St. Matthew Parish

19 Dora Lane, Limerick, Maine 04048-3527

Tel. 207-793-2244
Website: www.stmatthewlimerick.org
Email: StMatthew@portlanddiocese.org
Diocese of Portland Diocesan website: www.portlanddiocese.org

We welcome you to the Catholic Community of St. Matthew and the celebration of the Eucharist.

ST. MATTHEW PARISH STAFF:

V. Rev. Wilfred Labbe, Pastor
Rev. Alex Boucher, Parochial Vicar
Deacon Paul Lissandrello, Pastoral Associate
Jessica Rice, Lifelong Faith Formation Coordinator
Heather Silva, Administrative Assistant
Amy Paradis, Parish Music Coordinator

FINANCE COMMISSION:

David Fedrizzi
Kevin LaFreniere
John Wilk

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS:

George Duranleau, Grand Knight, 793-0263

BIRTHPLACE HELPLINE:

Abortion Alternatives/Project Rachel
1-800-227-3002

WEEKEND MASSES:

Saturday at 4:00 p.m.
Sunday at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.

WEEKDAY MASSES:

8:00 a.m. - Monday Prayer Service
8:00 a.m. - Tuesday — Friday*
*Check weekly bulletin for possible time changes.

LIVE STREAM MASSES:

All Masses are live streamed except 10:30 am Sunday

BAPTISMS:

Parents who want to have their child(ren) baptized are asked to please call the parish office (793-2244).

WEDDINGS:

Anyone planning to get married must call the parish office at least SIX MONTHS PRIOR to the proposed wedding date.

CONFESSIONS:

Saturday at 3:00 p.m.,
AND ANYTIME BY APPOINTMENT.

NEW PARISHIONERS:

Welcome to St. Matthew Parish. Please fill out the Parish Membership Form below and drop it in the collection basket or mail to the parish office.

DOMESTIC ABUSE HOTLINE:

324-1802 or 1-800-239-7298

PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN:

www.portlanddiocese.org/protecting-gods-children

We joyfully welcome back to the Church any of our brothers and sisters who may have been away.
PARISH MEMBERSHIP:
Name _____
Address _____
City _____
Zip Code _____
Phone No. _____
Email Address _____
Check
_____New Registration _____Updating Info.
_____Change of Address _____Moving out of Parish

TODAY IS THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT. THE READINGS BEGIN ON PAGE 18 OF THE MISSALETTE.

Mass Intentions

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEKEND

Saturday
4:00 p.m. *Intentions of Don Saucier by Deb Saucier*
Sunday
8:00 a.m. *Rev. Laurent LaPlante*
By Steve & Laura Marchessault
10:30 a.m. *Edward & Genevie Klosowski*
By Ed & Leslie Klosowski

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Monday ***Miraculous Medal Novena &***
8:00 a.m. ***Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament***
Tuesday
8:00 a.m. *Rosario Carpino by The D'Onofrio Family*
Wednesday
8:00 a.m. **NO MASS**
Thursday
8:00 a.m. *Keith Mead by The Family*
Friday
8:00 a.m. **NO MASS**

MASS INTENTIONS NEXT WEEKEND (Dec 5 & 6)

Saturday
4:00 p.m. *Todd Roberge by Arthur & Elaine Roberge*
Sunday
8:00 a.m. *Andre Vermette by Steve & Jackie Foglio*
10:30 a.m. *Intentions of the Parishioners*

Readings for the Week of December 6, 2020

Sunday:	Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 [8]/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8
Monday:	Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [Is 35:4f]/Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday:	Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [1]/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
Wednesday:	Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10 [1]/Mt 11:28-30
Thursday:	Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab [8]/ Mt 11:11-15
Friday:	Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [cf. Jn 8:12]/Mt 11:16-19
Saturday:	Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13:18bcde, 19 [15:9d]/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
Next Sunday:	Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 51-54 [Is 61:10b]/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

Would you like to have the Sanctuary Lamp burn in the church for your loved one? Contact the office for the weeks that you would like reserved.. Donations of $10 for 7 Days and $20 for 14 Days.

Dec 7— Dec 13th—In Memory of Todd Roberge
Dec 14 — Dec 20th— Dorothy Daigle
*Dec 22nd—Dec 28th—**AVAILABLE***

Pastor's Pondering

For the longest time I was not able to sit still. This was not just as a child it was well into my forties that I seemed to need to be in perpetual motion. This, of course, made it near impossible for me to spend anytime in quiet contemplation or meditation. I was so envious of those people who could sit in adoration for an hour. They seemed so much calmer than I was. The good news is that sitting still, meditation, contemplation, are learned skills. So over time I have developed the ability to be still, to be quiet, to be docile.

