SAINT
MATTHEW
PARISH FAMILY

January 9, 2022
NEWS

The Baptism OF THE LORD

Christ Came for All. You Are Loved by Him and Welcomed Here.

Reverend Jeffrey W. Couture, Pastor
Reverend Sunil Pereira, Parochial Vicar
216 Scribner Avenue Norwalk, Connecticut 06854
website: www.StMatthewNorwalk.org
email: StMattParish@hotmail.com phone: (203) 838-3788 fax: (203) 838-8195

All Are Welcome

St. MATTHEW CHURCH
Ph: 203-838-3788; Fax: 203-838-8195
Pastor: Fr. Jeffrey W. Couture
ext. 127; FrCouture@Diobpt.org
Parochial Vicar: Fr. Sunil Pereira
ext. 114; PereiraIMS@yahoo.com
Pastoral Assistant: Sr. Sally Norcross
ext. 118; SNorcross@StMatthewNorwalk.org
Parish Office: M-Th: 9am-4pm; Friday: 9am-1pm
phone: 203-838-3788; ext. 101; **fax:** 203-838-8195
email: StMattParish@hotmail.com
website: StMatthewNorwalk.org
Registration Forms: ONLINE and at Parish Office
Business Manager: Steve Buckett, 203-838-3788, ext. 103
SBuckett@StMatthewNorwalk.org

CHURCH IS OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

9am-Dusk, seven days per week

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday: 3:00pm Confession through 3:45pm
4:00pm Mass & Live Stream
Sunday: 7:30am Mass
9:00am Mass
10:30am Mass & Live Stream
12:00pm Mass
5:00pm Mass

Radio: All weekend Masses are simulcast on 103.3FM so you can listen to Mass on your car radio and receive Communion at the front doors of the church.

Mon-Fri: 12:10 pm in-person & Live Stream Masses
First Friday: 12:10pm in-person & Live Stream, followed by Adoration IN THE CHAPEL through 7pm
First Tuesday: 7pm Confession & Adoration through 8pm.

HOLY EUCHARIST
If someone is ill, homebound or hospitalized, please call Sr. Sally Norcross, ext.118
CONFESSION
Saturday, 3:00-3:45pm; First Tuesday, 7-8pm
ADORATION CHAPEL
For access, please email: Chapel@StMatthewNorwalk.org
ANOINTING
To receive the Sacrament of Anointing: please contact Fr. Sunil, ext. 114; Sr. Sally, ext. 118, or ext.101.
BAPTISMS
Sundays, 1pm; Pre-Bap Workshops are held via Zoom.
Contact Lorraine DeRosa: Lorraine.711@hotmail.com.
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
Janet Mitchell, ext. 107; StMattRelEd@gmail.com
CONFIRMATION
Liz Reid, ext. 107; email: StMattRelEd@gmail.com
YOUTH GROUP COORDINATOR
Olivia Buisson, ext. 115;
YouthCoordinator@StMatthewNorwalk.org
MARRIAGE: Lorraine DeRosa
email: Lorraine.711@hotmail.com
MUSIC MINISTRY: Val Wyman, ext. 109
CONSULTATIONS: Professional Consultations are held virtually. Email Margaret Riobo:
StMatthewConsultations@gmail.com
INTERCESSORY PRAYER: Ramona Bouffard:
StMatthewPrays@gmail.com

This Week at St. Matthew

MON 10	12:10pm Mass & Live Stream 4:15pm Gr. 1-3 Rel Ed –Check email for updates 5:45pm Gr. 4-6 Rel Ed –Check email for updates 7:30pm Fitness Group—Check email for updates
TUES 11	12:10pm Mass & Live Stream 4:15pm Gr. 1-3 Rel Ed –Check email for updates 5:45pm Gr. 4-6 Rel Ed –Check email for updates
WED 12	10:00am Food Pantry through 11:30am 12:10pm Mass & Live Stream 7:30pm Knights of Columbus–Check email for updates 8:00pm AA Meeting
THUR 13	12:10pm Mass & Live Stream 5:30pm Youth Choir Rehearsal–Check email for updates 6:30pm Adult Choir Rehearsal–Check email for updates 6:30pm Fitness Group—Check email for updates
FRI 14	12:10pm Mass & Live Stream
SAT 15	3:00pm Saturday Confession 4:00pm Saturday Vigil Mass
SUN 16	7:30am Mass 9:00am Mass 10:30am Mass & Live Stream 12:00pm Mass 4:00pm Contemporary Choir Rehearsal 5:00pm Mass

