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.

Palm Sunday

And when he entered Jerusalem the whole city was shaken and asked, “Who is this?” And the crowds replied, “This is Jesus the prophet, from Nazareth in Galilee.” —Mt 21:10-11

The Empowering Love of God

“Christ became obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.” Phil 2

Andy Alexander, S.J., shares: Today we enter into Holy Week. The week is made holy by its celebration of Jesus’ gift of himself to us and for us. Wednesday, we remember his betrayal. Thursday is a celebration of the gift of the Eucharist and a reflection on the example of service Jesus gives to us. Friday is “Good” because we truly remember how much he loved us - even with his death on the cross. Saturday we are without a liturgy and are awaiting the nighttime celebration of the Resurrection, which is his and is now ours. And, so, we begin this week with the reading of the whole Passion story - this year, it is Matthew's version. (On Friday, we'll read John's version.) It is all so big and so full of meaning that I need to step back personally and focus on a few things, so that I don't let it just get by me so quickly.

I think the palms we receive today are a key. They are at least something to hold onto today and to keep close to us all week. Often we get them as we come into the church. We sometimes feel awkward and someone might encourage us to hold them up and wave them. It happens so fast, it is difficult to get into what is going on and to let it in very deeply. Someone once said, "You liturgy planners should remember what chaos there was in my house for all of us to get ready to get to Mass, and the conversations - sometimes yelling - that occurred in the car on the way here, before you expect us to instantly get into a liturgy when we get there."

The palms represent our not being fully ready and fully engaged in the power of this week. The story they invite us into is about the people welcoming Jesus into Jerusalem - waving palm tree branches and laying them on the road before him. They are accepting him as the one they were expecting to usher in God's promise. They shout, "Hosanna!" - God, come to save us!"

Of course, we put those palm branches down on the pew and we listen to the Passion story, which is full of betrayal. Many of the people are persuaded to turn on Jesus. "Crucify him, Crucify him!"

And, we carry that palm branch home, wondering what to do with it, wondering what it means for us this week. I want to let the palm branch get me through Holy Week. I really want to let it represent my desire to let Holy Thursday teach me deeper gratitude for his self-giving love for me - so powerfully expressed in today’s second reading from Paul's letter to the Philippians. I want the palm to represent my desire to be a servant for others, like Jesus, with Jesus. And, I want the palm to be with me on Good Friday and Holy Saturday, to help me stay grateful for the gift of his life for me. And, I want that palm to be close to me on Easter Sunday. I want to remember that his Passion - any participation I have in carrying my cross, in his name - leads to his Resurrection and mine, the gift of eternal life. Throughout the year, those palm branch pieces can be a continuing reminder of how much he loves me and how deeply I want to respond, "Hosanna!" - "Save me, dear Jesus!"

Caraol Zuenger, It's the little things. There’s a saying that God is in the details. I have always liked that saying because it reminds me to pay attention to my work or my task, but it also reminds me that God is everywhere. That’s a good reminder. We must follow God’s commandments Those are the big things., I think God is telling me to pay attention to details. Turning the other cheek can mean not responding in kind when the harried cashier takes so long to attend to the person in front of me in line. Turning the other cheek can mean that I make the decision to not respond or join in when the conversation turns petty. I can listen to the other side of an argument and really try to understand. Jesus tells us to love our enemies. He didn’t say it was easy. We don’t have to like what they do, but when we love our enemies, it reminds us of our humanity, of how connected we all are.
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Spc Melissa Alston/Army
Larissa Brown/Air Force
Pvt Alexander Bayadich/Marine
Sgt. Michael J. Borg/Air Force
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St. Matthias Catholic Community
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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
1:00pm Spanish Mass

Parish Office Hours:
Monday thru Thursday: 8 am-1 pm
Closed Fridays

Parish Office ........................................731-1300
Bookkeeper: Jacki Lenard................731-1300
Maintenance: ........................................731-0654
Jose Fuentes - Pauleta Pashki
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: Carmella Badia
Sue Kirouac
Dave Barth

Worship Commission
Chairperson: Marie Bommarito........586-524-1785
Lectors: Denise Zimkiewicz ............566-7546
Altar Server Coordinator: Denise Zimkiewicz 566-7546
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
St. Matthias/St. Vincent de Paul ..........739-2922
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Marriage: Arrangements are to be made
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