

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY, December 28

8:00AM Frank Cerny

TUESDAY, December 29

8:00AM Phil Villazor

WEDNESDAY, December 30

8:00AM Pat Esposito

THURSDAY December 31

5:00PM All Deceased Parishioners of St. Matthews

FRIDAY, January 1

10:00AM All Deceased Parishioners of St. Matthews

SATURDAY, January 2

5:00PM Margaret Joyce

Tom McCloughy

SUNDAY, January 3

8:00AM Nancy Scheeler

10:00AM George Ascitutto

12:00PM Erik Salvatore

5:00PM Helen Hammill



Rev. Daniel W. Murphy, Pastor (fr.dan)

Rev. Kamil Stachowiak, Parochial Vicar (fr.kamil)

Deacon Edward Keegan, Permanent Deacon (deacon.ed)

Deacon Richard Brady, Permanent Deacon (deacon.rich)

Deacon Larry D'Amico, Permanent Deacon (deacon.larry)

Pat D'Amico, Director of Faith Formation (pat.damico)

Carol Lindsey, Faith Formation Asst. (carol.lindsey)

Kathleen Burke, Music Minister (kathy.burke)

Tom Carle, Associate Music Minister (tom.carle)

Leslie Doherty, Business Manager (leslie.doherty)

Terry Shaw, Parish Secretary (terry.shaw)

Karen Loveys, Receptionist (karen.loveys)

Andrew Vasta, Youth Minister (andrew.vasta)

Bryn Markovich, Youth Minister (bryn.markovich)

***All emails are (name)@stmatthewsrandolph.org**

Web Address: www.stmatthewsrandolph.org

Mobile App: St. Matthew Catholic Church

Trustees:

William Ruane

Moira Dziomba

PASTORAL CARE

Kindly remember in your prayers the sick of our parish. May they experience the healing power of our gracious God: Matthew Augustine, Filomena Bocchino, Emily Cyrier, Bridget Hochstuhl, and James Latham.

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28; Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Lk 2:41-52

Monday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2; Mt 2:13-18

Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35

Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:12-17; Lk 2:36-40

Thursday: 1 Jn 2:18-21; Jn 1:1-18

First Friday: Nm 6:22-27; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21

First Saturday: 1 Jn 2:22-28; Jn 1:19-28

Sunday: Is 60:1-6; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12



THE SNOWFLAKE BASH

The Snowflake Bash (Italian Night) is coming January 23, 2016...7-11PM. A night of delicious food, fun, and entertainment. Bring your own wine or beer! Tickets go on sale the weekend of January 2nd following all the Masses. In the past this has been a very popular event: seating is limited so BUY EARLY! Tickets are \$40 each. Buy individual or tables of 8. Tickets are first come first served...Buy now and be in on the fun!!

YEAR END CONTRIBUTIONS

Please have your year end contribution into the office by Monday, January 11, 2016. All contribution received in the office after that date will be credited to 2016. Thank you.

CELEBRATION OF FIRST RECONCILIATION

Thirty three of our 2nd grade children received the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** for the first time on Saturday, Dec. 5th. Please remember these children and their families in your prayers as they continue in their preparation for 1st Eucharist in May.

Served by:

PARISHPAY AUTOMATED GIVING UPDATE

Automated Giving is an alternate means of support for St. Matthew's instead of envelopes. In lieu of weekly collections, the ParishPay program will collect monthly contributions from your checking, saving, or credit card account. There is **NO** cost to participate in the program. It's easy to sign up. Simply enroll at the program's website, www.parishpay.com or contact the parish office.

CHRISTMAS 2015

With warm wishes and prayers for a joyful Christmas Season. May your time with family and friends be enriching. May you grow in coming to know the loving presence of our Savior Jesus Christ in the weeks ahead as we celebrate the depth of his becoming one with us in our humanity.

Sincerely, The Pastoral Staff of St. Matthew's

We thank you for the wonderful and warm greetings, the delicious goodies and the generosity of your gifts for Christmas. It is truly a blessing for us to minister with the people of our parish.

WELCOME TO OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

We extend a warm welcome to our visitors this Christmas season and hope that you find a sense of home at St. Matthew's.

We welcome our college students and Service men and women home for the Christmas Holidays. Even though you are far away in distance, you remain in our hearts as an integral part of our community.

To those who do not always join us at the Lord's Table at the Eucharist each week for a myriad of reasons, we hope you have felt closeness to God and a sense of fellowship this Christmas. As you have celebrated with us in this faith community, perhaps, you might feel more inspired to join us. We miss you and hope and pray for your return.

