

INTENTIONS OF THE EUCHARIST

Saturday, July 30 — 4:00 p.m.

Margaret Mansur —2nd Anniversary Memorial

Sunday, July 31 — 10:00 a.m.

Salvatore Ponterella—86th Birthday Celebration

Monday, August 1 — 9:00 a.m.

Mary Brita —Memorial

Saturday, August 6 — 4:00 p.m.

Abigail Torres —Birthday Memorial

Sunday, August 7 — 10:00 a.m.

Memorial Celebration

Ella L. Mahoney, John R Mahoney, Sr.
Anne R. Mahoney and John R. Mahoney, Jr.



Office Hours for the Week of August 1



Monday, Tuesday and Thursday
9:00 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.

Wednesday
9:00 a.m. — Noon

CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST MUSIC



Gathering Song: God We Gather
booklet # 1

Preparation of Gifts: Only This I Want
hymnal # 701

Communion: Bread Of Life Heaven
hymnal # 803

Recessional: For The Beauty Of The Earth
hymnal # 548

THIS WEEK AT ST. MATTHIAS

Saturday, July 30

- Celebration of the Eucharist
Church, 4:00 p.m.
- School Supplies Drive
Collection bins at the church entrances

Sunday, July 31

- Celebration of the Eucharist
Church, 10:00 a.m.
- School Supplies Drive
Collection bins at the church entrances

Wednesday, August 3

- Shawl Ministry
Downstairs Conference Room, 6:45 p.m.
- Baptism Instruction
Parish Hall, 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, August 6

- Celebration of the Eucharist
Church, 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, August 7

- Celebration of the Eucharist
Church, 10:00 a.m.

Weekday Masses for the Week of August 1



Monday, Tuesday and Friday

9:00 a.m.

Downstairs Conference Room

SCRIPTURE READINGS

You are encouraged to pray these readings at home during the week as you reflect on this Sunday's Word and prepare to celebrate next week's Eucharist.

Readings for July 30, 31 — 18th Sunday in Ordinary time

Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:21-23; Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11;
Luke 12:13-21

Readings for August 6, 7 — 19th Sunday in Ordinary time

Wisdom 18:6-9; Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19; Luke 12:32-48

FROM FR. FRAN

Recently I read an interesting article by a sociologist and historian who proposed the theory that the world goes through a convulsive period every 50 – 75 years. His examples included everything from plagues to wars, and dated back to the time of the Greek philosophers. He went on to say that as bad as the convulsive times are, the world gathers back its equilibrium and becomes a better place for going through the firestorm.

A disconcerting part of the article for me was his prediction that the world is going into a firestorm period now. He didn't take a guess as to what the tipping point will be, but he see signs in the present climate that the world is ripe for seismic change.

This is, of course, just one author's view. However, through his presenting credible evidence from history, I did take away from the article a sense of the validity of this cycle. I also came away with the hope that, whatever we might go through, there is light at the end of the tunnel, and hope for the future.

As Catholic Christians we are called to be people of light and hope. Always. We are called, not to condemn the present age, but to make it better. Christ is our example and guide. He lived in a time in which his people were oppressed and under tight foreign rule by the Romans. The religious leaders of his time needed to make peace with the occupying force and often sold their own people out. Jesus, unwilling to compromise and always speaking God's truth, was seen as a threat to both religious and civil society. He needed to be gotten rid of. The religious leaders whipped some of the crowd into a frenzy at the time of his trial as they tried to justify their plan to neutralize him. And they won, or so it seemed.

We all know how the story ends. Jesus' death was not the ultimate sign of his losing the battle, in fact we call it his victory! Not a victory over the political or religious powers of his time, but a much more profound victory, a victory over death.

So what does that say to us during these contentious times? Do we believe that the mission of Christ is alive within us? Do we see that through our words and actions Christ wants to complete what he began? Do we recognize that in Christ there is no longer an "us and them", that there is only a "we" called to work together to bring more of the things of God to our world?

If we follow in the footsteps of Christ, which we are called to do through baptism, we might find ourselves speaking and doing things that are rather countercultural. Mercy, forgiveness, inclusiveness and working for peace aren't always popular values, especially when society values individualism over the community. But we shouldn't lose hope or shrink away from the mission we are given.

If the article I read was on the money, and we are indeed going into a convulsive period, then, as Catholics, we have an important role to play. Through our discipleship in Christ, the bearer of light and peace, we have a unique call to stand firm in his gospel, helping to bring the world through a dark period into the light of Christ's new day.



CHRISTMAS CRAFTERS WANTED

Annual Christmas Bazaar
Saturday, December 3

The St. Matthias Annual Christmas Bazaar will be held on **Saturday, December 3, 2016, from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.** in our Parish Hall. Calling all craft vendors! Enjoy a day-filled with the Christmas spirit as you sell your items. Cost of table is \$50. Call the office for details 508-460-9255.

Crafters are encouraged to join the Craft Team. *Not crafty?* Monetary donations are always appreciated for craft supplies. If you have crafts or items to donate, please contact the Parish Office 508-460-9255 for details.

PRAY FOR THE HEALING OF THE SICK

Please Pray For...



