

Roman Catholic Church of St. Matthew

35 North Service Road, Dix Hills, New York 11746

(631) 499 - 8520 Fax: (631) 499 - 1530 www.smrcc.org

Office Hours: Mon-Fri in the Parish Center 9 am-12:30 pm & 1:30 pm-5 pm

December 15, 2019 ~ Third Sunday of Advent

Pastor

Rev. Robert Hewes

Associate Pastors

Rev. Joseph Habila

Rev. Benet Uwasomba

Deacons

James McQuade

Carmine DeStefano

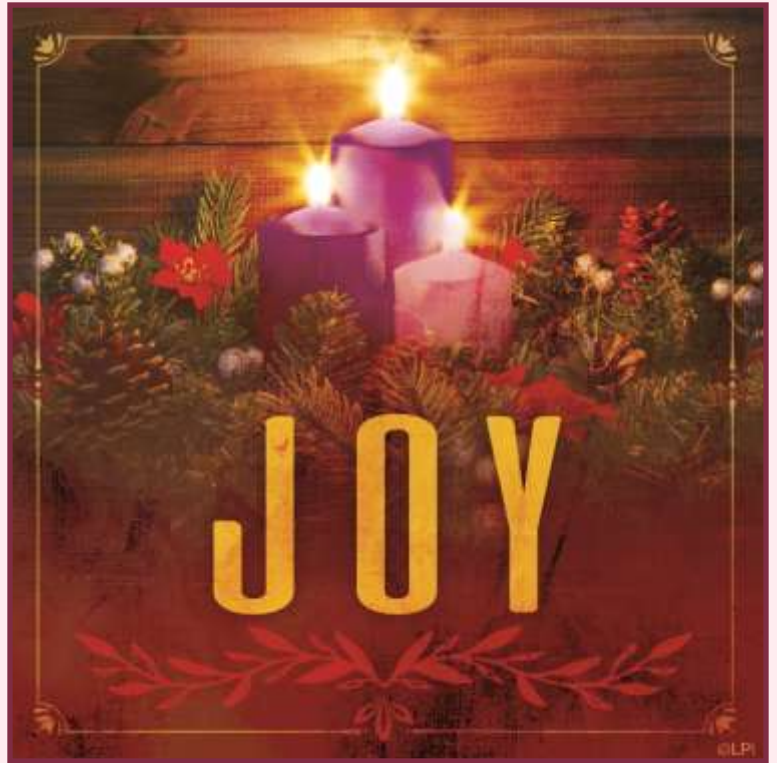
Luis Polanco

Pastoral Associate

Sister Kathleen McCarthy, O. P.

D.R.E.: Mary Donaldson

Music Director: Lee Forsythe



The Salvation of Souls is the Supreme Law

SCHEDULE OF MASSES

SATURDAY: 4:00 p.m. and Spanish Mass at 7:00 p.m.

SUNDAY: 7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m. (Family Mass), 11:00 a.m. (Choir Mass), 12:30 p.m. and also at 12:30 p.m. (Latin) Tridentine Mass in the Chapel.

MONDAY - SATURDAY: 9:00 a.m. Mass in the Church. Holy Days will be printed in the bulletin.

CONFESSIONS

SATURDAY: 3:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. For any other time, please call to make an appointment with a priest.

BAPTISM SCHEDULE

The 3rd Sunday of each month at 1:45 p.m. and the 4th Saturday of the month at 12:30 p.m. (No Baptisms Easter Sunday or Christmas Weekends.) First-time parents are required to attend a **Baptismal Preparation Class** which is offered on the last Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Church. (No class is held in December.)

Registration is required for both the Baptism and /or the Baptism Class and must be done online at www.smrcc.org.

MARRIAGE

Arrangements should be made at least 6 months in advance and should be made prior to making plans for a reception. Call the Parish Center for an appointment with the priest or deacon you wish to witness your wedding. All couples are required to attend Pre-Cana.

PARISH MINISTRIES

ALTAR SERVERS: Porzia DiGiorgio: me@porzia.com
and John DiGiorgio: me@johndigiorgio.com

APOSTLESHIP OF PRAYER:

Kathryn Giandoreggio: 631-491-3735

ATHLETIC WEBSITE: www.smrcc.org

ATHLETICS DIRECTOR/ INTRAMURAL & CYO TRAVEL

COORDINATOR: Chris Felice: smrccathletics@gmail.com

BAPTISM OFFICE: Bettyanne Russo: 499-8520 x 126

Email: stmatthewdixhills@gmail.com

BEREAVEMENT: Kathryn M. Douglas: 631-495-8541

Including: Teens (12-17) who have lost a parent.

