



ST. MATTHEW PARISH

19 DORA LANE, LIMERICK, ME | 207.793.2244 | STMATTHEW@PORTLANDDIOCESE.ORG

SUNDAY, APRIL 11, 2021

2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER



Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."

- Jn 20:28-29

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 8:00 p.m. *Linda Lanoue by Parker Dow & Family*
 Sunday 8:00 a.m. *Michael Doggett by Edward & Suellen Doggett*
 10:30 a.m. *John M Fay by the Snyder & Dow Families*

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Monday 8:00a.m. *Miraculous Medal Novena & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament*
 Tuesday 8:00a.m. *Anthony Cerutti by Enes Butts*
 Wednesday 8:00a.m. *Nancy Goudreau by Ralph Goudreau*
 Thursday 8:00 a.m. *Fr. Joseph Whitlock by Fr. Bill Labbe*
 Friday 8:00 a.m. *Linda Lanoue by Mr. & Mrs. John Schneider*

MASS INTENTIONS NEXT WEEKEND (April 17 & 18)

Saturday 8:00 p.m. *Bella & George Stewart by The Family*
 Sunday 8:00 a.m. *Intentions of the Parishioners*
 10:30 a.m. *John M Fay by The Harriman Family*

WEEKLY PRAYER

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 11, 2021

Sunday: Acts 4:32-35/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 [1]/1 Jn 5:1-6/
 Jn 20:19-3
 Monday: Acts 4:23-31/Ps 2:1-3, 4-7a, 7b-9 [cf. 11d]/Jn 3:1-8
 Tuesday: Acts 4:32-37/Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5 [1a]/Jn 3:7b-15
 Wednesday: Acts 5:17-26/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [7a]/Jn 3:16-21
 Thursday: Acts 5:27-33/Ps 34:2 and 9, 17-18, 19-20 [7a]/Jn 3:31-36
 Friday: Acts 5:34-42/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 [cf. 4abc]/Jn 6:1-15
 Saturday: Acts 6:1-7/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19 [22]/Jn 6:16-21
 Next Sunday: Acts 3:13-15, 17-19/Ps 4:2, 4, 7-8, 9 [7a]/1 Jn 2:1-5a/
 Lk 24:35-48

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.



April 12th – April 18th – Still Available
April 19th – April 25th – In Memory of Matthew D Webb
April 26th – May 2nd – Still Available



St. Matthew Parish

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 Saturday
 (Mass schedule subject to priest availability.)

St. Therese of Lisieux 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

Pastor's Pondering

I suspect more than a few of us have felt entombed over the last year. Forced to quarantine, to wear masks, to avoid family and friends, and to refrain from travel has made many of us feel imprisoned and entombed. It is bad enough that winter restricts our movements but add to that a pandemic and some seemingly harsh restrictions that keep us safe, and it is a good bet that for many of us our mental and emotional health is also in need of some healing. At the very least there is an abundance of "cabin fever" that seems to be affecting many of us.

Over the last few months, people have been confessing frustration and anger more than at any other time in my twenty-two years as a priest. I often hear how much one loves their spouse, their children, their parents, followed by a confession about how little patience they have for them these days. It is not only in the confessional that I hear about these frustrations but in more than a few of the conversations that I have, people are lamenting how short their fuse is.

I have no doubt that we continue to love our spouses, our children, our parents, our friends, and neighbors as much, and hopefully more, than we did in the past. There is, however, some truth to the cliché that reminds us that familiarity breeds contempt. Each of us responds differently to having to surrender our desires or to giving up control. And there is a boatload of fear associated with this pandemic and fear is often masked with anger or anxiety as we fight to make sense of things that we have no control over.

But as I said on Easter and as I say as often as I can, we are Easter people. We follow Jesus and so we know that we will experience Good Friday. We also know that Good Friday is a day, that the darkness and the tomb that could not confine Jesus cannot confine us. We know, because Jesus himself tells us, that fear is useless, and that worry adds nothing to our lives.

