

# Roman Catholic Church of St. Matthew

35 North Service Road, Dix Hills, New York 11746  
(631) 499 - 8520 Fax: (631) 499 - 1530 [www.smrcc.org](http://www.smrcc.org)  
Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

## Pastor

Rev. Robert Hewes

## Associate Pastors

Rev. Joseph Habila

Rev. Benet Uwasomba

## Deacon

Carmine DeStefano

## Pastoral Associate

Sr. Kathleen McCarthy, O. P.

D.R.E.: Mary Donaldson

Music Director: Lee Forsythe



## The Salvation of Souls is the Supreme Law

### SCHEDULE OF MASSES

SATURDAY: 4:00 p.m.

SUNDAY: 7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m. (Family Mass), 11:00 a.m. (Choir Mass),  
12:30 p.m. (A Traditional Latin Mass is offered at this regularly scheduled Mass - 1st & 3rd Sunday of the month.)

MONDAY - SATURDAY: 9:00 a.m. Mass in the Church. Holy Days will be printed in the bulletin.

### CONFESSIONS

SATURDAY: 3:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. For any other time, please call to make an appointment with a priest.

### BAPTISM SCHEDULE

The 3rd Sunday and the 4th Saturday of the each month. (No Baptisms Easter Sunday or Christmas Weekends.) First-time parents are required to attend a **Baptismal Preparation Class** which is offered on the last Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel. (No class is held in December.)  
Registration is required for both the Baptism and /or the Baptism Class and must be done online at [www.smrcc.org](http://www.smrcc.org).

### MARRIAGE

Arrangements should be made at least 6 months in advance and should be made prior to making plans for a reception. Call the Parish Center for an appointment with the priest or deacon you wish to witness your wedding. All couples are required to attend Pre-Cana.

Dear Friends,

Two weeks ago, we began a new Church (or Liturgical) Year with the First Sunday of Advent.

From this Sunday, all through till Pentecost next year, the Church takes us through her Liturgy from the preparation of the Messiah's Birth to the glorious consummation of His Paschal Mystery.



The Season of Advent also is a special time of spiritual preparation for Christmas. In former days it had the character of a "little Lent" (only 4 Sundays as opposed to 5 weeks): a season of fasting and repentance, preparing the soul for Christmas as we do for Easter.

It was also a time that included the ancient penitential Winter Ember Days and the great Vigils of the Immaculate Conception and of Christmas Eve, where Catholics used to observe fasting and abstinence from meat. The only remnant of that now is the purple color of the vestments and of the Advent Candles (lightened on the Third or "Gaudete" Sunday of Advent by the use of rose vestments).

The name "Advent" is the Latin for "coming." We remember three "advents" of the Lord:

- The first coming of the Lord in history, as the Child of Bethlehem.
- The second coming at the end of time to "judge the living and the dead," as we say in the Creed.
- The middle, or "daily" coming of the Lord in His Word, Sacraments, and daily graces and opportunities to serve Him in those around us.

The Advent Wreath has 4 colored candles, symbolizing the traditional 4000 years that is said to have elapsed from the creation of Adam to the birth of Christ. The violet color is a reminder that Advent, though not really a pre-Christmas Lent, is a time perhaps of serious reflection and straightening out our lives, if need be, to worthily celebrate Christmas. "The Lord is near," we often hear in Advent. Indeed He is! Everyday, He is near. Let us all try to live with that thought in our minds and hearts not only now, but every day of our lives.

God's blessings,  
Father Hewes



**Attention all Health Care Professionals!** Consider joining the Long Island Guild of the Catholic Medical Association, recently chartered by the national CMA and endorsed by Bishop Barres.

Our mission statement: To **see** Christ in our patients. To **be** Christ for our patients.  
Goals: Fellowship, Educational and Spiritual Formation, Service.  
No dues for local membership.

**We will meet the second Saturdays of the month following the 4:00 p.m. Vigil Mass at St. Matthews R.C. Church, 35 N. Service Road, Dix Hills:  
2022: January 8, February 12, March 12, April 9**

For additional information Contact: [cmaliguil@gmail.com](mailto:cmaliguil@gmail.com)

**COME,**  
*Lord Jesus!*



## CHRISTMAS SEASON 2021

### *Christmas Confession Schedule 2021*

(All in the Church)

**Saturday, December 18th: 3:00 - 4:00 PM**

**Thursday, December 23rd: 7:00 - 8:00 PM**

**Friday, December 24th: 11:00 AM - 12:00 Noon**



*Mass  
Schedule*

~ (All in the Church)

**Friday, December 24th**

**Christmas Eve**

**4:00 PM, 5:30 PM, 10:00 PM**

**Saturday, December 25th**

**Christmas Day**

**7:30 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:00 AM &**

**12:30 PM (Note: Traditional Latin Christmas High Mass)**

**No Evening Mass Saturday, Christmas Day**



# ADVENT



**HOPE. LOVE. JOY. PEACE.**



*It's A Christmas Raffle!*

**50/50 Cash Drawing  
TUESDAY,  
DECEMBER 21st, 2021  
In the Parish Center**

The winner will receive 50%  
of the amount collected.