Widows and Widowers 65 and under

Widow and Widowers 65 and over

BIBLE STUDY: Anthony Albano: 586-4827

BOY SCOUTS: Ernst Tramosch: 631-254-2656

BULLETIN: email: bulletin@smrcc.org

BUSINESS MANAGER: Dolores Tiernan: 499-8520 x 113

CATHOLICS FOR FREEDOM OF RELIGION:

Ann Podina: 858-0684

CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL:

Jack Maccio: 499-8520 x 117 or JBM1944@icloud.com

C.C.D. RELIGIOUS ED: Mary Donaldson, D.R.E.: 864-3321

Rita Minder, Assistant: 864-3321

CHOIR: Lee Forsythe: 631-499-8520 x 116

Ed Oriani, Cantor for Tridentine Mass

COMPASSIONATE CARE & CONSOLATION MINISTRY:

Sr. Kay McCarthy: 499-8520 x 124

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION:

Ray Smolenski: 243-0449

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS TO THE HOMEBOUND:

Sr. Kay McCarthy: 499-8520 x 124

FEED THE POOR MINISTRY: Frank Harnos: 499-0074 or

Julie Maddaloni: 242-2183

FOOD PANTRY: Sr. Kay McCarthy: 499-8520 x 124

HOSPITALITY: Dolores Tiernan: 499-8520 x 113

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS: Glenn Martin GK: 631-873-7233

K OF C SQUIRES: Sir Francis Scotti: 917-567-9829

LECTORS: Helen Campa: 586-0682

LEGION OF MARY: Judy Archbold: 667-4629

LET'S PLAY: Sr. Kay McCarthy: 499-8520 x 124

MINISTRY OF PRAISE: Rosemary Sammon: 499-5176

PARISH OUTREACH: Sr. Kay McCarthy: 499-8520 x 124

PILGRIM MADONNA: Rosa Nappo: 920-2446 or

Lucia Agnone: 940-4015

PLANT ENGINEER: Luis Flores: 631 492-7881

PRE-CANA: Deacon Carmine DeStefano: 631-896-0983

RIGHT TO LIFE: Toni Shannon: 631 586-3807

ROSARY ALTAR SOCIETY: Patricia Bissex: 631 549-9415

PASTOR/PARISH SECRETARY: Bettyanne Russo:

499-8520 x 126 - Email: stmatthewdixhills@gmail.com

SONS OF ITALY: Diana Grauer: 631-242-2710

SPANISH MINISTRY: Deacon Luis Polanco: 631-334-1052

ST. VINCENT de PAUL: Michael Brennan: 499-8520 x 118

USHERS: Tom Siegler: 631-920-2055

WEDDING MUSIC: Lee Forsythe: 631-334-7138

YOUNG SENIORS MODERATOR: Fr. Benet: 499-8520 x125

PARISH REGISTRATION

NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE AT www.smrcc.org.

New families and new parishioners are encouraged to register with the parish. Registration forms are also available at the Parish Center.

INSTRUCTIONS IN THE FAITH:

Those adults who live in the Dix Hills area and/or those with family in the parish seeking information about becoming a Catholic or completing their Sacraments are invited to contact the Pastor.

FIRST FRIDAY: Mass is at 9:00 a.m. Exposition of the Holy Eucharist takes place in the Chapel from Friday 7:00 p.m. until Saturday 8:30 a.m. and concludes with Benediction.

FIRST SATURDAY: 8:15 a.m. Devotions

ANOINTING OF THE SICK: The Sacrament is available EVERY SATURDAY after the 9:00 a.m. Mass. The Sacrament is available for those who are to undergo a serious medical procedure the following week or who have a serious illness and who have not been anointed within the past three months. If you wish to be anointed, please let the celebrant know before Mass.

PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK: Holy Communion will be ministered to those confined at home. Those who are seriously ill should request a priest for the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick.

PARISH SCHOOL: HOLY FAMILY REGIONAL:
631-543-0202

Eucharistic



Adoration

First Friday Exposition
From 7:00 pm the First Friday
of the month until
8:30 am Saturday morning
in the Parish Center Chapel.

Private and *authorized* group prayer before the Blessed Sacrament *in the Tabernacle* is encouraged at any time during the many hours the main Church and Chapel are open. Occasions on which specific groups request Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament can only be conducted by a priest or deacon with the knowledge and approval of the Pastor.

Mass Intentions

Saturday, Dec 14

4:00 PM Edward Motlenski
Andrew & Louis Garafalo
Living Intentions of Jack Tseng
Living Intentions of
Catherine Petruzzi
Jane Shearer
Thomas Mackey

7:00 PM Melida Munoz &
Luis Carlos Munoz

Sunday, Dec 15

7:30 AM John P. Marinaro
9:30 AM Andrea Ferrara
11:00 AM Antonio Marano
12:30 PM (L) For the People of the Parish
12:30 PM Giovanni Musacchio

Monday, Dec 16

9:00 AM Thea DeBellis

Tuesday, Dec 17

9:00 AM Margaret Matthias

Wednesday, Dec 18

9:00 AM Gail Wadas

Thursday, Dec 19

9:00 AM John J. Vierling, Jr.

