

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

SATURDAY, December 23 5 PM	Ralph Loveys
SUNDAY, December 24 8 AM 11 AM 5 PM	All Deceased Parishioners and Their Families of St. Matthew the Apostle
MONDAY, December 25 9:30 AM 11 AM	All Deceased Parishioners and Their Families of St. Matthew the Apostle
TUESDAY, December 26 9AM	Callan Suchyta Dave Masiero
WEDNESDAY, December 27 8 AM	Esther Darakjy
THURSDAY, December 28 8 AM	Merilag Mendoza (Intentions)
SATURDAY, December 30 5 PM	Alma Podesta
SUNDAY, December 31 8 AM 9:30AM 11 AM	Raymond Radner Edward Murphy Betty Walsh

OUR PARISH PRAYERS

“For everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under heaven...”

A time to be born...We pray for all those who will be baptized this weekend:

***A time to heal...**We pray for all the sick of our parish and especially for : *Ina Balash, Anne Baldi, Filomena Bocchino, Elizabeth Boyer, Fran Brooks, Michael Boughton, Jerimiah Crowley, Connie Dziomba, Joseph Enders, Martene Errico, Mary Gordon, Chris Groh, Eri Keegan, Jim Klucharits, Laco Rontsinsky, Carolyn McGinley, Carol Robinson, Sal Sacco, Leonard Swell, Nicholas Vacca and Scott Wilson.*

***Names will remain on our sick list for three months after which time, unless we are notified to keep them on the list, they will be removed.**

A time to die...please pray for our recently deceased: Betty Walsh mother of Terry Rampone and Sheila Rhoades



	Oct.	#	Nov.	#
Envelopes & Loose Cash	\$22,136	124	\$17,669	124
ParishPay	\$16,099	142	\$19,212	150
Total	\$38,235		\$36,881	
YTD Budget			\$186,141	
YTD Offering			\$178,740	
YTD Deficit			(\$7,401)	
SPECIAL COLLECTIONS				
Catholic Home Missions			Nov. \$1,482	
Building & Maintenance			\$2,295	

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

December 24, 2017—4th Sunday of Advent

“Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!” – LUKE 1:28

Faith is a gift from God. Take time in silence and thank Him for all the gifts He has given you. Try to set aside any anger or resentment you have and really open your heart to receive the gift of God’s mercy and forgiveness. We can’t give what we don’t have. We need to receive God’s mercy and forgiveness first before we can give it to others.

ONLINE GIVING – WeShare

It’s safe. It’s simple. It’s convenient.



Please prayerfully consider giving to our parish family online as it does benefit our parish in many important ways. The practice of Christian stewardship in doing online giving provides the opportunity for planned giving in what we offer back to God. It benefits our parish by helping to streamline our administrative process and at the same time provides more accurate budgeting. Anyone who would like to join online giving can use the link provided on our website.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38
Monday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25
 Night: Is 9:1-6; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14; Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20 ; Day: Is 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14
Tuesday: Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22
Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a, 2-8
Thursday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2; Mt 2:13-18
Friday: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35
Saturday: 1 Jn 2:12-17; Lk 2:36-40
Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6, 21:1-3; Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40



RECONCILIATION

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be celebrated each Saturday at 4:30 PM before the evening Liturgy or by appointment at another time. Please join us on Monday, December 18th at 7:30 PM for our Advent Penance Service.

From the Pastor's Desk—By Fr. Sean McDonnell

Greetings St. Matthew the Apostle Parish Family,

This Christmas, Open Wide the Doors to Christ.

In these hectic days during which we are forced to remember so many things, it's remarkable what our minds can hold on to:

The way our childhood home smelled at Christmastime; the taste of Grandma's cookies or mom's cooking; the sense of anticipation of Santa Claus or maybe it was Christmas Mass. And while we can't remember what we ate for lunch yesterday or our multitude of computer passwords, we somehow cling to these Christmas memories that flood our senses with nostalgia.