New Horizons Update: January Luncheon

From Joan Walsh: New Horizons' January Luncheon scheduled for Thursday, January 13th, will be canceled due to the upsurge in COVID infections after the holidays. We will follow the parish guidelines being undertaken with other ministries and meetings. Look forward to seeing everyone in February! Stay safe!

Pre-Baptism Workshop & Baptisms

Do you have or know someone with a new baby or young child who needs to be Baptized? Pre-Baptism Workshop are held via Zoom. Please contact Lorraine DeRosa to arrange a Zoom session, after which Lorraine will schedule your Baptism date. Baptisms are held on Sundays at 1:00pm.
email: Lorraine.711@hotmail.com

Your Baptism Date is to be Celebrated…

Along the banks of the River Jordan, God kept his promise to take charge of the fate of human beings, and Jesus is the tangible and definitive sign.

Your Baptism is when the Father gave you the gift of the Spirit who opens the eyes of the heart to truth. Your Baptism is a date to be celebrated: it is the date of our rebirth as Children of God! Go find out the date from your parents, godparents, church! ~ Pope Francis

ADORATION at St. Matthew Chapel I 24-Hour Access

Refurbished Tabernacle brings Access to Adoration in our Chapel, Whenever You Want - Day or Night

Dear Parish Family,

As a Catholic, you might be familiar with the term Adoration. Or at least you might have heard this word at some point in your faith journey.

Adoration refers to the act of worship of the True Presence of our Lord in the Eucharist, outside of Mass. This is where the Eucharist is exposed in a glass circular disc called a "Luna" where the faithful come and sit quietly to pray. The short service to begin Adoration is called "Exposition." The service that ends Adoration is called "Benediction."

The rule during Adoration is that when the Eucharist is exposed, it should never be left alone. It can be difficult to get volunteers throughout the day to sit continuously with the Eucharist. To meet the expectation of keeping the Holy Presence company and still offering the True Presence in prayer, a concept has been developed known as "Simple Exposition."

"Simple Exposition" is when the Eucharist is exposed in a special Tabernacle, and the laity can open a shutter on the Tabernacle door for Exposition (without accessing the Tabernacle) and close the shutter when they leave.

This is an important concept since the church teaches that only a priest or deacon can facilitate Adoration itself, but adorers can enjoy Simple Exposition if the Eucharist can be exposed without the need for Adoration by the clergy. In short, this means that if a church has a Tabernacle that has an Exposition Luna in it, the laity can have Adoration any time the chapel is opened.

How does this affect us? With this intention in mind, we have modified our Chapel's Tabernacle by inserting a Luna holder in the door of the tabernacle. This now means that at our St. Matthew Chapel, one can go to adore Christ in the Eucharist at any time of the day or night, *whenever they want*.

Why is this so important? Because there are many consoling spiritual graces attached to the veneration of the Eucharist that we need, and many people cannot come or feel comfortable coming during the main hours when the church is open. This allows us the comfort that Jesus is present to us at *any time we need Him in the Eucharist.* All one needs to do is enter the Chapel by an access code (which we will give you on request), walk up to the Tabernacle and open the shutter.

For access, please email us at Chapel@StMatthewNorwalk.org and provide your name and contact info. You will be sent the code to unlock the Chapel door on the left, using the key pad. I hope many of you will find this Exposition of the Eucharist helpful in your spiritual growth and healing in times of need.

