

SAINT MATTHEW CHURCH

Corner of Elmwood and Park Avenues, Cranston, R.I.

~ Established 1909 ~

110 Years Serving the Lord



~ Mission Statement ~

St. Matthew Parish is a Joyful Roman Catholic Community.

"We promise to build on our rich Catholic heritage and faith, evangelizing in our community. We believe Our Lord calls us to be His true disciples and live as one body in Christ. We will center ourselves in the Eucharist and honor God by proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ. We will build a welcoming, multicultural gathering of the faithful that will be a beacon of light to the world."

~ Parish Directory ~

Pastor: Reverend Ronald J. Bengford

Pastor Emeritus: Reverend James R. Collins

In Residence: Reverend Chinnaiah Yerrnini, Fatima Hospital Chaplain

~ Mass Schedule ~

~THE LORD'S DAY MASSES~

SATURDAY

Vigil 4:00PM

SUNDAY

7:45AM and 10:30AM

DAILY MASS

7:00AM Monday-Friday 8:00AM Saturday

HOLY DAY MASSES

7:00AM and 6:30PM

CONFESSION

Saturday 3:00PM-3:45PM or by Appointment

RECTORY OFFICE:

15 Frances Avenue, Cranston, Rhode Island 02910

Telephone: (401) 461-7172 Fax: (401) 461-7339 Email: stmatthewri@cox.net

Hours of Operation: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday ~ 8:00AM-2:00PM

Barbara DiLibero: Office Administrator/Bookkeeper ~ Kyle P. Jameson: Music Director

~ John Michael Bernard: Sacristan ~ Pedro Quinillia: Buildings and Grounds Maintenance~

Cathy Schmitz: Faith Formation Grades 1-6 stmatthewfaithformation1@gmail.com

Susan Sienkiewicz: Faith Formation Grades 7-Confirmation stmatthewfaithformation2@gmail.com

BAPTISM

First Sunday of the Month. Required parent preparation before the Baptism. Please see Father Bengford after Mass.

MARRIAGE

Please see Father Bengford after Mass at least one year in advance to make plans and arrange for necessary instruction.



Our Lady of Fatima

First Saturday Devotion

Starting *March 2nd at 3:15PM sharp we will be having First Saturday Devotions. The Devotions will run for 5 (five) consecutive first Saturdays: March 2nd, April 6th, May 4th, June 1st and July 6th. It consists of Confession, Communion, Reciting 5 Decades of the Rosary and Silent Meditation for a quarter hour. Confession is from 3:00-3:40. The Scriptural Rosary will be recited before the 4:00PM Mass with 15 minutes of silent meditation following that. Please join us in making reparation in atonement for the sins of the whole world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and for peace in the world.*

Why 5 Saturdays? It is sometimes asked why Our Lady asked for Communions of reparation on five first Saturdays instead of some other number. Our Blessed Lord answered that question when he appeared to Sr. Lucia on May 29, 1930. He explained that it was because of five kinds of offenses and blasphemies against her perpetual virginity, against the divine and spiritual maternity of Mary, blasphemies involving the rejection and dishonoring of her images, and the neglect of implanting in the hearts of children a knowledge and love of this Immaculate Mother.

Alzheimer’s Annual Caregiver’s Journey Conference

The 9th Annual Caregiver’s Journey Conference will be held Thursday April 25, 2019 at the Crown Plaza, Warwick, R.I. Registration is now open. Please call Annie Murphy at 421-0008 ext9704 or mmurphy@alz.org

NOTICE! KEEP EMERGENCY LANES CLEAR!

Please DO NOT BLOCK the lane between the church and school building. If you need to use handicapped parking please park in a designated space. NO PARKING IS ALLOWED IN THE CENTER LANE AT ANY TIME. It is a law that emergency vehicles have access to the Church and School. Cranston Police have taken notice and will enforce. Ticketing will begin soon! Thank you!

HOLY HOUR and RECEPTION for LIFE

St. PAUL’S CHURCH

One St. Paul Place, Cranston, R.I.

On Monday February 25, 2019 Rachel Nguyen, the Executive Director of CareNet-RI will visit St. Paul’s to discuss her organization and the work it does with pregnant women in Rhode Island, to end the demand for abortion through patience, consistency and love. The event starts in the main Church at 6:00PM with a Rosary of Our Lady. 6:20pm. There will be a reflection by Rachel Nguyen. 6:40 Vespers. 6:50 Benediction and 7:00PM a Reception and Dialog in the school basement.