From Christmas Day to the Baptism of the Lord, we celebrate the joyful season of the birth of Jesus. Gently, quietly and humbly Christ came to earth. In a similar way, he knocks on the door of each of our hearts. Let us welcome him and spread the great gift of God's love throughout this Christmas season. As your New Pastor and first Christmas with you at St. Matthews, I now Bless You and Yours this Christmas Season and the coming New Year of 2018 with Health and Happiness.

Love and Prayers,

Fr. Sean, Deacons Ed, Rich and all the Staff

**MORNING MASS TIME CHANGE FOR
DEC. 26TH, 27TH, 28TH & JAN. 1ST**

Morning Mass time for Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, December 26th, 27th & 28th and Monday, January 1st will be at 9:00AM. We will return to the regularly scheduled 8:00AM Mass on Tuesday, January 2nd.

**CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S
PARISH OFFICE HOURS**

Tuesday, December 26th—9AM to 1PM
Wednesday, December 27th—11AM to 1PM
Thursday, December 28th—9AM to 1PM
Friday, December 29th—Closed
Monday, January 1st—Closed



EVENTS FOR THE WEEK

**SUN., Dec. 24...Sunday
Mass 8 & 11 AM Christmas
Vigil Mass 5PM & 12
Midnight.
MON., Dec 25.... Christmas
Morning Mass 9:30 & 11AM.**

TUES., Dec. 26...AA Meeting 9:30 AM.

WED., Dec. 27...AA Mtg 9:30 AM.

THUR., Dec. 28...AA Mtg 9:30 AM.

FRI., Dec. 29...AA Mtg 9:30 AM.

SAT., Dec. 30...Mass at 5 PM.

**SUN., Dec. 31...Sunday Mass 8, 9:30 & 11 AM
New Year's Eve.**

MON. Jan. 1...9 AM Mass, Happy New Year!!

YOGA CONTINUES AT ST. MATTHEW'S



Please consider joining us for Yoga every Wednesday evening: Yoga Ease 5:30-6:30PM and Vinyasa Yoga 7:00-8:00PM. Purchase four classes for \$35.00 or ten classes for \$80.00, \$10 walk in fee. Please come five to ten minutes early to class to sign in and set up.

Remember to wear comfortable clothes, bring a mat, a strap (or man's tie) and bottle of water.

Home for college? Student discount \$7.00 per class.

A portion of the proceeds will help defray cost for Hope Builders.

**2017-2018 ADVENT SCHEDULE
CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE**

Christmas Eve

Sunday, December 24th

Family Liturgy 5:00 PM

Midnight Mass - 12 Midnight

Music & Carol Prelude 11:30 PM

Christmas Day

Monday, December 25th

9:30 AM & 11:00 AM



New Year's Day

***Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**

***Not a Holy Day of Obligation**

Monday, January 1st

9:00 AM



MATTHEW'S MEN IN JANUARY

We know that Jesus wanted us to care for the little children and the vulnerable and was sensitive to the needs of the afflicted. How great, therefore, must God's love be for a special needs child? The challenges for special needs children and their parents are great, but God's love assists them in their struggles. On Saturday, January 6, at our next Matthew's Men breakfast, we'll hear from one of our own his experience of the challenges and of the faith that helps him meet them. All men of the parish, young and old, are invited to join us from 8:00 to 9:30 AM in the Bauer Room for fellowship, faith and food.

RESULTS OF FR. SEAN'S CAKE RAFFLE AND HOPE BUILDERS BAKE SALE

Thanks to all who supported Hope Builders by either buying a raffle ticket for Fr. Sean's Christmas Cake and/or purchasing baked items the weekend of Dec. 9th & 10th. It was a great success. The cake raffle raised \$840.00 and the bake sale \$729.00 for a grand total of \$1,569.00. Thank you and Merry Christmas!