Enter through Chapel Door on Left using Keypad -->

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Jeff

Mass Intentions for this Week

Monday, January 10
12:10pm † Umberto, Giuseppe & Carolina DiRenzo

Tuesday, January 11
12:10 pm † Josephine Leone

Wednesday, January 12
12:10pm † Marie Jappell

Thursday, January 13
12:10pm † Walter Orlowski, Sr.

Friday, January 14
12:10 pm † Peter & Elizabeth Dunne

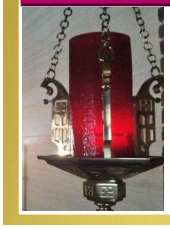
Saturday, January 15
4:00 pm † Robert DeStefanis
† Elaine & Bruce Tourigny
† Elen Smith
† Ruth Tanner
† Marie Moretti
† Jeanette McGuinness
† Richard Ohlman
† Living Intention, Riccardi Family
† Maria Pazmino

Sunday, January 16
7:30 am † Dr. James Forcellina
9:00 am † Rrok Bunjaj
10:30 am † Franco & Antonio Trani
† Stanley Buraczyk
† Domenico Cappuccia
† Patricia M. Englert
12:00pm † Anthony LaVista
5:00pm † Living Intention, Emmie Tyler

In Loving Memory

Please pray for
Megan Claire Casey
who has gone home to the Lord.
Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord,
And may perpetual light shine upon her.

The Sanctuary Candle



The Sanctuary Candle burns
in Honor of and Thanksgiving for
Brynn Tobin
offered by Mimi.
Please keep her in your prayers.

Parish Support

December 13 - December 19, 2021

Offertory:	**$ 12,259.00**
Online Giving	**$ 2,940.00**
Paypal:	**$ 240.00**
Total Regular Collection:	**$ 15,439.00**
Offertory Same Week, 2020:	**$ 14,750.00**
Offertory Same Week, 2019:	**$ 17,367.00**
Votive Candles	**$ 493.00**

December 20 - December 26, 2021

Offertory:	**$ 10,096.00**
Online Giving	**$ 3,818.50**
Paypal:	**$ 1,063.00**
Total Regular Collection:	**$ 14,977.50**
Offertory Same Week, 2020:	**$ 25,557.00**
Offertory Same Week, 2019:	**$ 14,354.00**
Votive Candles	**$ 642.00**

December 27, 2021 - January 2, 2022

Offertory:	**$ 12,006.00**
Online Giving	**$ 18,230.50***

***This increase reflects a one-time generous donation of $15,000**

Paypal:	**$ 2,590.00**
Total Regular Collection:	**$ 32,826.50**
Offertory Same Week, 2021:	**$ 25,216.00**
Offertory Same Week, 2020:	**$ 17,954.00**
Votive Candles	**$ 359.00**

Thanks so much for all you do for us and
your giving. Special acknowledgement to those who drop off
or mail in their envelopes, and those who have given online.
Now more than ever, *it does make a difference*.
For your convenience, we have two Online Giving options.
St. Matthew Online Giving scan QR code below

Or Paypal scan QR Code

PayPal

Offer a Mass for a Loved One...

The greatest and most powerful prayer we have is the Mass, since the fruits of the Mass are the very fruits of Jesus' Redemption. A Mass can be offered for a loved one who has died or a living person who has a special need, or who is ill or suffering. You can request a Mass in several ways: Call the Parish Office, email a request, or stop by the Office.
A stipend of $10 is suggested with your Mass Intention.

Welcome our Newly Baptized

Caelan Lucas De Ycaza
and his parents, Shannon & Samuel De Ycaza

Landon Walter Colburn (Msgr. Walter's great nephew)
and his parents, Karen and Collin Colburn

YOUTH CHRISTMAS PAGEANT BROUGHT JOY

Our St. Matthew Youth were tremendous at the 4pm Christmas Eve Children's Pageant! Angels, Shepherds, Donkey & a Star showed us the way to Bethlehem on Christmas Eve. Mary & Joseph led the Living Nativity, accompanied by our talented Youth Choir, while Fr. Jeff proclaimed the Gospel according to St. Luke. Our thanks to all those who made this pageant beautiful and memorable: Janet Mitchell, DRE; Catechists; Parents; Kate Mitchell, Youth Photographer; Lisa Moretti, Youth Choir Director; and Val Wyman, Music Director.

