Mission Statement

St. Matthias Parish is committed to becoming a prayerful community by celebrating the Sacraments together, and supporting the parish and one another by sharing the time, talents and treasures God has given us. Through prayer and good works we will strive to grow in peace and unity with God and our community.

Next Week is Pentecost Weekend - June 8 & June 9
Geranium Dress-Up

It has become our tradition at St. Matthias to provide RED geraniums to decorate the church for Pentecost weekend - June 8 & 9. Feel free to bring a RED geranium or two with you to Church and place them on the steps around the altar. This will be a visual reminder of the first Pentecost and the wonderful presence of the Holy Spirit within each Christian. Please also wear RED to Mass. RED signifies the fire of the Holy Spirit. RED is also for our vibrant life as a Christian. Geraniums because the blossoms are composed of many small flowers joined together and because
<table>
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<tr>
<th>SATURDAY, JUNE 1</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>♥ Eugene &amp; Grace Reindeau– by Rosalie Iwig</td>
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<tr>
<td>†Donald &amp; Patricia McNamara– by Family</td>
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<td>†Barbara Devos– by Husband</td>
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<td>†Jerry Love– by Family</td>
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<th>SUNDAY, JUNE 2</th>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 a.m. ~</td>
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<tr>
<td>†Bill Schaffstein– by Friends</td>
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<tr>
<td>†Victoria Marineau– by Husband</td>
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| 11:00 a.m. ~ |
| ♥ St. Matthias Parishioners |

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<tr>
<th>TUESDAY, JUNE 4</th>
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<td>†Herman Rudzki– by Family</td>
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<th>WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5</th>
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<th>THURSDAY, JUNE 6</th>
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<td>♥ Vocations</td>
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<th>SATURDAY, JUNE 8</th>
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<td>†Warren &amp; Dolores Rice—by Rice Family</td>
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<td>†Faro Pizzo– by Family</td>
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<td>†Thomas Mech Jr– by Korzetz Sisters</td>
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| 11:00 a.m. ~ |
| ♥ St. Matthias Parishioners |

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<tr>
<th>FRIDAY, JUNE 7</th>
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<td>CHURCH &amp; OFFICES CLOSED</td>
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<th>SATURDAY, JUNE 9</th>
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<tr>
<td>3:00 P.M. CONFESSIONS</td>
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<td>4:30 P.M. MASS</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 A.M. MASS</td>
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<td>11:00 A.M. MASS</td>
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<th>WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5</th>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 A.M. MASS</td>
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<td>8:00 P.M. AA AND AL-ANON</td>
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<th>SATURDAY, JUNE 9</th>
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<td>HAPPY 57TH BIRTHDAY FR. FRANCISCO!!</td>
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<td>8:30 A.M. MASS</td>
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<td>11:00 A.M. MASS</td>
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Have we tried to look upon others with the loving eyes of God?

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HE WHO WOULD CLIMB TO A LOFTY HEIGHT MUST GO BY STEPS, NOT LEAPS.  
—ST. AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY
When a loved one passes away we ask you to please go to the funeral home first and they will contact the church.
“God mounts His throne to shouts of joy” Ps.47

