

**ST. MATTHIAS PARISH, MARLBOROUGH, MA**

**INTENTIONS OF THE EUCHARIST**

**Saturday, September 16 — 4:00 p.m.**

Mildred Ponterella — Birthday Memorial

**Sunday, September 17 — 10:00 a.m.**

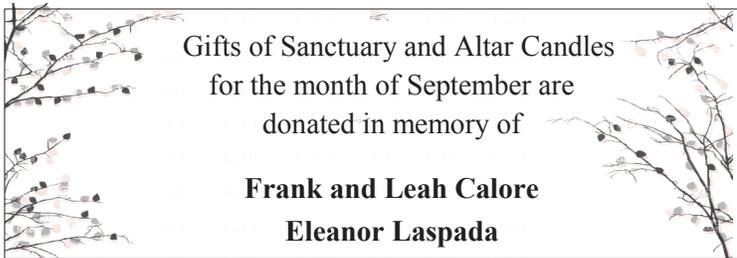
Elizabeth Montgomery — 24th Anniversary Memorial

**Saturday, September 23 — 4:00 p.m.**

Kevin Turcotte — Memorial

**Sunday, September 24 — 10:00 a.m.**

Myrna Milagros Torres — 9th Anniversary Memorial



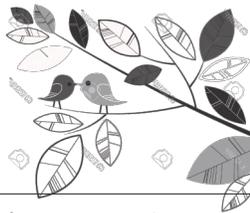
**Office Hours for the Week of September 17**

**Monday, Tuesday and Thursday**

9:00 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.

**Wednesday**

9:00 a.m. — Noon



**Celebration of the Eucharist Music**

Gathering: *As We Gather At Your Table*

Hymnal # 738

Preparation: *God Whose Purpose Is To Rekindle*

Hymnal # 58

Communion: *Ubi Caritas*

Booklet # 1

Recessional: *The Master Came To Bring Good News*

Hymnal # 853

**THIS WEEK AT ST. MATTHIAS**

**Saturday, September 16**

- **Celebration of the Eucharist**

Church, 4:00 p.m.

**Sunday, September 17**

- **Celebration of the Eucharist with Catechist Blessing**

Church, 10:00 a.m.

- **Parish Picnic**

**Faith Formation Grades 1—10 Gathering**  
Parish Hall,/Parish Grounds, following Mass

**Monday, September 18**

- **Parish Pastoral Council**

Downstairs Conference Room, 7:15 p.m.

**Wednesday, September 20**

- **Shawl Ministry**

Downstairs Conference Room, 6:45 p.m.

- **St. Vincent DePaul Meeting**

Parish Hall, 7:00 p.m.

**Thursday, September 21**

- **Choir Rehearsal**

Church, 7:00 p.m.

**Saturday, September 23**

- **Celebration of the Eucharist**

Church, 4:00 p.m.

**Sunday, September 24**

- **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.

- **Faith Formation Grade 10**

Mass 10:00 a.m. / Conference Room, 11:00—Noon

- **Coffee Social**

Parish Hall, following Mass

- **Faith Formation Grades 9**

Parish Hall, 5:00 P.M.—7:00 P.M.

Students with Parents/Guardians

Presentation and Light Refreshments

**Weekday Masses for the Week of September 17**

Weekday Celebration of the Eucharist  
will be held on:

Monday, Tuesday and Friday

**FROM FR. FRAN**

Much of our focus over the past few weeks has been on the hurricanes and wildfires that have ravaged our country and the nations of the Caribbean. The pictures of the devastation and the stories of the survivors have kept us glued to TV and other media. Thank you to all parishioners who gave last weekend to the relief effort sponsored by Catholic Charities.

A couple of the questions that naturally come up in times like these are: “where is God in all this?” and “Why would God let this happen?” I think that these are natural questions which surface whenever suffering occurs in our lives and in the lives of others. Inevitably some will say that God is punishing us for some reason. And the reason is usually portrayed as something that the speaker is crusading against. Others will say that it is just the cruel reality of living in a harsh world where there is no God watching over us.

As Catholic Christians we do not believe that God punishes us by sending us suffering of any kind, nor is God absent or just sitting by, watching the suffering and pain.

By being born into this world, we are born into the joys and pains that living on the earth will bring throughout our lives. Much of our suffering comes from the bad choices that people make, leading us into war, violence, and prejudices that harm us greatly. As Christians we see that the presence of evil is alive and working in the world. However, we also know that there is a greater presence here, God is working in this world too.

