



ST. MATTHEW THE APOSTLE PARISH

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New Year's Resolutions

As we begin 2021, and hopefully it will be a lot different than 2020, we normally make resolutions that we try to carry out during the course of the year to improve our lives. Many of our resolutions pertain to things such as more exercise, healthier diets, more organized, reading more, etc. Too often we forget about the spiritual part of our lives. Our souls need attention also. We need to continue further developing our relationship with God.

I would like to suggest a list of possible spiritual resolutions to consider. You can try one or a few of these resolutions throughout the year:

- Attend Mass once a week over and above weekend liturgies. Weekday Masses can be a more intimate time in prayer.
- Spend time in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Thursdays or just stop in the church on any day for a quick conversation with God.

- Read and meditate on a chapter of Scripture on a routine basis.
- Take up a devotion of the Church (Rosary, Stations of the Cross, Novena).

- Read a spiritual book.
- Make a morning offering (like the children do at school) as you begin your day, then an examination of conscience as you end your day.
- Take time to pray daily with your spouse (this is my favorite).

This is not an exhaustive list, but hopefully it gives you an idea that the small things can make a big difference in your spiritual life. Like physical exercise, don't try and do too much at the beginning, small steps.



Fr. Lee Poche and Fr. Francis Nguyen

Let us pray that 2021 will be a year of grace and favor from God.

I wish you and yours a very happy New Year,
Fr. Lee Poche, Pastor

10021 Jefferson Hwy
River Ridge, LA 70123
www.stmatthewtheapostle.net
stmatthewchurch@arch-no.org
737-4537 | School: 737-4604



Open House



St. Matthew the Apostle School

OPEN HOUSE

Wednesday
JANUARY 13
6:00 PM

Explore our Campus
6-week-old through 7th grade

10021 Jefferson Hwy - www.smaschool.net Enroll today! 737-4604
Contact Principal Bonura with any questions at bonurat@smaschool.net

Grateful

Message from Principal Tony Bonura

“Grateful!” would be the best way to describe our school community as we head into the New Year. There has been much talk of the struggles of 2020, and the year certainly challenged us in many ways unimaginable nine months ago. However, our faculty, parents, and students chose to seek the opportunities for growth that lie behind the turmoil of 2020. Our theme for the year is “Building Our Bridge While Walking on It.” We focused that mission around the themes of Robert E. Quin’s book of a similar title. The people of our school have embraced the grand adventure of an unscripted journey, understanding that while we may not know what each day will bring, the lessons are sure to lead to tremendous personal and professional growth. What has remained constant is our faith that God is using all of this for the benefit of us and everyone around us. Because our community used these circumstances to embrace constant change, our students are thriving and experiencing a relatively normal academic, social, and spiritual year.

As Principal, my gratitude stems from the serenity of knowing our school community is forever changed for the better because of the opportunities 2020 presented. As a community, we are more appreciative, trusting, and



closer in fellowship than ever before. From an educational perspective, our teachers have discovered new and exciting ways to reach our students. The classroom has moved well beyond our physical walls. Our students are becoming experts in using the tools for communication and learning that will define their generation. Education has been changed forever (in a good way) and St. Matthew is poised to be the leader in this new world.



We thank all of our parishioners for their words of encouragement and support this year. Please know, like the Whos in Whoville on Christmas morning, our teachers, parents, staff and students have stayed firmly planted in our faith and are more joyful for the gift that is our community and the incredibly bright future ahead.





Congratulations

TO OUR 2020 SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY COUPLES



60 Years of Marriage
Clifford and Lois Kloesel

50 Years of Marriage
Harold and Diane Baur
Carl and Anita Bonura
Francis and Rebecca Giardina
Vernon and Joyce Marcotte
David and Margaret Penick
Harold and Diane Ryan
Allan and Betty Vicknair

40 Years of Marriage
Jose and Kathy Aponte
Francis and Adrienne Comiskey
Tim and Nora Huete

25 Years of Marriage
Kenny and Lauri Aucoin
Toby and Rosina Ducote
Louis and Crissy Giacoma
Andre and Kathryn Labbe
Jason and Karen Sentilles