Today is the Feast of the Ascension. Matthew, Mark, and Luke, in their Gospels, all tell us that after the Resurrection and various appearances, Jesus was taken up into the heavens. No hint of when. But if we had no other information, it could have been as early as Easter evening. John’s Gospel concludes with a post-resurrection appearance in Galilee, and Paul cites a tradition of several appearances. But more concretely, the Acts of the Apostles mentions that these appearances occurred over a period of 40 days – which is why the Church has chosen to celebrate the Ascension when we do, exactly 40 days after Easter. Although interesting, it’s a mistake to focus on the chronology, as I have just done, or to wonder about Jesus’ whereabouts during those post-resurrection days. Jesus’ glorified body wasn’t constrained by the usual limits of time and space. Today’s Feast is not about when something happened (Jesus left the earth), but what it is that happened. Today is a celebration not of where Jesus is, but of what he is – King of the world – of the cosmos. And Psalm 93, which the Church uses for the scripture response during Easteride, makes the point yet again. “The Lord reigns. He is clothed in majesty.” Taking that insight as a key to understanding, suddenly the many references in the Gospels to preaching the Kingdom come into focus. “...He sent them out to proclaim the Kingdom of God ...” (Luke 9:2). The Lord’s Prayer is specifically asking God to establish his Kingdom – his rule – on earth, now! Pilate asked Jesus whether he was a king. “King” was the charge on the cross at the crucifixion. Just before his being taken up, Jesus tells his disciples: “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me ...” (Matt 28:18). The Ascension is about Jesus assuming the authority he has won in his death and resurrection. Christians have generally underplayed this aspect of Jesus’ victory. As believers, we know that God created everything; God sustains everything in existence. So, of course he is King – always was, always will be. But the fact remains that humans have a propensity to sin. We call that tendency “original sin.” Every human except two has it (Mary’s being freed from it is what we have meant by her “immaculate” conception). What Jesus did in his death and resurrection was to call into being a new creation, a creation freed from slavery to sin. In the first creation God breathed on the clay out of which he had fashioned Adam, who thereby became a living being (Gen 2:7). In this second creation, Jesus likewise breathed on his disciples on that first Easter evening (John 20:22), thereby forming them into a new humanity. The Greek word used for “breathed” occurs in just those two places in the entire Bible. That can’t be an accident. Clearly John was intending to remind us of the creation story when he tells us that Jesus “breathed” on his disciples. Our old selves die in Baptism. We emerge from the font with Christ’s Spirit enlivening and enabling us. With and through that Spirit we are empowered to do good, instead of evil. Formerly in slavery to sin, we are now enslaved to Christ, whose yoke is easy and whose burden is light.

Questions for Reflection

When have you had a fruitful experience of conversation with someone who holds views very different from your own? What made that possible?

How does it feel to eavesdrop on Jesus’ intimate prayer that is intended for you?

What opportunities do you have in your daily life to be helping people be one?

How one with Jesus and the Father are you these days?

Respond in Action

Set aside ten minutes each day this week for reflection and prayer. Re-read this week’s Gospel each day. Unite your prayer with that of Jesus.

The orientation to be one is built right into us. Read “Hardwired to Connect, the Scientific Case for Authoritative Communities” to learn of recent research that shows that children are biologically primed (hardwired) for enduring connections to others and for moral and spiritual meaning.

Share your faith story with someone you sense might be receptive and do not be afraid to bear witness to the truth of what you know and what God has done for you.

Vacation Bible School

…is the week of July 15-19, 2019, from 9:30-11:30 am.

We will be learning about the courage of Paul in his travels, and in Athens. I am looking for volunteers to help with game time and assistants. If you would like to help, please call Donna at 586-731-0650.

Come, Holy Spirit

We are waiting for Pentecost Sunday, the day we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit. Some of you may remember this traditional Catholic prayer. Pray it as a family everyday until Sunday.

Leader: Come Holy Spirit fill the hearts of your faithful.

All: And kindle in them the fire of your love.

Leader: Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.

All: And you will renew the face of the earth.

Leader: Let us pray. Lord, by the light of the Holy Spirit you have taught the hearts of your faithful. In the same spirit help us to relish what is right always rejoice in your consolation. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

All: Amen.
Baptism

We welcome our newly baptized
Into our Faith Community
May 19, 2019

Isabella Rose Brandt ~ Harper Rose Hamlet ~ Jude Walter Flavio Jackson ~
Madisen Grace Phillips ~ Everly Paulina Soper ~
Derrick Desmond Torres, Jr.

First Communion

We welcome our newly baptized
Into our Faith Community
May 19, 2019

Isabella Rose Brandt ~ Harper Rose Hamlet ~ Jude Walter Flavio Jackson ~
Madisen Grace Phillips ~ Everly Paulina Soper ~
Derrick Desmond Torres, Jr.

