerings, holocausts and sin offerings, you neither desired nor delighted in." These are offered according to the law. Then he says, :Behold, I come to do your will." He takes away the first to establish the second. By this "will," we have been consecrated through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all."

### Alleluia: Lk 1:38

R. Alleluia, alleluia.
Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord.
May it be done to me according to your word.
R. Alleluia, alleluia.

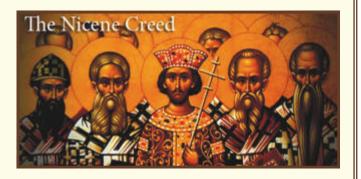
### Gospel: Lk 1:39-45

"Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that

the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."

### 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, theLord, 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 Catechism of the Catholic Church

### God alone IS

212 Over the centuries, Israel's faith was able to manifest and deepen realization of the riches contained in the revelation of the divine name. God is unique; there are no other gods besides him. He transcends the world and history. He made heaven and earth: "They will perish, but you endure; they will all wear out like a garment....but you are the same, and your years have no end." In God "there is no variation or shadow due to change." God is "HE WHO IS", from everlasting to everlasting, and as such remains ever faithful to himself and to his promises.

213 The revelation of the ineffable name "I AM WHO AM" contains then the truth that God alone IS. the Greek Septuagint translation of the Hebrew Scriptures, and following it the Church's Tradition, understood the divine name in this sense: God is the fullness of Being and of every perfection, without origin and without end. All creatures receive all that they are and have from him; but he alone is his very being, and he is of himself everything that he is.

## III. GOD, "HE WHO IS", IS TRUTH AND LOVE

214 God, "HE WHO IS", revealed himself to Israel as the one "abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness". These two terms express summarily the riches of the divine name. In all his works God displays, not only his kindness, goodness, grace and steadfast love, but also his trustworthiness, constancy, faithfulness and truth. "I give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness." He is the Truth, for "God is light and in him there is no darkness"; "God is love", as the apostle John teaches. God is Truth

215 "The sum of your word is truth; and every one of your righteous ordinances endures forever." "And now, O LORD God, you are God, and your words are true"; this is why God's promises always come true. God is Truth itself, whose words cannot deceive. This is why one can abandon oneself in full trust to the truth and faithfulness of his word in all things. the beginning of sin and of man's fall was due to a lie of the tempter who induced doubt of God's word, kindness and faithfulness.

**216** God's truth is his wisdom, which commands the whole created order and governs the world. God, who alone made heaven and earth, can alone impart true knowledge of every created thing in relation to himself.

217 God is also truthful when he reveals himself - the teaching that comes from God is "true instruction". When he sends his Son into the world it will be "to bear witness to the truth": "We know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, to know him who is true."

#### **God is Love**

218 In the course of its history, Israel was able to discover that God had only one reason to reveal himself to them, a single motive for choosing them from among all peoples as his special possession: his sheer gratuitous love. And thanks to the prophets Israel understood that it was again out of love that God never stopped saving them and pardoning their unfaithfulness and sins.

**219** God's love for Israel is compared to a father's love for his son. His love for his people is stronger than a mother's for her children. God loves his people more than a bridegroom his beloved; his love will be victorious over even the worst infidelities and will extend to his most precious gift: "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son."

**220** God's love is "everlasting": "For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you." Through Jeremiah, God declares to his people, "I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you."

**221** But St. John goes even further when he affirms that "God is love": God's very being is love. By sending his only Son and the Spirit of Love in the fullness of time, God has revealed his innermost secret: God himself is an eternal exchange of love, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and he has destined us to share in that exchange.





## A DECISION OF FAITH

Giving freely of ourselves — whether it is a gift of our time, our talent, or our treasure — isn't always easy or comfortable. It is a decision of faith, and it is the result of much prayer and self-evaluation, as we consider our many blessings and our responsibility to use them wisely in the service of the Lord. As you consider your commitment to our future through the *Forward with Faith* campaign, we invite you to reflect upon four questions that may help you determine the appropriate amount to pledge.

- •Is your pledge motivated by love and gratitude to God a way to acknowledge all the ways that God has blessed you?
- •Does your pledge stretch your faith by lifting you beyond your comfort zone, causing a new selflessness on your part and requiring you to place your trust first in God?
- •Do you feel a sense of purpose and a spirit of joy in making your pledge rather than a sense of obligation or guilt?
- •Will your support serve as a loving witness that would inspire those who know you?

If you have not already done so, I hope you will join me in making a sacrificial gift to **Forward** with Faith. Together, we will meet the challenges of our future and leave a lasting legacy for generations to come.

Thank you to all who have given thus far to help make our campaign a success. All gifts to the Forward with Faith campaign of any size are greatly appreciated!

For more information, please visit www. hartfordbishopsfoundation.org/ forwardwithfaith

## Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

Christmas Day 8:30 a.m.; 10:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.