This is indeed our faith, but it is not easy living this good news when every day we hear about more disease and death. It is not easy to live this good news when we feel trapped, annoyed, or entombed. It is not easy to live the good news of salvation when we do not feel free.

Perhaps this is why Jesus made it a point to tell us of the importance of loving our neighbor over and over again. When Jesus made this His great commandment he was not talking about love as an emotion or as an idea. Instead, He was speaking of love as an act of the will. He was speaking of love not as something we fall in and out of but something that we seek, we choose even when it is difficult.

Jesus also often reminded us to be not afraid. He did not mean that we should act foolishly because God will take care of us. He did not mean that we should ignore the reality that there are indeed people and things in this world that can harm us. Instead, what Jesus meant was that as Easter people we will indeed share in this life and in the life to come the victory of the cross and resurrection. That as difficult as things may get on this earth it will always pale in comparison to what awaits those who are patient and persistent even during troubling times.

Of course, it would be great if everyone who has read this immediately felt better emotionally, mentally, and physically but this just will not happen. It would be great if we all felt our anger, our frustration, our anxiety melting away, but neither is this going to happen. What each of us needs to do is seek the vaccine that the Eucharist offers us...a vaccine the strengthens us to love, that empowers us in our weakness, and that calms us in our fear. We need to quarantine with Jesus in a time of prayer every day. We need to practice the virtue of gratitude at every moment of our day. And finally, and most importantly we need to see our crosses not simply as burdens to be carried but as our sharing in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ who reminds us often that he is the way, the truth, and the life. In other words, we need to bear our crosses with patience and love generously, knowing that our present burdens, frustrations, and fears cannot entomb us because we are Easter people.

~ Fr. Bill



Divine Mercy Sunday

Jesus details the meaning of Divine Mercy Sunday to St. Faustina Kowalksa where she records in her diary #699 : *On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. On that day all the divine floodgates through which grace flow are opened. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet.*”

Please join us for Eucharistic Adoration & praying of the Divine Mercy Chaplet on Divine Mercy Sunday, April 11 at 3pm. All are welcome!



Lay Carmelite Meetings - If you want to learn about the spirit of Carmel you are welcomed to join our meetings on the fourth Saturday of the month beginning at 10:00 A.M. - 12:00 PM in the Religious Education center upstairs at Notre Dame, Springvale. We pray Morning Prayer from the Divine Office, Lectio Divina (meditating on Sacred Scripture) and learn about the history and the charism of Carmel. (“To follow Jesus Christ as brothers and sister of the Blessed Virgin Mary, called together by the Holy Spirit...to live as Elijah in the presence of God...To serve the needs of the Church and of each other in love.” Please call our director, Ruthie Larivee at (207) 793-5268.

Knights of Columbus: 4th Degree will be meeting at 7pm on April 15th in the parish hall. Please note distance and masks are required.

1921 2021

This year our parish is celebrating our 100th Anniversary! This is an impressive milestone, one that is a testament of our parish’s strength as a community. This past year has certainly put our strength and resilience to the test, but we are proud to reflect on how well we have managed to still meet the needs of our parishioners in a multitude of ways. We may not have our annual Funshine Fair, but we are hoping to have many smaller events and celebrations in the 100 days that lead up to the anniversary. Please begin thinking of how you can help our parish plan for our centennial celebration. We want to find ways, not just with our parishioners, but with our community as a whole, to come together. This church through the years of spiritual gatherings, community meals, our food pantry, and our many other ministries has had an impact on many. Let us honor the good work God has done here.

Do you have stories or touching memories? What about pictures or memorabilia? We’re looking for people willing to share their time and talents to help gather and compile a written account to add to the history that was written on the first 75 years. If you are interested, please contact Heather in the office at heather.silva@portlanddiocese.org or call 793-2244.

