

ST. MATTHIAS PARISH, MARLBOROUGH, MA

INTENTIONS OF THE EUCHARIST

Saturday, December 9 — 4:00 p.m.

Paul Meany — 16th Anniversary Memorial
Mary Conroy — Memorial

Sunday, December 10 — 10:00 a.m.

George Kimball — Memorial

Saturday, December 16 — 4:00 p.m.

Robert Fischer — 4th Anniversary Memorial

Sunday, December 17 — 10:00 a.m.

Patricia Hewitt — 1st Anniversary Memorial



THIS WEEK AT ST. MATTHIAS

Saturday, December 9

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

Sunday, December 10

- **Faith Formation Grades 1—5**
Parish Hall / Class Room, 8:30 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.
- **Celebration of the Eucharist**
Church, 10:00 a.m.
- **Coffee Social**
Parish Hall, following Mass
- **Extraordinary Ministers of Communion Chat Session**
Classrooms, 11:00 a.m.
- **Children's Choir Rehearsal**
Church, 11:15 a.m.– 12:15 p.m.
- **Faith Formation Grades 6 through 10 and Parish Community**
Advent Gathering - Parish Hall 5:00 p.m.

Monday, December 11

- **Finance Committee Meeting**
Upstairs Conference Room, 7:15 p.m.

Wednesday, December 13

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

Thursday, December 14

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

Saturday, December 16

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

Sunday, December 17

- **Faith Formation Grades 1—5**
Parish Hall / Class Room, 8:30 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.
- **Celebration of the Eucharist with Baptism**
Church, 10:00 a.m.
- **Coffee Social**
Parish Hall, following Mass
- **Children's Choir Rehearsal**
Church, 11:15 a.m.– 12:15 p.m.

Weekday Masses for the Week of December 10



Weekday Celebration of the Eucharist will be held on:

Monday, Tuesday and Friday
9:00 a.m. Downstairs Conference Room

Office Hours for the Week of December 10

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

Wednesday
9:00 a.m. — Noon



NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Readings for December 16 and December 17
Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 61:1-2A, 10-11; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
John 1:6-8, 19-28

**CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST
WORSHIP BOOKLET**

The Advent Season Worship Aid can be found in the pews. This booklet contains Mass responses as well as our musical selections. Lift your voices in celebration.

After use, please return the booklet to the book rack located in the pew.
Thank You.



**TIS THE SEASON TO DONATE
MARLBOROUGH COMMUNITY CUPBOARD**

Our monthly food collection bins are placed at the church entrances this weekend of **December 9 and 10.**

Other donations needed: personal hygiene items, clothing and pet food. Check out the cupboard on-line for donations to feed a family and food delivery to homebound seniors through the **Senior Mobile Market** program, www.uwotc.org/MCC.

FROM FR. FRAN



The Giving Tree

Thank you to all who participated in our Giving Tree project this year. Through your great generosity, local children will have a brighter Christmas than they would have otherwise. Many thanks to the Fettig family who once again coordinated the effort and delivered the presents.

A Great Time Was Had By All

Thanks to all who participated in our annual **Christmas Crafts Fair** last Saturday. I'm always amazed at how smoothly everything goes, and how our parishioners outdo themselves each year in presenting a wonderful day of fun, food and shopping.

A special word of thanks goes to the many folks who worked in front of and behind the scenes in preparing the crafts, greens, food, grand raffle, basket raffle, the parish hall, and those who took time out of their Saturday to do the money counting and cleaning up. It was also great to have a visit from Santa and his talented piano playing helper! There will be an insert in next week's bulletin to thank one and all personally. Thanks for a great day!

Advent Gathering of the Parish

This Sunday our parish is presenting a great evening of prayer, food and reflection to help us prepare well for the coming of Christ at Christmas. Sponsored by the families of our Faith Formation Ministry, our guest presenter, Kevin Dowd, a doctoral student at Boston College, will lead a reflection on the Eucharist as the center of our lives as Catholic Christians. It should be a great evening, so please plan to join us on **Sunday, December 10 at 5 PM in the Parish Hall.**

Cardinal Sean O'Malley on the end of the TPS for Haitians

In a statement well worth reading, **Cardinal Sean O'Malley** recently reflected upon the US Government's plan to end the Temporary Protective Status (TPS) of 50,000 Haitians living in the United States. In a very direct way the Cardinal called the plan "unnecessary and unwise...more to the point it is neither required nor morally right." He goes on to acknowledge that while the government has the right to do so, deporting these folks would be putting their lives into danger in a country still reeling from earthquakes, hurricanes and an outbreak of Cholera.