St. Matthew OUTREACH Programs

Free Remote Professional Consultations in:
Financial Counseling and Immigration Counseling
StMatthewConsultations@gmail.com.

Weekly Food Pantry serving over 80 families
Open Door Shelter Ministry serving Manna House
Bi-weekly Fitness Group
Monthly Blood Pressure Screenings
Family Formation Seminars on
Social Justice Teachings and Teen Life

Hospitality and Counseling
Support to the Bereaved
Giving Tree to local organizations
Food and Toy Bin Deliveries
in coordination with local NGO Al's Angels
(300 bins/three times per year)

Hospital & Homebound Visitation Ministry
offering daily spiritual support/companionship
and seasonal visits from youth and families
Youth Yard Cleanup for the Elderly
Toolbelt Ministry and Knights of Columbus
regular **repairs and maintenance**

For **information about the programs**, please contact our Parish Office, 203-838-3788, ext. 101.

Knights of Columbus

Make a difference in our Parish & Community by putting your FAITH INTO ACTION. Join us TODAY! Please consider joining this wonderful council. Visit: www.KofC.org/JoinUs. For info: Anthony Armentano; 203-246-6648; email: AjA71672@icloud.com.

Catholic Daughters

The Catholic Daughters meeting for Sunday, Jan. 9, is cancelled. Catholic Daughters of the Americas engage in creative and spiritual programs to positively influence the welfare of the church and all peoples throughout the world. Please contact DeeAnn Dorrico: 203-524-5157; DDorrico11@aol.com

St. Matthew Fitness Group

Strength - Balance - Toning -Endurance-Flexibility - Fun - Relaxation! A unique and flowing fusion of traditional fitness elements, including Pilates mat work, Yoga and Tai Chi. Suitable for all ages and fitness levels. Classes are held twice a week in the Great Room on Mondays at 7:30pm, and Thursdays at 6:30pm. Please check with Aggie Squeo for updates: 203-852-1036.

St. Matthew Food Pantry

Hundreds of people in our community were helped during the month of December with food assistance. It has also depleted our shelves of many items! Please check this list of items needed and bring in whatever you can. Donations may be dropped off in the vestibule or outside the Great Room doors.

Small Jars of Peanut Butter, Dried Black Beans,
Tomato Sauce, Pancake Mix and Syrup, Cereal

Questions? Contact Beverly Martin: BeverlyDMartin@aol.com

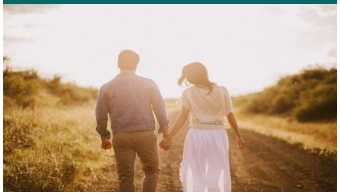
Walking with Purpose Women's Scripture Study

Walking with Purpose is a Women's Bible Study that will take you on a spiritual walk with our Lord. Walking with Purpose would like to help you enjoy a deeper, personal relationship with Jesus Christ, nurtured through personal Bible Study and small group discussions created just for women. For information, please contact Mallory Moyer: WwP.StMatthewNorwalk@gmail.com

Communion for the HOMEBOUND

Anyone who is homebound and wishes to receive Communion, please call Sr. Sally: 203-838-3788, ext. 118.

ENGAGED?



Do you know a couple choosing not to get married in the Church because they don't belong and no church will take them? We're delighted and honored to help them! Please be in touch with Lorraine: Lorraine.711@hotmail.com.

Thank you, Lorraine, Baptism Coordinator

As we celebrate the Baptism of Our Lord this weekend, we want to express our immense gratitude and thanks to Lorraine DeRosa, our wonderful Baptism Coordinator for her love, joy and welcoming presence to all of our families seeking to Baptize their children!