Be on the watch for more information about how you can help celebrate the 100 days leading up to our 100th Anniversary October 16, 2021. If you have ideas you would like to share, feel free to email them to us!



ST MATTHEW PARISH | SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER ~ DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

PARISH FINANCES

Parish Finances will be updated next week.



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

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

ST. THOMAS

2021 - 2022

Enrollment Now Open!

Open Enrollment Begins

After March 12th

Check out our webpage to access our Enrollment Packet.

Phone: (207)324-5832

School Website: <https://saintthomas.eduk12.net/>



Be sure to check out our Facebook page to keep up with all our fun!

<https://www.facebook.com/St.ThomasSchoolSanford>

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.





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

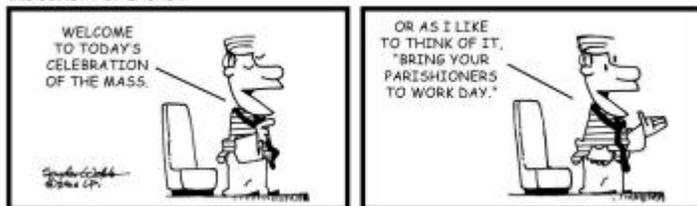
Apostolate of Prayer for Priests

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

- Apr 12 Rev. Aurelijus Gricius OFM/Rev. Arockiasamy Snathiagu HGN
- Apr 13 Rev. Stephen F Concannon/Rev David E Schlaver CSC
- Apr 14 Rev. Sylvio J Levesque/Rev. Kevin Hughes, SJ
- Apr 15 Rev. Arockisamy Santhiyagu HGN/Rev. Dominic Savio HGN
- Apr 16 Rev. James Doran/Rev. Emile H Dube
- Apr 17 Rev. Apolinary Kavishe AJ/Rev. Robert L Lupo
- Apr 18 Bishop Emeritus Joseph J. Gerry OSB

Thomas believed because he saw Jesus. We are blest when we have not seen and believe. What does it take for you to believe in Jesus' call to you? (John 20:19-31). If you think God is calling you to be a priest, deacon, brother or sister, contact Father Seamus Griesbach at (207) 773-6471; email: seamus.griesbach@portlanddiocese.org; Website: www.portlanddiocese.org/vocations; Facebook: @VocationsME

2nd SUNDAY OF EASTER



ST MATTHEW PARISH

St. Matthew Church

19 Dora Lane

Limerick, ME 04048

207-793-2244

<https://www.stmatthewlimerick.org>

stmatthewlimerick@portlanddiocese.org

ST. MATTHEW PARISH STAFF:

V. Rev. Wilfred P. Labbe, Pastor

Rev. Alexander R. Boucher, Parochial Vicar

Deacon Paul Lissandrello, Pastoral Associate

Heather Silva, Administrative Assistant

Deborah DeGraw, Faith Formation Coordinator

Amy Paradis, Parish Music Coordinator

FINANCE COMMISSION:

David Fedrizzi

Kevin LaFreniere

George Sleeper

John Wilk

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS:

George Duranleau, Grand Knight, 793-0263

MASSES TIMES:

Saturday at 4:00 p.m.

Sunday at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.

8:00 a.m. - Monday Prayer Service

8:00 a.m. - Tuesday – Friday*

*Check weekly bulletin for possible schedule changes.

LIVE STREAM MASSES:

All Masses are live streamed on our website:

www.stmatthewlimerick.org

FACEBOOK:

@stmatthewlimerick

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 in the narthex and drop it in the collection basket or mail to the parish office.

BIRTHPLACE HELPLINE:

Abortion Alternatives/Project Rachel

1-800-227-3002

DOMESTIC ABUSE HOTLINE:

324-1802 or 1-800-239-7298

PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN:

www.portlanddiocese.org/protecting-gods-children

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PORTLAND:

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.

APRIL 11, 2021

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