Saturday, January 1, 2022
Solemnity of Mary
Mother of God
(not a holy day of obligation)
8:30 a.m.

## **Christmas Reconciliation Schedule**

Wednesday, December 22nd 5:30—7:00 p.m.





We welcome all those who attend Mass this Christmas. If you are new to the parish and would like to speak to our Pastor, Fr. Dietrich, please call the rectory at 860-583-1833 or e-mail: pastor@stmatthewrcc.com.

Welcome Again, welcome!

St. Matthew's Bereavement Support Group



St. Matthew Bereavement Support Group will meet on Saturday, January 8, 2021 from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. in the Parish Center. Please call Rita Lagasse at 860-583-6674 to register.

## **Office Holidays Hours:**

The Parish Office will be closed on:



Friday, December 24th and Monday, December 27th

## Advent Wreath - Lighting of Candles



The Advent Wreath plays a prominent role in the celebration of this special liturgical season. Each Sunday during Advent a candle is lit on the wreath anticipating the born of our savior. The violet candles symbolize the pen-

itential nature of the season. The fourth candle is rose and is lit on the Third Sunday of Advent. At each of the Masses during the Advent Season a family from our parish will be invited to light the candles on the Advent Wreath.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18

4:00 p.m. Sobota family

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19

7:00 a.m. Doughty family

8:30 a.m.

10:00 a.m.

11:30 a.m. Kiszka-Curtis family

5:00 p.m.

# Please DONATE

# 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.
- 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!

### **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, Ada Zoccoli, Frank Baldino, Paul D'Aprile, Diane Bouchard, Barbara Morgan-Young, Murillo Bouchard, Theresa Letizia Darby, Betty Ann Silver, Gary Wycko, Sr., Lisa Harkey-Smith, Daniel Murzin, Kenneth Roy, Kenny Armstrong, Alice Casper and Cecilia Dombrowski.



### December 19 —December 25

The Sanctuary Lamp is lit this week, in honor of *Walter Bartkiewicz* (Christmas remembrance) requested by his loving daughter, Joan.

The Blessed Mother Candle is lit this week, in honor of Pelletier and Corbin family requested by Catherine Pelletier

The St. Joseph Candle is lit this week, in honor of *Joseph Jenislawski*, *Jr*. (10th anniversary) requested by his wife, son and family.

## Family Chalice For Vocations 8:30 a.m.

### **Patrick and Karen Collins**

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**

20 Monday —

Is 7:1010-14; Ps 24:1-4b, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38

**21 Tuesday** — St. Peter Canisius, Priest Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-1; Lk 1:39-45

22 Wednesday —

1Sm 1:24-28; (Ps) 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8d; Lk 1:46-56

**23 Thursday** — St. John of Kanty, priest Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Ps 25:4-5b, 8-10, 14: Lk 1:57-66



# Mass Intentions

Saturday December 18th

**8:30a.m.** † Jay Johnson by Jean-Pierre and

Claudette Blais

**4:00 p.m.** † Lucy and Marie Aspromonte by daughter

and sister, Rosemary

Sunday December 19th 4th Sunday of Advent

7:00 a.m. † Sean Lindsley by

Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Lindsley

**8:30 a.m.** † Arthur Crowley (6th anniversary)

by family

**10:00 a.m.** † Joseph Jenislawski, Jr. (10th anniversary

remembrance) by his wife, son and family

11:30 a.m. † Kathie and Irene Felice by family

**5:00 p.m.** † Stanislawa Polomka by granddaughter

and family

**Monday** December 20th

7:30 a.m. † Robert Fanion by his wife Ann Fanion

and daughter, Jackie Sanchez

**Tuesday** December 21st

7:30 a.m † All souls in Purgatory by Lisa Kulig

Wednesday December 22nd

**7:30 a.m.** † Enrica and Anthony Landino

by D'Amico Family

Thursday December 23rd

7:30 a.m. † John Halpin by Tracy Halpin-Wood



Friday, December 24th, Christmas Vigil

4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.
All Mass intentions are for all living and deceased members of St. Matthew Church

Saturday, December 25th, *Christmas Day* 

8:30 a.m. 10 a.m. 11:30 a.m. All Mass intentions are for of all living and deceased members of St. Matthew Church



**Sunday** December 26th *The Most Holy Family of* 

Jesus, Mary and Joseph

7:00 a.m. † Angelo and Maureen Genovese by

John and Sue Genovese family

**8:30 a.m.** † Marie Levasseur by Deborah Gesner

10:00 a.m. † Joseph Procko, Sr. by Charles and

Florence Procko

11:30 a.m. † Ryan Buckman by his mom, Donna

and sister, Michelle

5:00 p.m. † Joseph Johson by Chris, Lisa Cain and

family

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