This event is FREE of charge, open to all, and you are welcome to join in at any time if you can’t be there right at the start. Sponsored by St. Paul Pro-Life Committee and Knights of Columbus Council # 2385

St. Paul School Partnership With St. Matthew

St. Paul School is a widely recognized school offering pre-K through 8th grade. St. Paul serves families of Cranston and surrounding communities. We believe nurturing Catholic values along with excellence in education fosters character and good citizenship. St. Matthew Parishioners will be offered the “IN PARISH” tuition rate. Stop by for a visit. www.saintpaulschoolcranston.org or call 941-2030

INDOOR FLEA MARKET

Saturday February 23, 2019

8:00AM—2:00PM

St. Benedict Church

135 Beach Avenue, Warwick

The Kitchen will be open for light breakfast and lunch featuring St. Benedict’s Famous hot wieners. Something for everyone. 1000’s of items.



Religious Education



From the Office of Faith Formation . . .

There are no classes scheduled for this Sunday, February 17. The next class is Sunday, February 24, for grades 1 - Confirmation II.

This past week we celebrated the feast day of a great saint, St Valentine. Although we associate Valentine's Day with romance, the origin of this holiday is not very romantic. St. Valentine was a priest during the reign of the Roman emperor, Claudius, known for his persecution of the Church. In need of a strong militia (because the Roman Empire was experiencing great turmoil), Claudius prohibited marriage as he believed that unmarried soldiers fought better than married soldiers who carried the burden of wives and families. In secret, Valentine began officiating marriages. Valentine was eventually caught, tortured, and imprisoned. One of the legends regarding Valentine's actions while in prison is that he prayed with the blind daughter of Asterius, a Roman judge. His daughter was healed of her blindness and Asterius consequently converted to the Christian faith! In the year 269 A.D., Valentine was martyred (decapitated) for his stand on Christian marriage. The story goes that the last words he wrote were in a note to Asterius' daughter. He wrote, "from your Valentine." St. Valentine has come to be known as the patron saint of lovers. St. Valentine laid down his life for his love of the Church.

May that love inspire all of us!

Cathy & Susan

CATHOLIC YOUTH MINISTRY AWARD

At the Catholic Youth Ministry and Scout Awards Celebration held at The Cathedral of SS Peter & Paul on Sunday March 3, 2019 at 1:00PM our parishioner **Carol Smith** will be honored and presented the 'Companions on the Journey Award'. This is the highest National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry adult award given by our Diocese for Catholic faith witness, excellence in youth ministry, commitment to young people, outstanding leadership and longevity in ministry. We are proud that Carol is part of our parish community and witness to our Catholic faith in this manner. Congratulations **Carol Smith!**

FROM THE INTERFAITH FOOD MINISTRY

Please give generously to our brothers and sisters in need by donating non perishable food items (soup, cereal, proteins etc...) at the doors of the Church. Everything is appreciated. Thank you in advance.

The Interfaith Food Ministry

Dear Parishioners,

I hope all had a great week. Still in Ordinary Time 1, with two and half weeks to go till Ash Wednesday (March 6th), I have a few points of mention this week. First, I ask all to not park in the Fire Lane along the school on the Frances Avenue side. It is essential that we obey this, as it will allow all emergency vehicles access to the Church. The Cranston Police have brought this to my attention and let it go this past weekend. That being said they asked us to make sure if you park in the handicap spots between the building that you make sure your vehicle is close enough to the buildings so that their emergency vehicles (fire, rescue, and police) are able to come up the ramps and move between the buildings without any problem. This could mean a matter of life or death with seconds to spare. As you know, it could take time to walk a stretcher up the ramp and into our church if they had to park on Frances Ave. So please be considerate and follow directions per order the Cranston Police. Tickets will be given if this important directive is not followed. Thank you for your understanding.

Secondly, a couple of simple housekeeping reminders. Please make sure all doors remain closed as we lose a tremendous amount of heat quickly if they are left open for an extended amount of time and kindly make sure you collect all your belongings, hats, gloves, glasses, phones, etc. before you leave church. Thank you greatly.

Finally, I know I mentioned it last weekend, but a cordial reminder that our Annual Catholic Charity Appeal will officially begin on Ash Wednesday. However, if you wish, I thought we could get a jump start on this and wrap it up quickly so we do not drag this out. Our annual appeal helps so many people in our Diocese who are in need. Thank you for your generosity.

Finally, please say a prayer for yours truly, on Wednesday, I will begin my 59th year on this earth. May my love for the Lord continue to grow each day in my life and please be assured of my prayers for all of you. May His Spirit and His Word make you come alive each day.