Friday, Dec 20

9:00 AM Joseph Volpe ~ Happy Birthday

Saturday, Dec 21

9:00 AM Teresa Debono
Margie Kroner
Dorothy Mary White
John Howell
Beatrice (Bunny) Marino
Alice Besemer

4:00 PM Guiseppi Taranto & Family
Maria & Guido Pace
Delia Marano
Joanne Marzano
Living Intentions of Jack Tseng
Nancy De Fabius

7:00 PM Pedro Antonio Gomez

Sunday, Dec 22

7:30 AM Joseph A. Todaro
9:30 AM Albert & Margaret Finn
11:00 AM Matthew J. Ferrara
12:30 PM (L) For the People of the Parish
12:30 PM Vincenzo Domingo ~ Happy
4th Anniversary In Heaven

Business Manager

Dolores Tiernan

Finance Chairperson

Richard Bove

Trustees

**Deacon Carmine DeStefano and
Joseph Napolitano**

Collection Totals

Thanksgiving Day, November 28
for St. Vincent de Paul Society \$ 668.00

November 30 & December 1

Weekly: \$15,899.00
Christmas Flowers : \$ 4,526.00
Faith Direct: \$ 2,300.00



*The totals for December 7 & 8 will be
in next week's bulletin.*



Mondays

- **Miraculous Medal Novena:** after the 9:00 am Mass
- **Legion of Mary:** 2:30 pm
In the Blessed Mother Room

Tuesdays

- **Rosary Society:** 1st Tuesday each month
7:00 pm
- **K of C:** General/Business Meeting 2nd and 4th
Tuesday of each month 8:00 pm

Wednesdays

- **Adult Choir Rehearsal:** 7:00 pm
In the Family Room

Thursdays

- **Carmelite Holy Hour:** 3rd Thursday of each
month 4:00 pm-5:00 pm in the Chapel
- **Young Seniors:** 9:00 am
- **Apostleship of Prayer:** 1st Thursday of each
month after the 9:00 am Mass

Saturdays

- **Bible Study:** 9:45 am
- **Spanish Bible Study:** 1:00 pm
- **Tridentine Mass Choir:** (Latin) 4:00 pm
in the Family Room

Sundays

- **Secular Franciscan Order:** Second Sunday of each
month (except January & August) 1:00 pm
in the Library (Room 201)
- **Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites:** Second
Sunday of each month (except April, May & August)
9:00 am-1:30 pm including 11:00 am Mass



Christmas Confession Schedule 2019

All in the Church:

Usual schedule of Confessions on

Saturdays: December 14th &

December 21st

3:00 - 4:00 P.M.

Monday, December 23rd

7:00 - 8:00 P.M.

Tuesday, December 24th - Christmas Eve

11:00 A.M. - 12:00 Noon

CHRISTMAS



Tuesday, December 24th - Christmas Eve

4:00 P.M. in the Church

4:15 P.M. in Monsignor Goggin Hall

(below the Church)

10:00 P.M. in Church

With Choral Prelude at 9:15 P.M.

Wednesday, December 25th - Christmas Day

7:30 A.M., 9:30 A.M., 11:00 A.M., and 12:30 P.M. all in the Church

Traditional Latin High Mass 12:30 P.M.

in the Parish Center Chapel

Dear Friends,

Two weeks ago, we began a new Church (or Liturgical) Year with the First Sunday of Advent.



From this Sunday, all through till Pentecost next year, the Church takes us through her Liturgy from the preparation of the Messiah's Birth to the glorious consummation of His Paschal Mystery.

The Season of Advent also is a special time of spiritual preparation for Christmas. In former days it had the character of a "little Lent" (only 4 Sundays as opposed to 5 weeks): a season of fasting and gift giving, preparing the soul for Christmas as we do for Easter. It was also a time that included the ancient penitential Winter Ember Days and the great Vigils of the Immaculate Conception and of Christmas Eve, where Catholics used to observe fasting and abstinence from meat.

The only remnant of that now is the purple color of the vestments and of the Advent Candles (lightened on the Third or "Gaudete" Sunday of Advent by the use of rose vestments).

The name "**Advent**" is the Latin for "coming." We remember three "*advents*" of the Lord:

- The first coming of the Lord in history, as the Child of Bethlehem
- The second coming at the end of time to "judge the living and the dead," as we say in the Creed, and
- The middle, or "daily" coming of the Lord in His Word, Sacraments, and daily graces and opportunities to serve Him in those around us.

The Advent Wreath has 4 colored candles, symbolizing the traditional 4000 years that is said to have elapsed from the creation of Adam to the birth of Christ.

The violet color is a reminder that Advent, though not really a pre-Christmas Lent, is a time perhaps of serious reflection and straightening out our lives, if need be, to worthily celebrate Christmas.

"The Lord is near," we often hear in Advent. **Indeed He is! Everyday, He is near.**

Let us all try to live with that thought in our minds and hearts not only now, but every day of our lives.

God's blessings,

Fr. Hewes



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The Place for Learning and Praying

Our Family/Children's Mass is Sunday at 9:30AM

Mary Donaldson, Director, Rita Minder, Assistant

Religion Office Phone 864-3321 Fax 499-1530 maryccd@smrcc.org

REGISTRATION

When registering a new student, 1st thru 8th grade, you must come into the Religion Office, on the second floor of the Parish Center, Monday through Thursday, between 11:00AM and 4:00PM. Please be sure to bring a copy of the child's Baptismal Certificate when you come. The fee of \$175.00 per child is due at that time.

GRADE LEVEL MASSES FOR WINTER & SUMMER PROGRAM STUDENTS

Sunday, December 15, 2019, 3rd & 4th grade will attend the 9:30 Mass.