Lorraine views her commitment as a joyous ministry, walking with young families in an important stage of their faith life as they initiate their children into the Sacramental life of the Church. St. Matthew is truly blessed to have her!

Knights & Fr. Jeff help Toys for Tots

Last month, Father Jeff and Knights of Columbus Council #14360 members assisted the Norwalk Toys for Tots Foundation with collecting toy bins at local businesses. Thank you to the members and Fr. Jeff for their hard work and Christmas spirit! Awesome job!

Giving Tree Generosity

"Whatever you do for these least sisters and brothers of mine, you do for me." MT 25

St. Matthew Parishioners have once again shown generous and caring hearts in providing for those in need during the Christmas Season. Through the Advent Giving Tree, many hundreds of people from Blessed Sacrament Parish in Bridgeport were given a reason to smile during this joyous season. Thanks to all for making this possible!

Mailing Committee & Altar Society—Thank You!

We are grateful and blessed for the dedicated members of our Parish Mailing Committee and Altar Society, and for all of their help during this holiday season—from Thanksgiving to Christmas. Special thanks to Barbara & Mark Sibiskie and Mary Jane & Bill Johnston for their hard work with multiple mailings, and Agnes Finch and her team for replacing the missalettes and affixing the QR Codes to the back covers.

THANK YOU & HAPPY NEW YEAR *from Fr. Jeff*

Dear Parishioners,

I am writing to all of you, first, to thank you for your support and commitment to our faith community here at St. Matthew Church this Christmas, and for being patient with the continuing COVID protocols to keep everyone safe.

Also, on behalf of Fr. Sunil, Msgr. Sabia, Sr. Sally and the Parish Staff, we want to wish all of you a Happy and Blessed New Year, and hope all your resolutions and wishes come true this New Year.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Jeff Couture

Thank You to our Flower Committee!

Our Sanctuary was magnificent this Christmas, thanks to the dedication, creativity and talent of Aggie Squeo and our Flower Committee. We thank them for their hard work and the many hours that were spent to beautify our Sanctuary! And special thanks to Sandra at Bruce's Flower Shop and her talented team.

Thank you from Sr. Sally & The Food Pantry

DiScala Foundation Gift Cards

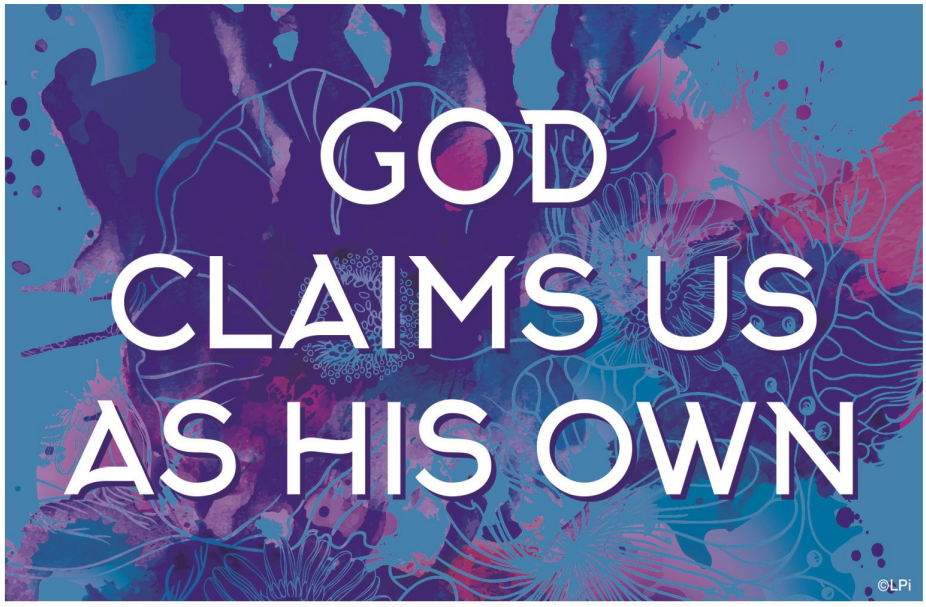
To supplement the non-perishable bags of food distributed to those in need, ShopRite Gift Cards were also given out to those who visit our Food Pantry so that families could purchase meats and vegetables for their Christmas dinner. The Gift cards were from a generous donation from the Donna & Michael DiScala Foundation, to whom we are very grateful.

