

# ***SAINT MATTHEW CHURCH***

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

*~ Established 1909 ~*

*Celebrating 114 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**

~ Mass Schedule ~

~THE LORD'S DAY MASSES~

SATURDAY VIGIL 4:00PM

SUNDAY MORNING 7:30AM and 9:30AM

DAILY MASS

7:00AM Monday-Thursday

HOLY DAY MASSES

7:00AM and 6:30PM

CONFESSION

Saturday 3:15PM-3:45PM

RECTORY OFFICE:

15 Frances Avenue, Cranston, Rhode Island 02910

Telephone: (401) 461-7172

Email: [stmatthewri@cox.net](mailto:stmatthewri@cox.net)

*Office Hours of Operation:*

*Monday, Thursday, Friday 8am-3pm*

Ms. Barbara DiLibero: Secretary/Bookkeeper

Mr. Pedro Quinillia: Maintenance Supervisor

Mrs. Susan Sienkiewicz: Faith Formation  
[stmatthewfaithformation2@gmail.com](mailto:stmatthewfaithformation2@gmail.com)

Mr. Nathan DeAngelis: Director of Music

Miss Brianna Callahan: Cantor

*~Please Join Us~*

*Sunday February 12, 2023*

*9:30AM*

*for Holy Mass Celebrated by*

*the Most Reverend*

*Bishop Thomas J. Tobin*

*Bishop of the Diocese of Providence*



*Join us after Mass in the Chapel for a reception and meet and greet with the Bishop. Light refreshments will be served.*

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.

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 to request a sponsor certificate:

You MUST be a registered member of the 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 if you need 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.

**2022 TAX DONATION STATEMENT**

If you need a statement for 2022 Tax Donation purposes, please fill out this coupon and mail to the rectory office or place in the collection basket in the Church. Donation statements will be done on a request only basis. If you contribute to our online giving platform, you will receive a separate statement directly from Parish Giving.

Thank you for your generosity this past year.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE #: \_\_\_\_\_

ENVELOPE #: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please PRINT clearly!*

**2023 MASS BOOK**

Please book Mass Intentions and Candles at St. Matthew Church. The income helps our parish and it is a special way to honor the memory of loved ones. We have many open Masses and candles for this year.

*Two (2) intentions will be allowed for each Mass Time.*

*Two (2) names per intention will be permitted.*

Call the office at 461-7172 with your intentions. You may also email intentions to: [stmatthewri@cox.net](mailto:stmatthewri@cox.net) or stop by during office hours M-TH.-FRI from 8AM -3PM

**PARISH GIVING ONLINE**



*Parish Giving is simple, secure and convenient; and it offers tax benefits as well as parish benefits. It is a great way to make sure you get your weekly donation in on time.*

*If you are unwell or there is a storm St. Matthew will still get a consistent stream of income to pay our bills. Please consider signing up.*

Call the office at 461-7172 with questions or Parish Giving at 1-866-307-7140. Thank you!

Scan the QR code to begin [stmatthewri.org](http://stmatthewri.org).

**Religious Education**



**From the Office of Faith Formation**

What’s in a Name? . . . As part of the process of preparing for the sacrament of Confirmation, candidates are encouraged to select a saint name that they will carry with them throughout their life. On the day they receive the sacrament, the bishop will confirm them using their chosen saint name.

When selecting a Confirmation name, the goal is to choose the name of an admired saint. This saint will be a model in the life of the Confirmation candidate; a saint to be looked to for guidance and protection. Throughout the Bible, there are many examples of people taking on new names, dating back to the Old Testament. God changed the names of many to reflect the special roles they would play throughout salvation history. The most common examples:

Abram was changed to Abraham meaning, “father to a host of nations.” This name change signified that God was making a covenant with Abraham that would make him the first of God’s people on earth.

Simon was changed to Peter, meaning “rock” and refers to Peter becoming the first pope: “And upon this rock I will build my church” (Matthew 16:17-18).