God has given us Christ to show us how to live through the sufferings and evil of the world. The news God gives us through Christ is that there is much more to our existence than the crosses we bear; for Christ’s cross led to the resurrection and will lead us there too. But how much comfort does that give us when we have to endure the tough times? Well, I think that if we give over to the power of God in our lives and in the world, it can give us great comfort.

While no one can wave a magic wand and take away the pain of another, we can do for each other what God does for us, namely give us strength to weather the storms and the vision to see through the difficulties of the present. God

continues to heal, forgive and embrace through us and our actions in the world. As Christ prayed for the world in his darkest hours, we pray and are moved to act for the world in the midst of our own struggles.

Pope Francis continues to give us example after example of how to do this. In recent days he has called out the deniers of climate change and called on us to heed the scientific data saying that it is our moral duty to care for the planet in better ways. He also continues to call out those who would deny immigrants a welcome and a path towards security. I could go on and on.

Pope Francis bases all of this, not on politics, but on the mandate of the gospel, which goes beyond any theory of governing. Some, however, are slow to see this, or don’t want to see this. The Pope’s critics inevitably tell him to stop meddling in politics and just look after the souls of the faithful.

As Christian, we know that we can’t separate ourselves from the world. We are here to help Christ transform the world. It is our mission to speak in the marketplace. A great deal of controversy and conflict comes with this mission.

Our gospel mission tells us that Catholic Christians cannot identify themselves with any one political party or form of government. In our own country we should be keenly aware that there is certainly no political platform that Catholics can endorse completely. But just as Christ lived and worked within a political system that was often hostile to him, we are called to live and work within what we have.

So as we continue to live in a world of storms, whether brought to us by Mother Nature or human nature, how do we respond? Can we see that God is working through suffering and not giving suffering to us? Can we see that the Pope’s call to care for the planet and to act on behalf of the plight of refugees goes beyond politics and power? Are we bold enough to examine our personal views through the light of the gospel and rid ourselves of anything that stokes the fires of sin and evil? Are we ready then to follow where Christ leads - to take up our crosses and bear the crosses of others so as to experience the beginnings of resurrected life here on earth?

**PARISH FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP**

<b>Weekly Offertory Goal:</b>	\$4,000.00
Total Collection of September 9, 10	\$3,729.00 *
Of that amount ParishPay donations	\$ 976.00
Parish Maintenance Collection	\$2,271.00
Of that amount ParishPay donations	\$ 267.00
Hurricane Relief Collection	\$2,821.00
Parishioners Celebrating September 9, 10	292

\*This amount reflects a deficit of \$271.00 of our weekly offertory goal.

**Special Collections for September**

September 16 and 17— Clergy Health and Retirement

**SPECIAL COLLECTION**

Clergy Health and Retirement Fund

The diocese-wide collection today will support the clergy Health and Retirement Trust which cares for the health and well-being of our priests. In the Archdiocese of Boston, we are blessed to have 590 men including, Fr. Francis O’Brien who have devoted their lives to serving Christ and His family. Your gift to this collection will help provide our priests with an appropriate level of care and quality of life so they can continue sharing the good news, performing good works, and spreading good faith. You may also make your donation online at [clergytrust.org](http://clergytrust.org) or text the word PRIEST to 56512 (msg. & data rates may apply). Thank you for your generous and prayerful support of our priests.

## TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### FAITH FORMATION

Welcome to students, families, catechists and our St. Matthias community to a new year of journeying in faith. Our goal is to grow in “wisdom, age and grace.” With the support of everyone in this community we will do just that. Thank you to everyone who helped in with our “entrance to fall” parish picnic. Faith, food and fun are a wonderful combination.

Thank you to the catechists who have come forward to help in the formation of the youngest among us.



**LIFELONG  
FAITH  
FORMATION**

### Calendar updates:

**Grades 1 to 5** September 24 8:30 – 9:45 am

**Grades 6 to 8** October 1 6:00 – 7:15 pm

**Grade 9** September 24 5:00 – 7:00 pm

Students and parent/guardian please note special time.

Light supper followed by presentation,

Jim Flanagan, Youth Minister, St. Elizabeth, Acton

**Grade 10** September 24

Attendance at 10:00 am Mass

followed by meeting in downstairs conference room until noon

### BAKE MINISTRY — WHAT’S COOKIN’?



The St. Matthias Bake Ministry is a group of parishioners who love to bake and contribute to many of the events held at our Parish. Ellen Teplitz is the Lead Chair for this ministry and is always available to answer questions, and key to organizing the bake items for the fundraising events. You may have enjoyed Irish soda bread at the St. Patrick’s Day dinner, or seen the many delicious baked goods for sale at the Yard Sale and the Christmas bazaar. The Bake Ministry also helps for one time parish events as well. You can bake as much or as little as you like and it gives you an opportunity to be creative. Up next on the Parish Agenda is the Yard Sale-October 14. If you would like to join this ministry or for additional information contact Ellen at [ellentepnitz@hotmail.com](mailto:ellentepnitz@hotmail.com) or call 508-480-9309.

