

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY, February 15

8:00AM Kevin John Parisi

TUESDAY February 16

8:00AM Tanina Padula

WEDNESDAY, February 17

8:00AM Wanda Ehleiter

THURSDAY February 18

8:00PM Albert F. Guerin

FRIDAY, February 19

8:00AM All Deceased Parishioners of St. Matthews

SATURDAY, February 20

5:00PM Dolores Castro

SUNDAY, February 21

8:00AM Mary Potter

10:00AM Marie Mosso

12:00PM Gloria Marasca

5:00PM Florence Capasso

Carmine Errico



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, Chris Groh, Bridget Hochstuhl, and James Latham.

First Sunday of Lent

Sunday: Dt 26:4-10; Rom 10:8-13; Lk 4:1-13

Monday: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18; Mt 25:31-46

Tuesday: Is 55:10-11; Mt 6:7-15

Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10; Lk 11:29-32

Thursday: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Mt 7:7-12

Friday: Ez 18:21-28; Mt 5:20-26

Saturday: Dt 26:16-19; Mt 5:43-48

Sunday: Gn 15:5-12, 17-18; Phil 3:17-4:1 or 3:20-4:1; Lk 9:28b-36



EVENTS FOR THE WEEK OF February 14th

SUNDAY, February 14...Happy Valentines, Laudato Si 6:30PM.

MONDAY, February 15...AA Mtg 9:30AM, Youth Group 7:30PM, Bible Study 7PM, Reconciliation 7:00PM, RCIA 7:30PM.

TUESDAY, February 16...Boy Scouts, Women's Cornerstone 7:30PM, Stations of the Cross 7:30PM, Lenten Program 8PM.

WED. February 17...AA Mtg 9:30AM, Prayer Shawl 10AM, Eucharistic Adoration 2-8PM, Welcome Mtg 7:30PM.

THUR. February 18...Rosary 7:30AM, AA Mtg 9:30AM, All Choirs, Book Club 7:30PM.

FRIDAY, February 19...AA Mtg 9:30AM, Healthy Bones.

SUNDAY, February 21...FF Weekend, Men's Cornerstone 1-5PM. Laudato Si 6:30PM.

THANK YOU FOR THE "SNOWFLAKE BASH"

Everyone who took part in last weekend's "Snowflake Bash" is raving about what a good time everyone had. The decor, the food, the music, and warm sense of hospitality were outstanding. It was a great opportunity to make new friends and to get re-acquainted with others. A BIG Thank You to all the members of our Social Committee who worked so hard and so joyfully to put the evening together: Elizabeth, Mike & Andy Robinson, Beth & Nick Hart, Rick & Anne Piovano, Steve & Kim Healey, Tim & Michelle Ramirez, Lisa Garcia, Amanda Sanchez, Angie Mendoza, and Jeff Boyer. Also a huge *Many thanks to our vendors: Simply Gourmet provided an excellent variety in our Italian Buffet, mouth-watering anti-pasto platters from Pizza Pub, lovely flowers from Chester Floral Design, and crunchy cannolis with melt-in-your-mouth filling by Anthony & Sons.*

Served by:

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

PARISHPAY ONLINE GIVING

A Secure and Convenient way to make offertory contributions to St. Matthews from the comfort of your home or any place with internet access. ParishPay allows you to make donations anytime (one-time, weekly, monthly or annually) based on your personal schedule and family budget. No need to hassle with checks or cash. ParishPay offers multiple methods to make donations: credit card, debit card or eCheck. ParishPay enables donations to second and special collections too. ParishPay offers the ability to review your monthly donations, change your account preferences and donation amounts at any time, and will email an annual tax statement detailing your donations. It is easy to sign up. Simply visit ParishPay.com or contract the parish office.

SHOPPER'S CLUB UPDATE

St. Matthews invites you to participate in a unique opportunity to help with our fundraising efforts through our Shopper's Club Program. St. Matthew's receives a profit from 4% to 10% for every purchase you make through our participating businesses.

We are excited to announce the addition of Verona Restaurant to our Shopper's Club Participating Restaurants and Markets which include Burrini's, Rosies, Randolph Diner, ShopRite, ACME, Sussex Market and Amazon. Shopper's Club cards are available after mass in the gathering space or during the week in the office for the restaurants and grocery stores with the exception of Burrini's and Amazon.

At Burrini's just mention you are a St. Matthew's parishioner at checkout and 5% of your purchase will be donated to St. Matthews. When shopping at Amazon.com, go on-line through St. Matthew's website "Support Our Church" link and earn St. Matthew's 4% - 8.5% for every purchase made. Thank you in advance for making this fundraiser a success!

