

INTENTIONS OF THE EUCHARIST

Saturday, March 25 — 4:00 p.m.

Sister Joan Rea — Memorial

Sunday, March 26 — 10:00 a.m.

The Geisin Family — Memorial
Grandpa, Grandma, Alicia, and Linda

Saturday, April 1 — 4:00 p.m.

Helen, Joseph, and Jordan DeDeo — Memorial

Sunday, April 2 — 10:00 a.m.

Ann Thompson — Memorial

Office Hours for the Week of March 26



Monday, Tuesday and Thursday

9:00 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.

Wednesday

9:00 a.m. — Noon

SCRIPTURE READINGS

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

Readings for March 26 — Fourth Sunday of Lent

1 Samuel 16:1B, 6-7, 10-13A; Ephesians 5:8-14:
John 9:1-41

Readings for April 2 — Fourth Sunday of Lent

Ezekiel 37:12-14; Romans 8:8-11; John 11:1-45

Weekday Masses for the Week of March 26

Weekday Celebration of the Eucharist
will be held

9:00 a.m.

**Monday, Tuesday and Friday
Downstairs Conference Room**



THIS WEEK AT ST. MATTHIAS

Saturday, March 25

- **Celebration of the Eucharist**
Church, 4:00 p.m.
- **Virtus® Training—St. Vincent DePaul Volunteers**
Downstairs Conference Room, 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 26

- **Faith Formation Grades 1 to 5**
Classrooms, 8:30 a.m. — 9:45 a.m.
- **Celebration of the Eucharist**
Church, 10:00 a.m.
- **Coffee Social**
Parish Hall, following Mass
- **Faith Formation Grades 6, 7 and 8**
Classroom, 6:00 p.m.—7:15 p.m.

Wednesday, March 29

- **Shawl Ministry**
Downstairs Conference Room, 6:45 p.m.

Thursday, March 30

- **Choir Rehearsal**
Church, 7:00 p.m.

Friday, March 31

- **Lenten Simple Supper**
Parish Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 1

- **Grade 10—Confirmation Retreat**
Downstairs Conference Room, 1:00 p.m.
Church, 4:00 p.m. / Parish Hall 5:00 p.m.
- **Celebration of the Eucharist**
Church, 4:00 p.m.
- **Grade 2—First Eucharist Retreat**
Church, 4:00 p.m. / Parish Hall 5:00 p.m.
- **Lector Rehearsal for Palm Saturday Readings**
Church, 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 2

- **Faith Formation Grades 1 to 5**
Classrooms, 8:30 a.m. — 9:45 a.m.
- **Celebration of the Eucharist with Liturgy of the Word for Children**
Church, 10:00 a.m.
- **Coffee Social**
Parish Hall, following Mass
- **Palm Sunday Procession Rehearsal**
Church, 11:30 p.m.
- **Lector Rehearsal for Palm Sunday Readings**
Church, 12:00 Noon
- **Faith Formation Grades 6, 7 and 8**
Classroom, 6:00 p.m.—7:15 p.m.

FROM FR. FRAN



Our parish had a great **St. Patrick's Day Dinner** last Saturday. Many thanks to all who participated, especially our parish bakers and members of our Parish Pastoral Council who hosted the evening. The Irish Step Dancers from the McNerny School of Dance joined us once again and performed a skillful set of dances. Our sing-a-long was robust and our meal catered by The Buffet Way was great, as usual. Special thanks to Hilary and Joe Kushi, Rita and Bill Fettig, and all those who worked behind the scenes to bring a bit of the Emerald Isle to St. Matthias.

While work on our **new parish walkway** was slowed down by the recent snowstorm, I think it is coming along nicely. I've already received much positive feedback. While our FY 2017 budget didn't foresee this project, we were able to pay for the job out of our savings. In a few weeks we will be telling parishioners about a way you can help with the cost of the project as we will unveil a program of memorializing the walkway. Stay tuned for more information.