### FRIENDS OF THE POOR WALK TEAM SEPTEMBER 30, 2017



Save the Date for this year’s Friends of the Poor Walk September 30, 2017! Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. and the walk begins at 10:00 a.m. St. Matthias Parish and the Immaculate Conception Parish are teaming up to host a day of fun and friendship to support the work of St. Vincent de Paul! While there is no fee to walk, participants are encouraged to ask sponsors (friends and family members) to make a donation to the St Vincent de Paul Society in their name. You can walk as an individual or form a team. Donations can be made directly to the SVdP on-line: <https://www.fopwalk.org/event/1785>. Funds raised will help those in need in the Marlborough community. Tie up your laces and enjoy up to 3 miles of walking along the Assabet River Rail Trail. The Friends of the Poor walk is a national event coordinated by the Development Team at the National Council of the United States Society of St. Vincent de Paul. If you are unable to walk check out the website: [www.fopwalk.org/team/2080](http://www.fopwalk.org/team/2080) and sponsor a pledge to the St. Matthias Parish Team “St. Matthias Pacers”.

### PRAY FOR THE HEALING OF THE SICK



*Please Pray For...*

*Richard Abraham, Joyce Belliveau, Boyle Family, Laurie Burt, Peggy Cronin, Delia Cruz, Connie Cyr, Del Cyr, Rita Dennison, Clara Mae Dickerson, Grace Dowd, Doyle Family, Jack Duprey, Trevor Fauls, 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, Benjamin Smith, Edward Suzano, Ray Thomas, Trunfio Family, and Jenny Weibel.*

If you would like to add to the prayer list, please call the parish office 508-460-9255 or email [admin@stmattpar.org](mailto:admin@stmattpar.org).

### 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 September 16 and 17  
Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sirach 27:30-28:7; Romans 14:7-9; Matthew 18:21-35

Readings for September 23 and 24  
Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 55:6-9; Philippians 1:20C-24, 27A; Matthew 20:1-16A



## WELCOME BACK PARISH PICNIC Sunday, September 17 following 10:00 am Mass.

All are welcome — Join in this parish community event on the parish grounds for an afternoon of food and fun. There will be face painting, balloons, cupcake contest and other fun surprises.

## LITURGY OF THE WORD FOR CHILDREN



**It's time to resume the Liturgy of the Word for Children during the 10 AM Mass.** On the first Sunday of the month from October to April, our youngest parishioners are invited to hear and be nourished by the scriptures of the day in ways that are understandable to them. As the adults of the Assembly are encouraged to live out the scriptures' message through the homily, the youngsters are encouraged to do the same, through a scripture translation that is appropriate to younger children. Parents are always welcome to accompany their children. During mass, Fr. Fran will invite all the children to come forward after the opening prayers and the children will process to the Parish Hall.

The Liturgy of the Word for Children includes:

The Readings, including a psalm, A discussion of the readings,

The Prayers of the Faithful, (where children are welcome to add their intentions )

The children return to their parents up in the church just following the homily.

### **We are looking for volunteers.**

Any child over the age of eight that would like to read.

Any adult who would like to read the gospel and lead the discussions or help in any other way. We have books that help in ideas and how to encourage participation. (Adults need to be CORI'd and have attended a Virtus Training Course.)

If you, or your child would like to volunteer or would like more information, please contact: Geralyn Stella at [gstrella@comcast.net](mailto:gstrella@comcast.net).



## CHRISTMAS CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Do you love singing Christmas carols in the car or at home? The St. Matthias Children's Choir needs you! The choir sings at the annual Christmas concert on Christmas Eve at 3:30 and continues with the 4 p.m. Mass. Choir is open to children in grades 2 through grade 8. **Rehearsals will be Sundays after the 10 a.m. Mass beginning Sunday, Oct. 22nd.** One or two additional rehearsals will occur the week leading up to Christmas. Sign up the weekend of Sept 16-17 after Mass or contact director Katie Broach at [kbroach2@gmail.com](mailto:kbroach2@gmail.com) No experience necessary.