SHOPPER'S CLUB

This week 38 families purchased Shopper Club Cards realizing a weekly profit of \$290.50 and Burrini's May–August 2015 has a year to date total of \$502.02 for a grand total of \$8,772.43. Every purchase no matter how small results in profit for St. Matthew's. Remember, St. Matthew's realizes a profit of 5% of the face value of every Shopper's Card you purchase, at no cost to you. Mention St. Matthews when you check out at Burrini's and 5% **of your purchase will be donated to St. Matthew's. Also Randolph Diner, IHOP and Rosie's offers St. Matthew' 10%** when using their diners cards. All cards can be bought after Masses in the Gathering Space.

BAPTISMS

We are happy to welcome the following new member to the faith community of the Catholic Church through the Sacrament of Baptism. Quinn Isabella Valenziano daughter of Anthony & Moira Valenziano. We hope and pray that this child and her parents will become full and active members of our parish and that they will find in St. Matthew's a true spiritual home.

2015-2016

CHRISTMAS SEASON MASS SCHEDULE

Solemnity of the Holy Family

December 26-27, 2015

Sat. 5PM, Sun. 8AM, 10AM & 12PM

(No 5PM Mass)

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (New Year's Day)

Vigil Mass, Thursday, December 31st - 5:00PM

Friday, January 1st - 10:00AM

Solemnity of the Epiphany

Sunday, January 3rd

Regular Mass Schedule

Solemnity of the Baptism of the Lord

Sunday, January 10th

Regular Mass Schedule

MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT AFTERNOON

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2016 2-8 PM

So many of our parishioners share in the gift of the Sacrament of Marriage and their sacrament truly touches the lives of all of us. We want to offer the opportunity for married couples to come together to spend some quality time in reflection and sharing one week before Valentine's Day 2016 and to have the opportunity to have a nice dinner afterwards with other couples in the parish. Our theme will be "Seven Habits of Highly Effective Marriages" and our presenters will be Jim and Linda Baratte. The Barattes have made this presentation in other parishes and have been very well received. Set the date and watch for more information to come.

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, January 30, 2016 - Cornerstone Reunion Dinner

Celebrating our Men's 10 year anniversary and our Women's 11th year retreat. Our 5:00 PM Mass will be dedicated to Cornerstone followed by our annual Cornerstone Soup Dinner Please fill out the RSVP form which is located in the gathering space and leave in the Cornerstone box **by January 16, 2016 Any questions please contact-** Lori Ann Gaudioso at lagaudioso105@gmail.com

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

The Parish Office will be open the week of December 28th 8am-12noon Monday – Thursday and closed on Friday. Regular hours resume the week of January 4th.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY!

Villa Walsh Job Opening

Villa Walsh Academy, located in Morristown, NJ, is looking for part-time school bus drivers. Interested candidates must possess a CDL with both the passenger (P) and school bus (S) endorsements. Most trips are late afternoon/early evening. There are also some weekend trips available. Please contact Jen Fleury, Athletic Director, at fleuryj@villawalsh.org or call 973-538-3680 x145.

Saint Joseph in Mendham Job Opening

Church of Saint Joseph Catholic Church in Mendham, NJ seeks to hire a Part Time (20 hours) Religious Education Administrative Assistant for January 4, 2016. Hours are Monday – Thursday, 9:00 am to 2:30 pm with a half hour for lunch (some flexibility with the hours). The position reports to the Director of Religious Education. The candidate must be well organized and able to handle multiple tasks. Proficient in Outlook, MS Word, Excel, Access. Two to five years' experience as an Administrative Assistance plus references required. Parish experience preferred. Candidates should email a resume and references to Annette Tracy, Director of Religious Education at atrac@stjoesmendham.org

PRAYER SUPPORT FOR OUR CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES

On display in the Gathering Space is a poster with pictures of St. Matthew's Confirmation Candidates. The candidates have successfully completed a 2 ½ year preparation process to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Bishop Serratelli will confirm the candidates as fully initiated members of the Catholic Church on January 9, 2016. In support of these young people, please take a "Prayer Card" from the basket next to the display and make a commitment to pray for the person named on it.