To me, Cardinal Sean's comments demonstrate to us the voice that the Church is called to speak whenever and wherever injustice is found. Of course there are no simple or easy solutions, but for Catholic Christians to speak up for the poor, the needy and those who experience prejudice is part and parcel of our discipleship. It's so easy in our current climate to make sweeping generalizations about political and social issues. Often we miss the fundamental fact that we are talking about human lives when we talk about immigrants. The scriptures are clear, we are called to welcome the stranger and the alien because we were once strangers and aliens and someone welcomed us. Christ lived this out as he was often found with the poor and the outcast.

I strongly encourage you to read Cardinal Sean's statement which I referenced above. Perhaps his brief paragraphs can make for an Advent reflection wherein we look inside our hearts and reflect upon how we welcome and support those on the margins of society.

You can find Cardinal Sean's statement on the website of the Archdiocese of Boston: www.bostoncatholic.org. There is a link under the "Announcements" tab on the left side of the home page.

PARISH FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Weekly Offertory Goal:	\$4,000.00
Total Collection of December 2 and 3.....	\$4,325.00*
Of that amount WeShare donation	\$ 867.00
Parochial School Collection.....	\$ 359.00
Parishioners Celebrating Mass.....	380

*This represents a surplus of \$325.00 of our weekly offertory goal. *Thank You.*

Upcoming Special Collections for December

- December 9 and 10 — Parish Maintenance
- December 24 and 25 — Clergy Health and Retirement Trust

GRAND ANNUAL

Goal	\$80,000
Total Pledged	\$39,055
Total Received	\$31,070
Total to Reach Goal	\$40,945
Number of Families Pledged	81



**OUR FATHER'S TABLE
CHRISTMAS COLLECTION FOR GUESTS**

St. Matthias' *Our Father's Table* ministry is hosting a collection of **deodorant and combs** for the annual Christmas dinner celebration at *Our Father's Table*. Collection baskets are located at the church entrances until December 17, 2017

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

FAITH FORMATION

Faith Formation gatherings for the remainder of 2017:

December 10: Grades 1 through 5 8:30 – 9:45 a.m.

December 17: Grades 1 through 5 8:30 – 9:45 a.m.

Faith Formation Gatherings for January, 2018 will resume January 21:

Grades 1 through 5 8:30 – 9:45 a.m.

Grades 9 and 10 10:00 am Mass attendance with coffee social and meeting until noon

Grades 6 through 8 6:00 – 7:15 p.m.

ADVENT PRAYER SERVICE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

Grades 6-10, along with their families and extended Saint Matthias community, will attend Advent Evening consisting of prayer, pot luck supper and reflection by Kevin Dowd. Kevin's presentation "Front and Center" will lead us to see clearly the link between our good works and our participation in the Eucharist.

We are fortunate to have Kevin with us during this journey through Advent.

ADVENT PRAYER SERVICE ALL ARE WELCOME!

Enter into the Advent Journey by joining with the Saint Matthias community for prayer, dinner, conversation and reflection.

Sunday, December 10 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., we invite you for an Advent Pot Luck Supper that will begin with prayer and end with a reflection by Kevin Dowd. Kevin has worked extensively in youth ministry and adult enrichment. His presentation "Front and Center" is a reflection on the centrality of the Eucharist in Christian life and mission. Through storytelling and drawing on real life events, Kevin inspires participants and leaves them feeling renewed in their faith and commitment.

Please drop off your food donations to the parish hall by 4:45 p.m. Sunday, December 10. *Thank you.*



HANNAFORD "FOR A CAUSE" BAG PROGRAM IN SUPPORT OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Dear Parishioners: Our SVDP conference was chosen by Hannaford to be a recipient of their Cause Bag Program in December. If you need a reusable bag, consider going to the Hannaford store on route 20 (West side of Marlborough across from the new Apex Center) and purchase a Fight Hunger reusable bag for \$1.50. Our conference receives \$0.25 for each purchase. Just make sure it is the Fight Hunger bag because they also have a Hannaford Helps bag but we do not get anything from that. We benefit from the sales for the full month of December.



