

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

January 5, 2020

Pastor

Rev. Robert Hewes

Associate Pastors

Rev. Joseph Habila

Rev. Benet Uwasomba

Deacons

James McQuade

Carmine DeStefano

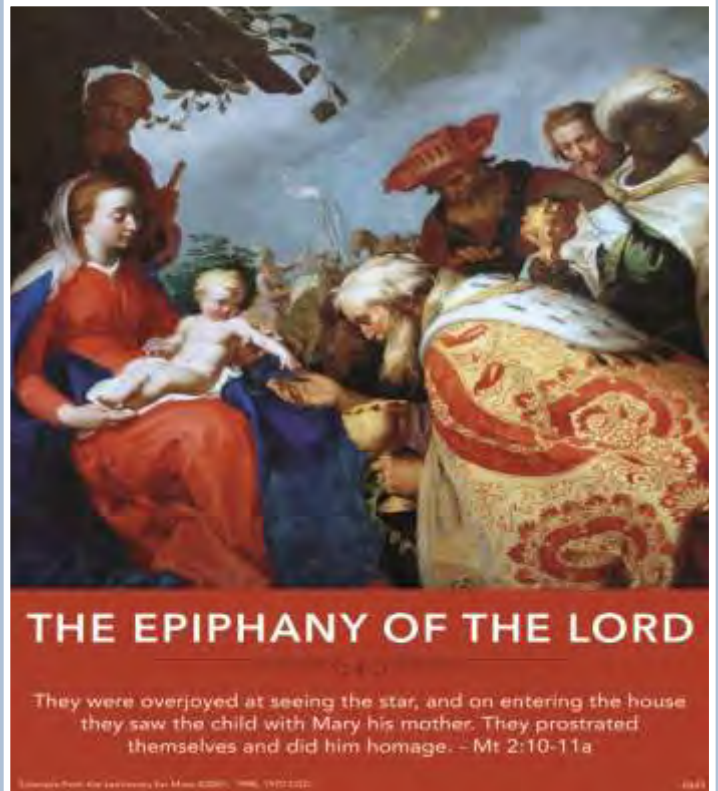
Luis Polanco

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



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, Jan 4

4:00 PM Intentions of Jack Tseng
 Damien Matuza
 Denis McNamara
 Ruth Kollmer
 Marie M. Pecoraro
 Eugene Krawchuk
 Joseph Lakis
 7:00 PM Carmen Rosa

Sunday, Jan 5

7:30 AM Christine Stone
 9:30 AM Lovana Piscitello
 11:00 AM Janet Reynolds
 12:30 PM (L) For the People of the Parish
 12:30 PM Irene Schreiber

Monday, Jan 6

9:00 AM Patricia Endres

Tuesday, Jan 7

9:00 AM Albert Finn ~ Happy Birthday

Wednesday, Jan 8

9:00 AM Caroline Francese

Thursday, Jan 9

9:00 AM Enrichetta & John Manetta

Friday, Jan 10

9:00 AM Kevin Archbold

Saturday, Jan 11

9:00 AM Mary Rubino
 Michael Squittieri
 John Crawford
 Thanksgiving to The Lord for
 All His Graces
 Margaret Huempfer
 Giuseppe Casabianca
 4:00 PM Lt. Kenneth Graff, USMC
 Garafalo Family
 Doris Gore
 Patricia Scott
 Ruth Kollmer
 Msgr. James M. Mc Donald
 Intentions of Jack Tseng

7:00 PM

Sunday, Jan 12

7:30 AM Anna Stokes
 9:30 AM Janet Reynolds
 11:00 AM Janet Reynolds
 12:30 PM (L) For the People of the Parish
 12:30 PM Andrew Tedesco

Business Manager
 Dolores Tiernan
Finance Chairperson
 Richard Bove
Trustees
 Philip C. Pandolfi and
 Raymond Smolenski



Collection Totals

December 21 & 22

Weekly: \$ 16,219.00
 Faith Direct: \$ 2,300.00

*The totals for December 24 & 25 and
 December 28 & 29 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

Dear Friends,

Today marks the great Feast of the Epiphany; that *“first harvest of the Gentiles”* in the persons of the *Magi* from *“the East.”*

Perhaps no other characters in the Gospel are as much the subject of legend as these unnamed (and un-enumerated) men. It is worth noting that while Saint Luke’s Gospel gives us the majority of what we can call *“The Christmas Story”* it is our Patron, Saint Matthew, who in his Gospel tells us of the visit of the *“wise men from the East.”*

Though legend has grown around them, which may well, like many legends, contain truth. The fact of the existence of these men is beyond doubt. We know from other sources of ancient history of the existence of men learned in astronomy and the mystical knowledge of their time and place (modern day Iran by most accounts.) We also know from other sources (the Roman poet Virgil) that there was about this time a sense of something impending of great significance in the Gentile world (the words of one of his poems that describe *a young woman smiling down upon her infant boy with whom this iron age will pass away* come to mind.)