Last year's winner received over  
\$12,000.00!

Tickets will be on sale at the main  
entrance of the church after all  
Masses on this weekend and  
December 12th and 19th.

\$25.00 each Ticket...  
5 Tickets for \$100.00



## PARISH MINISTRIES

**ALTAR SERVERS:** Porzia DiGiorgio: [me@porzia.com](mailto:me@porzia.com)  
and John DiGiorgio: [me@johndigiorgio.com](mailto:me@johndigiorgio.com)

**APOSTLESHIP OF PRAYER:**

Kathryn Giandoreggio: 631-491-3735

**ATHLETIC WEBSITE:** [www.smrcc.org](http://www.smrcc.org)

**ATHLETICS DIRECTOR/ INTRAMURAL & CYO TRAVEL**

**COORDINATOR:** Chris Felice: [smrccathletics@gmail.com](mailto:smrccathletics@gmail.com)

**BAPTISM OFFICE:** Bettyanne Russo: 499-8520 x 126  
email: [stmatthewdixhills@gmail.com](mailto:stmatthewdixhills@gmail.com)

**BEREAVEMENT:** Kathryn M. Douglas: 631-495-8541

Including: Teens (12-17) who have lost a parent.

Widows and Widowers 65 and under

Widow and Widowers 65 and over

**BIBLE STUDY:** Anthony Albano: 586-4827

**BULLETIN:** email: [bulletin@smrcc.org](mailto:bulletin@smrcc.org)

**BUSINESS MANAGER:** Dolores Tiernan: 499-8520 x 113

**CATHOLICS FOR FREEDOM OF RELIGION:**

Ann Podina: 858-0684

**CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL:** 499-8520 x 113

**C.C.D. RELIGIOUS ED:** Mary Donaldson, D.R.E.: 864-3321

Rita Minder, Assistant: 864-3321

**CHOIR:** Lee Forsythe: 631-499-8520 x 116

Ed Oriani, Cantor for Tridentine Mass

**EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION:**

Ray Smolenski: 243-0449

**EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS TO THE HOMEBOUND:**

Sr. Kay McCarthy: 499-8520 x 124

**FEED THE POOR MINISTRY:** Frank Harnos: 499-0074 or  
Julie Maddaloni: 242-2183

**FOOD PANTRY:** Sr. Kay McCarthy: 499-8520 x 124

**HOSPITALITY:** Dolores Tiernan: 499-8520 x 113

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS:** Ron Pomian GK: 631-278-5986

**LECTORS:** Helen Campa: 586-0682

**LEGION OF MARY:** Judy Archbold: 667-4629

**MINISTRY OF CONSOLATION:**

Carol DeStefano: 631-786-7786

**PARISH OUTREACH:** Sr. Kay McCarthy: 499-8520 x 124

**PILGRIM MADONNA:** Rosa Nappo: 920-2446 or

Lucia Agnone: 631 522-1436

**PLANT ENGINEER:** Luis Flores: 631 492-7881

**PRE-CANA:** Deacon Carmine DeStefano: 631-896-0983

**RIGHT TO LIFE:** Toni Shannon: 631 586-3807

**ROSARY ALTAR SOCIETY:** Patricia Bissex: 631 549-9415

**PASTOR/PARISH SECRETARY:** Bettyanne Russo:

499-8520 x 126 - email: [stmatthewdixhills@gmail.com](mailto:stmatthewdixhills@gmail.com)

**SCOUTS BSA:** Carissa Scarfi: 631-445-9319

email: [cstroop409@gmail.com](mailto:cstroop409@gmail.com)

**SONS OF ITALY:** Diana Grauer: 631-242-2710

**ST. VINCENT de PAUL:** Michael Brennan: 499-8520 x 118

**USHERS:** Tom Siegler: 631-920-2055

**WEDDING MUSIC:** Lee Forsythe: 631-334-7138

**YOUNG SENIORS MODERATOR:**

Fr. Benet: 499-8520 x 125

**Business Manager**

**Dolores Tiernan**

**Finance Chairperson**

**Richard Bove**

**Trustees**

**Philip C. Pandolfi**

**Raymond Smolenski**



Collection totals for  
December 4 & 5  
will be in next week's bulletin.