Sunday, January 5, 2020, 7th & 8th grade will attend the 9:30 Mass.

Sunday, January 12, 2020, 5th & 6th grade will attend the 9:30 Mass.

These Masses do include all the Summer Program students as well. For those students attending their grade level Mass listed above, please sit in the front of the Church, try to arrive by 9:10AM and remember your tithing envelope as they are not only used for a donation but also for taking attendance. All family members are invited to join us at this Mass.

SPECIAL NOTES

Classes are suspended for the Christmas holidays from Friday, December 20th thru Wednesday, January 1, 2020. We resume classes on Thursday, January 2, 2020.

Monday, January 6, 2020, all 8th grade students must be present to be measured for their Confirmation gowns. This will take place during class time 7-8PM. Confirmation Packets will be distributed that night as well.

Monday, January 20, 2020, classes are cancelled for Martin Luther King Day.



December 21 & 22

Eucharistic
Ministers

4:00 P.M.	7:30 AM	9:30 AM	11:00 AM	12:30 PM
M. Brennan	J. D'Agostino	J. Napolitano	G. Cruz	B. Abadom
J. Commisso	B. Hermosura	C. DeStefano	E. McEvoy	J. Maccio
A. Palumbo		B. Napolitano	K. Camilleri	A. Sosnilo
J. McQueeney		S. Fleming	M. Klimek	

Lectors

4:00 PM	7:30 AM	9:30 AM	11:00 AM	12:30 PM
B. Vogt	J. Campa	S. Kampta	G. Cruz	M. Shef



PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Chloe Atienza
Lisa Ciota
Daniela Conti
Gerard Costa
Joseph Costa

Vilma Diaztoral
David Falen
Lawrence Famighetti
Nunzio Grella
Roy Internicola
Christian Martino

Sophia Marzulla
John McIntyre
Jay McNamee
Jill Pasquolone
Mary Perry
Marge Puccio
Gary Rickerson
Casey Rodriguez

Christopher Sabato, Sr.
Cecelia Sanzone
Charles Sanzone
Grace Sanzone
Debbie Serio
Ed & Ann Smith
Albi Snolis
Brian Tripp



APOSTLESHIP OF PRAYER

The **Apostleship of Prayer** is a worldwide association of Catholics and other Christians who strive to make their ordinary, everyday lives apostolically effective. Through the Apostleship of Prayer, the **Pope** gives his monthly prayer intentions to the entire Church. For this reason, the Apostleship came to be known as *"the Pope's own prayer group."*

DAILY OFFERING PRAYER - *God, our Father, I offer You my day. I offer You my prayers, thoughts, words, actions, joys, and sufferings in union with Your Son Jesus' Heart, Who continues to offer Himself in the Eucharist for the salvation of the world. May the Holy Spirit, who guided Jesus, be my guide and my strength today so that I may witness to Your love.*

DECEMBER: The Future of the Very Young

That every country take the measures necessary to prioritize the future of the very young, especially those who are suffering.



We Pray, especially for our Service Men and Women:

Christopher Pavlat - Army, Rev. James Krische - Active - Colonel - Army,
Pvt. Brandon Leap - Active - Army, 1st Lt. Dominador Pascual III - Active - Air Force,
Pilot Matthew Waldman - Active - Air Force, 2nd Lt. Joseph Morgan - Active - Army,
2nd Lt. Christopher Felice - Marines, Christopher Motlenski - Navy, Nicholas Mazzone - U.S. Coast
Guard, Peter Mazzone - Marines, SSG Michael Hughes, SPC John Vautrin-Gardinier - US Army,
Lance Cpl. Ryan Matthew Ferrara - Marines, Matthew Kirchner - Army, Noah Kirchner - Air Force,
Ensign Melanie Thompson - Navy, Capt. Joseph De Monte IV - Pilot - United States Air Force,
Lt. Brendan Johnston - U.S. Navy, Jeffrey Gabriellini - Air Force, Cpl. Michael Grella - Navy Airman,
Julien - Army - Iraq., Lt. Col. Robert Wright - Marines, Michael Wissemann, LPL San Sievero - Marines,
Ambrose Michelino, Jarod Racuot - Army, Robert Scarpelli, Anthony Lazado - Marines, Richard Freese, Jr. - Navy,
Rho Nagasguna - Marines, Michael Doherty - Army, Pablo Quirindongo - CW4 - Army,
Cpl. Ronnie Belmarez - Marines, Commander Christopher Grande - Navy, Spec. 4 - Frank Grue - Retired - Army

↔ If you would like your family member added to the list or if one has returned home, ↔
please contact the Parish Office or email bulletin@smrcc.org.

It's A Christmas Raffle!

**50/50 Cash Drawing
WEDNESDAY**

DECEMBER 18th, 2019

In the Parish Center at 2:00 PM

The winner will receive 50%
of the amount collected.

Last year's winner received over
\$11,000.00!

Tickets will be on sale at the main
entrance of the church after all
Masses this weekend,
December 14th and 15th.

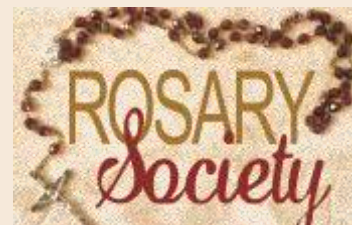
\$25.00 each Ticket...