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE OF PRESIDENT'S DAY

The Parish Office will be closed on Monday, February 15th in observance of President's Day. The Office will re-open on Tuesday, February 16th regular hours, Monday – Thursday 9-4PM and Fridays 9AM – 1PM.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

“WELCOME HOME”

Every Monday evening
February 15 – March 14
7:00 PM-8:15 PM
Saturdays 4:15 PM to 4:45 PM
Individual appointment available

LENT AND LAUDATO SI

Lent invites us to come to the desert: to strip away the clutter of what separates us from God so we can reconnect with our inner Spirit and what connects us to each other, to God. Similarly, Pope Francis' encyclical Laudato Si invites us to come to the desert... Not create one.

Laudato Si calls us to consider the basics of the world in which we live, to strip away the clutter of our attitudes/habits which keep us from making the sacrifices needed to make a better world. It invites us to reconnect with ourselves as PART of the world and not Master of it...to educate ourselves and act so, in the Pope's words...continue with the "reckless complacency" consuming goods without thought to their source or where the waste goes. We have chosen to focus on four of the basics. Please join us for four evening of learning, discussing and planning as we consider Water, Our Food, Technology and Our Treatment of the World.

Sundays: February 14, 21, 28 and March 6 at 6:30 PM in the Library. (Each evening will be approximately an hour to an hour and a half.)



OWL - A SPECIAL EVENT FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

As part of their discipleship training, the Confirmation Candidates for the Class of 2017 will be hosing "OWL" for the senior members of our parish. OWL stands for "Our Wise Leaders" and will begin with a special Mass of Anointing, followed by a luncheon and fun activities with the teens. Their mission is to honor their elders who have walked the path of faith before them and promote mutual respect between the younger and elder generations.

OWL will take place on Saturday March 12, 2016 from 11am to 1pm. If you are a senior citizen, please plan on joining us, we look forward to getting to know you. Pre-registration is requested and the sign-up sheet can be found in the Gathering Space after mass.

We hope you are able to join us. Thank you! If you have any questions feel free to call Lisa Garcia or Imelda Brown 973-543-2727

THE YEAR OF MERCY THE CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY

In celebration of the Year of Mercy proclaimed by Pope Francis we will have the opportunity to practice the corporal works of mercy in this Lenten season. We will do so through our ongoing parish support of the Missionaries of the Poor in Haiti at Cap Haitian. We ask that each household of our parish donate the items that follow on three of the Sundays of Lent. Receptacles will be provided in the Gathering Space.

FEBRUARY 14: "Feed the Hungry": Oftentimes the people in Haiti have nothing with which to eat the food they receive. Please donate metal spoons. They need not be fancy or new.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS & SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT

As has been our custom, the Stations of the Cross (starting at 7:30PM) will be followed by an opportunity to grow in our journey with God in coming to a deeper understanding of who God is and how we can better serve in the work of evangelizing in our culture which is more and more secular.

We will have five one hour sessions in viewing and discussing the very well done video program of Bishop Robert Barron entitled, "The Mystery of G: Who God Is and Why He Matters". We ask each participant to bring along his/her Bible for reference in the sessions. We have used many of Barron's presentations in the past and they have been very well received.

Please join Fr. Dan in Heritage Hall for our first session on Tuesday, February 16 at 8-9PM; "Atheism and What We Mean By God"

“IF GOD IS ALL POWERFUL AND ALL LOVING, HOW CAN EVIL EXIST?”

On Saturday, February 20, Matthew's Men will begin the penitential season of Lent by reflecting on one of the most difficult questions confronting mankind and a favorite of those in society who would deny the existence of God: Why does God permit suffering and evil? It is a question as old as the suffering of Job and as modern as the many horrors of the 20th Century. It is also one that touches all of our lives at some point. While we may not find the answer, join us as we lean on each other and journey in faith to grapple with the question together. All of the men of the parish are invited to join us in the Bauer Room on February 20, starting at 8:00 AM and with a hard stop at 9:30 AM.

MEN'S CORNERSTONE

"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 Pope Francis declared this year The Year of Mercy. In doing so, he extended an invitation to experience the love, kindness and unbound generosity found through this powerful blessing. This act of divine compassion is able to transform your life, your relationships, your work and your ability to embrace all of your life. It is with great honor that we have dedicated the 10th annual Men's Cornerstone retreat to the power of mercy. Cornerstone is a 26 hour retreat which provides you with the opportunity to experience a sharing of faith and spiritual growth through personal reflection, prayer and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It is a casual atmosphere, free of the pressure to share in discussion. The retreat is facilitated by a team of parishioners who have previously attended Cornerstone weekend. They will share their stories of trying to live the Gospel amidst the challenges of the modern world, a truly moving event. We hope that you accept our invitation to "Experience the Power of Mercy" with us on February 26 to February 27, 2016. To sign up or for more information, please contact Aaron Milliner, aaronmilliner2@gmail.com, 973-944-8968.

