



ST. MATTHEW PARISH

19 DORA LANE, LIMERICK, ME 04048 | 207.793.2244 | STMATTHEW@PORTLANDDIOCESE.ORG

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2021

23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



And people brought to him a deaf man who had a speech impediment and begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him off by himself away from the crowd. He put his finger into the man's ears and, spitting, touched his tongue; then he looked up to heaven and groaned, and said to him, "Ephphatha!"—that is, "Be opened!" - Mk 7:32-34

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 4:00 p.m. Bella & Joseph Estrella by the Family
Sunday 10:00 a.m. Deacon Paul Lissandrello by His Family

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Monday 8:00a.m. **NO PRAYER SERVICE THIS WEEK**
Tuesday 8:00a.m. Grace Medici by The Music Ministry
Wednesday 8:00a.m. Intentions of George & Judy Duranleau
 By John & Paula Wilk
Thursday 8:00 a.m. Intentions of Carmen LePage
 By John & Paula Wilk
Friday 8:00 a.m. Lorena Santerre by Brenda Schneider

MASS INTENTIONS NEXT WEEKEND (Sept 11 & 12)

Saturday 4:00 p.m. Norman & Priscilla Daigle by Snyder & Dow Family
Sunday 8:00 a.m. Emily Fries by Michael Fries
 10:30 a.m. Linda Lanoue by Steve & Gail Libby

WEEKLY PRAYER

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 5, 2021

Sunday: Is 35:4-7a/Ps 146:7, 8-9, 9-10 [1b]/Jas 2:1-5/Mk 7:31-37
Monday: Col 1:24—2:3/Ps 62:6-7, 9 [8]/Lk 6:6-11
Tuesday: Col 2:6-15/Ps 145:1b-2, 8-9, 10-11 [9]/Lk 6:12-19
Wednesday: Mi 5:1-4a or Rom 8:28-30/Ps 13:6ab, 6c [Is 61:10]/Mt 1:1-16, 18-23 or 1:18-23
Thursday: Col 3:12-17/Ps 150:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6 [6]/Lk 6:27-38
Friday: 1 Tm 1:1-2, 12-14/Ps 16:1b-2a and 5, 7-8, 11 [cf. 5]/Lk 6:39-42
Saturday: 1 Tm 1:15-17/Ps 113:1b-2, 3-4, 5a and 6-7 [2]/Lk 6:43-49
Next Sunday: Is 50:5-9a/Ps 116:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 [9]/Jas 2:14-18/Mk 8:27-35



BOTH THE SANCTUARY AND ST. JOSEPH CANDLES ARE AVAILABLE Would you like to have the Sanctuary Lamp burn in the church for your loved one? Contact the office for the weeks that you would like reserved.. Donations of \$10 for 7 Days and \$20 for 14 Days.

Aug 30th—Sept 5th—Leonie Trask
 Sept 6th—Sept 12th—AVAILABLE
 Sept 13th—Sept 19th—AVAILABLE



St. Matthew Parish

Saturday: 4:00 PM
Sunday: 8:00 AM
 10:30 AM
Monday: Prayer serv. 8:00 AM
Tuesday—Friday: 8:00 AM
 Adoration Tuesday & Friday 1 hour before Mass.
 Confessions at 3pm Saturday
 (Mass schedule subject to priest availability.)

St. Therese of Lisieux Parish

Saturday: 4:00 PM
 Holy Family, Sanford
Sunday: 7:30 AM
 Notre Dame, Springvale
 9:00 AM & 11AM
 Holy Family, Sanford

MWF 7:30 AM Holy Family
T/TH 6:00 PM Holy Family*

*Adoration 1 hour before every daily Mass
 Confession held at Tue & Thur 5-5:45p
 & Friday 6:30—7:15 am
 Check often for Daily Mass Changes

PASTOR'S PONDERING

Now that we are familiar with how pandemics work it might be a good time to discuss and epidemic that has been going on for a long time in our nation. This epidemic is hard to notice, is not contagious, and does not discriminate regarding its victims. This epidemic is hard to diagnose, and many who have it, do whatever they can to rid themselves of the symptoms of the epidemic. Some of what they do is healthy and works, but much of what people do to combat this epidemic is unhealthy and ends up doing more harm than good.

This epidemic is not an illness, but it can lead to illness. This epidemic can affect every organ in one's body and can cause all kinds of mental distress. This epidemic, left to its own devices has been known to cause death. As serious as this epidemic is many of us just pretend it does not exist, that only old people get it, or that if we hang out with the right crowd, have the right job, collect the right things, surround ourselves with worldly wealth we have nothing to fear. But the sad reality is that there has been and is an epidemic of loneliness in our world.

This epidemic has infiltrated our families and our workplace. Even though there are more people in our circle of friends, even though technology has "made the world smaller," even though we can see and know each other's business at the touch of a finger the epidemic of loneliness grows more widespread and more difficult to see.