5 Tickets for \$100.00



Dear Rosarians,

Blessed Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary! What a beautiful feast to celebrate during Advent while we wait, watch and prepare for the Coming of Our Lord. As the Eternal Father prepared this gift of the Immaculate Conception of Holy Mary for His Divine Son, we, too, prepare our gifts of extra prayer, fasting and generous giving to our loved ones and to those in need. If you are able, please join the prayers to end abortion, December 8-9 in the chapel from 9:00 pm to 1:00 am.



Our Christmas Plant Sale is December 14 & 15. Please help us with this fundraiser for 15 minutes after the Mass you attend. Remind your families and friends to purchase a beautiful poinsettia as a donation to the parish. Also, we will be raffling off a beautiful 13-piece hand painted Nativity!

It is already time to prepare for our fundraiser ~ SpringFashion Show. Any gifts and gift cards you can donate for our baskets would be greatly appreciated. Give them to any board member or leave them with the receptionist in the Parish Center.

May the blessings of this Holy Season of Advent come to you and your loved ones. Come, Lord Jesus!

In the Hearts of Jesus and Mary,
Patricia Bissex



December 15 - Third Sunday of Advent

In today's Gospel Jesus tells us that the good news can be seen, touched felt and heard through the lives of God's people. We are now charged to take up the ministry of Jesus, but we can't just ask people to take our word for it; our actions must speak for us.

Since Christmas is a time of love and gift giving, please share in Jesus' ministry by giving a gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that those who are poor can know the good news of Jesus.

About The Types of Catholic Wedding Ceremonies

There are two forms of our Catholic wedding Liturgy:

The Wedding or Nuptial Mass:

Often referred to as a "full Mass," it is the celebration of the Mass with the wedding ceremony inserted in the middle of the Liturgy. It presupposes both parties are practicing Catholics and receiving Holy Communion after a proper spiritual preparation.

The Wedding Ceremony:

This has all the elements of the above (music, readings, vows, etc.) but without the celebration of Mass. This form is suitable for general congregations and is of shorter duration than the above.

PLEASE NOTE: Nuptial Masses are NOT celebrated on Sundays. The ONLY exception is when a visiting priest is invited by the family, approved by the Pastor and is willing to offer a Nuptial Mass on Sunday.



ATTENTION STUDENTS 7TH GRADE AND OLDER

If you would like to be a part of the church ministry and are comfortable speaking in public, you may want to consider becoming a lector at the 9:30 AM Sunday Family Mass. **If you are interested, call Mrs. Campa at 631-586-0682.**



Every Tuesday, a Eucharistic Holy Hour for the Sanctification of the Clergy and the Purification of the Church is held in the church immediately after the 9:00 AM Mass.

The Rosary will be prayed before the Blessed Sacrament exposed in the monstrance and other prayers will be offered in reparation for sins and for the healing of the victims of sin.



Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites

are lay men and women called to live out a contemplative **vocation in daily life**. Daily meditation and prayer is our primary focus as well as Liturgy of the Hours, ongoing formation and study of the saints of the order and their writings/doctrines. If you feel called to experience a more intimate and deep prayer life and wish to learn more about the Discalced Carmelite Seculars, please contact: Carolyn Weber at 631 261-6455.



PLEASE NOTE THE UPCOMING BULLETIN DEADLINES

Sunday, December 15 has passed.
 Sunday, December 22 has passed
 Sunday, December 29 is Wednesday, December 18
 Sunday, January 5, 2020 is Friday, December 20

Please email: bulletin@smrcc.org

Many churchgoers don't fully appreciate the importance of a church bulletin. Instead of throwing away your church bulletin, give it to a co-worker, a neighbor, a relative or a friend who doesn't attend our church.

The bulletin will give them information on what's happening in our parish. Something might spark an interest that the Holy Spirit can use to draw them to Christ.

Instead of leaving the bulletin in the pew, why not take it home. Or if you are not going to take it home, it would be much appreciated if you drop it off at the back of the church.



St. John the Baptist Diocesan High School

Luke Bauman Sean Bertolini
 Alexandria Randello Ryan Rebetti
 Nicholas Russo

St. Anthony's High School

Joyce Ambrosio	Abigail Athan
Sophia Basta	Gianna Basta
John Castronovo	Danielle Diem
Stephen Eger	Nicolette Falvo
Joshua Feinberg	Robert Fisher
Courtney Fling	Devyn Frain
Rachel Fruchter	Isabella Garzon
Liam Ging	Isabella Grupico
Alexander Grzesiak	Christopher Grzesiak
Amanda Haber	Adriana Igljo
Julia Johnson	Abigail Kulbacki
Joseph Maguire	Alexis McMorro
Joseph Merendino	Owen Meyers
Giulianna Montanino	Michael Nasti
Julia Ostermann	Colleen Radigan
Megan Radigan	Erin Radigan
Jessica Roberts	Alex Rocco
Daniel Russo	Haley Sarosy
Sarah Sullivan	Emma Sullivan
Joseph Tarantino	Michael Terry
Jayson Zeva	

Y.E.S. ~ SENIOR NEWS

Meetings are held every Thursday (from September - June) after the 9:00 a.m. Mass except on luncheon dates. Please join us. All are welcome.