EASTER BASKET 2016 COLLECTION

Continuing our mission to support our sister parish, Holy Trinity in Passaic NJ, we'll again be collecting items to prepare Easter baskets and goodie bags for 400-500 children at Holy Trinity. Please consider helping out by donating any of the following items:

Medium size Easter baskets, candy-filled plastic eggs, (or small plastic eggs and small wrapped Easter candy) small chocolate bunnies, small Easter toys. We can also use a supply of cellophane basket bags to wrap baskets in.

Items can be dropped off in the bins in the Gathering Space during mass and also during religious education class times between now and **Sunday, March 20th at 12 noon**. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Noreen Cassidy at norharri1@verizon.net or call 973.989.1654. We appreciate your generous donations! Noreen Cassidy, Chair.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Please join us on Wednesday February 17th from 2-8PM for Eucharistic Adoration. The sign-up sheet can be found in the Gathering Space. Lent would be a wonderful time to come spend some extra time with the Lord.

ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT SUMMER & GETTING AWAY?

If so, there is a possibility for you to get a week or weekend at the beach, in the mountains or at a resort, while helping support our parish community. Our Major Fundraising Committee plans two (2) 50/50's per fiscal year and when needed an additional project. We truly appreciate the generosity of so many through our 50/50's. These events have provided support in maintaining our budget keeping our community alive.

Our Major Fundraiser Committee is planning a Summer Getaway Raffle for April/May this year, just in time for the upcoming summer months. If you have a well maintained vacation home, rental property or timeshare in the mountains, at the beach or at a resort and are willing to donate a week or weekend, we would like to hear from you. We are looking for 3 to 4 vacation properties to offer in the raffle. Your name will remain anonymous until the winner contacts you. The winner will be responsible for transportation and security deposit.

If you can help us, please contact Leslie Doherty at: leslie.doherty@stmatthewsrandolph.org or 973-584-1101 ext. 203

PRAY THE ROSARY

Why not make praying the ROSARY part of your Lenten journey? Come pray with us on Tuesday evenings at 7:00PM, followed by the Stations of the Cross at 7:30 and/or on Thursday mornings at 7:30 before the 8:00AM Mass!

MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT UPDATE

SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 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 and 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.

OPERATION RICE BOWL

FIRST WEEK OF LENT HUNGERING FOR OPPORTUNITY
Our journey with CRS Rice Bowl begins in Colombia, where coffee beans are changing lives! What actions can we take this Lent to change lives—at home and around the world? Visit crsricebowl.org for more.

SECOND OFFERING –FEB. 21ST

Next week, we will take up the Offering for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. This offering supports Catholic organizations that provide affordable shelter and training for seminarians in a region that still struggles from the effects of Soviet rule. By providing pastoral care, catechesis, and funding for building renovations, your donations help restore the Church and build the future in the aftermath of Soviet rule. Please give generously to the offering next week.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE

40 Days for Life is Prayer and Fasting, Peaceful Vigil, and Community Outreach. Take part with Morris County Right To Life at Planned Parenthood, 196 Speedwell Avenue, Morristown, NJ 07960, 8AM to 8PM seven days a week from Ash Wednesday February 10 through Palm Sunday March 20. We invite pro-lifers as individuals or groups to participate. Bring signs to hold (except graphic type) or will supply as needed. Please register at <https://40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/morristown/>. Alternatively you may email: info@morriscountyrighttolife.org or call 973-933-2800

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

BAPTISM: Families are requested to contact the Parish Office for details on pre-baptismal instruction and date of Baptism.

FAITH FORMATION: Faith Formation for children kindergarten thru 11th grade takes place on Sundays and Wednesdays, (Confirmation Sunday evenings) Please contact Pat D'Amico at 862-251-4129 with any questions.

GLUTEN FREE EUCHARIST: As a reminder, for those parishioners or visitors who have Celiac Disease or have an allergy to gluten in food products, we offer gluten-free hosts for Eucharist. *If you desire to receive this host, we ask that you notify the Deacon at least 5 minutes before Mass in order that we can prepare for the special host for the Mass.*

HAITI RELIEF SERVICES: To help support relief services in Haiti you can reach out to Catholic Relief Services by calling 888-277-7575 or info@crs.org. Catholic Relief Services can be found at 228 W. Lexington St., Baltimore, Maryland, 21203-7090.

HOSPITAL BOUND: If you or any of your family members are currently in the hospital or will be going into the hospital please let the parish know so we can visit. Because of the privacy laws, the hospitals cannot notify parishes of incoming patients. Thank you.

MARRIAGE: Arrangements are usually made one year in advance. Please contact the Parish Office for an appointment.

MINISTRY TO THE SICK: If a family member is ill in the hospital, please call the parish office. Because of the privacy laws, we may not be aware that your family member is sick and we would be happy to visit you during this time.