Our final **Lenten Simple Supper** is this Friday night, March 31st. It will be hosted by families in our Faith Formation Ministry. Come and join us in this great way to kick off the weekend with good food, company and a moment of prayer. A free will offering will be accepted in support of our parish St. Vincent DePaul Society. See the article elsewhere in the bulletin for more details.

Holy Week and the Easter Triduum will be here before you know it. Please plan now to join in our parish celebrations. In our bulletin over the next few weeks parishioner and deacon candidate Jared Auclair will be providing reflections on the various liturgical celebrations that comprise the most sacred days of our church year. I encourage you to spend some time with these brief reflections, especially with the questions Jared poses to help us prepare for Easter.

As things are happening fast and furious in the political arena these days, I encourage you to check out the website of the **United States Conference of Catholic Bishops** (USCCB) for reflections upon the questions of the day, including healthcare and immigration. The Catholic Church has long been a voice of advocacy for social programs that speak to the gospel values of justice and mercy. Many excellent documents on social justice produced by the popes of the 20th and 21st centuries have contributed to the USCCB documents and reflections. Another good place for commentary is the Jesuit publication *America*, which can easily be found by a Google search. We seem to spend a lot of time listening to the cable news networks' take on things, I encourage you to spend some time discovering the Church's positions which are shaped by the Gospel, not by the 24/7 news cycle.



PARISH FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP	
Weekly Offertory Goal:	\$4,000.00
Total Collection of March 18, 19.....	\$3,922 .00 *
Of that amount ParishPay donations were	\$ 887.00
Parishioners celebrating Mass March 18, 19.....	354
*This represents a deficit of \$78.00 to the Weekly Offertory goal.	
GRAND ANNUAL	
Grand Annual	\$4,000.00
Total Pledged	\$60,185.00
Total Received	\$57,235.00
Total Number to Reach Goal	\$19,815.00
Number of Families Pledged	110

PRAY FOR THE HEALING OF THE SICK

Please Pray For...

Richard Abraham, Boyle Family, Nancy Bradford, Laurie Burt, Peggy Cronin, Delia Cruz, Connie Cyr, Del Cyr, Clara Mae Dickerson, Doyle Family, Colin Fawkes, John Gifford, Joe Gillis, Hannah Gluck, Russ Hokanson, Emma Johnson, Kathryn Keeler, Emma Larrivee, Maura McGuniess, Holly McIntyre, Kay McNeill, , Roger Melenson, Michael Messom, Theresa Morrill, Megan Murphy, Deborah Natoli, Theresa Perry, Deacon Doug Peltak, Jean Peltak, Elaine Pilecki, Andy Rivers, Benjamin Smith, Edward Suzano, Ray Thomas, Trunfio Family, 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.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Faith Formation



Faith Formation gatherings for **Sunday, March 26:**

Grades 1-5 8:30 - 9:45 pm.

Grades 6,7,8 6:00 - 7:15 pm.

Calendar reminders:

On **Saturday, April 1**, Grade 2 will have their annual retreat. Children and their families will attend 4:00 pm Mass, followed by a light supper, a demonstration of bread making for the Eucharist by Fay DiNitto, and create banners for their First Eucharist taking place **Sunday, April 30 at 10:00 a.m.**

The Confirmation retreat will take place on **Saturday, April 1 at 1:00 p.m.** After meeting in the classroom, candidates will attend 4:00 p.m. Mass followed by joining the second graders for a light supper and assisting the younger children in making banners.

Palm Sunday Reflection



After preparing our hearts and souls for the coming of the LORD, on Palm Sunday we enter into the holiest week of the liturgical year. Jesus triumphantly enters Jerusalem where the crowds spread their cloaks or branches from the trees, saying "Hosanna to the Son of David; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; hosanna in the highest." I wonder what Jesus was feeling as he entered the city knowing what lay ahead, especially keeping in mind, as we're told in the second reading, "Rather, he [Jesus] emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness [with all of its *weakness*]; and found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross." I wonder if I would have been strong enough, to embrace my human weakness, and enter the city with my head held high as Jesus did. Would you?

