

SAINT MATTHEW CHURCH

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

~ Established 1909 ~

Celebrating 111 Years of 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."

~ St. Matthew Parish Directory ~

Pastor: Reverend Ronald J. Bengford

Pastor Emeritus: Reverend James R. Collins

~ Mass Schedule ~

~THE LORD'S DAY MASSES~

SATURDAY VIGIL 4:00PM

SUNDAY MORNING 9:30AM

DAILY MASS

7:00AM Monday-Thursday

HOLY DAY MASSES

7:00AM and 6:30PM

CONFESSION

Saturday 3:00PM-3:45PM *In Sacristy Due to Covid restriction

RECTORY OFFICE:

15 Frances Avenue, Cranston, Rhode Island 02910

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

**Hours of Operation: Monday, Tuesday and Thursday
8:00AM-2:00PM *please wear mask**

Barbara DiLibero: Office Administrator/Bookkeeper
Pedro Quinillia: Maintenance Supervisor

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

Susan Sienkiewicz: Faith Formation Confirmation I & II
stmatthewfaithformation2@gmail.com

Marissa M. Maroni: Director of Music

~ Welcome To Mass ~

Please remember to return only when you are ready. Every Sunday at 9:30AM we will live stream our Mass for you to participate at home on Facebook Live – St. Matthew Church Page. A few simple rules for the health and safety of all parishioners.

1. A MASK IS MANDATORY.

2. Please stay home if you are feeling ill. (Parishioners over 65 and those with underlying health issues are dispensed until further notice.)

3. Hand sanitizer will be located at the door. Sanitizer will also be available at the point of communion.

4. Respect social distancing (6 foot spacing at all times)

5. Follow signs and directions posted at Entrance to Church (there will only be one entrance to the Church, the side door.)

6. Restrooms are closed.

7. Communion will be reverently and cautiously dispensed at Mass. **Please keep your mask on as you approach the Altar.** Fr. Bengford will say "The Body of Christ." Receive. Step aside briefly, only then may you remove your mask and take Communion.

8. Parking will NOT be allowed in-between the church and school buildings. Park in the Frances Avenue Lot or on the street. Do Not congregate in parking lot.



BAPTISM

Baptisms usually take place on the first Sunday of the month, after the 10:30AM Mass. Please call the office to register in the parish family. See Fr. Bengford after Mass to schedule a Baptism date.

stmatthewri.org

SPONSOR REQUIREMENTS

To be a Godparent at a Baptism, or a sponsor at a Confirmation, or witness at a Marriage is a privilege not a right. The following requirements are necessary:

A registered member of a parish, Weekly Mass attendance is a must! If married it must be according to Catholic Church Law. You must have received the Sacraments of Baptism, First Holy Communion and Confirmation. Please see Fr. Bengford after Mass for a sponsor form.

HOLY MATRIMONY

We are delighted to be a part of your special day. Please see Fr. Bengford after Mass, at least one year in advance of your wedding. Classes and preparation are mandatory and required.



EASTER FLOWER OFFERING ENVELOPES

Please fill out your Easter Flower Offering Envelope and put in the collection basket as soon as possible. The firm deadline to be printed in the Easter Sunday Bulletin is MARCH 23, 2021. No Exceptions! Names must be PRINTED CLEARLY. Thank you for understanding.

Keep the Heat On: Help or Be Helped

Bishop Tobin recently kicked off this year’s Keep the Heat On heating assistance campaign, a program that helps struggling families with heating assistance who have exhausted all other public and private means to keep their families warm during the Rhode Island winter. Since 2005, your generous support has provided more than \$3.25 million in assistance to more than 14,681 Rhode Island households in need.

If you would like to help local families this winter, please send tax-deductible donations to: Keep the Heat On, One Cathedral Square, Providence, RI 02903 or visit www.heatRI.com to make a secure credit card donation. You may also support Keep the Heat On using Text-To-Give --- text keepheat to 401-496-9889.

2020 TAX DONATION STATEMENT

If you would like a statement from St. Matthew’s Church for Tax Donation purposes 2020 please fill out the attached coupon and drop in the collection basket. The form will be mailed to you in a timely manor. Online giving statements will be mailed directly.