Tradition has given them names (*Balthasar, Melchior, Gaspar*); made them *Kings*; deduced their number as three from the number of their richly symbolic gifts; made them representatives of the three main *races of Man*; and even provided their final resting place: along the banks of the Rhine River in Germany in the great cathedral of Cologne.

While all of the above is more or less speculation, who is to say that memory does not preserve some truths about these men whom Saint Matthew preserves for us?

Indeed, Pope Benedict XVI visited their shrine at Cologne Cathedral during the celebrations of World Youth Day some years ago and preached them as worthy images for the *“wayfarers and journeyers”* of all lands who converged on that city.

Whomever and whatever they were, they are the first *manifestation* (the meaning of the Greek word *epiphania*) of the **Light of the World reaching the outer world.** In a sense, we might view today’s ancient feast (so beloved among the Eastern Christians both Catholic and Orthodox) as the *Little Christmas* that marks the first of a long line of Gentile believers of whom we are the fruit.

Even from His cradle, the Lord was preaching to the nations, and we are the result of that great call taken up by countless missionaries in every age.

As the Liturgy today puts it: *This day, Christ has appeared to us! Come, let us adore Him!*

Speaking of gifts as well, let me express my deep personal thanks to so many of you who showed such generosity in your real and symbolic gifts to the parish, and to me personally, as well as to Fathers Benet, Father Joseph, and our deacons. I was touched by the many kind expressions of regard and affection in so many Christmas cards and greetings these past two weeks.

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

LOOKING AHEAD

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 MASS FOR WINTER AND SUMMER PROGRAM STUDENTS

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

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

These Masses do include all the Summer Program students. 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

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

CONFIRMATION INFO

The date for Confirmation for our 8th grade students will be Tuesday, March 31, 2020. Bishop Richard Henning will be presiding and there will be two Confirmations, one at 10:00AM and one at 1:30PM.

Monday, January 6th, 2020, all 8th grade students must be present to be measured for their Confirmation gowns and get their Confirmation packets. This will take place during class time 7-8PM.



*Altar Flowers
In loving memory of
Baby Jack William La Pietra
Love,
Isabelle & Francis Grue*



January 11 & 12

Eucharistic
Ministers

4:00 P.M.	7:30 AM	9:30 AM	11:00 AM	12:30 PM
I. Lucie	H. Campa	M. Prainito	E. Vicente	A. Albano
C. Vogt	J. Campa	F. Harnos	A. Pappas	M. Shef
R. Grande		P. DiGiorgio	K. Zaki	
D. Tiernan		C. Sposato		

Lectors

4:00 PM	7:30 AM	9:30 AM	11:00 AM	12:30 PM
J. Seefried	J. Campa	K. Ramonetti	E. Vicente	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.*

JANUARY ~ Promotion of World Peace

That Christians, followers of other religions, and all people of goodwill may promote peace and justice in the world



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.

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.



Knights of Columbus
ARCHBISHOP FULTON J. SHEEN COUNCIL,
No. 7479

The Knights of Columbus will be selling Super Bowl boxes to support St. Jude's Children's Hospital after all Masses from January 4th through Feb 2nd, boxes are \$25.00 each.



PLEASE NOTE THE UPCOMING BULLETIN DEADLINES

Sunday, January 12 is Monday, January 6
Sunday, January 19 is Monday, January 13
Sunday, January 26 is Friday, January 17
Sunday, February 2 is Monday, January 27
Please email: bulletin@smrcc.org

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.

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.

January 2020 Calendar

- Thursday, January 9 - Regular meeting
- Thursday, January 16 - Luncheon at Spuntino's at 12:00 Noon
- Thursday, January 23 - Regular meeting
- Thursday, January 20 - Regular Meeting

Remember to pray for all those who are ill and for their loving caregivers. Pray always for our church, our country, the military and for all first responders, who daily put themselves between us and danger. God bless America. Happy New Year!

See you in Church , Pat

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.

