

ST. MATTHIAS PARISH, MARLBOROUGH, MA

INTENTIONS OF THE EUCHARIST

Saturday, December 2— 4:00 p.m.

Paul Becker — 10th Anniversary Memorial

Sunday, December 3 — 10:00 a.m.

Rita Rembetsy — 16th Anniversary Memorial

Friday, December 8 — 9:00 a.m.

Vera Tirone — Memorial

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

Weekday Masses for the Week of December 3

Weekday Celebration of the Eucharist
will be held on:

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



Feast of the Immaculate Conception Mass

Friday, December 8
9:00 a.m. and 7:00 pm.

Office Hours for the Week of December 3



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

Wednesday
9:00 a.m. — Noon

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 pews.

Thank you.



THIS WEEK AT ST. MATTHIAS

Saturday, December 2

- **St. Matthias Christmas Bazaar**
Parish Hall, 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.
- **Celebration of the Eucharist**
Church, 4:00 p.m.
- **Giving Tree—Return Gifts with Tags**
Church Foyers

Sunday, December 3

- **Faith Formation Grades 1—5**
Parish Hall / Class Room, 8:30 a.m. to 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
- **St. Vincent DePaul Meeting**
Downstairs Conference Room, 11:15 a.m.
- **Children's Choir Rehearsal**
Church, 11:15 a.m.– 12:15 p.m.
- **Giving Tree—Return Gifts with Tags**
Church Foyers
- **Faith Formation Grades 6 through 8**
Parish Hall / Class Room, 6:00 p.m. to 7:15 p.m.

Wednesday, December 6

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

Thursday, December 7

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

Friday, December 8

- **Feast of the Immaculate Conception Mass**
Church, 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

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
- **Children's Choir Rehearsal**
Church, 11:15 a.m.– 12:15 p.m.
- **Faith Formation Grades 6 through 8—
Advent Gathering** - Parish Hall 5:00 p.m.

DECEMBER 3, 2017

FROM FR. FRAN

Happy New Year!

This weekend we celebrate the beginning of the Liturgical Year with an exploration of the end of all things! The first weeks of Advent ask us to reflect on the time when Christ will come again, not in a manger, not on the cross, not out of an empty tomb but as the center of the universe. Notions of doom and gloom and wrath when he comes again are really misleading and false. Christ will come again to bring us to the fullness of life in the reign of God. Nothing to worry about here.

However, how ready are we if Christ decides to return tomorrow? Are all of our relationships with family and friends where we want them to be? Is there any unfinished business that has been nagging us for a while? Have we neglected people, put them down or ignored them in a way that would cause us to have significant regrets if the world came to an end tomorrow? Heavy stuff! Who has time for that, especially in December!

So many people say that the weeks between Thanksgiving and Christmas are the most stressful and hectic ones of the entire year. "If only I could have a moment of quiet or a stress free afternoon". Well, you can, because that's what Advent is all about! Just when we need it most, the Church gives us four weeks, (this year three weeks and one day!), to prepare our hearts and lives for the coming of Christ at Christmas and at the end of time.

I do believe that if we take advantage of what Advent offers us, we will experience a Christmas season full of inner peace no matter what our situation. The deal is, however, that we *do* have to work at it! You might say, "Uggghhh – not *another* thing to do this month," well, hear me out.

Doing the work of Advent means making a commitment to take some time for quiet prayer with God. Advent affords us the opportunity of *reflecting on* our Christmas preparations rather than just *flying through* them. Advent calls us to remember God's greatest gift to us in Jesus Christ as we prepare to purchase gifts for our loved ones and friends. Advent also calls us through the voice of John the Baptist to reform our ways this season. Ugggh again. You might say, "I barely have enough time and patience to *put up* with people let alone change the way in which I deal with them."

Well, are you getting the picture? Advent, if we really work at celebrating it, can transform us, our gift-giving, and our relationships with one another! Do you think it's worth the effort? Let's prepare well, and maybe in a whole new way, for the great feast of Christmas just three short weeks and one day away! Happy Advent everyone.



PARISH FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Weekly Offertory Goal:	\$4,000.00
Total Collection of November 18 and 19	\$4,043.00*
Of that amount WeShare donation	\$ 994.00
Parish Maintenance	\$2,334.50
Of that amount WeShare donation	\$ 657.50
Parishioners Celebrating Mass.....	375

*This represents a surplus of \$43.00 of our weekly offertory goal.

Total Collection of November 25 and 26	\$3,512.00*
Of that amount WeShare donation	\$1,194.00
Parishioners Celebrating Mass.....	318

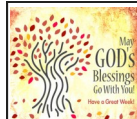
*This represents a deficit of \$488.00 to reach our weekly offertory goal.

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	\$38,055
Total Received	\$30,020
Total to Reach Goal	\$41,945
Number of Families Pledged	77



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*. **Please consider donating one or more of these items no later than Sunday, December 17th.** Collection baskets are located at the church entrances. For more information, contact Sue Dolesh at 248-794-3734 or email at daledolesh@gmail.com.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

FAITH FORMATION

Faith Formation gatherings for December 3 are as follows:

Grades 1-5 8:30 – 9:45 am
Grades 6-8 6:00 – 7:15 pm

Reminders for December:

December 10: Grades 1-5 8:30 – 9:45 am
December 17: Grades 1-5 8:30 – 9:45 am
January 21, 2018 classes resume

As noted on the Faith Formation yearly calendar participants in Grades 6 through 10, along with their families and extended St. Matthias families, will join in an Advent Evening on **December 10 at 5:00 PM**. This evening will begin with prayer followed by a Pot Luck Supper and ending with a reflection by Kevin Dowd “Front and Center”. In story and from experience, Kevin will help us put Advent in a proper perspective this year.

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 save the date and time. Further information can be found in this week’s bulletin insert.



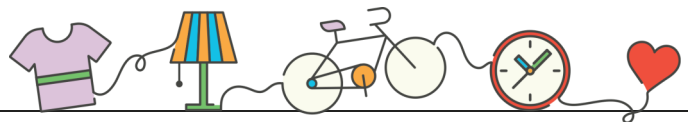
GIVING TO THOSE IN NEED

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.



NEXT WEEK’S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Readings for December 9 and December 10
Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11; 2 Peter 3:8-14; Mark 1:1-8

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.



ADVENT GIVING TREE

Thank you to all who contributed gifts to the Advent Giving Tree. Because of your generosity there will be smiles on the faces of local area children on Christmas morning.

A special thanks to Rita, Bill, Matt and Ryan Fettig who graciously gave of their time preparing the trees and delivering all the gifts to the United Way for distribution.

TIS THE SEASON TO DONATE MARLBOROUGH COMMUNITY CUPBOARD

Our monthly food collection bins will be placed at the church entrances the weekend of December 9 and 10. Just in time to help our neighbors through the holidays.

In addition to donating food items, some of the services that the Cupboard provides and which you may assist with are the donation of personal hygiene items and pet food. Other options include clothing, on-line donations to feed a family and food delivery to homebound seniors through our *Senior Mobile Market* program, Check out the United Way website: <https://www.uwotc.org/MCC> for more information. 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.

HOLIDAY LIGHTS

We have some wonderful neighbors! The folks at Cummings Foundation, who own New Horizons, are bringing their lift truck to string lights in the trees on the church property. We simply need to supply the lights and they will work their magic. We are most grateful to Bill and Joyce Cummings as well as Andy Ike, the Executive Director at New Horizons, for making this possible.

A team of parishioners are going to string lights on the shrubs outside the rectory in front of the church. If you would like to join in the fun please contact the parish office.