NEW PARISHIONERS: If you are new to St. Matthew's or have been coming to Mass for a while now, we ask that you stop by and speak to Fr. Dan, Fr. Kamil, or our Deacons to talk about becoming part of our parish family. Registration forms can be found in the Gathering Space; and can be filled out and put in the gold mailbox outside the office door—or you can call Terry Shaw at 973-584-1101 ext. 205 and she will mail you a registration form. There are many wonderful happenings going on at St. Matthews and we want to make sure all our parishioners are in the know!

RECONCILIATION: The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be celebrated each Saturday from 4:15-4:45PM before the evening Liturgy or by appointment at another time.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION (RCIA): RCIA prepares adolescents and adults for Baptism and full Communion into the Catholic Church. Please call the office for more information.

THE EUCHARIST AT HOME: Holy Communion may be brought to the home of any person permanently or temporarily homebound. For the confined, the elderly and/or shut-in, be they at home or in the hospital, the staff of our parish makes calls to homes and hospitals each month. Please inform the office, 973-584-1101, to have your name added to the list. **VISITATION:** Do you know someone who needs a visit, a phone call or just a kind note from his/her parish priest? Maybe it's someone who has been away from the Church for a while or someone that has been turned off or offended by the Church? Email or call the parish office, 973-584-1101, so we can extend the healing hand of the Lord to them! All information will be kept confidential.

THE HOLY LAND OF ISREAL AND JORDAN: THE FIFTH GOSPEL

By now you have probably read the reflections offered on this page by Fr. Dan and by Nancy & Peter Scimenes about our recent journey to the Holy Land. What more can there be to add? Candidly, not much. Their words perfectly capture the wonder, the camaraderie and the many blessings of what was billed by Fr. Ray Kupke in the brochure as a “faith vacation” but which should surely be called what it was – a pilgrimage.

The Holy Land is often referred to as “the Fifth Gospel” and the following is often attributed to St. Jerome, who translated the Bible from Hebrew into Latin in the Fourth Century (and who may have done so at the grotto we visited at the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem): *“Five gospels record the life of Jesus. Four you will find in books and the one you will find in the land they call Holy. Read the fifth gospel and the world of the four will open to you.”* To an extent we did not expect, the Fifth Gospel certainly opened up the world of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John to us!

Have you ever read a novel and then later had the chance to visit the city, town or country where the novel was set? Or, more to the point, have you ever heard stories of your family passed down from generation to generation, through your grandparents and parents, and then had the occasion to visit the locations where those events were set? Suddenly, you see the story – the people, the places, the things – more clearly. The location imprints itself in your head and in your heart. That is precisely what a visit to the Holy Land does. It brings to vivid life the story of Jesus Christ.

Having once had the chance, not as part of any pilgrimage, to spend the better part of a day in Jerusalem, we were aware of how time spent there could make the Gospels, particularly the passion narrative, come alive. But we were not prepared for the impact of the many places outside of Jerusalem we were able to visit with Fr. Dan and Fr. Ray, often celebrating the Sacrifice of the Mass at these wonderful locations. Nor were we prepared for the light that our pilgrimage would shine on the very Gospel readings we have heard in past weeks or will hear soon. Thus, the Sunday before we left, we heard again the story of the Baptism of the Lord in the River Jordan, only to visit the River Jordan (from both the Jordanian and Israeli banks) days later and to renew our baptismal vows there. The Sunday during our trip we heard again the story of the Wedding Feast at Cana, only a few days after renewing our marriage vows in Cana itself. And the Gospels since our return have brought us back, again and again, to the places we saw and the things we touched – the site of the synagogue at Nazareth (the Gospel on 1/24); Mount Precipice, the “brow of a nearby hill” outside Nazareth where Jesus was driven by the crowd irate at his proclamation at the synagogue in Nazareth (1/31); the waters of the Sea of Galilee (aka, the Lake of Gennesaret), where Jesus called Simon Peter, James and John (last Sunday, 2/7); the scenes of the temptation of Jesus in the Judean desert and at the parapet of the Temple in Jerusalem (this Sunday); and Mount Tabor, the scene of the Transfiguration (next Sunday).

And despite our prior, abbreviated visit to Jerusalem a few years ago, we were not prepared for the emotional impact of walking the Via Dolorosa, praying the stations of the cross while the members of our group (of varying ages and physical strength) took turns helping to carry a large wooden cross towards Calvary:

If you are worried about the safety of such a trip, please don't. As Pam will tell you, the rigorous security interview by the El Al staff at Newark Airport is the scariest part of the trip! After that it's a breeze! So we echo the thoughts of Peter and Nancy in the bulletin last week, “Be Not Afraid.” Even more, we are reminded of the words of Jesus to Simon Peter, James and John in last week's Gospel: “Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch.” If you put out into the deep waters of the Holy Land, you will catch the memories of a lifetime.

Bill & Pam Ruane