Food Pantry
Donations Needed

FOOD PANTRY IN NEED

Early in November, the Diocesan Catholic Charities food pantry suffered a devastating fire and all of their food was destroyed. As we enter the beautiful season of Advent, we are asking for your help in replenishing their food pantry. We are collecting canned fruits, vegetables, soups, tuna, dry cereal, oatmeal, pasta, rice, peanut butter, and coffee. Please be as generous as your means allow. Thank you and Merry Christmas.

EVA'S VILLAGE

Eva's Village, a faith-based non-profit in Paterson NJ, is looking to give gift bags to the hungry, the homeless and those struggling with addiction during this Christmas season. We are in need of scarves as well as adult-sized bottles of shampoo and conditioner. If you are able to help, please drop them off at Eva's Village, 393 Main St. in Paterson, by December 15. If you have any questions, please call Angela Vance at 973 885-3537. Thank you and God bless you.

DISH TOWEL APPEAL

St. Matt's kitchen is in need of new or gently used dish towels. If you have any that you'd like to donate, please leave them in the kitchen. Many thanks!



COFFEE TEA AND CAMARADERIE

AKA Women of Faith—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! Come join us and bring your cup. New dates will be posted in January. We meet from 1:00-2:30 PM in the Library at St. Matthew's. If you have any questions please call Moira at 862-251-4129. Be empowered to live God's Word and Love like Jesus. And don't forget your cup!

AMAZON.COM Support St. Matthew's While You Shop!

St. Matthew's will receive up to 8% of your purchase amount when you shop at Amazon.com by going through the St. Matthew's "portal" on our web site.

No need to deal with crowded stores when you can shop from the comfort of your own home while supporting St. Matthew's!

This will apply to ALL items purchased - EVEN GIFT CARDS!!



Simply follow these steps:

1. Go to the St. Matthew's web site at www.stmatthewsrandolph.org.
2. Click on "Support Our Church" located at the top of our page.
3. In the middle of the page, click "Here" to connect.
4. Begin shopping at Amazon.com and earn money for our parish. Enter a keyword like "books" and hit enter.
5. If you are an existing Amazon customer log on as you would normally OR, if you are new to Amazon, create your account.
6. When you check out, St. Matthew's will receive cash back from Amazon - up to 8% of your total purchase - and best of all - **AT NO COST TO YOU!**
7. Purchase data remains only with Amazon. St. Matthew's receives a monthly check from Amazon.

St. Matthew's will only get credit if you go through St. Matthew's web site!

Thank you for your support!

Valentine's Dinner Dance

SAVE THE DATE! - Mark your calendar for Haiti Hope and Promise's inaugural Valentine's Dinner Dance on Saturday, February 10, 2018 from 7-11 PM at St. Matthew the Apostle Parish in Randolph, NJ. We will be honoring our very special guest, Dr. Eugene Maklin, Director and Founder of New Hope Hospital in Plaine-Du-Nord, Haiti. He is coming all the way from Haiti to spend a great night with us full of food, music, and charity! Official invitation to follow! Learn more about Haiti HAP at www.haitihap.org.

GIVING TREE 2017

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 our St. Matthews family:

- Dover Child Care Center-** Our parish provided infant/toddler coats, hats and gloves to all the students.
- The Sisters of Chester-** Shop-Rite gift cards and checks.
- Catholic Charities/Hope House-** Items for 30 adopted families as well as ShopRite gift cards and Gloves/Hats/Scarves for Veteran clients.
- J.T.'s Kitchen-** Shop-Rite gift cards as well as warm jackets, blankets, hats and gloves for the homeless she serves.
- Holy Trinity Parish:** Shop-Rite gift cards. Numerous boxes of children's and adult clothing like coats, sweatshirts, hats and gloves.
- Hope Builders-** Lowe's gift cards.

All of the recipients have asked us to pass on their deep appreciation and wishes for a Merry Christmas to all parishioners. The family at St. Matthew's is truly a force to behold! Special thanks to all the St. Matthew's staff for your continued support during this busy holiday season. Charlie Naddaff always makes time to help us with delivery of items and we owe him a big thank you.

THANK YOU!