Accolades and sincere thanks to Nancy Duzy for donating beautiful, unique bracelets for young girls to assist The Society of Christian Women’s Spring fundraiser. We appreciate Nancy’s creativity, suggestions, generosity, uplifting attitude, her time and presence. We are blest with wonderful volunteers – all sharing their time and talents. Thanks to everyone who supported this event.

Lord Teach Me To Pray
Deepen Your Prayer Life; Help Others Do The Same!
Work for the New Evangelization!

Are you a woman or man of prayer?
Are you comfortable working with small groups?

On Saturday, June 29th at St. Paul of the Cross Retreat & Conference Center in Detroit there will be a Facilitator Training-Retreat for the “Lord Teach Me To Pray” (LTMTP) Ignatian prayer series. There is no charge for retreat or materials. There is a charge for lunch. Come & discern if God is calling you to become a facilitator! Or, if you are simply interested in finding out more about Ignatian Prayer and the “Lord, Teach Me To Pray” prayer series, you are also invited! For info and registration please go to lordteachmetopray.com, click on Training Retreats and scroll down to Detroit MI for registration form, or call 504-439-5933.

Come Support our bottle drive!! Boxes will be at the entrances of the church
Thank You!
St. Vincent De Paul
~ Thank You for your generous giving to our requests~

We are in need of:
Breakfast Cereal, Canned Fruit, Rice,
Rice Mixes, Saltine Crackers, Pudding, Jello,
Ketchup, Dish Soap,

Food Pantry
Donations Needed

St. Matthias Catholic Community
12311 Nineteen Mile Road
Sterling Heights, MI 48313
Parish Office: (586) 731-1300
Fax: (586) 731-2576
Email: parishoffice@stmatthiaschurch.net
Website: www.stmatthiaschurch.net
Pastor: Fr. Francisco Restrepo

Weekend Mass Times:
Confessions: Saturdays: 3 p.m. until all heard
or by appointment.
Saturday 4:30pm— Sunday 8:30am & 11:00 am
Parish Office Hours:
Monday thru Thursday: 8 am-1 pm
Closed Fridays

Parish Office: 731-1300
Bookkeeper: Jacki Lenard 731-1300
Maintenance: 731-0654
Marsha Laurenceo - Jose Fuentes - Pauleta Paszki
Director of Music Ministries: 731-1300
Kristin Glasgow
Faith Formation Office: 586- 731-0650
Director: Donna Latimer
Adult Formation: Donna Latimer
Email: latimer_stmatthias@yahoo.com
Finance Council - 731-1300
Chairperson: Carmela Badia
Sue Kirovac
Dave Barth
Parish Pastoral Council
Chairperson: Jan Siemen 739-2050
Nick Bommarito 226-3702
Tony & Veronica Giganti 997-3692
Ron West 254-9419
Cassandra Swiderski 731-1300
Melinda McNamara 731-1300
Worship Commission
Chairperson: Marie Bommarito 586-524-1785
Lectors: Denise Zimkiewicz 566-7546
Ushers: Tony & Veronica Giganti 997-3692
Altar Server Coordinator: Carrie Carney 208-4783
Art & Environment: Margaret Peters 731-1300
Christian Service
Director: Teresa Fortuna 731-1300 X107
Baptism Preparation: Teresa Fortuna
Christian Women:
Catholic Services of Macomb 586-416-2300
Pregnant & in need? 1-800-848-LOVE
Project Rachel Post Abortion Ministry 1-888-722-4355
Domestic Violence Hotline 1-800-799-7233
Protective Services (CHILD & ADULT) 1-877-412-6109
Legion of Mary
St. Matthias/St. Vincent de Paul 739-2922
Abigayle Ministries 586-323-1411
Baptism: Contact Parish Office.
Marriage: Arrangements are to be made
six months prior to the wedding date.

2019 CSA has begun!
Please help us make our goal!
$45,258.00

CSA Update as of May 23, 2019
Total Gifts: 119
Total Pledged: $22,740.00
Goal: $42,258.00
Percentage: 54%

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Darlene Anderson, Assistant Executive Director

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