As a college chaplain, one of the most important lessons I learned was that college students desire community. They desire to belong, to be loved, to have a posse or gang to hang with. It didn't take me long to realize that this desire was not exclusive to college students. In fact, in the hierarchy of needs, after our basic needs for food, water, and safety have been met, each of us desires love and belonging. This desire is so innate in each of us that we will do whatever it takes to have it met or whatever it takes to dull the pain of it not being met. To avoid feeling lonely many will self-medicate with alcohol or drugs, engage in inappropriate relationships or promiscuity, overindulge in food or some other substance or activity.

Recent studies have determined that over sixty percent of us are experiencing loneliness today. This has only been made worse by the many restrictions and quarantines we have had to deal with during the pandemic. The study also shows that loneliness is not just a problem for those who are alone but cuts across all stations in life, married, single, divorced, widowed.

So, what can we do to stave off this epidemic? The first thing we must do is recognize that the answer does not lie in more or better electronics. We will need to reconnect with people, to get actual face time with people, to sit and chat with people. Perhaps we will need to learn to enjoy our own company. That is, learn to enjoy being alone. If we heed the command of Jesus and love ourselves with holy and sacred love, we will be less likely to feel lonely. Secondly if we live our faith, if we live what we believe we will come to realize that we are constantly surrounded by people who love us beyond our ability to measure. Those who have gone before us, the saints, our family members, the Holy Family, the Holy Trinity all continue to call us to holiness.

As much as loneliness may scare us, as much as we desire to do all we can to avoid loneliness there will just be times when we are lonely. Using this time to practice good self-care, using this time to develop a new hobby, to recover the lost art of letter writing, to read a good book, may not take away the loneliness but it reminds us that we are pretty good company for ourselves.

One last thing to consider in those moments of loneliness; sometimes that desire for contact, that desire for affirmation, that desire to be loved, is really a call from God to come closer, to be more vulnerable, to be more trusting that God does indeed have a plan for our wellbeing. So instead of running from loneliness, perhaps we should use these moments of quiet to listen for the voice of God, who is love, reminding us that we are never alone.

~ Fr. Bill



Special Collection | September 18-19, 2021
For the rebuilding of churches, schools, convents, and rectories

Haiti Earthquake Relief:

Special Collection at all
Maine Masses for Re-
building of Haitian
Churches, Schools, Con-
vents, and Rectories

All Maine parishes will hold a special collection at weekend Masses on Sep-

tember 18-19 to provide assistance after a recent 7.2 magnitude earthquake in Haiti. All proceeds from this collection will be turned over to the president of the Haitian Bishops' Conference, Cardinal Chibly Langlois, for use by the Church in rebuilding churches, schools, convents, and rectories. Those looking to make a donation to this cause in advance of that weekend can do now online by visiting

<https://portlanddiocese.weshareonline.org>. To make a donation to Catholic Relief Services or the Pontifical Mission Societies, which are on the ground providing immediate aid to people in need, visit www.portlanddiocese.org/crs-help-people-haiti.

PLEASE NOTE ST. MATTHEW IS DOING THE COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND INSTEAD OF IN TWO WEEKS.

***Fridays with Mary** Will be resuming September 9, 2021.*

Liturgy of the Hours: Pray Morning Prayer from the Divine Office every Saturday morning at 8am. From ancient times the Church has had the custom of celebrating each day the liturgy of the hours. In this way the Church fulfills the Lord's precept to pray without ceasing, at once offering its praise to God the Father and interceding for the salvation of the world.

Lay Carmelite Meetings - If you want to learn about the spirit of Carmel, you are welcomed to join our meetings on the fourth Saturday of the month beginning at 10:00 A.M. in the Religious Education center upstairs at Norte Dame in Springvale or by Zoom. We pray Morning Prayer from the Divine Office, Lectio Divina (meditating on Sacred Scripture) and learn about the history and charism of Carmel. ("To follow Jesus Christ as brothers and sisters of the Blessed Virgin Mary, called together by the Holy Spirit...to live as Elijah in the presence of God...To serve the needs of the Church and of each other in love." Please call our directress, Ruthie Larivee at (207) 793-5268. Ruthie will send you via email all the Zoom information and send you the monthly agendas.

ED THE PLANT MAN— Ed the Plant man will be selling Garden Mums in four colors and sizes on the weekends before and after Masses starting next weekend. All proceeds are to benefit St. Matthew Church.

Maine Needs Fatima Rosary Rally at St. Matthew Church

It has never been more important to draw closer to Jesus with his Mother's guide and mantle of protection. Join us as we publicly pray the rosary on **Saturday, October 2, 2021 at 11am** with Maine Needs Fatima. Only with the power of prayer, can our world be healed.

Fr. Larry Richards to Offer Retreat in Lewiston on November 8-11

Save the date! Fr. Larry Richards, a gifted and nationally known homilist, retreat leader, and author will offer a four-evening retreat on November 8-11 at the Basilica of Saints Peter & Paul in Lewiston. The gatherings will be held each night from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. More information will be released in the coming weeks.

Men's Conference in Brunswick on November 13

The 2021 Men's Conference will be held at the St. John's Community Center in Brunswick on Saturday, November 13. Fr. Larry Richards will serve as the keynote speaker and presenter at the conference. More information will be released in the coming weeks.