For many of us, this pandemic has forced us to abandon our comfort zones. We have been forced to change our routines, to learn new skills, and to manage our time differently. Even mundane activities like shopping and recreation take much more planning in the season of COVID. For most of us, as difficult as these transitions have been, we have adapted, and while hoping for a return to normalcy, are getting on with life such as it is.

So why is it so hard for many of us to learn to meditate or to contemplate? Why is it so hard for us to quiet ourselves long enough to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit calling us to higher and better things? Why is it so hard for us to be still and to find comfort in the presence of Jesus?

Fear may be the answer to these questions. If we quiet ourselves and listen, we may hear things that we do not want to hear. We may hear that there are things in our lives that we need to change. If we pause and sit still, we may discover that we are unhappy with some of the choices we have made. If we meditate, if we contemplate, if we place ourselves in the presence of Jesus, we may feel unworthy of such an awesome experience.

Jesus tells us that the truth will set us free. We also hear that once we see the light, darkness no longer has any power over us. This season of Advent, with its call to stillness, to silence, to meditation and contemplation, is meant to lead us to the truth and center us in the light of Christ. These disciplines are meant to dispel our fear and allow us to see ourselves as Jesus sees us. In the still quiet light of Christ we come to know our need for conversion as we are reminded again and again that we are beloved children of God.

During these days of preparation, may we take some time each day and learn how to be quiet and still. In this stillness and quiet may we be open to hearing the voice of God. In this time of docility, may we learn what it means to be in the presence of Jesus and desire this experience always.

~ Fr. Bill

MASS SCHEDULE

St. Matthew Church

Saturday:	4:00 PM*
Sunday:	8:00 AM
	10:30 AM
Monday: Prayer serv.	8:00 AM
Tuesday—Friday:	8:00 AM*

*Confessions at 3pm

(Mass schedule subject to priest availability.)

St. Therese Lesieux Parish

Saturday: 4:00 PM
Holy Family, Sanford

Sunday: 7:30 AM
Notre Dame, Springvale
9:00 AM & 11AM
Holy Family, Sanford

MF	7:30 AM Holy Family
T	6:00 PM Holy Family*
W	9:00 AM Holy Family
TH	6:00 PM Holy Family*

*Adoration & Confession held at 5PM
Check often for Daily Mass Changes

HOLY DAY SIGN UP– We are asking that you sign up now for Masses for the upcoming Holy Days in order for us to plan. Mass in the Church is now FULL. Right now we only have seating in the Hall. If you have questions, please call the office at 793-2244. **PLEASE KNOW, ADMITTANCE THE DAY OF A HOLY DAY WITHOUT PRIOR RESERVATION WILL NOT BE ALLOWED.**

MASS CANCELLED: Fr. Bill will be away this week. Mass is cancelled on Wednesday the 9th and Friday the 11th.

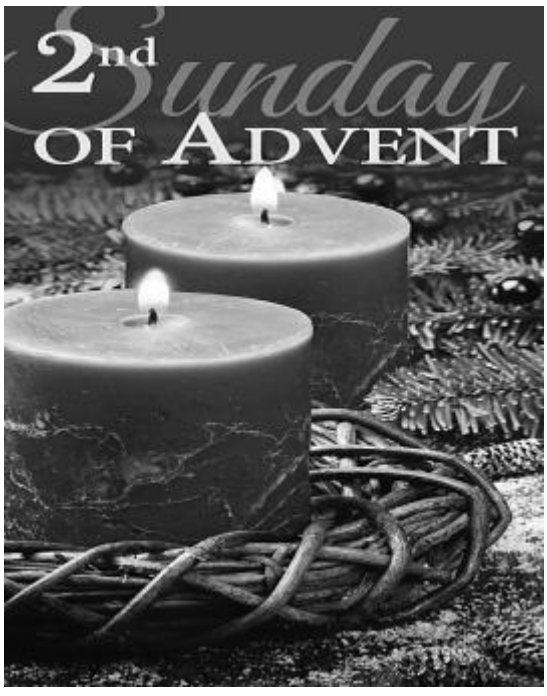
Christmas Poinsettia Fundraiser

Order forms have been included in this bulletin. Please place your order in an envelope and place in collection, or drop off in the Narthex. Payment MUST be make at time of order. Orders will be accepted until December 6th. Pick up will be after Masses December 13th-December 20th, or in the office during that week. All poinsettias not picked up by the 20th will be donated to St. Matthew Church.