**PARISH REGISTRATION**  
**NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE AT**  
**[www.smrcc.org](http://www.smrcc.org)**

**New families and new parishioners are encouraged to register with the parish online. Registration forms are also available at the Parish Center.**

**INSTRUCTIONS IN THE FAITH:**

**Those adults who live in the Dix Hills area and/or those with family in the parish seeking information about becoming a Catholic or completing their Sacraments are invited to contact the Pastor.**

**PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK: Those who are seriously ill should request a priest for the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick.**

### Mass Cards at St. Matthew's

St. Matthew's Parish offers two types of Mass Cards:

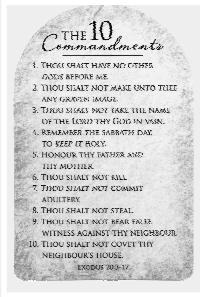
- **Announced Masses:** As the name implies this is a Mass set for a specific date and time and the name of the person(s) for whom the Mass is offered is published in the bulletin and announced at the Mass. These are particularly suitable for those families or individuals who will attend the actual Mass on the day appointed. While anyone can arrange for an Announced Mass, their number is necessarily limited by the number of public Masses offered in a year.
- **Unannounced Masses:** These are Masses that will be offered in the coming year but at an unspecified date, time and place. The priests of the Parish offer these Masses during retreat, vacation, and other days in which they do not have a public Mass. Mass Cards are issued for these Masses with the name of the person(s) written in the card but without any specific promised date or time. This category might be suitable for cases where the family of the named person(s) are not parishioners, live some distance away, or would not otherwise be able to attend a Mass here on a set day or time.

The receptionist will help you in arranging either or both of these Masses and the different offerings for each category.

A new Bronze Censer & Boat has been donated to the parish in memory of Michael Grimaldi. Thank you!



The Ten Commandment plaque in the rear of the church has been refurbished in memory of Marie M. Pecoraro. Thank you!



### Knights of Columbus

ARCHBISHOP FULTON J. SHEEN COUNCIL, No. 7479

### The Knights Want You!

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN HELPING THOSE IN NEED, SERVING YOUR PARISH, GROWING IN YOUR FAITH AND BEING A PART OF THE LARGEST CATHOLIC FRATERNAL ORGANIZATION, THEN THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS IS THE ORGANIZATION FOR YOU.**

The Knights of Columbus invite all Catholic men 18yr and older to join our council. The Knights of Columbus are active in many fundraising events from our annual Golf Outing, Night at the Races, Superbowl boxes, and more to support several charities, and St. Matthews Parish.

We meet every second and fourth Tuesday of the month, first for business, the second is a casual social meeting. We understand that many of you have busy schedules, that is why we only ask for the time you can give. We say Families first. If you are interested in signing up or learning more about the knights scan the code for a direct link to our website or call Ron Pomian our Grand Knight (631)278-5986.





## St. Matthew 2021 Catholic Ministry Appeal Update

We have reached our goal. We are at \$133,863.00 from 269 donors. Many thanks for your generosity. We will be receiving a rebate which Fr. Hewes will be using in the operation of our Parish. The diocese is also most grateful, so many programs can continue. God Bless!



If you have any questions, call: 516-241-1264 - J. Gatto

### *Eucharistic Piety:*

This Parish has long offered opportunities for special Eucharistic Adoration in the form of "Solemn Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament;" i.e., the Host is exposed to view in the monstrance for prayer. Currently we have one such Holy Hour, Tuesday mornings from 9:30 to 10:30 AM in the church.

Traditionally, the Church has always encouraged the less formal and more flexible form of Eucharistic Adoration known as "a visit to the Blessed Sacrament" as the primary way to adore Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. In this parish the main church is open for basically 12 hours every day. I notice with pleasure many people "dropping by" to be with Our Lord in the Tabernacle for some time, or only even for a few moments. Adoration of the Lord in His Eucharistic Presence reserved in the Tabernacle is always beneficial for those who avail themselves of it, no matter even of short duration.

## Mass Intentions

### **Saturday, Dec 11**

4:00 PM Bernadette Gayer  
Mary Buonifiglio  
Angelo Cortina  
Special Intentions of Tina Murgolo  
Dr. Maurice Vautrin-Gardinier  
Amelia & Domenico Capozzi

### **Sunday, Dec 12**

7:30 AM Dr. Maurice Vautrin-Gardinier  
9:30 AM Mary Jo Sullivan & Billy Burke  
11:00 AM Annette & Matthew P. Ferrara  
12:30 PM Milohnic, Messa & Rizzi Families

### **Monday, Dec 13**

9:00 AM Louis Garafalo, Sr.