NAME: _____

BUDGET # _____

ADDRESS: _____

Print Clearly



Is It Possible For Real People To Be Holy?

On it’s simplest level , being holy means living a life centered on God. This is done by talking with Him continuously, imitating His behavior, and respecting His creations. It also means being part of the Church He established on Earth to help us be holy. Try this:

Talk to God: Spending time together is the best way to get to know God better.

Practice Sharing: God wants us to take care of each other. Look for ways to share your money, time and talents with someone who needs them.

Celebrate the Sacraments: Make Sunday Mass the highlight of your week. Attend if you can, stream online if you can’t. Just don’t miss Mass.

Be A Voice In The Wilderness: When you notice injustice, speak out and take action. Treat all people with the dignity they deserve as children of God.

Share Your Faith: Talk about God with anyone who will listen. We can’t keep His love to ourselves. We have to pass it on.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter has gone "Virtual"!

To support married couples during this time of social distancing, Worldwide Marriage Encounter is sponsoring virtual marriage experiences. Some are on weekends and some span multiple weeks on a given weekday. Couples will explore their individual personality styles, improve listening and communication skills, understand God’s plan for their marriage, and learn how to keep their relationship a priority. Registration is limited and a \$100 application fee is required. For more information or to apply, call at or visit them at <https://wwmema.org/>.

"This is my beloved Son. Listen to him." Let us learn to listen better to each other and God by participating in a virtual Worldwide Marriage Encounter experience.

Friday/Saturday/Sunday March 19-21
Thursdays/Mondays April 8-29



Dear Parishioners,

I hope your Lent is starting off well and your relationship with the Lord is growing each day. As we journey together during this season of Lent, each of us is called to be transformed, to be conformed more closely to Christ by days of prayer and penitence, conversion and grace. During Jesus' 40 days in the desert, He showed us what Lent is about: growing in understanding and doing the will of God. Rejecting false temptations and sin from Satan, and nurturing ourselves in prayer.

Each and every Wednesday of Lent, here at St. Matthew, I will have Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at 5:00PM. Benediction at 5:45PM and Stations of the Cross at 6:00PM.

I will be hearing socially distanced confessions every Saturday of Lent from 3:00-3:45PM in the Sacristy. Remember to abstain from meat on all the Fridays of Lent. May we observe Lent together in prayer, penance and almsgiving.

God Bless You, *Fr. Bengford*

P.S.- Catholic Charity pledge cards are in all the pews. Please prayerfully consider your sacrificial donation for 2021. St. Matthew Goal is \$55,338.00

P.S.- Some meaningful sacrifices to consider for Lent:

MEANINGFUL SACRIFICES FOR LENT

The point of Lent is not to greet Easter a few pounds lighter but to be spiritually transformed. Try something new this year.

Make extra time for Him each day. Read the Bible, attend daily Mass, Pray the Rosary.

Avoid the mirror. Take the focus off your appearance. Your worth is not in how others' view you but in his Infinite love for you.

Give up one thing at each meal. Forgo sugar in coffee, honey on toast...you get the idea.

Offer one heroic minute. Jump out of bed as soon as the alarm sounds. Don't grant a single minute to laziness.



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.



Classes are scheduled for this Sunday, Feb 28, and again on Sunday, March 7 for grades 1 - Conf. II

FYI . . . Saint names chosen by our Confirmation Candidates:

St. Joseph . . . Joseph, husband of Mary and foster father of Jesus, is the patron of the Universal Church. A working man, carpenter by trade, he is also known as the patron saint of workers. A protector, Joseph is regarded as a model for husbands and fathers. He was a compassionate, caring man. When he discovered Mary was pregnant after they had been betrothed, he knew the child was not his but he resolved to protect her from shame and cruelty. When an angel came to Joseph in a dream and told him, "Do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit," he did as the angel told him and protected the Mother of our Lord. Joseph loved Jesus. His one concern was for the safety of this child entrusted to him. Not only did he leave his home to protect Jesus, but upon his return settled in the obscure town of Nazareth out of fear for his life. Scripture says Joseph was a "just man" meaning he was obedient to God. Joseph increased in holiness by opening himself totally to God. A beautiful prayer to St. Joseph is, "Saint Joseph, patron of the universal Church, watch over the Church as carefully as you watched over Jesus, help protect it and guide it as you did with your adopted son. Amen" Inspired by this important figure in Jesus' life, Nathan Gammon chose Joseph for his Confirmation name.