Christmas Gifts Donated by Parishioners

Also, we would like to acknowledge and thank a group of our parishioners, through whom we were able to offer gifts, including beautiful clothing, to children and adults in need.

GOSPEL MEDITATION
ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

"We are called to live our baptism every day, as new creatures, clothed in Christ."
— Pope Francis



What reference point do you use when making decisions? Many times, impulse takes control and decisions are made based solely on emotion and desire. We all know that these types of decisions can often get us into trouble. When a person has a confident sense of who they are and a real understanding of what is important and of value, the likelihood of kneejerk impulsive choices diminishes. Baptism gives us what we need to make well informed and purposeful decisions. By this simple gesture, God claims us as His own and provides us with the identity and purpose we need to properly live life.

It is tremendously reassuring, when we truly embrace this revelation and realize that we no longer have to wonder about the purpose of our lives or struggle to find our way. The answer of who we are in God has been given to us. We no longer have to fumble around, trip over ourselves or walk aimlessly about. Issues surrounding the sacredness of life, the meaning of death, the protection of those most vulnerable, care for the weak and the poor, offering hospitality to those in search of a home, the purpose and proper place of work, how to create a just social order, caring for creation, and understanding our roles as heralds and stewards are just a few of the wonderful gifts baptism brings. When we make decisions based on things such as these core Gospel truths we really act as Christ himself, revealing to others the new creations that we are. This is how we live our baptism.

It is difficult to walk against the tide. Yet, that is precisely what baptism calls us to do. Although we are sinners, in need of mercy and far from perfection we are called to order our life and make decisions based upon the wisdom and guidance of Almighty God. He alone is the one who can claim us as His sons and daughters. Standing up for our principles will not make us popular. But who ever said Christianity is a popularity contest? Baptism calls us to stand up for that which goes against the grain of secularism. Standing in line with other sinners, we have our anchor to steady us in the tempests of life and God is very pleased. Forge ahead. There is nothing to fear.

"I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."
- Lk 3:16bc

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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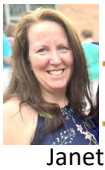

faith Formation

Janet Mitchell, Director of Religious Education
Liz Reid, Confirmation Coordinator
StMattRelEd@gmail.com; 203-838-3788, ext. 107

Confirmation Candidates

Our next scheduled class will be
Sunday, January 23rd after the 9am Mass.
Due that day:
All About My Saint Reports;
Sponsor information;
Pre-Confirmation Review
(the Review is important as many things on the Review, will also be part of your final confirmation test in April).

Sunday, January 30: A Parent/student seminar with Father Jeff

I wish each of you a very Healthy and Happy New Year.
I know that these days are crazy and uncertain.
Please know that I am here if you need anything,
and as always, I am keeping you all in my prayers.

All my best… Liz Reid, Confirmation Coordinator

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SAVE THE DATE: Fri, Jan. 28

Hosted by Knights of Columbus & Catholic Daughters

YOUTH GROUP

Olivia Buisson, Youth Coordinator
YouthCoordinator@StMatthewNorwalk.org; 203-838-3788, ext. 115

meet & greet

Our Youth Coordinator, Olivia Buisson, will be hosting a **Meet & Greet event for kids and young adults** in the Great Room/Rec Center.
Come play games, meet fellow peers and get acquainted with Olivia! Food and drinks will, of course, be provided.