### **Tuesday, Dec 14**

9:00 AM Edward Motlenski

### **Wednesday, Dec 15**

9:00 AM Arthur Plurad

### **Thursday, Dec 16**

9:00 AM Adelaida Plurad

### **Friday, Dec 17**

9:00 AM Frank & Mary Grella

### **Saturday, Dec 18**

9:00 AM Gail Wadas  
De Marzo & Zammillo Families  
4:00 PM John F. Vierling, Jr.  
William Robinson  
John Ryan  
Antonio Marano  
Joanne Marzano  
Silvestro & Robert Spillabotte

### **Sunday, Dec 19**

7:30 AM Bart Rodriguez  
9:30 AM Deborah Weitman ~  
Merry Christmas In Heaven  
11:00 AM Lillian M. Brough  
12:30 PM (L) Frantz-Yolene Lubin ~  
Giving Thanks To God



December 18 & 19



4:00 PM	7:30 AM	9:30 AM	11:00 AM	12:30 PM
B. Vogt	J. Campa	E. Vicente		



4:00 P.M.	7:30 AM	9:30 AM	11:00 AM	12:30 PM
M. Brennan	J. Campa	B. Napolitano	A. Pappas	

**Parish Office Hours:** The receptionist desk will be “womanned” Monday through Thursday from 9 AM to 1 PM for routine parish business and Mass Cards. On Friday there will be more limited service. Please call ahead when in doubt - 631-499-8520. The Parish Center is not open on a general basis, at this time due to the current public health crisis.

Important telephone extensions for general, non-emergency messages:

- Parish Secretary: 126
- Parish Business Manager: 113
- Religious Education (CCD): 631-864-3321
- Pastor: 130
- For urgent calls for Last Rites or a similar emergency: 631-912-5955.

Contact information regarding Funerals is on the Parish Voice Mail phone greeting: 631-499-8520.

As before, please enter the Parish Center through the Main Entrance **only, not the Gym Entrance**. The Main Entrance is between the shrines to Sts. Padre Pio and Mother Teresa of Calcutta. The inner doors to the building are to the right. Please note: As the sign indicates, ring the bell for admittance.

**About The Types of Catholic Wedding Ceremonies**

**There are two forms of Catholic wedding Liturgy:**

**The Wedding or Nuptial Mass:** Often referred to as a “full Mass,” it is the celebration of the Mass with the wedding ceremony inserted in the middle of the Liturgy. It presupposes both parties are practicing Catholics and receiving Holy Communion after a proper spiritual preparation.

**The Wedding Ceremony:** This has all the elements of the above (music, readings, vows, etc.) but without the celebration of Mass. This form is suitable for general congregations and is of shorter duration than the above.

**PLEASE NOTE: Nuptial Masses are NOT celebrated on Sundays. The ONLY exception is when a visiting priest is invited by the family, approved by the Pastor and is willing to offer a Nuptial Mass on Sunday.**



**Holy Hour of Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament**  
**in a solemn form is held every Tuesday after the 9:00 AM Mass.**





**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

***The Place for Learning and Praying***

***Our Family/Children's Mass is Sunday at 9:30AM***

***Mary Donaldson, Director    Rita Minder, Assistant***

***Religion Office Phone 864-3321    Fax 499-1530    maryccd@smrcc.org***

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES**

We are still registering children for the Winter Program—it is never too late! All students whether being taught here on site or at home must be registered so they get credit for this calendar year. If you don't have the registration form, you can come into the Religion office and we will give you one.

When registering a new student, 1st thru 8th grade, you must come into the Religion Office on the second floor of the Parish Center, Monday through Thursday anytime from 12 to 4:00PM and bring a copy of the child's Baptismal Certificate when you come. The fee of \$175.00 per child is due at that time. Please enter through the 'Gym Entrance' door at the end of the Parish Center Building.

For safety reasons, children in 1st & 2nd grade must be signed in and out by a parent or adult. Students in the 6th, 7th & 8th grades can be dropped off at the Gym door and come in on their own but must be signed out each week by a parent or adult.

**Special Notes:** Classes are suspended for the Christmas Holidays from Thursday, December 23rd, thru Sunday, January 2, 2022. We resume classes on Monday January 3, 2022.

**\*\*Eighth Grade A-L Session 1 Confirmation Students:** Gown measurement is Monday, December 13th, 7PM during class. Completed Confirmation packets and fee are due back in the Religion Office by Friday, December 17th. Eighth grade Session 1 ends on Monday, December 20th. Sixth and Seventh grade Session 1 ends on Tuesday, December 21st.

Session 2 M-Z for middle school grades 6, 7 & 8 begins on January 3, 2022. Eighth grade attends Monday night, January 3rd; Sixth and Seventh grades come on Tuesday night, January 4th.

Many names on both of our prayer lists below have been there for a very long period of time. Please send an email message to [bulletin@smrcc.org](mailto:bulletin@smrcc.org) within the next 2 weeks and confirm that the person's name you requested should remain on the list. All other names will be removed. All requests must be submitted with the permission of the immediate family.



 PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Chloe Atienza  
Janet Beaumonte  
Deborah Clar  
Marie Clarke  
Lisa Ciota  
Marie Coldin  
Gerard Costa  
Joseph Costa  
Vilma Diaztoral  
David Falen  
Lawrence Famighetti  
Laura Lee Gaudio  
Brendan Gould

Richard Harvey  
Providence Henry  
Lisa Marie Hulsen  
Richard Keller  
Elza Kersaint  
Gay Anne Macklin  
Christian Martino  
Joseph Martino  
Sophia Marzulla  
Don Michne  
Rita Minder  
Phil Pandolfi  
Rocco Pandone  
Mary Perry

Marge Puccio  
Pulvirenti Family  
Robert Richardson  
Emma Rosasco  
Giovanni Sacchetti  
Cathy Salegna  
Cecelia Sanzone  
Charles Sanzone  
Grace Sanzone  
Ralph Savastano  
Debbie Serio  
Ed & Ann Smith  
Albi Snolis  
Brian Tripp  
Nicholas Varriale

Sandra Varriale  
Camille Wending  
Lisa Young  
Mary Zuccaro



**APOSTLESHIP OF PRAYER**

The **Apostleship of Prayer** is a worldwide association of Catholics and other Christians who strive to make their ordinary, everyday lives apostolically effective. Through the Apostleship of Prayer, the Pope gives his monthly prayer intentions to the entire Church. For this reason, the Apostleship came to be known as **"the Pope's own prayer group."**

**DAILY OFFERING PRAYER -**

*God, our Father, I offer You my day. I offer You my prayers, thoughts, words, actions, joys, and sufferings in union with Your Son Jesus' Heart, Who continues to offer Himself in the Eucharist for the salvation of the world. May the Holy Spirit, who guided Jesus, be my guide and my strength today so that I may witness to Your love.*

**DECEMBER:** Intention for evangelization - Catechists

Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.



**We Pray, especially for our Service Men and Women:**

David Leary - Army, Christopher Pavlat - Army, Rev. James Krische - Active - Colonel - Army, Pvt. Brandon Leap - Active - Army, 1st Lt. Dominador Pascual III - Active - Air Force, Pilot Matthew Waldman - Active - Air Force, 2nd Lt. Joseph Morgan - Active - Army, 1st Lt. Christopher Felice - Marines, Christopher Motlenski - Navy, Nicholas Mazzone - U.S. Coast Guard, Peter Mazzone - Marines, SPC John Vautrin-Gardinier - US Army, Lance Cpl. Ryan Matthew Ferrara - Marines, Matthew Kirchner - Army, Noah Kirchner - Air Force, Ensign Melanie Thompson - Navy, Capt. Joseph De Monte IV - Pilot - United States Air Force, Lt. Brendan Johnston - U.S. Navy, Jeffrey Gabriellini - Air Force, Cpl. Michael Grella - Navy Airman, Julien - Army - Iraq, Lt. Col. Robert Wright - Marines, Michael Wissemann, LPL San Sievero - Marines, Ambrose Michelino, Jarod Racuot - Army, Robert Scarpelli, Anthony Lazado - Marines, Richard Freese, Jr. - Navy, Rho Nagasguna - Marines, Michael Doherty - Army, Pablo Quirindongo - CW4 - Army, Cpl. Ronnie Belmarez - Marines, Commander Christopher Grande - Navy, Spec. 4 - Frank Grue - Retired - Army

↔ **If you would like your family member added to the list or if one has returned home, please contact the Parish Office or email [bulletin@smrcc.org](mailto:bulletin@smrcc.org).** ↔



*St. Matthew's Gift Shop*  
*Open Monday through Thursday*  
*9:00 am - 1:00 pm*

*For your holiday shopping convenience our gift shop will be selling Advent Candles and Wreaths, etc. after all Masses in the breezeway of the Parish Center this weekend.*



*Christmas Nativities, Ornaments, Christmas Cards, etc. Also, Unique religious gifts, rosaries, books, fonts, statues, picture frames, Baptism items, wedding unity candles, vestments and so much more...*

*The Gift Shop is located in the Parish Center, across from the Receptionist area.*

*All Proceeds Benefit Our Parish Ministry!*



The December luncheon will be held at Spuntino's Restaurant on Friday, December 17th. We have decided not to have meetings in January and February, so come and enjoy lunch and spend some time with friends before the long, cold winter. ALL ARE WELCOME!

**Young  
Energetic  
Seniors  
News**

Because Christmas comes and goes so quickly, I'd like to write something relating to it in each of the bulletins this month. Hope you enjoy !

**THE TRUE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT**

A long time ago, down Bethlehem way, a star shone in the sky, as bright as the day. The Shepherds were watching their flocks with care, when a host of angels appeared in the air. proclaiming the Son of God had been born, to deliver our souls, on that cold Christmas morn. You will find him wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger while the cattle lows. A few decades later, He died on the cross. Without His sacrifice, we would be lost. So as you're running around, buying gifts and treats, to have a big party when your family meets, stop and remember why we celebrate this day. It's not about gifts and games to play. We all know that we have too much. When you think about it, it's all just stuff!