Many thanks to the teens who helped cook for the Faith Kitchen in November and/or December: Kate Boyer, J.P. Byrne, Theresa Hamilton, Allison Hart, George Houston, Leanne Jensen, and Zachary Kozma. In November these teens helped make food for 73 of our guests; in December, for 86. The St. Matt's Faith Kitchen Team greatly appreciates their service.

Dear 9th Grade Faith Formation Students,

We are so grateful for each one of you. You all did a magnificent job at presenting **Breakfast in Bethlehem!** From the breakfast, to the set, to the music and the pageant itself, the whole morning was outstanding! We also loved how you all interacted with your first grade prayer partners.....priceless! You all created beautiful memories. Thank you!

A great big thank you to Mrs. Nissel and Mrs. Judith and the fabulous group of parents who worked so well together organizing the event and helping the students! We hope that you enjoyed seeing all your hard work come together as your children brought joy and smiles to all. Thank you so very much.

Thank you too for all of our parishioners who came to Breakfast in Bethlehem and supported our 9th Graders.

On behalf of St Matthews, thank you all from the bottom of our hearts. Christmas blessings of peace, love, and joy, Fr. Sean and Moira Dziomba & Carol Lindsey

MISSIONARIES OF THE POOR USA, INC

Beloved Friends,

In a world torn by so much strife, many wars, deep jealousy and condemnation, we must "bless our enemies. Pray for those who hate us, greet and pray for those who persecute us. "In doing this, great will be our reward in heaven. In our community we have many cultures living together. This creates great diversity, variety and sometimes difficulty but because of the grace of God and the example of Jesus Christ we continue to love each other. We do it for Jesus and for the poorest of people.

While we partner with you to bring good news to the poor and find peace and happiness in our hearts, we pray each day for your needs and intentions. Many thanks for your gift of \$2,742.00.

In His Service,

Rev. Fr. Richard Ho Lung, MOP

Found of Missionaries of the Poor

Please visit us on our new Facebook page: [missionariesofthepooronline](https://www.facebook.com/missionariesofthepooronline)

FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH



Don't be surprised to see significant changes to our church grounds in the coming weeks. Through the generosity of private donors, we will be restoring the beautification of the church grounds of St. Matthew's. It has been almost 30 years since St. Matthew's has had new plantings. I hope that you can appreciate that just like your own home, our spiritual home needs to be enhanced as the place where we come to make our heartfelt prayer to Him, who has given us all that we have, all that we need.

This fall we will begin with beautifying the exterior grounds outside the courtyard area. In the spring once the planting season begins, we will continue the beautification process in the church courtyard.

As time takes its toll on all things, and this is true for the pavers that make St. Matthew's the welcome place it is, our plan is to repair and renovate the paver walkways, courtyard and our prayer garden.

Again, a special thank you to our generous donors. We look forward to preserving the beauty and integrity of our church grounds moving forward as one family.

ST. MATTHEW'S NEEDS HELPERS WITH THE SACRED LINENS!

We are in need of people to help each week wash and iron the Sacred Linens. This only takes about one hour of your time once a month. At this time we have a team of three people. Please consider joining this wonderful ministry. If you have questions or are interested, call Terry at 973-584-1101 #2.



AXIS YOUTH GROUP

Text @axisyouth to 81010 to get text message reminders of events! Follow us on social media for more information, pictures, and updates! Instagram: @Axis_Youth_Group, Facebook: @AxisYouth.



PRAYER SUPPORT FOR OUR CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES

The Confirmation Candidates are completing their 2½ year preparation process for receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation. Bishop Serratelli will confirm the candidates as fully initiated members of the Catholic Church on January 6, 2018. Please continue to pray for the person named on the flame you took. Thank you and many blessings!

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, Confirmation Sunday evenings Please contact Moira Dziomba at 862-251-4129 with any questions.

LOW GLUTEN 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-MINISTRY TO THE SICK: 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.