3rd - 5th Grade: January 22 from 2pm-4pm
6th - 8th Grade: January 23 from 11:45-1:45pm
9th - 12th Grade: January 23 from 6pm-8pm

SIGN UP HERE TO ATTEND THE MEET & GREET
(space is limited)
https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0a49a4a82da1fe3-youth1

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Our Youth Group Meet & Greet requires a certain number of VIRTUS-certified volunteers to assist during each timeframe. If you are available at any of the times listed above, we ask you to please consider volunteering!

We will need volunteers to come an hour earlier than the event start time to be briefed on responsibilities and assigned tasks.

SIGN UP HERE TO BE A VOLUNTEER FOR THE MEET & GREET:
https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0A49A4A82DA1FE3-youth

VIRTUS INFORMATION

The Diocese of Bridgeport requires all volunteers over the age of 18 to have VIRTUS Certification.
The in-person Virtus class for 1/13 at St Matthew has been cancelled by the Diocese out of an abundance of caution. You may log into your Virtus account at www.virtusonline.org to reschedule for another in-person session in the coming weeks, or **register for ONLINE TRAINING**:

Please click on this link: www.virtusonline.org/virtus/

- Click "Registration"
- Create a username and password.
- Save these for later reference
- Select "Diocese of Bridgeport" when registering for Online Training

For assistance with Virtus registering, please contact the Office of Safe Environment, Diocese of Bridgeport, Astrid Alvarez: 203-416-1407; Aalvarez@diobpt.org.

Msgr. Walter C. Orlowski
Recreation Wellness Center

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Jay Egan, Executive Director I StMattRecCenter@gmail.com

LEVEL 1
Court/Fieldhouse

LEVEL 2
Track
Tumble Room for Toddlers
Universal Workout Room
Newman Center Lounge
Elevator, handicapped accessible

Rec Center Executive Director

Jay Egan is the Executive Director of our Recreation Center. Jay will oversee operational use and programming for the Center. He can be reached at: StMattRecCenter@gmail.com.

Children's Worship Bulletin™

Ages 3+ January 9, 2022 • Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

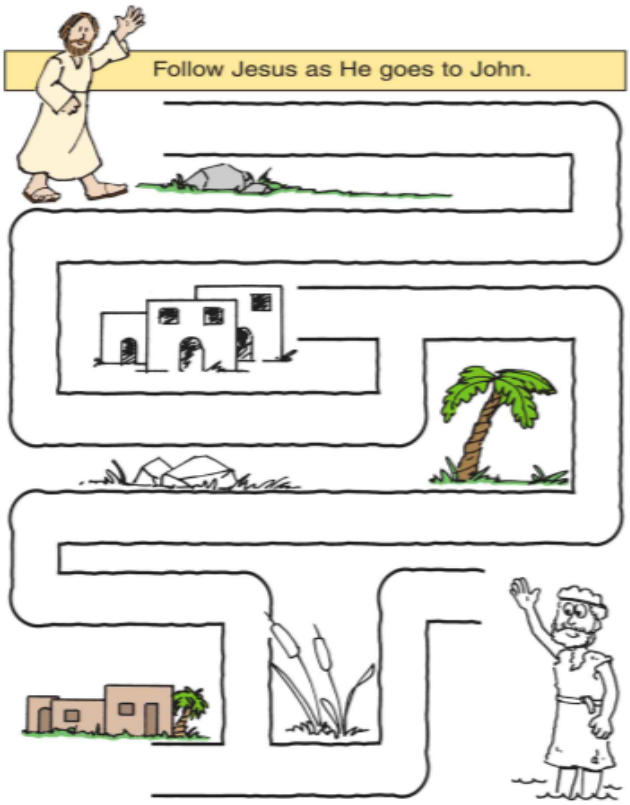
The Baptism of Jesus

The people were all waiting
and wondering if John might be the Christ.

Circle 5 differences in the 2nd picture.

Jesus was baptized by John.

Follow Jesus as He goes to John.



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