To love each other is all He asks. At times, that can be quite a task. There are many who can just afford the gift of love. No presents, no tree with a star above. Look into your life and you'll find you're so blessed, by the many who love you. That gift is the best. Not with their presents, money or material "stuff," but their love and devotion is more than enough. Remember your loved ones who cannot be there, but rejoice! They're in heaven and not suffering here. And when you see someone who is down and out, don't see past them or have any doubt. Just do what you think Jesus would do. Give what you can, to help them get through. If they misuse it, that's between them and God. In Jesus eyes, you've done your job. God bless and enjoy your Christmas Day. May peace, love and happiness come your way.

\*\*\*\*\*

A squeak on the stair, could Santa be here? Better pull my blankets over my ears.  
He comes down the chimney, that's how he gets in.  
Santa uses magic, to make himself thin.  
I better keep still, can't make a peep. He doesn't leave toys unless you're asleep.  
My door just opened, someone by my bed.  
It's not Santa after all, 'cause Mom just kissed my head!

Merry "Almost" Christmas.

See you in Church, Pat

**GOOD NEWS**

It seems to me that the news on TV and in the Newspaper is mostly bad news. But here, "where I sit," we have so much good news.

Several years ago, a person came to me who couldn't pay some bills. We were glad to be able to help this person. We never asked the person to reimburse us. However, this person called me recently and said that they now have sufficient funds and wanted to reimburse our Outreach Account and St. Vincent de Paul account. This is certainly good news and speaks volumes about this person.

Secondly, the Directors, Catechists and children in our wonderful Religious Education program collected a tremendous amount food to help families at Thanksgiving. I can't thank them enough for their generous donations which will help so many families. In addition, you generously donated so much food. Mike Brennan & St. Vincent de Paul Society and Luis Flores worked hard to distribute it.

Thirdly, you might recall my request in our Bulletin for a landscaper needed for a young parent who is seriously ill and undergoing treatment. The very day that this was published, I received a call from a landscaper. Two days later, this landscaper and his workers took care of the property that I was concerned about. This landscaper wants to remain anonymous. But God knows his name. I pray that God will bless him, all I mentioned above and many of you who make life better for so many people. As you can see, there is a lot of good news!

Sr. Kay McCarthy





My Dear Parishioners,

On Nov. 30, I was blessed to attend the inspiring Installation of Bishop Brennan as Bishop of Brooklyn. Bishop Brennan was raised on Long Island and often came to St. Matthew's to attend the Diocesan Pastoral Council which had met here for several years. He had been ordained an Auxiliary Bishop in our Diocese in 2012. Since he was a young boy, he had been a good friend of Msgr. McDonald. His installation was held at \St. Joseph's Co-Cathedral Church on Pacific Street in Brooklyn. I hadn't been inside that Church in more than 60 years. It is absolutely beautiful. The art work is magnificent. If you go on their website you will see pictures of this gorgeous Church. If you are in the area, I think it is worthwhile to make a visit there. However, if you drive there, make sure it is not during rush hour. If you do, you might be able to walk home faster than you can drive home!

During this past year, dedicated to St. Joseph, my devotion and admiration for St. Joseph has surely increased. I pray to him every day. I can't imagine how St. Joseph felt when he was told not to be afraid to take Mary to be his wife. At times, when we are asked to do something good but difficult or to bear some suffering, we feel anxious and troubled. But we are told so often in Sacred Scripture, "do not be afraid." Joseph trusted in God's loving plan, as difficult as it was, and responded with great faith. We are called to do the same. While we will most likely give and receive some gifts at Christmas, the most precious and priceless gift is the gift of Emmanuel, God with us. Imagine, God with us!! It is God who is the source and giver of all of our gifts.

As St. Paul said in his letter to the Phillipians, 4:4-7. "Rejoice always in Christ, again I say rejoice. Let your munificence be known to all. The Lord is near. Do not be unduly concerned about anything but in prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God and the peace of God which surpasses all understanding will protect your hearts and thoughts in Christ Jesus."

May you and your families know God's protection and peace. May you continue to spread His peace and thank you for the many ways and times you have already done this. Merry Christmas!

With my prayers, love and gratitude, Sr. Kay McCarthy

### From the Society of St. Vincent de Paul



**"For I was hungry and you gave me food ..."** (Matthew 25:35) The Thanksgiving Food Drive was a tremendous success. About 35 families enjoyed a delicious Thanksgiving Dinner due to the food drive. Plus 20 turkeys were donated to charitable causes.

All our members (Judy Archibold, Larry Benenati, Helen Campa, Kevin Camilieri, Maureen Furlan, Frank Harnos, and Barbara & Joe Napolitano) wish to extend a sincere thank you for your generosity and continuous support over the years to help us complete our mission to serve those in need.

We are indeed blessed to have parishioners who care so much for others.

**May God bless you all!**

Yours in Christ,

*Michael Brennan*, President



### December 12th - Third Sunday of Advent

In today's Gospel John the Baptist says, "Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise..."

