

## MASSES FOR THE WEEK

<b>SATURDAY, December 30</b> 5 PM	Alma Podesta
<b>SUNDAY, December 31</b> 8 AM 9:30AM 11 AM	Raymond Radner Edward Murphy Betty Walsh
<b>MONDAY, January 1</b> 9 AM	Deceased Parishioners of St. Matthew's Parish
<b>TUESDAY, January 2</b> 8AM	Genowefa Matlosz
<b>WEDNESDAY, January 3</b> 8 AM	Zofia Slusarczyk
<b>THURSDAY, January 4</b> 8 AM	Eugenia Matlosz
<b>SATURDAY, January 6</b> 5 PM	Dorothy Cunningham Joan Scharf
<b>SUNDAY, January 7</b> 8 AM 9:30AM 11 AM	Harry & Philip Redlich & Grace Scotto George Orefici Carmen Rivera

## 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: Avery Ann Siano, daughter of Stephen and Dana Siano and Sage Calvert Siano, daughter of Michael and Lindsay Siano.

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**\*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, 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.*

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**A time to die...**please pray for our recently deceased: Leonard Swell, father of Kathy Burke.



	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)	
<b>SPECIAL COLLECTIONS</b>				
Catholic Home Missions			\$1,482	
Building & Maintenance			\$2,295	

## STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

December 31, 2017—The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

*"...as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must forgive." -*

**COLOSSIANS 3:13**—Forgiveness – one of the hardest things for people to do. It's amazing how long we can hold a grudge or be angry with someone. As we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family, take this opportunity to give the gift of forgiveness to someone - maybe someone in your family, maybe a friend, maybe a co-worker or neighbor or, maybe yourself. Pick up the phone or text someone right now.

## 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.



## The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

**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

**Monday:** Nm 6:22-27; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21

**Tuesday:** 1 Jn 2:22-28; Jn 1:19-28

**Wednesday:** 1 Jn 2:29-3:6; Jn 1:29-34

**Thursday:** 1 Jn 3:7-10; Jn 1:35-42

**First Friday:** 1 Jn 3:11-21; Jn 1:43-51

**First Saturday:** 1 Jn 5:5-13; Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-38

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



## 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.

**Thru the Pastor's Desk—By Bill Ruane**

On this Feast of the Holy Family, our scripture readings emphasize for us the important role that family plays in our religious life. By and large, it is within our families that our faith is implanted, nourished and grows. To foster that growth, we hear in the readings of the mutual obligations of the family members: honor, reverence, care, kindness, compassion, gentleness and patience. We know from our experience that these obligations can sometimes be difficult to keep, but even in the toughest of times we understand that they describe a family relationship that we all aspire toward even when we have difficulty achieving it.

And yet the family unit that we find at home is not the only family to which we belong. We are a family here at St. Matthew's. And what is society, but the family unit writ large? The Catechism reminds us that "the human person needs to live in society" and that "through the exchange with others, mutual service and dialogue with his brethren, man develops his potential." (CCC #1879).

So perhaps as we close one year and begin a new one, we can take the loving inspiration of the Holy Family and apply it not only to our home life, but to our parish life and, just as important, to our life in society. That means working with each other to build up the family, the parish, society. It means showing respect for the views of others, even when we disagree with them. It means not demonizing the other, regardless of what side of the issue or the political spectrum on which he or she falls. It means being patient with one another.

Think of what a New Year that could be.

**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.

**NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION**

Why not make praying the Rosary one of your New Year's resolutions? "The Rosary is by its nature a prayer for peace, since it consists in the contemplation of Christ, the Prince of Peace, the one who is "our peace" (Eph. 2:14). Come pray with us on Monday evening at 6:30 PM or Monday thru Thursday at 7:30 AM prior to the 8:00 AM Mass. All men and women of the parish are invited! If you have any questions please contact Moira Dziomba 973-584-3788. Not sure how to say the Rosary? No worries, there is no experience needed! We hope you can join us.

**EVENTS FOR THE WEEK**

- SUN., Dec. 31...Sunday Mass 8, 9:30 & 11 AM New Year's Eve.**
- MON. Jan. 1...9:00 AM Mass, Happy New Year!!**
- TUES., Jan. 2 ...AA Meeting 9:30 AM,**
- WED., Jan. 3 ...AA Mtg 9:30 AM, Haiti Meeting 7PM.**
- THUR., Jan. 4 ...AA Mtg 9:30 AM, Choir Practice, AXIS Youth Group 7:30PM.**
- FRI., Jan. 5 ...AA Mtg 9:30 AM, Heathy Bones 10:30AM.**
- SAT., Jan. 6 ...Matthew's Men 8AM, Bible Study 9:30AM, Confirmation Practice 9AM—Confirmation 11AM.**
- SUN., Jan. 7...Faith Formation Weekend.**
- MON. Jan. 8...Rosary 6:30PM. Bible Study 7PM, RCIA 7:30PM.**

**PLEASE HELP YOUR SELF TO A 2018 PARISH CALENDAR!**  
They can be found in the Gathering Space

**2018 NEW YEAR'S DAY**  
**\*Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**  
**\*Not a Holy Day of Obligation**  
**Monday, January 1<sup>st</sup>**  
**9:00 AM**

**< KID'S KORNER >**

**Gospel Today**

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph | Luke 2:22-40

Mary and Joseph took the newborn baby Jesus to the Temple to be presented to God. When Simeon and Anna laid eyes upon Jesus, they proclaimed Him to be the Anointed One.

