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.
"May your mercy, LORD, be upon us; as we put our hope in you." Psalm 33:22
May our Lord bless us with the graces of Spiritual Communion with him, as we long for the day when we can be together around his table to receive him in the Eucharist. May the sick and those who care for them be protected and filled with faith and his love.

“The Good Shepherd is risen! He who laid down his life for his sheep, who died for his flock, He is risen, Alleluia.”
The reading of today’s Gospel pictures Jesus continuing His confronting of the Pharisees. … Jesus had stuck it in the eyes of these same Jewish leaders, telling them that in deed, they were blind. The man who was blind had recognized Jesus as the Christ, but those who could see visually, were blinded by their non-recognition.

It parallels then the setting of our First Reading. Jesus uses what we call, an extended metaphor. The Pharisees fail to figure out the figure of speech so He has to explain it all provokingly more to the point. They are the “thieves and robbers” who came before Jesus. Jesus had the “gate” opened to Him by the “gatekeeper”, His Father. The Pharisees are pictured as those who selfishly steal, slaughter, and destroy, but Jesus has come to give life to those who can hear His voice calling. Jesus is using a biblical image with which the Pharisees and Jewish listeners are quite familiar. The people of Israel had known themselves as “flock” and the Lord as “shepherd”. What Jesus is doing is completing the prophecy of Ezekiel in Chapter thirty-four. Jesus is the God-Sent shepherd Who will pasture God’s flock with tenderness and not selfishness.

In the previous chapter the human sense of seeing was employed for Jesus to offer Himself as Light. In these verses Jesus presents Himself as a voice to be heard. The Pharisees have not, they have refused to hear, but there are those who by hearing have come into the “flock” of believers. For this Jesus came, to voice the announcement that the Jewish people as well as all others are being called again. This continues the theme of the post-Resurrectional Jesus; “I have come to tell you again, to voice your personal and collective identities.” The “voice” of Jesus and the Christian message does not sound attractive to all who hear it. Many of the Christian responses in world history have not made the ways of Jesus desirable. The Crusades, the Inquisitions, persecutions, and the anti-Semitic statements, teachings, and persecutions are embarrassing now to us, and have left a bad image or somewhat of a dubious voice to be heard in the world. I think it was Chesterton who remarked that Christianity hasn’t failed; it just hasn’t been tried yet.

Within all this communicational jungle Jesus continues speaking through the Church. Into all this cacophony, we who hear His voice speak it in words and actions, that the life He came to give us in “abundance” is still available and worth the living. The Pharisees did use their power to demand religious conformity. Jesus is not a demand, but an invitation extended to and through us. Stealing, slaughtering and destroying are appropriate to the thieves and robbers. Sharing, encouraging life, and recovery are the words we have heard and the gestures which will eventually bring about God’s one and healed flock. Source Larry Gillick, S.J., Creighton online ministries.
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Church of St. Matthias, Sterling Heights
**SUNDAY’S READINGS**

**FIRST READING:**
Peter said to them,
“Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 2:38)

**PSALM:**
The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. (Ps 23) or Alleluia.

**SECOND READING:**
He himself bore our sins in his body upon the cross, so that, free from sin, we might live for righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. (1 Pt 2:24)

**GOSPEL:**
“I am the gate... Whoever enters through me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture.” (Jn 10:9)

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**OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 3, 2020**

- Sunday: 4th Sunday of Easter; World Day of Prayer for Vocations
- Tuesday: Cinco de Mayo
- Thursday: National Day of Prayer
- Next Sunday: 5th Sunday of Easter; Mother’s Day

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**REFLECT**

**FIRST READING**

Luke tells us that Peter often testified: “Save yourself from this corrupt generation.” How is this message still applicable today?

**SECOND READING**

Peter asserts that the virtue of patience in one’s suffering is a grace from God because Jesus modeled patient suffering. How does the exercise of this spiritual disposition help bring peace of mind?

**GOSPEL READING**

Using the metaphor of sheep and gatekeeper, Jesus teaches his disciples the importance of remaining focused on his voice. Why do you think people are so easily distracted from other voices?

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**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

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**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

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

Abigayle Ministries ........................................586-323-1411
Baptism: Contact Parish Office.
Marriage: Arrangements are to be made six months prior to the wedding date.

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**Blessed is HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD**

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**4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

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