MEN'S CONERSTONE SAVE THE DATE



"Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need." Hebrews 4:16 It is with great honor that we have dedicated the 10th annual Men's Cornerstone retreat to the power of mercy. "Experience the Power of Mercy" with us on February 26 to February 27, 2015. To sign up or for more information, please contact Aaron Milliner, 9739448968 or aaronmilliner2@gmail.com,

WOMEN'S CORNERSTONE RETREAT

April 22 - April 23, 2016

"Beautifully Rooted -- Bloom Where You Are Planted"

Cornerstone is a 26-hour retreat that provides you with the opportunity to experience a sharing of faith and spiritual growth through personal reflection, prayer and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The retreat is facilitated by a team of parishioners who have previously attended a Cornerstone weekend. They will share their stories and experiences of trying to live the Gospel amidst the challenges of the modern world, a truly moving experience. **For more information, please contact: Buffie Hyman buffiehyman@gmail.com.**

OUR PARISH FOOD PANTRY - We collect and distribute an average of 75 bags of groceries every month for those in need. The canned and dry food is distributed to Hope House, Interfaith Food Pantry, Homeless Solutions and Trinity Lutheran soup kitchen, as well as the Carmelite nuns in Chester. If you would be interested in volunteering, please contact Jeff Mantell at jmantell@optonline.net

SURVIVAL BACKPACKS - During the winter months, we collect and distribute an average of 25 backpacks filled with sweatshirts, underwear, warm socks and toiletries for our homeless brothers and sisters in Morris County. If you would be interested in volunteering, please contact Jeff Mantell at jmantell@optonline.net.

PROJECT HEALTHY BONES - If you stop by Heritage Hall on any given Friday morning you will see a group of adult men and women participating in an exercise and education program "Project Healthy Bones".

The program is for individuals who are at risk for, or who have osteoporosis, and for those who wish to maintain bone density, and to have fun along the way. The goals are to increase regular physical activity through exercises that improve balance, posture, and flexibility, and to increase muscle and bone strength, reduce fear of falling, and fall-related injuries, improve nutrition through intake of bone-healthy nutrients. Empower individuals to take steps to improve health. Come by some Friday morning and join us.

INTERFAITH DIALOGUE - In the light of all the violence, discord and tension over religion in our world today we are privileged as a parish community to have an active Interfaith Dialogue in Randolph. Every few weeks, Fr Dan and Fr Kamil and a representative clergy person from Resurrection parish meet to share breakfast with the Methodist pastors in town and the Rabbi of the Mt Freedom Jewish Center. We have lively discussions about our different faith traditions, a few good laughs and talk very openly regarding the struggles we have with a deepening sense of secularization in our nation and local community. In recent months we have also focused on the growing tension and misunderstanding people of our nation have towards Moslems. In response we have offered two opportunities to learn more about Islam by inviting a local Imam for a presentation on the faith of the Moslems. We also sponsor an annual Holocaust Memorial service and have had opportunities to meet with our various congregations in sharing our various traditions such as the Rabbi's presentations on the Old Testament readings we as Catholics hear in Advent and Lent.

GIVING TREE 2015 - This Year's Giving Tree service project was a huge success! The following organizations and individuals were able to have a much brighter Christmas thanks to the generous support of St. Matthews:

1. Dover Child Care Center- 75 infant/toddler coats, hats and gloves were distributed.
2. The Sisters of Chester- \$400 worth of Shop-Rite gift cards.
3. Hope House- \$1,000 worth of Shop-Rite and target gift cards. We also adopted 25 families this year and supplied them with sheets, blenders, coffee makers and numerous boxes of clothes. We also donated numerous warm gloves to veterans.
4. J.T.'s Kitchen- \$800 worth of Shop-Rite gift cards as well as warm jackets and boots and gloves.
5. Holy Trinity Parish-\$ 1,500 worth of Shop-Rite gift cards. Numerous boxes of children's clothes, coats, toys and warm clothing were donated as well.
6. Hope Builders- Lowe's gift cards.

In these hard times, it is truly a blessing to behold the generosity of so many people in our parish and for the out pouring of time and treasure that has been our collective strength to enable so many others to find comfort and joy this holiday season.