**Christmas is a time of love and gift giving...please share your abundance by giving a gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that those who do not have clothes and food can share in the blessings of Christmas.**

# ENROLLMENT FORM



Church Name



St. Matthew Catholic Church  
35 North Service Road  
Dix Hills, NY 11746

FOR ONLINE ENROLLMENT  
USE CHURCH CODE:

NY368

Faith Direct · Attention: Enrollment · P.O. Box 7101 · Merrifield, VA 22116-7101 · 1-866-507-8757 (toll free) · www.faithdirect.net

Weekly Offertory contribution: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Note: Total contribution amount will be debited on the 4<sup>th</sup> of the month or the next business day. The total amount will be determined by the number of Sundays in the month. Some months have 5 Sundays.)

You may also choose to give to the optional collections listed below as part of the total monthly transaction in the month listed for each.

COLLECTION	AMOUNT	MONTH	COLLECTION	AMOUNT	MONTH
<input type="checkbox"/> New Year's Day (Solemnity)	\$ _____	January	<input type="checkbox"/> Peter's Pence	\$ _____	June
<input type="checkbox"/> Seminary	\$ _____	January	<input type="checkbox"/> Feast of the Assumption	\$ _____	August
<input type="checkbox"/> Church in Need	\$ _____	February	<input type="checkbox"/> Regional School Support	\$ _____	September
<input type="checkbox"/> Regional School Support	\$ _____	February	<input type="checkbox"/> Catholic University	\$ _____	September
<input type="checkbox"/> Ash Wednesday	\$ _____	February	<input type="checkbox"/> Youth Ministry	\$ _____	September
<input type="checkbox"/> Catholic Relief Services	\$ _____	March	<input type="checkbox"/> Retired Priests	\$ _____	September
<input type="checkbox"/> Easter Flowers *	\$ _____	March	<input type="checkbox"/> Respect Life	\$ _____	October
<input type="checkbox"/> Holy Land (Good Friday)	\$ _____	April	<input type="checkbox"/> World Missions	\$ _____	October
<input type="checkbox"/> Easter Sunday	\$ _____	April	<input type="checkbox"/> All Saints' Day	\$ _____	November
(In addition to weekly gift)	\$ _____	April	<input type="checkbox"/> All Souls' Day *	\$ _____	November
<input type="checkbox"/> Mother's Day Mass Remembrance *	\$ _____	May	<input type="checkbox"/> Human Development/Home Missions	\$ _____	November
<input type="checkbox"/> Catholic Elementary Schools	\$ _____	May	<input type="checkbox"/> Fuel Offering	\$ _____	November
<input type="checkbox"/> Catholic Communications	\$ _____	May	<input type="checkbox"/> Support <i>The Long Island Catholic</i>	\$ _____	December
<input type="checkbox"/> Feast of the Ascension	\$ _____	May	<input type="checkbox"/> Immaculate Conception	\$ _____	December
<input type="checkbox"/> Religious Retirement	\$ _____	June	<input type="checkbox"/> Christmas Flowers *	\$ _____	December
<input type="checkbox"/> Father's Day Mass Remembrance *	\$ _____	June	<input type="checkbox"/> Christmas	\$ _____	December
<input type="checkbox"/> Regional School Support	\$ _____	June			

\*Please call the parish office at 631-499-8520 to give the names of your dedications/intentions for these collections.

I would like to enroll in the Faith Direct program. I understand that my total monthly contribution amount will be transferred directly from my checking account or credit card as stated above, a record of my gifts will appear on my bank or credit card statement, and my transfers will begin next month. I understand that I can increase, decrease or suspend my giving by contacting Faith Direct toll free at 1-866-507-8757. [All gifts provided to your Church originating as Automated Clearing House transactions comply with U.S. law.]

Signature: X

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s): (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Church Envelope #: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Name as I/we would like it to appear on Offertory Cards: \_\_\_\_\_

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For Credit Card Debit: Please complete the following...  VISA  MasterCard  American Express  Discover

Credit Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

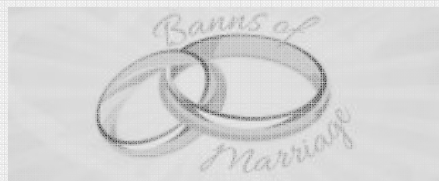
Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name as Appears on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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Love,  
The Grue Family*



*Announced for the Fourth Time  
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|--------------------|---------------------|
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| Olivia Athan       | Leah Melendez       |
| Nicholas Barletta  | Xavier Moore        |
| Sophia Basta       | Dean Muratore       |
| Ella Basta         | Avril Nelsen        |
| Sophia Bellini     | Riley O'Brien       |
| Dominick Bonavise  | Casey O'Brien       |
| John Castronovo    | Cassidy O'Shea      |
| Olivia Czoch       | Michael Orlasky     |
| Ava Darvassy       | Sofia Pascarella    |
| Joshua Feinberg    | Colleen Radigan     |
| Michael Forrest    | Megan Radigan       |
| Devyn Frain        | Sofia Riportella    |
| Emma Giaquinnto    | Casey Steinert      |
| Liam Ging          | Sarah Sullivan      |
| Isabella Grupico   | Joseph Tarantino    |
| Alexander Grzesiak | Michael Terry       |
| Jaelynn Gural      | Cormac Terry        |
| Amanda Haber       | Alex Testa          |
| William Johnson    | Christopher Tullo   |
| Anthony Labombarda | Jack Vallario       |
| Angelina Luttieri  | Kyle Verlizzo       |
| Francesca Manetta  | Samantha Wisniewski |
| Luke Martin        | Giulia Zito         |
| Melady Mazza       |                     |

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- Deceased
- Memorial Anniversaries/Birthdays
- Living Intentions of ...
- Wedding
- In Thanksgiving for ...