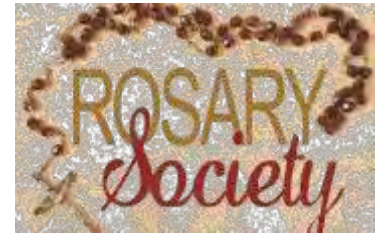


Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites

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.

Dear Rosarians,

REJOICE, REJOICE!!! Our Savior is born! The Church exhorts us to continue celebrating Christmas as we ponder with Holy Mary the great mystery of the Nativity of Our Lord. The Feasts of The Holy Innocents, The Holy Family, The Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Epiphany, and The Baptism of Our Lord all help us to celebrate the Birth and Life of Jesus Christ, especially His Divine Infancy. All the way to Candlemas Day, February 2nd, we can reflect upon and celebrate the Faith, Joy, Love and Peace of Christmas.



The Epiphany Feast, or Feast of the Three Kings, is an illustration of why we should continue to celebrate. Epiphany means manifestation or showing forth. Just as Christ manifested Himself to all the nations of the world in the persons of the Kings or Magi, so we must in the darkness of our world show our Faith and Joy in the Divine Light Who has come to save us. As the Kings gave gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, symbolizing Jesus as True King, True God, True Man, we must try to give the gift of Jesus Christ to a world immersed in sin.

So let us not rush to put Christmas away as the world does. Let our trees be standing, representing the New Life we celebrate in Christ, let our lights be blazing in honor of the Birth of the Light of the World, let our carols continue to be sung in exultation, our Nativities continue to be displayed in adoration, and let our celebrations continue in joy, as we proclaim that Jesus Christ our Savior is born.

Happy and Blessed New Year and Merry Little Christmas (Epiphany)! May Christmas and Epiphany blessings continue to come down upon us all!

With Love and Prayers in Christ our Newborn King and Savior,
Patricia Bissex



January 5 - Epiphany

Today we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany, where the Magi find the newborn king and offer him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

In the spirit of the Magi, please put your gift in the St. Vincent de Paul Poor Box so that comfort and peace can once again be given to a newborn child.

ENROLLMENT FORM



Church Name



St. Matthew Catholic Church
35 North Service Road
Dix Hills, NY 11746

FOR ONLINE ENROLLMENT
USE CHURCH CODE:

NY368

Faith Direct · Attention: Enrollment · P.O. Box 7101 · Merrifield, VA 22116-7101 · 1-866-507-8757 (toll free) · www.faithdirect.net

Weekly Offertory contribution: \$ _____

(Note: Total contribution amount will be debited on the 4th of the month or the next business day. The total amount will be determined by the number of Sundays in the month. Some months have 5 Sundays.)

You may also choose to give to the optional collections listed below as part of the total monthly transaction in the month listed for each.

COLLECTION	AMOUNT	MONTH	COLLECTION	AMOUNT	MONTH
<input type="checkbox"/> New Year's Day (Solemnity)	\$ _____	January	<input type="checkbox"/> Peter's Pence	\$ _____	June
<input type="checkbox"/> Seminary	\$ _____	January	<input type="checkbox"/> Feast of the Assumption	\$ _____	August
<input type="checkbox"/> Church in Need	\$ _____	February	<input type="checkbox"/> Regional School Support	\$ _____	September
<input type="checkbox"/> Regional School Support	\$ _____	February	<input type="checkbox"/> Catholic University	\$ _____	September
<input type="checkbox"/> Ash Wednesday	\$ _____	February	<input type="checkbox"/> Youth Ministry	\$ _____	September
<input type="checkbox"/> Catholic Relief Services	\$ _____	March	<input type="checkbox"/> Retired Priests	\$ _____	September
<input type="checkbox"/> Easter Flowers *	\$ _____	March	<input type="checkbox"/> Respect Life	\$ _____	October
<input type="checkbox"/> Holy Land (Good Friday)	\$ _____	April	<input type="checkbox"/> World Missions	\$ _____	October
<input type="checkbox"/> Easter Sunday	\$ _____	April	<input type="checkbox"/> All Saints' Day	\$ _____	November
(In addition to weekly gift)	\$ _____	April	<input type="checkbox"/> All Souls' Day *	\$ _____	November
<input type="checkbox"/> Mother's Day Mass Remembrance *	\$ _____	May	<input type="checkbox"/> Human Development/Home Missions	\$ _____	November
<input type="checkbox"/> Catholic Elementary Schools	\$ _____	May	<input type="checkbox"/> Fuel Offering	\$ _____	November
<input type="checkbox"/> Catholic Communications	\$ _____	May	<input type="checkbox"/> Support <i>The Long Island Catholic</i>	\$ _____	December
<input type="checkbox"/> Feast of the Ascension	\$ _____	May	<input type="checkbox"/> Immaculate Conception	\$ _____	December
<input type="checkbox"/> Religious Retirement	\$ _____	June	<input type="checkbox"/> Christmas Flowers *	\$ _____	December
<input type="checkbox"/> Father's Day Mass Remembrance *	\$ _____	June	<input type="checkbox"/> Christmas	\$ _____	December
<input type="checkbox"/> Regional School Support	\$ _____	June			