Our Confirmation candidates have chosen their saint names. We will share the significance of these saints/ names in the next few columns . . . stay tuned! And please pray for our Confirmation candidates as they prepare to become adults in the faith!

Reminder: Our next Family of Faith gathering will be held on 2/12/22. Please complete your at-home activities for Lessons 6 & 7.

Have a blessed week,

St Matthew Faith Formation Team



*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 \$2.00 donation per candle in the candle box when lighting a candle. The candle box has been short more often than not.*

**OFFICE HOURS ARE MONDAY, THURSDAY & FRIDAY**

**FROM: 8AM-3PM**



# From The PASTOR

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Dear Parishioners,

I hope all of you had a great week. I must say I do not believe I have much to say this week. As we continue in Ordinary Time with just about 3 1/2 weeks until Ash Wednesday (02/22/23) things are pretty 'ordinary'. I imagine we are all counting down the days until this dreary, wet and mostly sunless winter is out of here. I must say, like you, I can't stand to spend money on gas/oil to keep warm. I know it's necessary, it is just a fact of life. I feel like it is money going out the window. That being said, of course please keep the Church doors closed to conserve. If you can spare a little extra in your Fuel and Maintenance envelope it would be greatly appreciated.

Update on the Roof Project: We have almost Raised The Roof! Work has been completed on the shingle portion. The rubber roof will be done within the next 2 weeks. Thank you again to all who donated to the project.


Finally, Mark your calendars for Sunday February 12th. Bishop Thomas Tobin will be here celebrating the 9:30AM Mass. There will be a meet and greet with the Bishop with light refreshments in the Chapel after Mass. Please invite you family, friends and neighbors. Let's fill the pews!

Thank you for all your support and remember your commitment to St. Matthew Parish and your weekly offertory Parish Giving (our online giving platform is a great way to support St. Matthew)

Keep your eyes on HIM! *Fr. Bengford*

*P.S. The St. Matthew Church Calendars have finally arrived. Grab one by the Church doors. The artwork is beautiful. Thank you to the Butterfield Funeral Home for providing these beautiful calendars for us to enjoy.*

**GROUNDHOG DAY** Wednesday February 2nd is Groundhog Day. Let us pray Punxsutawney Phil does not see his shadow, and we have an early spring with some warm temperatures and sunshine!



## *Ask* FATHER

### WHY DO WE BLESS THROATS

#### IN HONOR OF ST. BLAISE?

Saint Blaise was the bishop of Sebaste in Armenia during the fourth century. Very little is known about his life. According to various accounts he was a physician before becoming a bishop. His cult spread throughout the entire Church in the Middle Ages because he was reputed to have miraculously cured a little boy who nearly died because of a fishbone in his throat. From the eighth century he has been invoked on behalf of the sick, especially those afflicted with illnesses of the throat.


Details regarding the miraculous healing of the boy vary. One account relates that the miracle occurred during the journey to take Blaise to prison when he placed his hand on the boy's head and prayed; another that the miracle happened while Blaise was in prison when he picked up two candles provided to him and formed a cross around the boy's throat.

The use of candles for the blessing of throats stems from the candles that Blaise used while in prison. When an old woman's pig had been miraculously rescued from a wolf by Saint Blaise, she would visit him in prison, bringing him food and candles to bring him light in his dark cell.


The Feast Day of St. Blaise is this Friday February 3rd.