The name of the person remembered will be printed in the weekly bulletin.

The requested offerings are:

- Announced Masses \$20.00
- Unannounced Masses \$15.00
- Altar Candles (week of) \$25.00
- Altar Flowers (week of) \$50.00
- Bread & Wine (week of) \$50.00



You are welcome to visit the Parish Center, Reception Area to arrange for these offerings.

If you have any questions, please call 631-499-8520 during our business hours: Monday -Thursday, 9am through 1pm.

**PLEASE NOTE THE UPCOMING  
BULLETIN DEADLINES**

*Sunday, December 19 is passed  
Sunday December 26 is Wednesday, December 15  
Sunday, January 2 is Monday, December 20  
Sunday, January 9 is Monday, January 3  
Sunday, January 16 is Monday, January 10*

*Please email: [bulletin@smrcc.org](mailto:bulletin@smrcc.org)*



## Focus on Religious Freedom Catholics for Freedom of Religion

[www.cffor.org](http://www.cffor.org)

***"Religious freedom is the lifeblood of the American people, the cornerstone of American government." - Cardinal Timothy Dolan***

### **What, Exactly, is Religious Freedom? And How Does This Affect Public Christmas Displays?**

Religious freedom protects people's right to live, speak, and act according to their beliefs, peacefully and publicly. It protects their ability to seek the truth about God and live according to those beliefs. Religious freedom is more than the "freedom to worship" at a synagogue, church, or mosque. No other nation has America's robust protection of religious freedom in a Bill of Rights. <sup>(1)</sup> Sadly, in recent decades, some government actions have encroached on this God given and Constitutional freedom.

The U.S. Supreme Court rejected the idea that the government should or could compel any citizen to adopt any official belief in its 1943 decision, *WV State Board of Ed. v. Barnette*. They wrote, "If there is any fixed star in our constitutional constellation, it is that no official, high or petty, can prescribe what shall be orthodox in politics, nationalism, religion, or other matters of opinion to force citizens to confess by word or act their faith therein." <sup>(2)</sup>

Since the principles of religious freedom prevent the cultural majority from using the power of the state to impose their beliefs on others, both religious and nonreligious alike, the government cannot become so powerful that it can tell people what to think and how to act. <sup>(3)</sup> This is especially important to know during this Christmas/Hanukkah holiday.

"The U.S. Supreme Court and numerous federal appeals courts have recognized that government entities may recognize Christmas as a holiday and may maintain Christmas displays that include both religious and secular symbols." <sup>(4)</sup>

"Publicly sponsored Nativity scenes on public property are constitutional, especially when the display includes other secular symbols of the holiday. In fact, removing only the religious symbols of the holiday display would demonstrate hostility toward religion, which the First Amendment forbids," said Liberty Counsel. <sup>(5)</sup>

([learningforjustice.org](http://learningforjustice.org); [religiousfreedominstitute.org](http://religiousfreedominstitute.org), 11/1/19; [heritage.org](http://heritage.org) (1)(2)(3); [usccb.org](http://usccb.org), [libertycounsel.org](http://libertycounsel.org), 4/1/21(4)(5))

***"God never gives someone a gift they are not capable of receiving. If He gives us the gift of Christmas, it is because we all have the ability to understand and receive it."***

- Pope Francis

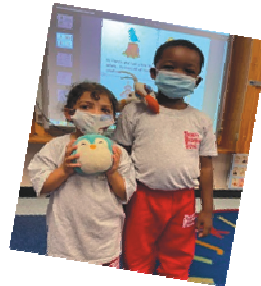


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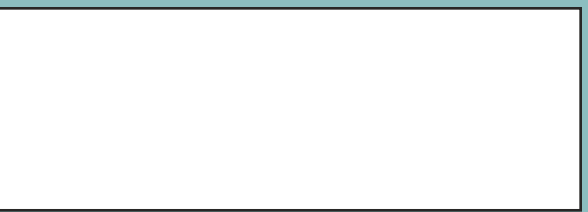
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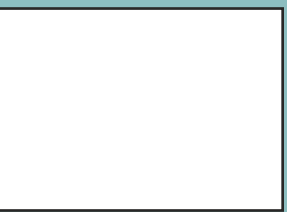
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