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

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. Sean, 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 better yet, you can call Terry Shaw at 973-584-1101 ext. 2 and she will mail you a registration form. There are many wonderful happenings going on at St. Matthew's and we want to make sure all our parishioners are in the know!

RECONCILIATION: The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be celebrated each Saturday at 4:30 PM 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.

PILGRIMAGE TO ROME WITH FR. STEPHEN PRISK

Join Fr. Stephen Prisk for a pilgrimage to Rome, Assisi, Orvieto, and Nettuno from May 21-29, 2018. Select tours will be given by Dr. Liz Lev, a renowned art historian. An informational meeting will be held on Sunday, December 17th at 12:30 PM at St. Joseph Church, Mendham. Prices start at \$2999 per person. Please call the parish house for more information. 973-543-5950.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS

Please consider using the services of our advertisers. Their support of St. Matthew the Apostle Parish is greatly appreciated!

The Chester Volunteer First Aid Squad, along with

the Chester Volunteer Fire Department, are sponsoring a blood drive through the American Red Cross on January 11, 2018, at the Chester Fire House, which is located at 86 Main Street, Chester. The drive will take place from 3-8 PM. Please strongly consider coming out to donate, as you could help save multiple lives! Please email Kelly Banko at kbanko@villanova.edu with any specific questions you may have. Hope to see you then!

PARISH MINISTRIES & CONTACT PERSONS**AA CONTACT INFORMATION**

Bill	973-876-1365
Fran	973-784-3521

AXIS YOUTH GROUP

Stephanie Toledo	973-407-9811
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ALTAR SERVERS

Parish Office	973-584-1101
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BIBLE STUDY

Suzanne Johnson	973-361-1028
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BODY, MIND AND SOUL

Shirley Kraft	973-252-7393
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BUILDING & SITES

Tom & Donna Weber	973-366-2809
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CHURCH ENVIRONMENT

Celeste DiGisco	973-970-9653
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CORNERSTONE –Men’s/Women’s

Mark Williams	973-270-7840
Nara Gregg	602-740-0883

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Tom & Peggy Ann Meola	973-895-4437
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EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Andy & Doreen Guzo	973-451-0814
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EVANGELIZATION

Janeen Sharp	973-219-1346
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FAITH SHARING

Ro Peach	973-584-1041
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FINANCE COUNCIL

Tom Dowis	973-927-8554
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FOOD PANTRY

Jeff Mantell	201-274-3925
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FUND RAISING

Major: Bob Sciarelo	973-584-3983
Other: Winifred Swiss	973-584-9499

FUNERAL

Chris & John Groh	973-328-3203
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GREETERS

Darcy & Michael Ronchi	973-328-4573
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INTERFAITH FURNISHINGS

Mary Jo Welch	973-361-1666
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LECTORS

Ro Peach	973-584-1041
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LITURGY

Fr. Sean	973-584-1101
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MAINTENANCE

Jeff Mantell	201-274-3925
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MARRIAGE PREPARATION

Sandie & Ed Keegan	973-927-1146
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MEALS ON WHEELS

Gene Cottrell	973- 584-0758
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MUSIC

Kathy Burke	973-610-5654
David Southerland	862-686-2869

OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENT

Tom & Peggy Ann Meola	973-895-4437
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PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM

Kathy Dowis	973- 927-8554
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PRAYER CHAIN

Susan Matos	973-989-0157
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PRAYER SHAWL

Chris Groh	973-328-3203
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PREGNANCY CRISIS HOTLINE

	973-538-0967
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RCIA

Ed & Sandie Keegan	973-927-1146
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SAMARITANS

Jeff Mantell	201-274-3925
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SCOUTS

Andre Chabanel (Boy Scouts)	862-266-1136
Allen Barnett (Cub Scouts)	973-820-6389

TECHNOLOGY & COMMUNICATIONS

Janeen Sharp	973-219-1346
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USHERS

Joe Venezia	973-895-4669
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WOMEN OF FAITH

Moira A. Dziomba	973-584-3788
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