*Please call the parish office at 631-499-8520 to give the names of your dedications/intentions for these collections.

I would like to enroll in the Faith Direct program. I understand that my total monthly contribution amount will be transferred directly from my checking account or credit card as stated above, a record of my gifts will appear on my bank or credit card statement, and my transfers will begin next month. I understand that I can increase, decrease or suspend my giving by contacting Faith Direct toll free at 1-866-507-8757. [All gifts provided to your Church originating as Automated Clearing House transactions comply with U.S. law.]

Signature: X _____ Date: _____

Name(s): (please print) _____
 Street Address: _____
 City/State/Zip Code: _____
 Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Church Envelope #: _____

Name as I/we would like it to appear on Offertory Cards: _____
 I do not wish to receive Offertory Cards to place in the collection basket as a sign of my electronic giving.

If you choose to enroll by mail, you can contact Faith Direct at 1-866-507-8757 (toll-free) to set up online access to your account.

For Checking Account Debit: Please return this completed form and a voided check to Faith Direct Enrollment.

For Credit Card Debit: Please complete the following... VISA MasterCard American Express Discover

Credit Card #: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Print Name as Appears on Card: _____

Signature: _____

If you have any questions about the Faith Direct program, please contact us at 1-866-507-8757 (toll free) or info@faithdirect.net.

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

St. Matthew's Parish Gift Shop

Open Monday through Friday

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

(Closed for lunch between 12:30 p.m. & 1:30 p.m.)

Saturday 9:00 a.m. till 1:00 p.m.

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-giqi?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.

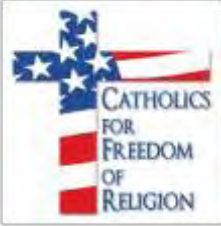
Christian waiting also encourages us to find God in our present – not simply in our future. God is not only coming: God is already here. So while we anticipate the future with hope, we know that living mindfully in the presence of God is a key way to encounter Him. For us now, it is greater intimacy 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 a 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

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, January 12, 2020 is Life's Struggles. 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.cfnv.org.



Focus on Religious Freedom

www.cffor.org

NY and FL Public High Schools Violate Law by Rejecting Student Religious Clubs

Wappingers Falls, NY: This NY school district violated federal law when it rejected a Christian student's request to start an on-campus Christian club, according to pro-bono law firm, First Liberty Institute.

Freshman Daniela Barca's application to form the "OMG! Christian Club" at Ketcham H.S., aimed to offer "faith-based support" where students have "discussions about living for God in a godless society," (1) was rejected by her principal who claimed the club was "too exclusive."

First Liberty Institute sent a letter to Wappingers Central S.D. stating, "The discrimination toward Daniela's religious speech has prevented OMG from pursuing their community-wide goals of 'food drives, clothing drives,... and other charitable endeavors.'"(2) The letter also notes the school has about 2 dozen on-campus groups, including a "Pride Club," claiming that the school is already allowing "exclusive " groups on campus.

"Ketcham school officials blatantly ignored the plain text of the Equal Access Act (EAA) of 1984 by rejecting Daniela's Christian club because of its religious speech," said attorney Keisha Russell. (3) The EAA clearly states that it is unlawful for public secondary schools that receive federal assistance to "deny equal access or fair opportunity" to students on the basis of "religious, political, philosophical, or other content of the speech at such meetings," (4)

First Liberty attorneys state they expect the school to allow the club no later than January 2, 2020.

Naples, FL: The Gulf Coast H.S. denied a pro-life club, Sharks 4 Life, earlier this school year and is violating the U.S. Constitution according to Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF).