We have had the last meeting of this year and celebrated our annual Christmas Party. We look back on the year and revisit the events we shared, the guests that we welcomed and the trips that we took. We also share in the sadness at the loss of our member friends due to illness or death. We especially think of them and their families at this blessed season.

We look forward to the new year and pray for good health and for making more happy memories. May you all have a joyous Christmas. Remember those in prayer who may not be so fortunate.

Pray for all those who are ill and for their loving caregivers. Remember always our church, our country, the military and all those who put themselves between us and danger. God bless America.

See you in Church, Pat

Think where man's glory most begins and ends and say, my glory was that I had such friends. *William Yeats*

Treat your friends as you do your pictures and place them in their best light. *Sir Winston Churchill*

Use your IRA for your Gift Now and/or for your Estate Gift!

If you would like to make a gift now using your IRA and if:

You are at least 70 1/2 years old and don't exceed your maximum of \$100,000 per year in qualified charitable distributions, you will not have to report your distribution as income. It will be free of federal and New York State income tax, and it will count toward your required minimum distribution (RMD). The best way to start is with your IRA custodian. Tell them you want to make a "qualified charitable distribution." In most cases, you will only have to fill out a simple form.

Very important! Your gift must go directly from your IRA to the Parish. If you receive the money first, you'll be taxed on it. If you make an Estate gift, you can make your Parish a beneficiary of your IRA and your loved ones will not have to pay income tax on their proceeds.



Tune into "Religion and Rock" with Rev. Msgr. Jim Vlaun on Sunday from 7 AM - 8 AM on WBAB 102.3 FM or 95.3 FM on Long Island's East End.

Listen on Saturdays at 11 PM on Sirius Radio, Channel 159, the Catholic Channel and at 11 PM on XM Satellite, Channel 117.

The theme for next Sunday, December 22, 2019 is

Christmas Special. Don't miss it!

To listen online or receive more information regarding Religion and Rock go to "Religion & Rock" on ITUNES or www.ReligionandRock.com. Don't forget to tune into Catholic Faith Network, Cablevision 29/137 or Verizon FIOS 296 or visit www.cfntv.org.

Dear Parishioners,

This is a heartbreaking story. Please read the message below from Daniela Conte's family. I wish you could meet her as she is a beautiful, smart, amazing, courageous little girl who has suffered from cancer for 3 years.



Sister Kay

Last June, Daniela made her First Holy Communion in our Chapel. Fr. Hewes gave her the Eucharist for the first time and her parents, brothers and sister, her relatives, the Religious Ed Directors and I were privileged to be there. As you read below, you will learn that her family has tremendous medical bills. If you are able, please try to assist the family with these overwhelming bills. Of course, I also ask you to please pray for her and her family. I know that I can count on you.

Thank you and God bless you.

Sr. Kay McCarthy

Daniela Conte is a vibrant 8-year-old girl who continues her battle with Embryonal Rhabdomyosarcoma. Embryonal Rhabdomyosarcoma is a relatively common muscle and soft tissue pediatric cancer. What makes Daniela's case extremely rare is that it's in her liver and surrounding veins. There are almost no documented cases like this.

For the past 3 years, Daniela has undergone various types of chemotherapy, experimental procedures, surgeries, medications, and radiation therapy. Upon completing her most current 10 rounds of chemo this past year, her scans showed her as being cancer free.

Unfortunately, this September we received news that her cancer was never really gone, just not detectable with the scans. Two areas in her liver had a regrowth of cancer. The larger area was able to be destroyed with ablation therapy. She had this procedure last month. The second, smaller area is being treated with radiation therapy right now. The plan after this is to destroy any surviving microscopic cancer cells with immunotherapy medication.

Daniela has also undergone several dental procedures due to the extensive damage from chemotherapy. Most teeth have been rotted out, many have had to be pulled and she has multiple fillings and root canal procedures at such a young age. Unfortunately, this will continue until her treatment is finished. The dental bills have already been in the multiple thousands and will continue to rise due to the continuing treatment. Her dentist is unable to do most of these procedures due to the complexity of the problems and due to the fact that she is on blood thinner medication. So, she must see a specialist and they do not participate in our insurance plan.

Despite all that she has been through, she is still in good spirits. She's back at school almost full time and is trying to live the best life she can. It's been over 3 years of her fighting this. She is looking forward to the day she is cancer free and can stop with all the treatments, procedures, and medications.

Thank you all for your love and support.

Sincerely,

The Conte Family

**Donations can be sent to:
Mrs. Katia Conte, P.O. Box 1128
Melville, NY 11747**



Altar Flowers,



*Altar Candles and Bread and Wine
In Loving Memory of
Nancy & Anna Cortina
From your loving family*



Sadly, on Nov. 11th adorable, beautiful, 6-year-old Gianna Traina died after suffering from leukemia for 5 years. Her funeral was here at St. Matthew's on Nov. 15th. Her parents, Rose and Anthony Traina have 4 other children. As you would expect, they have been heartbroken and burdened, not only with Gianna's sickness and death, but also with many medical bills and other expenses. They do have a gofund me page which is listed below with the link. I know that you will help them if you are able to do so. I ask you to please pray for this family, as they mourn the death of little Gianna.