Richard Abraham, Laurie Burt, Peggy Cronin, Delia Cruz, Connie Cyr, Del Cyr, Clara Mae Dickerson, John Gifford, Joe Gillis, Russ Hokanson, Kathryn Keeler, Sean Marrier, David Martin, Frank Mangan, Kay McNeill, Margaret McNeil, Theresa Perry, Jean Peltak, and Amy Noel Wyman.

To add someone to this prayer list, please call the parish office at 508-460-9255 or email admin@stmattpar.org.

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FAITH FORMATION

Saint Ignatius Loyola, July 31

The founder of the Jesuits was on his way to military fame and fortune when a cannon ball shattered his leg. Because there were no books of romance on hand during his convalescence, Ignatius whiled away the time reading a life of Christ and lives of the saints. His conscience was deeply touched, and a long, painful turning to Christ began. Having seen the Mother of God in a vision, he made a pilgrimage to her shrine at Montserrat (near Barcelona). He remained for almost a year at nearby Manresa, sometimes with the Dominicans, sometimes in a pauper's hospice, often in a cave in the hills praying. After a period of great peace of mind, he went through a harrowing trial of scruples. There was no comfort in anything—prayer, fasting, sacraments, penance. At length, his peace of mind returned.

It was during this year of conversion that Ignatius began to write down material that later became his greatest work, the Spiritual Exercises.

He finally achieved his purpose of going to the Holy Land, but could not remain, as he planned, because of the hostility of the Turks. He spent the next 11 years in various European universities, studying with great difficulty, beginning almost as a child. Like many others, his orthodoxy was questioned; Ignatius was twice jailed for brief periods.

In 1534, at the age of 43, he and six others (one of whom was St. Francis Xavier, December 2) vowed to live in poverty and charity and to go to the Holy Land. If this became impossible, they vowed to offer themselves to the apostolic service of the pope. The latter became the only choice. Four years later Ignatius made the association permanent. The new Society of Jesus was approved by Paul III, and Ignatius was elected to serve as the first general.

When companions were sent on various missions by the pope, Ignatius remained in Rome, consolidating the new venture, but still finding time to found homes for orphans, catechumens and penitents. He founded the Roman College, intended to be the model of all other colleges of the Society.

Ignatius was a true mystic. He centered his spiritual life on the essential foundations of Christianity—the Trinity, Christ, the Eucharist. His spirituality is expressed in the Jesuit motto, *ad majorem Dei gloriam*—"for the greater glory of God." In his concept, obedience was to be the prominent virtue, to assure the effectiveness and mobility of his men. All activity was to be guided by a true love of the Church and unconditional obedience to the Holy Father, for which reason all professed members took a fourth vow to go wherever the pope should send them for the salvation of souls.

americancatholic.org

Faith Formation gatherings will begin **Sunday, September 25** with participation in our 10:00 AM Mass followed by a **parish picnic** for everyone. This day brings all Saint Matthias families together to celebrate the beginning of a new school year by praying together and enjoying each others' company following Mass.

****Special reminder** to those families who need to register their children for the 2016-2017 year. Each family who participated in Faith Formation in the previous year received pre-printed forms via email. New families have found registration forms on our web site www.stmattpar.org and are located on the bulletin at the back of the Church. If you have any questions please call the Faith Formation Office at 508-460-9255 or email tsalafia@stmattpar.org.

PARISH FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

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FINANCIALS FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE

Weekly Offertory Goal:	\$4,000.00
Total Collection of July 23, 24	\$3,665.00
Of that amount ParishPay donations were	\$1,035.00
Parishioners celebrating Mass July 23, 24.....	236

Total Income for the Month of June	\$27,222.75
Total Expenses for the Month of June	<u>\$29,747.69</u>
Net Income/Loss:	- \$ 2,524.94*

SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR AUGUST

*This total reflects a deficit of \$2,524.94. Total offertory collection for the month of June: \$16,329.33, which reflects a \$329.33 increase in our \$4,000 weekly goal.

Catholic Relief Collection	August 6 and 7
Parish Maintenance	August 13 and 14

SCHOOL SUPPLIES DRIVE

JULY 30/31

United Way of Tri-County is busy with preparations to collect and organize school supplies for children in need in the greater Marlborough area. St. Matthias Parish will aid them in their efforts with our annual collection for the "Tools for Schools" program. A list of requested supplies may be found on the bulletin board at the back of the Church.

Last year, the United Way of Tri-County distributed 900 backpacks filled with supplies needed for the school year. If each family in the parish were to donate just a few items it would go a long way towards fulfilling the needs of local children. Why not join with others to fill a backpack with the grade appropriate items found on the supply list?

Some of the requested items include backpacks, pens, pencils, colored pencils, crayons, glue sticks and notebooks. Store gift cards are always welcome to fill in gaps of supplies where needed. This is an opportunity to make a difference in the life of a child.

If you missed the opportunity to drop off supplies while attending Mass, you may drop off supplies at the Parish Office this week during office hours.

Thank you in advance for your generosity.



MARLBOROUGH COMMUNITY CUPBOARD AUGUST 13 AND 14



Collection bins will be available at the church entrances for the monthly Marlborough Community Food cupboard collection the weekend of **August 13 and 14**. In addition to non-perishable food items, the cupboard also requests personal items such as diapers, shampoo/conditioner, soap, toilet paper, etc. Please visit the United Way of Tri-County website www.uwotc.org/food/marlborough for a detailed donation request list.