While recognizing almost 80 clubs including political group Turning Point USA, Students for Change, Korean Culture, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and the Gay-Straight Alliance, the school principal rejected pro-life saying it was "too political and controversial." (5)

"The failure to recognize Sharks 4 Life is blatantly illegal under the Equal Access Act and First Amendment, both of which guarantee students the right to have a student club that stands on equal footing with the hundreds of other student clubs in Collier County public schools," said an ADF spokesman. (6)

(christianpost.com, (1), (2); mrctv.org, 12/13/19 (3); christianpost.com, (4); pulpitandpen.org, 11/20/19 (5)(6)

Diocese of Rockville Centre Healing after Abortion



Project Rachel retreats offer the opportunity to experience the loving mercy of God in a safe and sacred space. The retreats are directed by specially trained compassionate caregivers, including counselors and clergy, who have a sensitivity and a heart for those who suffer.

Day of Prayer and Healing for Women Saturday, March 7, 2020

Please register by Monday, March 2nd.

For more information and to register please visit www.respectlife.drcv.org or contact Project Rachel at 1(888) 456-HOPE (4673), 1(516) 766-2538 or projectrachel@drcv.org All information will remain confidential.



Maria Regina Residence at

1725 Brentwood Road, Brentwood is a 188-bed Skilled Nursing Facility under the care of the Sisters of St. Joseph.

We are currently seeking compassionate, dedicated men and women who are willing to volunteer their time on alternate Saturday mornings in assisting to transport residents in their wheelchairs, deliver newspapers or help to serve in the dining room. Is the Spirit calling you?

For more information, please contact Sister Mary Sheppard, CSJ, and leave contact information at 299-3288. Prayerfully and thankfully, we look forward to hearing from you and will respond on the next scheduled office day.

**HELP SUPPORT THE
PRECIOUS SCHOOL'S MISSION IN INDIA FOR THE AUTISTIC CHILDREN**



Autism, a developmental disability in children, has become prevalent all over the world. Many children are struggling to live with it. In India, the financial backwardness and the social stigma make their life extremely miserable. The social support is practically nothing. The children with most severe autism and impairments have little hope unless we extend to them a helping hand. I believe that every child we encounter is a Divine appointment and no man stands as tall as when he stoops down to help a child in need.

Precious School is a home where healing and hope meet. It was founded in 2013 in a rural area of Kerala, India. It is a home where autistic children and their parents find shelter and care. A team of professionals, priests and religious are dedicated to do meaningful services to the children.

Mission Statement

Precious School's focus is to raise awareness, provide treatment services and support families. It has a program that is to introduce and help facilitate early and on-going treatment in autism with a strategy to provide necessary services, so each child can reach his/her highest potential. It provides various therapies and education in a tender loving ambience. It has day-care programs, residential facility and parenting skills training. It promotes social awareness and works to fight against social stigma.

What we need: Your prayerful financial support for-

- **Daily Care:** One dollar a day will support a child with food and care. I would appreciate if you could sponsor a child for a year or for a few months. A brochure is available for more information about sponsoring children and donating to the mission.
- **A New Project:** Many autistic children under five years of age are in desperate need of a place for care. The existing home is full. Therefore, we need a facility to provide them with early intervention therapy. A family in the locality has benevolently donated an acre of land which is suitable for a walk-in-clinic. The estimated cost of a building is approximately \$150,000.00 (One hundred and fifty thousand dollars). I am requesting your generous financial support for this project for the "little angels."

You Can Make A Difference...

Through sponsorship you can make a life-changing investment. Your donation, no matter what its size may be, will directly and in full, go to the benefit of the needy children. They will receive personalised support by free care and training. We will provide them food, therapy and spiritual nourishment.

St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta said:

"Not all of us can do great things in this world, but we can do small things with great love."

ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE:

PRECIOUS SCHOOL FRIENDS INC. is a non-profit organization registered in New York to help support of Precious School's Mission in India. You will receive a receipt for your tax purposes.

Fund transfer options:

1. Online: **Zelle** QuickPay- Use the email: dadyjacob@gmail.com Or **PayPal**
2. By **"Donate Now"** in the website*
3. **Check for donation can be made out to Precious School Friends Inc.** and return/send to Fr. Jacob Vattackattu, 35 North Service Road, Dix Hills, NY 11746.

Contact details: Fr. Jacob - Cell # **516 591 9315**, email: dadyjacob@gmail.com

*Website: www.preciousschool.org

You can also contact Mr. John Gatto at **516 241 1264** who stands-in here for Precious School.
NB: Fr. Jacob is residing at St. Matthew's until mid-January 2020.