Thank you and God bless you.
Sr. Kay McCarthy



[https://www.gofundme.com/f/giving-up-is-not-an-option-for-qiqi?
utm_source=customer&utm_medium](https://www.gofundme.com/f/giving-up-is-not-an-option-for-qiqi?utm_source=customer&utm_medium)

My dear people of St. Matthew's and children in our religious education program, the great Dominican mystic, Meister Eckhardt wrote, "If the only prayer you say in your entire life is thank you, that will be enough." Hopefully, this prayer is enough to say for you.

You have been so kind and generous, not only at Thanksgiving and Christmas, but all year long, to those who lack the basic necessities of life. In fact, every morning at 7:15 when the Sisters and I gather to pray the Morning Office, we always thank God for our blessings and for people like you who always inspire us to love God and to help others.

As the Thanksgiving season ends, we enter into Advent, a time of waiting. Waiting is not something that most of us like to do. Technology might contribute to this. We don't need to wait in line to buy tickets for a show or sports event. You buy them "On Line." We don't need to wait to read the latest issue of a magazine. You can read it "On Line." However, waiting for test results after a previous serious sickness is extremely difficult. In addition, waiting for a loved one to come home, who has been giving military or other dangerous service, is also extremely difficult. And yet, we can even become impatient when our computers are slow to respond. That's why Advent can be a reminder of the holiness of waiting. Faithful Christian waiting and hope is a virtue and a grace.

Christian waiting also encourages us to find God in our present – not simply in our future. God is not only coming: God is already here! So while we anticipate the future with hope, we know that living mindfully in the presence of God is a key way to encounter Him. For us now, it is greater intimacy with Christ. For those near the end of their earthly lives, they wait in hope for eternal life with God. Let us pray for one another that we can find God today and wait in hope and trust in God's plan for our future. That future is unknown. The poet Alfred Lord Tennyson wrote of the future and asked, "When shall all man's good be each man's rule and universal peace lie like a shaft of light across the land?"

Wouldn't it be it beautiful future if we always looked out for the good of one another? And wouldn't it be a beautiful future if there was peace in our hearts, families, homes and world - a universal peace? Let us pray for one another and do all that we can to end discord, damaging conflicts and to promote peace wherever we find ourselves.

Merry Christmas and may the peace of Christ be with you and your loved ones.
Sister Kay McCarthy



St. Matthew's Gift Shop

Open Monday through Friday

9:00 am - 5:00 pm **Closed 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm**

Saturday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

and will now be open on the following

Sundays for Christmas:

Dec 15 & 22 only 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

for your shopping convenience.



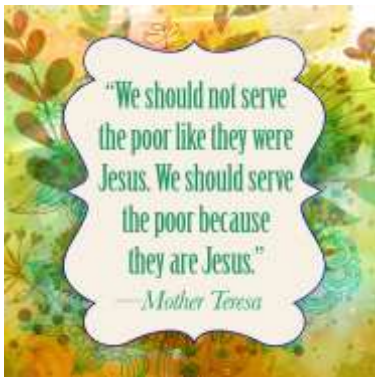
Christmas Nativities, Advent Candle Holders, Ornaments, Christmas Cards, etc. Also, Unique religious gifts, rosaries, books, fonts, statues, picture frames, Baptism items, wedding unity candles, vestments and so much more...

The Gift Shop is located in the Parish Center, across from the Receptionist area.



All Proceeds Benefit Our Parish Ministry!
Look for our Raffles from now until Christmas.





Feed the Poor Ministry

On the third Saturday of every month, immediately following the 9 o'clock Mass, in the kitchen in Monsignor Goggin Hall here at St. Matthew, a group of people get together and make a difference in the lives of some very needy people. Some of them bring wrapped sandwiches they have made at home; some bring individual bags of chips, homemade goods, or 12 packs of canned soda. Some drop off packaged cookies, or napkins, or even toiletries like mini shampoos, mouthwash, etc. Tons of clothes are donated.

For over fifteen years, this merry band of volunteers has wrapped up all the generosity of this parish each and every third Saturday and has taken it to the men at the Bellevue Men's Shelter on First Avenue and Twenty-ninth Street, next to Bellevue Hospital.

How would you like to join us?

Sometimes writing a check to your favorite charity doesn't cut it. Sometimes you want to get involved and express your desire to help the poor. You don't even have to go to the city with us. A commitment equal to your wishes could be fulfilled in this group's effort and here's how you can help.

Make a few wrapped sandwiches of beef baloney and cheese or peanut butter and jelly. Bring the food, etc., to the kitchen before Mass, if possible, but we must have all at about 9 o'clock. Our usual departure is about 10 o'clock and usually we get back before 2 o'clock.

Remember, you can buy chips, puddings, soda, cereal bars during your monthly run to COSTCO and flag it for the homeless. Your help or donation lights up the lives of these marginalized folks. Be inspired by the kindness and generosity of our parish and join us in this way to lighten the sting of poverty and homelessness. There is a place for you in this ministry.