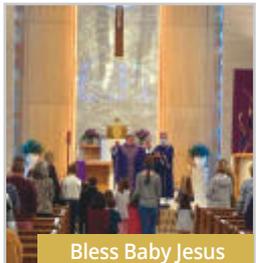
Missalette Change-out Day



Home and School Holiday Market Team



St. Vincent de Paul Thanksgiving Baskets



Bless Baby Jesus



CCD
Advent
Wreath



Development Meeting



CYO Angel Tree Workers



Men's Club Meeting

Around the Parish

Fifty-one high school Confirmation students working hard this semester to make their sacrament in April 2021.



We are Thankful!



KC Recruitment Evening



School Days



Upcoming

Listening Sessions with our Priests

Fr. Lee and Fr. Francis are hosting listening sessions in January. They want to hear what you like about St. Matthew the Apostle Parish and what goals you have for the Parish. They will have sessions on the days listed below. Please pick a time to come and discuss your dreams for the Parish.

Thursday, January 28, at 10 am

Thursday, January 28, at 6 pm

Saturday, January 30, at 5 pm

Monday, February 1, at 6 pm

LENTEN Mission Talk



Tuesday, March 16

Fr. Nile Gross
Director of the Office of Worship

Archdiocese of New Orleans

2021 – Year of the Eucharist and St. Joseph

A Prayer For The Intercession of St. Joseph

To you, O blessed Joseph, do we come in our afflictions, and having implored the help of

your most holy Spouse, we confidently invoke your patronage also.

Through that charity which bound you to the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God and

through the paternal love with which you embraced the Child Jesus, we humbly beg you

graciously to regard the inheritance which Jesus Christ has purchased by his Blood, and

with your power and strength to aid us in our necessities.

O most watchful guardian of the Holy Family, defend the chosen children of Jesus Christ;

O most loving father, ward off from us every contagion of error and corrupting influence;

O our most mighty protector, be kind to us and from heaven assist us in our struggle with the power of darkness.

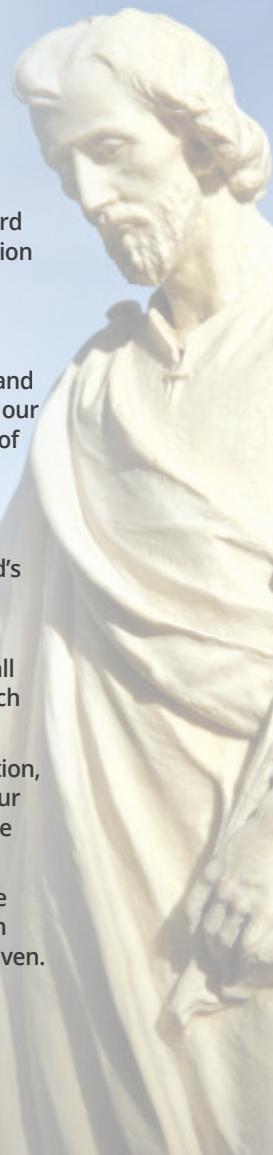
As once you rescued the Child Jesus from deadly peril, so now protect God's Holy

Church from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity; shield, too, each one of us

by your constant protection, so that, supported by your example and your aid, we may be

able to live piously, to die in holiness, and to obtain eternal happiness in heaven.

Amen.



Lent Prayer Concert with Lorraine Hess

February 25th, at 7:00 PM

St. Matthew the Apostle Church

www.lorrainehess.com





St. Matthew the Apostle Parish
10021 Jefferson Highway
River Ridge, LA 70123

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Lent & Easter

Ash Wednesday | February 17

Mass & Ashes 6:00 am, 9:15 am, 6:00 pm

Stations of the Cross | Fridays in Lent

7:00 pm

CYO Fish Fry | March 12

Holy Thursday

7:00 pm Mass; Adoration 8:00 pm-Midnight

Good Friday

3:00 pm Veneration; 7:00 pm Stations

Holy Saturday

8:00 pm Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday | April 4

7:00 am, 9:00 am, 11:00 am Masses