EPIPHANY BREAKFAST Sunday, January 7

St. Matthias Parish community joins together for an Epiphany Breakfast to enjoy one another's friendship over coffee and brunch items. Sue and Dale Dolesh are looking for volunteers to help in the preparation of the brunch and asks for food donations to enhance the event. Please consider volunteering your time, as an individual or as a family. If you are interested in helping or donating a food item or would like more information, call the parish office at 508-460-9255.

PRAY FOR THE HEALING OF THE SICK



Please Pray For...

Richard Abraham, Joyce Belliveau, Boyle Family, Conor Canavan, Elisangela Cardoso, Peggy Cronin, Delia Cruz, Connie Cyr, Del Cyr, Rita Dennison, Clara Mae Dickerson, Grace Dowd, Doyle Family, Jack Duprey, Trevor Faulls, Colin Fawkes, Lee Ann Fital, John Gifford, Joe Gillis, Hannah Gluck, Philomena Hedin, Russ Hokanson, Cristina Janunas, Emma Johnson, Kathryn Keeler, Mary Martocci, Emma Larrivee, Maura McGuinness, Holly McIntyre, Kay McNeill, Roger Melenson, Michael Messom, Glenn Molloy, Theresa Morrill, Deborah Natoli, Jennifer Natoli, Theresa Perry, Jean Peltak, Michael Pilecki, Andy Rivers, Lois Schofield, Benjamin Smith, Edward Suzano, Andrew Tivnan, Ray Thomas, Trunfio Family, Jenny Weibel and Robert Vona.

THANK YOU - ELECTRICAL WORK AROUND THE CHURCH CAMPUS

The St. Matthias Parish Community thanks Bob Mulvaney, Parishioner, for installing new outlets, making them easier to access, in the parish hall. The hosts the weekly coffee social are most grateful. Bob also installed a much needed exterior outlet, set timers on the lights leading to the parish office, replaced light bulbs in the church and even helped with Christmas lights.

CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST ST. MATTHIAS PARISH

Sunday, December 24

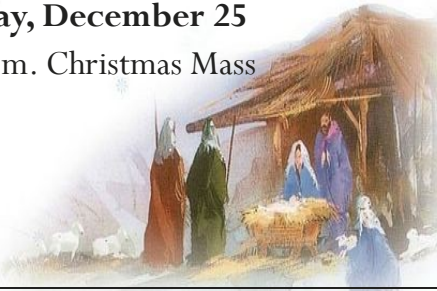
4:00 p.m. Christmas Vigil Mass

3:30 Christmas Concert with Children's Choir

7:00 p.m. Christmas Vigil Mass

Monday, December 25

10:00 a.m. Christmas Mass



GIVING TO THOSE IN NEED

At this 'giving' time of year, SVdP and St. Matthias Parish would like to let you know about 2 wonderful local charities helping those in need in our area. If you can't save furniture, household items, etc. for next year's yard sale, please think of these charities before throwing out items!

Household Goods, Acton, MA (www.householdgoods.org)

Every year, Household Goods helps approximately 8,000 people from 2,500 homes sleep in beds with sheets and blankets, eat at tables with dishes and cutlery and live with dignity in furnished rooms. As a volunteer run organization, Household Goods relies on the generous time donated by over 800 volunteers annually. It is a 501(C)(3) non-profit organization and relies on the generous financial donations of individuals and organizations to fulfill its mission.

Fresh Start Furniture Bank, Hudson, MA

(www.freshstartfurniturebank.org) Fresh Start Furniture Bank provides furniture and household goods to families in need in Massachusetts. People in need obtain referrals to Fresh Start from over 250 social service agencies throughout the state. Fresh Start has received referrals from 668 families in Marlborough alone this year. They expect to help at least 500 families again next year.

Please visit these charities' websites for more information on volunteering time, donating furniture or household items or to make a donation. If you can't support these charities in these ways then please like their FB pages and share their posts to spread the word.