Cycle B

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**Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**



The Holy Family of

and

Fill in their names, found in bold above. Draw in faces and color the picture.

## 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

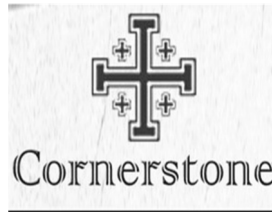
St. Matt's kitchen is in need of new or gently used dish towels. If you have any that you'd like to donate, please leave them in the kitchen. Many thanks!



## 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!

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS! SAVE THE DATE!



**MEN'S CORNERSTONE  
RETREAT**  
February 23rd & 24th

**WOMEN'S CORNERSTONE  
RETREAT**  
March 9th & 10th

## 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. Matthew's 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.

# 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](http://www.haitihap.org).



**MARTHAS AND MARYS  
SATURDAY,  
JANUARY 20TH  
8:00AM**

## **A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR INDOOR AND OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND THEIR HELPERS!**

Have you really taken the time to look around our church this Christmas? Have you stopped for a moment before entering the courtyard and admired all the beautiful garland and bows and trees and lights. Each item placed so perfectly as to complement each other. How blessed we are here at St. Matthew's Parish Family to have parishioners who share their time and talent with us all and help to enhance our Christmas Season with beautiful decoration. Thank you to Tom and Peggy Ann Meola who led the team of Kenny Schaebe, Dr Richard Christie, Mike Dziomba, Walt Lambert, Trudy Dancsecs, Angel and Elva Soto, Celeste DiGisco, Paul Sarno, and Vince Nolan,

**All The Staff At St. Matthew's  
Would Like To Wish You And Your  
Families A Very Happy, Healthy And  
Blessed New Year!**

### **Dear 9<sup>th</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup> Graders.

On behalf of St Matthew's, 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

Founder 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.

## RETIREMENT FUND FOR THE RELIGIOUS

Religious give thanks. A religious sister writes, "When we see the generous response of so many thousands of persons in order to help us, religious men and women, we are left speechless." Senior sisters, brothers and religious order priests across the country send heartfelt thanks and prayers for your donation to us. St. Matthew's collected \$2,061.00 for our retired religious. Thank you for your generosity!

## 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.

## 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.

## 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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.



## 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.

### 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

### ALTAR SERVERS

Parish Office 973-584-1101

### BIBLE STUDY

Suzanne Johnson 973-361-1028

### BODY, MIND AND SOUL

Shirley Kraft 973-252-7393

### BUILDING & SITES

Tom & Donna Weber 973-366-2809

### CHURCH ENVIRONMENT

Celeste DiGisco 973-970-9653

### CORNERSTONE –Men’s/Women’s

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

### EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Tom & Peggy Ann Meola 973-895-4437

### EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Andy & Doreen Guzo 973-451-0814

### EVANGELIZATION

Janeen Sharp 973-219-1346

### FAITH SHARING

Ro Peach 973-584-1041

### FINANCE COUNCIL

Tom Dowis 973-927-8554

### FOOD PANTRY

Jeff Mantell 201-274-3925

### FUND RAISING

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

### FUNERAL

Chris & John Groh 973-328-3203

### GREETERS

Darcy & Michael Ronchi 973-328-4573

### INTERFAITH FURNISHINGS

Mary Jo Welch 973-361-1666

### LECTORS

Ro Peach 973-584-1041

### LITURGY

Fr. Sean 973-584-1101

### MAINTENANCE

Jeff Mantell 201-274-3925

### MARRIAGE PREPARATION

Sandie & Ed Keegan 973-927-1146

### MEALS ON WHEELS

Gene Cottrell 973- 584-0758

### MUSIC

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

### OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENT

Tom & Peggy Ann Meola 973-895-4437

### PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM

Kathy Dowis 973- 927-8554

### PRAYER CHAIN

Susan Matos 973-989-0157

### PRAYER SHAWL

Chris Groh 973-328-3203

### PREGNANCY CRISIS HOTLINE

973-538-0967

### RCIA

Ed & Sandie Keegan 973-927-1146

### SAMARITANS

Jeff Mantell 201-274-3925

### SCOUTS

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

### TECHNOLOGY & COMMUNICATIONS

Janeen Sharp 973-219-1346

### USHERS

Joe Venezia 973-895-4669

### WOMEN OF FAITH

Moira A. Dziomba 973-584-3788