Special thanks from the committee to the parish staff, you all were a tremendous help to us behind the scenes, couldn't have done it without you! We also can't forget a big thank you to Charles Naddaff for giving us his time and truck for the big delivery to Holy Trinity Parish, your support means so much to us. Kathe & Liz



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY - ALL ARE INVITED

Upcoming morning meetings will be held on: the third Wednesday of every month AND upcoming evening meetings will be held on: the fourth Thursday of every month

A Prayer Shawl is knitted in faith and given in love. For centuries, shawls have been a universal symbol of an inclusive, unconditionally-loving God who wraps us, enfolds us, comforts us and beautifies us. A prayer shawl is created when the person who knits or crochets begins each shawl with prayers and gives the completed shawl to the recipient as a blessing. Prayer shawls are intended to give comfort and hope to those who are grieving or ill, to communicate that a loved one is being thought of and prayed for, or to offer as a gift to a complete stranger.

During the meeting, we will: Enjoy a time of active knitting or crocheting, Assist newcomers with beginning a shawl, bless the shawls that have recently been completed and enjoy fellowship with each other. *You are asked to bring:* Knitting needles size 11 or 13, or Crochet hook size M, N, or P- 3 skeins yarn (suggested Lion Brand Homespun), available at Michaels or Joann's (We also have donated yarn available at our meetings.) **Please contact Chris Groh at 973-328-3203 or chapoopy@gmail.com or Corinne Reilly at (973) 366-6367 or candpreilly@optonline.net with any questions. Please see the parish calendar for 2016 daytime and evening meetings.**

WOMEN OF FAITH (AKA) COFFEE, TEA AND CAMARADERIE

We are a group of women of various ages nourishing our faith through prayer, learning, laughing and sharing our stories over a cup of tea! We meet twice a month on a Thursday afternoon. New members are always welcome. Come join us and bring your favorite cup.

JT'S KITCHEN

JT'S Kitchen has been a Samaritan service project at St. Matthew's for over 14 years. Food is delivered every month to help feed the homeless and less fortunate right here in our community. Each month different items are requested that are either non-perishable or fresh and are driven to Mt. Zion Church in Dover, NJ on the second Tuesday of each month. This is a wonderful opportunity to help feed people in our own backyard. Any used clothing is always appreciated as well.



M.O.R.E. - Medhen Orphan Relief Effort would like to take this opportunity to THANK YOU for all of your support during this past year. Your generosity continues to enable M.O.R.E. to provide much needed services to M.O.R.E.'s children and the community in which they live. Life in Ethiopia may seem remote and very different from life in Randolph, but in reality, these children share the same hopes as our children, good health, an education, happiness and a future filled with many opportunities. The money raised by our fundraisers, including our annual Golf outing and our recent Poinsettia Plant sale, run by Matt Potter, Caroline Potter and Maddy Piovano, goes a long way to ensuring that, thanks to you, these children will live a better life. Wishing you all a very blessed and happy Christmas.

MISSION TRIP TO KENTUCKY- Attention all current sophomores, juniors and seniors! The recruiting for our next mission trip to Kentucky which is a part of *Good Neighbors* program has begun! As a Community of St. Matthew the Apostle we will be going to Kentucky July 17-23, 2016. *Good Neighbors* is all about making a lasting difference in the lives of both; Families in Need, and those who Partner with us to help. Each year, hundreds of volunteers from schools and church groups travel across the nation, to the Hills of Eastern Kentucky, joining us in our fight to repair homes and restore hope in the lives of a group of people who are usually overlooked because they don't normally ask for help - the working poor. The experience; building relationships, providing dry, safe and warm shelter, working alongside a family who works as hard as you... it is nothing short of life changing - and we want you to become part of it!

FAITH FORMATION 2015 NEWS

Did You Know? St. Matthew's Faith Formation program has 470 students from Kindergarten through 11th grade enrolled this year. There are two sessions on Sunday morning and one in the evening taught by 62 Catechists, 12 Youth Aides, and 2 special needs Faith Buddies.

Special events to date:

- 39 Candidates attended the Breathe Confirmation Retreat in September 2015
- Confirmation Candidates completed final interviews
- 63 Tenth graders attended a retreat – "Doubt, is it Normal?"
- 33 First Graders & parents attended a retreat to learn about the Sacraments
- 34 Second Graders & parents attended a Blessing Cup retreat to learn about the Sacrament of Reconciliation; received 1st Reconciliation
- Various grades helped with the Giving Tree project by making gift tags, wrapping presents, writing Christmas Cards to the gift recipients;
- 7th graders made sandwiches to distribute to the homeless
- 40 Confirmation candidates participated in a Discipleship Project by volunteering at Interfaith Furnishings
- 9th graders hosted "Breakfast in Bethlehem" as a group service project

Christ lives through our youth and shows his presence in their love for each other.