Christmas Flower Donation options: Envelopes are available on the ushers carts in the narthex for those who wish to donate to help defray the cost of flowers for the church during Christmas. Online givers can also give in a loved ones name. Parishioners may also purchase poinsettias directly from the Christmas Poinsettia Fundraiser order forms.

Questions about the Poinsettia Fundraiser or Flower Donation envelopes can contact Heather in the office, 793-2244.

MEETINGS HAVE BEEN CANCELLED Please note that all meetings and activities have been cancelled during the month of December. This will be reassessed in January.



PARISH FINANCES

Amount **needed** weekly to operate parish	$	4,200.00
Offertory 11/15/20	$	1,692.00
Offertory 11/22/20	$	1,258.00
Offertory 11/29/20	$	1,964.00
WeShare NOVEMBER	$	6,419.50
NOVEMBER 2020 OFFERTORY	$	15,671.61
BELOW NOVEMBER Offertory Goal	$	5,328.39
Campaign for Human Development Collection 11/22/20	$	207.00

Donate today using your debit card, credit card, checking, or savings account.

1. Visit your church website and click **Give Online**.
2. Set up your account.
3. Choose a payment option and customize your donation.

ONLINE GIVING By WeShare

Contact our Customer Support Team at weshare@4lpi.com

The Food Pantry is in need of volunteers. Would you be interested in volunteering on the first Monday morning of each month? We need help with our truck deliveries. Must be physically capable of moving and lifting boxes. Masks required.

ST. MATTHEW CHURCH FOOD PANTRY

THE PANTRY SCHEDULE IS AS FOLLOWS:

1st Monday of the month: 6-7pm
EVERY Tuesday 10am-12pm

****Serving residents of Limerick, Newfield, Parsonsfield or parishioners.**

St. Matthew Food Pantry is always in need of a few items they have a hard time purchasing from Good Shepherd. Would you be willing to donate these items? A collection container can be found in the Narthex under the tables.

Hamburger Helper* Jelly & Jams* Coffee*

Bread & Eggs are always useful, if you can drop during pantry hours.

***These items we tend to have a shortage of.**

THANK YOU IN ADVANCE!!

Plastic & paper bags are needed for the Food Pantry. You may leave them in the narthex in the Food Pantry bin.

Please include the following priests serving in our diocese in your daily prayers this week:

Dec 07 Rev. Harold D Moreshead/Msgr. Rene Mathieu
Dec 08 All Priests
Dec 09 Rev. Albert Roux/Rev. Joseph Daniels
Dec 10 Rev. Patrick J Finn/Rev. Emile H Dube
Dec 11 Rev. Anthony F Kuzia CM/Rev. John Mazzel
Dec 12 V. Rev. Daniel P. Greenleaf/Rev. Joseph W. Cahill
Dec 13 Bishop Joseph J. Gerry OSB

Heavenly Father, may the Immaculate Virgin prepare our priests for the radiant feast of Christmas.

God calls us to proclaim the Good News. How do you share that Good News? Pray for the grace to be a faith filled witness of God's love, (Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11) contact Father Seamus Griesbach at (207) 773-6471 or write: seamus.griesbach@portlanddiocese.org

John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. John was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He fed on locusts and wild honey. And this is what he proclaimed: "One mightier than I is coming after me." — Mk 1:4, 6-7a

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD

IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROGRAM "PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN"

In the **interest of children's safety**, we ask that children **not be allowed to leave Mass** to use the restrooms downstairs, **unless they are accompanied by an adult**. Because we are a public building, doors are required to be unlocked, allowing entrance to all.

The Season of Advent in the Midst of Pandemic Sunday
December 6, 2020 | 4:00-5:00pm

Advent is a time of preparation. Join Fr. Bill Labbe and Fr. Alex Boucher as we prepare spiritually for the birth of Jesus Christ at Christmas. This hourlong evening of recollection will include Eucharistic Adoration, an Advent meditation, time for quiet reflection, and Benediction.

Sign up required. Call the office or sign up online.

Lifelong Faith Formation

Children's Faith Formation

This Week's Schedule

Kindergarten:
Zoom 12/7 7PM

Sacramental Prep 1:
Zoom 12/8
PARENT/CHILD SESSION

Sacramental Prep 2:
Zoom 12/9
PARENT/CHILD SESSION

3rd Grade:
In Person 12/6 **(Replace cancelled class 11/15)
Zoom 12/9

4th/5th Grade:
Zoom 12/10

Youth Group

6PM in Parish Hall

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In Memory of
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