Till next week, God Bless. ~ *Fr. Bengford*

P.S. Take note: beginning on Saturday March 2nd we will begin First Saturday Devotions, (5 months) praying the Scriptural Rosary at 3:15pm. Followed by 15 minutes of silent meditation.

Confessions will continue to be heard from 3PM to 3:40PM each Saturday.



The candles at St. Matthew are an appropriate way to memorialize a loved one or pray for a special intention. Please remember to leave the requested donation in the candle box when lighting a candle. God is watching you!



MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY FEB. 16, 2019

4:00PM YVETTE STEVENSON *2nd Ann by husband & family*

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 17, 2019~Sixth Sunday In Ordinary Time

7:45AM MARIA dosPRAZERES & ANIBEL PEREIRA *by son*
JOAQUIM & ROSA COELHO *by Elena Coelho*

10:30AM AGOSTINHO PARENTE & ELIZA FERREIRA *by family*
FRANCISCO LOURENCO, JOAO SILVA, AL ALMEDIA
By the family

MONDAY FEB. 18, 2019~ Presidents Day

8:00AM MORNING MASS

TUESDAY FEB. 19, 2019

7:00AM EMELIO SIMAO *by sister Maria Fragoso*

WEDNESDAY FEB. 20, 2019

7:00AM MORNING MASS

THURSDAY FEB. 21, 2019

7:00AM MORNING MASS

FRIDAY FEB. 22, 2019

7:00AM MORNING MASS

SATURDAY FEB. 23, 2019

8:00AM JOAO & ANTONIA FRAGOSO *by Manuel Fragoso*

4:00PM EILEEN & HELEN AYLESWORTH *by family*

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 24, 2019~Seventh Sunday In Ordinary Time

7:45AM BELMIRA & JOSE COELHO *by Manuel Coelho*

10:30AM MARIA ANTUNES *by husband & daughters*

ROSA MARIA & ANTONIO REI *by Maria Coelho*

READINGS FOR WEEK FEBRUARY 17, 2019:

Monday: Gn 4:1-15, 25; Ps 50:1 and 8, 16bc-17, 20-21; Mk 8:11-13
 Tuesday: Gn 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10; Ps 29:1a and 2, 3ac-4, 3b and 9c-10; Mk 8:14-21
 Wednesday: Gn 8:6-13, 20-22; Ps 116:12-13, 14-15, 18-19; Mk 8:22-26
 Thursday: Gn 9:1-13; Ps 102:16-18, 19-21, 29 and 22-23; Mk 8:27-33
 Friday: 1 Pt 5:1-4; Ps 23:1-3a, 4-6; Mt 16:13-19
 Saturday: Heb 11:1-7; Ps 145:2-3, 4-5, 10-11; Mk 9:2-13
 Sunday: 1 Sm 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23; Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8, 10, 12-13; 1 Cor 15:45-49; Lk 6:27-38

visit our website: stmatthewri.org



Sunday February 10, 2019	\$4,340.00
Monthly Collection	\$1,488.00
Candles	\$105.00
On Line Giving	\$1
February 17, 2019 Fuel & Maintenance Collection	

- ◆ *Tuesday February 19, 2019 – Team 3
- ◆ Monday February 25, 2019 – Team 4
- ◆ Monday March 4, 2019 – Team 1
- ◆ Monday March 11, 2019 – Team 2



Counters, if you are unable to count on your scheduled week please call another team to find a replacement. Thank you for all you do for St. Matthew parish.

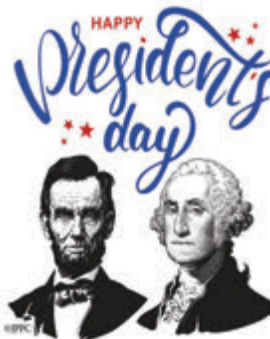
SANCTUARY CANDLE

Burns for

GUS LANIFERO

Birthday Remembrance

by children & grandchildren



PRESIDENTS DAY

The Parish Office will be closed on Monday, February 18, 2019 in honor of the Presidents Day Holiday. Morning Mass will be at 8:00AM on that day. Counters will report on Tuesday.



What is the best way to ensure St. Matthew Parish receives the support needed for our operating expenses and ministries? eGiving through Parish Giving! Please enroll today by visiting stmatthewri.org Increased enrollment with Parish Giving will help stabilize our parish finances. Thank you for your continued support of our parish family with your time, talents and financial contributions.

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