St. John the Baptist . . . John is identified as the spiritual successor of the prophet Elijah because he anticipated a messianic figure greater than himself. The Gospels portray John as the forerunner of Jesus, since John announces Jesus' coming and prepares the people for Jesus' ministry. The Bible describes John as righteous and a man of great wisdom. Most likely to avoid worldly distractions, he lived in the wilderness eating insects and wearing minimal clothing. Inspired by the wisdom, humility, and holiness of John the Baptist, Wyatt Harris chose John for his Confirmation name, which, incidentally, is also the name of many members of Wyatt's family.

Saints Joseph and John, pray for us!

Have a blessed week,

Cathy & Susan

Gluten free hosts are available.

Please see Fr. Bengford before Mass.



Mass Intentions

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 27, 2021

4:00PM

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 28, 2021~*Second Sunday of Lent*

9:30AM MARIA ANTUNES & ARMINDA ALMEDIA

By husband & daughters

BARTA & MICHAUD FAMILIES *by son Louis*

MR. & MRS. MANUEL TOMAZ *by Jaime & Palmira*

MONDAY MARCH 1, 2021

7:00AM MORNING MASS

TUESDAY MARCH 2, 2021

7:00AM MORNING MASS

WEDNESDAY MARCH 3, 2021

7:00AM MORNING MASS

6:00PM STATIONS OF THE CROSS

THURSDAY MARCH 4, 2021

7:00AM MORNING MASS

FRIDAY MARCH 5, 2021

SATURDAY MARCH 6, 2021

4:00PM

SUNDAY MARCH 7, 2021~*Third Sunday Of Lent*

9:30AM JOSE MANUEL CONCEICAO *by Maria Coelho*

BARTA & MICHAUD FAMILIES *by son Louis*

JOE COELHO & WILLIAM BROOKS



STATIONS of the CROSS

JOIN US EACH WEDNESDAY OF LENT:

EXPOSITION 5:00PM

BENEDICTION 5:45PM

STATIONS OF THE CROSS 6:00PM

OFFERTORY

Sunday February 21, 2021 \$2,542.00

Ash Wednesday \$365.00

Fuel & Maintenance \$473.00

- ♦ Monday March 1, 2021 – Team 1
- ♦ Monday March 8, 2021 – Team 2
- ♦ Monday March 15, 2021 – Team 3
- ♦ Monday March 22, 2021 – Team 4



Counters, if you are unable to count on your week, please call a replacement. Thank you.



2021 Catholic Charity Appeal

ST. MATTHEW GOAL \$55,338.00

Please prayerfully consider your sacrificial gift this year. On behalf of all those who will benefit from your generosity, thank you in advance for your support.

IN-PEW WEEKENDS: APRIL 18th & APRIL 25th

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 28, 2021:

Monday: Dn 9:4b-10; Ps 79:8, 9, 11, 13; Lk 6:36-38

Tuesday: Is 1:10, 16-20; Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21, 23; Mt 23:1-12

Wednesday: Jer 18:18-20; Ps 31:5-6, 14, 15-16; Mt 20:17-28

Thursday: Jer 17:5-10; Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4, 6; Lk 16:19-31

Friday: Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a; Ps 105:16-17, 18-19, 20-21; Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

Saturday: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20; Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

Sunday: Ex 20:1-17 or Ex 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17; Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11; 1 Cor 1:22-25; Jn 2:13-25



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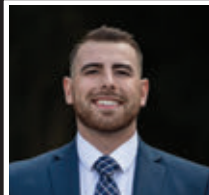
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What's My Name?

The #WHATSMYNAME Movement asks everyone to simply ask drivers "What's my name?" before entering their vehicle to make sure it is the car they are supposed to enter.

#WHATSMYNAME

In Remembrance of Samantha Josephson