In the second Gospel reading we hear the Passion of Christ. In reflecting on Matthew's version, what stands out to me is the *weakness* of Jesus' disciples. First, we see the betrayal of Judas as he sells Jesus for silver, then we see Peter deny Jesus three times, and finally we see the weakness of the disciples as they can't stay awake and accompany Jesus in prayer in the Garden of Olives. I'm reminded, then, that Jesus didn't come here to save the strong, but instead, the weak! It's through our weakness that we grow strong in Christ.



ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER THANK YOU

Last Saturday's St. Patrick's Day dinner party once again proved that the St. Matthias Parish community can wear their green with pride. Everyone enjoyed a fine Buffet Way catered dinner, entertainment by the McInerney Irish Step dance group and the grand ol' sing along. Thank you to the PPC members for all their help in coordinating this event. Thank you to Janet Cross, Lillian DeBeaucourt, Nat Dolan, Peg Keeler, Renee Kossuth, Joanne Litster, Meagan McLean, Marie Mangan, Mary Ann Mauro, Betty Montgomery, Terry Paladino, Pat Smith, Ellen Teplitz, Linda Thomasino, Josephine Wise and the many others who provided traditional Irish soda bread and delicious desserts. *See you next year!!*

CATHOLIC APPEAL

COMMITMENT WEEKEND UPDATE

Saint Matthias in pew collection surpassed the goal of 41 envelopes with a total of 63 collected. To date the **on-line** commitment totals \$3,485.00. In pew Parish commitments are not included in this number.

Saint Matthias' goal is \$21,536.00. The parish will be entitled to a rebate for any monies collected over this goal. If this amount is not reached, the balance will need to be supplemented by our parish financial resources. Catholic Appeal donations support over 50 ministries of the Archdiocese of Boston. Thank you for your contribution.

If you have any questions, please contact Theresa Salafia, Appeal Coordinator, at 508-460-9255 or tsalafia@stmattpar.org.

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICE RICE BOWL

This week's message is a *Call to Family, Community and Participation*, we remember that human beings are social by nature—we need each other. We, like the early disciples, are called to come together and grow as a community—whether that community is in our classroom, workplace or family. Your donations, through the CRS Rice Bowl help build community for those who most need it. For more information please visit crsricebowl.org

CORI PROCESSING

All volunteers are required by the Archdiocese of Boston to process a CORI form. If you have not yet submitted your form please see Diane Balinski following masses this weekend or contact the parish office to arrange a time to do so. Thank you for your cooperation.

Triduum/Easter Rehearsal Schedule

Saturday, April 1

Palm Sunday (Saturday) Lectors Rehearsal
Following Mass — Church

Sunday, April 2

Palm Sunday Processional Rehearsal
11:30 A.M. — Church

Palm Sunday (Sunday) Lectors Rehearsal
12:00 P.M. — Church

Monday, April 3

Stations of the Cross Rehearsal
Noon. — Church

Holy Thursday Rehearsal
7:00 P.M. — Church

Tuesday, April 4

Good Friday Rehearsal
7:00 P.M. — Church

Friday, April 7

Easter Vigil Rehearsal (not Lectors/Cantors)
7:00 P.M. — Church

Easter Vigil Liturgy of the Word Rehearsal
Lectors and Cantors
7:45 P.M. — Church

LENTEN SIMPLE SUPPER **Friday, March 31 at 6:30 p.m.** **Parish Hall**



The St. Matthias community invites you to join with fellow parishioners for the upcoming **Lenten Simple Supper** with prayer and reflection during our journey through Lent. The supper will be held on **Friday, March 31 at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall.**

This evening is hosted by Faith Formation students and their families in Grades 6-10. Grades 6, 7, 8 are responsible for providing set up, food and clean up. Monetary donations toward the St. Matthias Parish chapter of St. Vincent DePaul Society will be accepted. The funds enable the committee and its members to conduct work that is essential to helping many people in our local community. Please join us in sharing a meal and praying together—hope to see you there!