BREAKFAST IN BETHLEHEM

The 9th grade Confirmation Candidates of St. Matthew's hosted a special Advent family event for the youngest members of the parish. This event, "Breakfast in Bethlehem" was a group service project involving 53 Candidates (as well as the helping hands of many devoted parents), whose mission was to teach pre-K through 4th grade children the true meaning of Christmas, and to realize that the best gift at Christmas is the birth of our Savior. Breakfast in Bethlehem took place on Saturday, Dec 12th from 9:30 to 11 am. Sixty two children were treated to a Continental breakfast, fun crafts, music, and a wonderful presentation of the Nativity story.

Proceeds of \$426.17 were donated to Hope Builders; the Youth Ministry's mission trip to Kentucky as well as local service projects.

ALTAR SERVERS - There is nothing more beautiful and uplifting than seeing young people around Christ's altar. Yet, being an Altar Server is also a big challenge. Altar Servers are those ones who assist priest at Mass but also those who by their life give beautiful testimony of Christian life. Our parish is particularly blessed and privileged having so many boys and girls serving at Mass. As of October 2015, we have about 30 active Altar Servers and 11 candidates who are undergoing the training. Our Candidates will be officially commissioned on Holy Thursday, 2016. As an Altar Servers' Team we strive to grow in our faith together and continue to serve God's people but also have fun playing games and being together.



YOUTH GROUP - In one song we hear: "Today depends on us, tomorrow depends on our children" – how true it is! There is no doubt that the future of the Church depends on our younger generation! St. Matthew the Apostle Parish finds itself particularly blessed having so vibrant a Youth Group which encompasses all our High School students. We meet each 1st and 3rd Monday of every month. Our program focuses on strengthening our commitment to God, Church, our families, and ourselves. We believe as Christians, we are called to put our faith into action, so opportunities are made available for our youth to grow and develop in their own faith through service such as: SEARCH Retreat Weekend, Hope Builders - Mission Trip to KY, Interfaith Furnishing, Soup Kitchen and Bridges. Besides getting closer to God, we are also having good time together playing sports (kickball) and laughing. If you are High School student, don't hesitate, join our group! You can find us on Facebook: St. Matthew's Youth Group - Randolph

THE FAITH KITCHEN - For years St. Matthew's has provided food for those who come to the Faith Kitchen, located on the second floor of Trinity Luther Church in Dover. Most recently our parish has served meals on the third Monday of the month to 75-100 people. We often provide second servings and sandwiches, which people can enjoy later in the day. Our volunteers design a menu. They shop for food, usually at Restaurant Depot, Costco, and ShopRite. They cook on the weekend and do last minute prep Monday morning. At 11:30 they serve our guests. Many have said, "This is the only meal I get. Thank you and God bless."

AN EVENING OF DIVINE DELIGHTS - This past year we held our third bi-annual charity event to benefit our sister parish Trinity church in Passaic. The evening is comprised of a wine, cheese, chocolate, and craft beer tasting along with an art show and sale. Heritage hall is transformed into an art gallery with sampling stations located throughout the hall. This year we had 12 local award winning artists displaying their work and a percentage of each sale benefited Trinity parish. This year guests were greeted with a sampling of a sparkling wine as they entered the event and even had their picture taken with Pope Francis! Over 125 individuals attended the event and sampled a variety of wines from around the world, chocolate from Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory, delicious cheese provided by Burrini's and a selection of N.J. craft beers. In total the event raised just over \$5000. The event is run every other year, so please plan on joining our next event in 2017.

ST. MATTHEW'S; UP WITH THE TIMES! - St. Matthew the Apostle's website – stmatthewsrandolph.org – is a source for practical information such as Mass times, directions, contact info, calendars, bulletins, etc., as well as a link to the exciting events and happenings around the church, messages from our priests, our Parish vision, and the many ways parishioners can get more involved in our vibrant community. You can find links to our APP and Facebook page here also. "St. Matthew the Apostle" Facebook page is a great way to stay up-to-date on current events at the church, receive important reminders, be inspired by articles about our rich Catholic faith from around the web and peruse photos of our wonderful parishioners! We also have a Twitter feed (StMatthewsNJ) and an Instagram account (for which we could use a volunteer to update!). Another way we keep our parishioners informed is through our monthly email newsletter. Our goal is to provide current, inspiring and personal content for our community, in addition to spreading the Good News of our joyful Catholic Faith across the web! If you are interested in Evangelizing, this is a fantastic way to start!