*In honor of St. Blaise I will bless throats after the homily at all Masses on February 4-5, 2023*



**SATURDAY JANUARY 28, 2023**  
**4:00PM LUSIANA CRUZ & FAMILY** *by Antonio & Emelia Pires*  
**SUNDAY JAN. 29, 2023~Fourth Sunday In Ordinary Time**  
**7:30AM AURORA SANTOS & MANUEL SANTOS** *(Birthday)*  
*By daughter & family*  
**9:30AM MARIA & ALLESANDRA FORTE** *by sister & family*  
**MANUEL & ANTONIA SANTOS** *by the family*  
**MONDAY JANUARY 30, 2023**  
**7:00AM BARTA & MICHAUD FAMILIES** *by son Louis*  
**TUESDAY JANUARY 31, 2023**  
**7:00AM MARIA NUNES** *by Rodrigues family*  
**WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 1, 2023**  
**7:00AM**  
**THURSDAY FEBRUARY 2, 2023**  
**7:00AM SPECIAL INTENTION** *by a parishioner*  
**FRIDAY FEBRUARY 3, 2023~Feast of St. Blaise**  
**SATURDAY FEBRUARY 4, 2023**  
**4:00PM ANTONIO & MARIA NUNES** *by Maria Fernandes*  
**SUNDAY FEB. 5, 2023~Fith Sunday In Ordinary Time**  
**7:30AM BARTA & MICHAUD FAMILIES** *by son Louis*  
**9:30AM JOSEPH IANNI** *by wife*




Weekly 01/15/2023	\$4,400.00
Weekly 01/22/2023	\$3,855.00
Online 01/22/2023	\$312.00
Catholic University	\$294.00

*Remember St. Matthew Church in your will or estate.*

*Thank you for your generosity!*

**COUNTING SCHEDULE:**

- ◆ **January 30, 2023 – Team 4**
- ◆ **February 6, 2023 – Team 1**
- ◆ **February 13, 2023 – Team2**
- ◆ **February 20, 2023 – NO COUNTING HOLIDAY**



*If you are unable to count on your scheduled week please call a replacement. .*

**Rhode Island Catholic's**  
**Annual Subscription Drive is Underway!**

Now more than ever, your diocesan newspaper depends on its faithful readers to continue its 147-year mission of bringing the good news of the church directly to you. If you are interested in starting a new subscription or continuing to receive Rhode Island Catholic in your mailbox each week, please either drop the specially marked parish budget envelope into the collection basket at Mass, call Circulation Manager Sue Richard at 401-272-1010 ext. 0, or visit the newspaper's website, [www.thericatholic.com](http://www.thericatholic.com), and click on Subscribe to order and pay for a subscription. The cost for a year of in-home delivery of the newspaper is only \$30. (make checks payable to Rhode Island Catholic NOT St. Matthew Church). Thank you!

**Worldwide Marriage Encounter**

Worldwide Marriage Encounter is sponsoring a variety of in-person and virtual marriage experiences, some on weekends and some on seven weekdays. Couples will explore their relationship with each other, God, and the Church. Registration is limited and a \$100 application fee is required. For more information or to apply, call Joe & Ginny Vatele at 978-870-5646 or visit them at <https://wwmema.org/>.

In the Beattitudes it says "Blessed are they who hunger and thirst." Do you hunger and thirst for a better relationship with your spouse? A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience can help you along this journey. You and your spouse can sign up to attend. Experiences available are:

Feb 3-5, 2023 in Huntington, NY  
 Mar 10-12, 2023 in Upton, MA  
 Jun 23-25, 2023 in Huntington, NY

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 29th:**

Monday: Heb 11:32-40; Ps 31:20, 21, 22, 23, 24; Mk 5:1-20  
 Tuesday: Heb 12:1-4; Ps 22:26b-27, 28, 30, 31-32; Mk 5:21-43  
 Wednesday: Heb 12:4-7, 11-15; Ps 103:1-2, 13-14, 17-18a; Mk 6:1-6  
 Thursday: Mal 3:1-4; Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10; Heb 2:14-18; Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32  
 Friday: Heb 13:1-8; Ps 27:1, 3, 5, 8b-9abc; Mk 6:14-29  
 Saturday: Heb 13:15-17, 20-21; Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; Mk 6:30-34  
 Sunday: Is 58:7-10; Ps 112:4-5, 6-7, 8-9; 1 Cor 2:1-5; Mt 5:13-16

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