For information call – Frank Harnos 631- 499-0074 or Judy Maddaloni 631- 242-2183.



Focus on Religious Freedom

www.cffor.org

The December Dilemma: Celebrating Religious Holidays in Public Schools & the Public Square

Every December, public schools, towns and businesses, face the difficult task of acknowledging the various religious and secular holiday traditions celebrated during this time of year without crossing the line of promoting a particular belief.

The First Amendment guarantees freedom of religion to all Americans - including young school children - by prohibiting the government from endorsing any particular religious point of view while still respecting and protecting all religious beliefs.

Holiday Myths & Facts

Myth: *Public schools cannot display religious Christmas and Hanukkah symbols.*

Fact: A public school is free to display a Nativity scene, Menorah, and other forms of religious and secular seasonal expression with the purpose of depicting the origins of the holiday.

Myth: *Public school students aren't allowed to sing or play Christmas carols.*

Fact: Students can sing and perform religious carols along with secular ones. The purpose is to teach about our society's cultural and religious heritage and allow students to perform a full range of music, poetry and drama.

Myth: *Students cannot talk about their faith and the religious origins of their holiday in class assignments.*

Fact: Schools cannot refuse to allow, punish, or give a lower grade to a student who includes a religious viewpoint in a class assignment. Far from "establishing religion," that would be displaying an anti-religious bias which is unconstitutional and infringing on the free speech of students.

Myth: *Christmas trees, Nativity scenes, and Hanukkah Menorahs cannot be displayed on public land.*

Fact: The Supreme Court has held that these have become both a secular and religious symbol and their display by a public entity does not violate the Establishment Clause.

(adl.org; adflegal.org, 12/11/15; rutherfordinstitute.org; alliancedefendingfreedom.org)

"To the American People: Christmas is not a time or a season but a state of mind. To cherish peace and good will, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas. If we think on these things, there will be born in us a Savior and over us will shine a star sending its gleam of hope to the world."

President Calvin Coolidge

Saint Elizabeth is currently seeking a part time Facilities and Maintenance Worker.

Requirement and duties: Maintain Parish grounds and facilities;
 Inform Business Manager of any defects, damages, or required repairs;
 Have the ability to effectively manage time, meet deadlines and coordinate work functions with other personnel and outside contractors;
 Have working knowledge of mechanical repairs, electrical and plumbing systems.



Monday, Wednesday, Friday - 8:00 am - 4:00 pm. Salary to be determined, based on experience.
 For additional information or to submit your resume, contact Harry Perepeluk at 631 271-4455 ext. 304 or email hperpeluk@stelizabeth.org

Our Lady of the Island, 25 Eastport-Manor Rd., Manorville, NY 11949



Come and visit the Gift Shop and check out these and many other beautiful Holiday and Non-Holiday items... And let our Super Friendly helpers assist you in finding that perfect gift for a loved one or even for yourself. (That's allowed).

Also, we do not have e-commerce capabilities so you will just have to come and visit our beautiful grounds and make that purchase.

It will be a day well spent! OurLadyoftheIsland.com

Saint Anthony's High School Franciscan Brothers

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

of Instrumental and Choral Music
 Saturday, December 14, 2019
 Auditorium @ 7:00 PM
 Donation \$10.00

The Sisters of St. Joseph

lovingly invite you to the **Advent offerings at Maria Regina.**

We welcome all to join us to prepare our hearts and minds for the Lord's birth on Christmas. Maria Regina is located at 1725 Brentwood Rd, Bldg #1, Brentwood. For more information please call 631-299-3187.

Advent Week #4: Peace
Tuesday, December 17th
@ 2:30pm

Mercy Sr. Camille D'Arienzo, who served for 40 years as a religion commentator for 1010 WINS Radio, will share "Stories of Forgiveness" as a way to enter Christmas with a peace-filled heart.

The "Remembering Christmas" Concert
 With the music ministry of **Frank Rendo**
A Free Concert ~ Bring family & Friends

St. Anne's R.C. Church

88 Second Ave., Brentwood, NY 11717
Friday, December 20th, 2019 @ 7:00 pm
 "A Return Engagement"

Church phone: 631 273-8113
 Church email:

www.stannesbrentwood@gmail.com

Please bring non-perishable food to replenish St. Anne's food pantry for the Christmas Holidays.

Friday, December 20, 2019
6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
at the Retreat Center
5:30 p.m. arrivals

HOLIDAY EVENING WITH YOUR HIGHER POWER

An evening for those in a Twelve Step Program. The evening begins with a festive meal, followed by a presentation, personal processing and integration.

Presenter: Ann Schehr, LMHC, CRC
Suggested Offering: \$50
Festive Dinner included
\$20 deposit required to hold your reservation.

[Cenacle Retreat Center, 310 Cenacle Road](http://CenacleRetreatCenter.com)
Ronkonkoma, NY 11779
 631-588-8366
retreat@cenaclesisters.org

Poinsettia Sale

Sponsored by the St. Matthew Rosary Altar Society
Saturday, December 14th
after the 4:00 p.m. Mass &
Sunday, December 15th
after all Masses.

Raffle tickets available for a beautiful
13-piece hand painted Nativity.