PARISH FINANCES

Date:	August 29, 2021
Offertory	3,305.00
WeShare	1,082.50
Total August Offertory	17,021.00
BELOW August Goal	3,979.00



ST. MATTHEW CHURCH FOOD PANTRY

THE PANTRY SCHEDULE :

1st Monday of the month: 6-7pm
EVERY Tuesday 10am-12pm

****Serving residents of Limerick, Newfield, Parsonsfield or parishioners.**

St. Matthew Food Pantry is always in need of a few items they have a hard time purchasing from Good Shepherd. Donations can be left under the tables in the narthex.

Jellies & Jams	Chef Boyardee	Coffee
Ketchup	BBQ Sauce	Mustard
Sugar	Flour	Oil
Cereal	Tomato Sauce Cans	

THANK YOU IN ADVANCE!!

Paper and Reusable bags are needed for the Food Pantry.

PLEASE NOTE

PLEASE NOTE: IF RECEIVING COMMUNION BY THE TONGUE, PLEASE GO TO THE PRIEST TO RECEIVE.

FOR ANYONE BRINGING COMMUNION TO THE HOME BOUND, PLEASE SEE THE PRIEST AFTER MASS, DO NOT ATTEMPT TO GET THE HOST DURING COMMUNION.



And people brought to him a deaf man who had a speech impediment and begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him off by himself away from the crowd. He put his finger into the man's ears and, spitting, touched his tongue; then he looked up to heaven and groaned, and said to him, "Ephphatha!"—that is, "Be opened!" — Mk 7:32-34

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass (©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD).

Apostolate of Prayer for Priests

Please include the following priests serving in our diocese in your daily prayers this week:

Sept 06 Rev. Reginald R Brissette/Rev. Edward R Clifford
 Sept 07 Rev. John R Skehan/V. Rev. Jean-Paul Labrie
 Sept 08 All Priests
 Sept 09 Rev. Gregory P Dube/Rev. Joseph Daniels
 Sept 10 Rev. Maciej Pawlowski/Rev. Andrew Bisson OFM
 Sept 11 Rev. Vincent P Mellone/Rev. Daniel J Baillargeon
 Sept 12 Bishop Robert P Deeley, JCD

Ask God to open your ears to hear his call. May he also free your tongue to proclaim the Good News. Consider serving God as a priest, brother, or sister. (Mark 7:31-37) If you think God is calling you to be a priest, deacon, brother or sister, contact Father Seamus Griesbach at (207) 773-6471; email: seamus.griesbach@portlanddiocese.org; Website: www.portlanddiocese.org/vocations; Facebook: @VocationsME

St. Matthew Parish

Crafter & Vendor Fair
 19 Dora Lane, Limerick

Sept. 4th
 9am - 5pm

**At least 15 different
 vendors!!!**

**Basket
 Raffles**



LAST CHANCE

Drawing will be

By Rock Haven Basket Co. **at the end of day.**

ST MATTHEW PARISH

St. Matthew Church

***19 Dora Lane
Limerick, ME 04048
207-793-2244***

***<https://www.stmatthewlimerick.org>
stmatthewlimerick@portlanddiocese.org***

ST. MATTHEW PARISH STAFF:

V. Rev. Wilfred P. Labbe, Pastor
Rev. Alexander R. Boucher, Parochial Vicar
Deacon Paul Lissandrello, Pastoral Associate
Heather Silva, Administrative Assistant
Amy Paradis, Parish Music Coordinator
Jessica Rice, Interim Faith Formation Coordinator

FINANCE COMMISSION:

David Fedrizzi
Kevin LaFreniere
George Sleeper

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS:

George Duranleau, Grand Knight, 793-0263

MASSES TIMES:

Saturday at 4:00 p.m.
Sunday at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.
8:00 a.m. - Monday Prayer Service
8:00 a.m. - Tuesday — Friday*
*Check weekly bulletin for possible schedule changes.

LIVE STREAM MASSES:

All Masses are live streamed on our website:
www.stmatthewlimerick.org

FACEBOOK:

[@stmatthewlimerick](https://www.facebook.com/stmatthewlimerick)

BAPTISMS:

Parents who want to have their child(ren) baptized are asked to please call the parish office (793-2244).

WEDDINGS:

Anyone planning to get married must call the parish office at least SIX MONTHS PRIOR to the proposed wedding date.

CONFESSIONS:

Saturday at 3:00 p.m.,
AND ANYTIME BY APPOINTMENT.

NEW PARISHIONERS:

Welcome to St. Matthew Parish.
Please fill out the Parish Membership Form in the narthex and drop it in the collection basket or mail to the parish office.

BIRTHPLACE HELPLINE:

Abortion Alternatives/Project Rachel
1-800-227-3002

DOMESTIC ABUSE HOTLINE:

324-1802 or 1-800-239-7298

PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN:

www.portlanddiocese.org/protecting-gods-children

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PORTLAND:

www.portlanddiocese.org

IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROGRAM "PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN"

In the interest of children's safety, we ask that children **not be allowed to leave Mass** to use the restrooms downstairs, **unless they are accompanied by an adult**. Because we are a public building, doors are required to be unlocked, allowing entrance to all.

SEPTEMBER 5, 2021