SAINT MATTHEW PARISH FAMILY

StMatthewNorwalk.org

NEWS

December 4, 2022

Second Sunday of Advent

Advent | Week Two

The Candle of PEACE

Thursday, Dec. 8th

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

8:00am Mass

12:10pm Mass

7:00pm Mass

Reflection on Joyful Mysteries to follow

Christ Came for All...

You Are Loved By Him and Welcomed Here...

Fr. Jeffrey W. Couture, Pastor | Fr. Jose Ignacio Ortigas, Parochial Vicar

Deacon Miguel Betancur Lenis

216 Scribner Avenue | Norwalk, Connecticut 06854

email: StMattParish@hotmail.com phone: (203) 838-3788 fax: (203) 838-8195

Website: StMatthewNorwalk.org | Follow St. Matthew on YouTube, FB, Instagram, Twitter

All Are Welcome

Ph: 203-838-3788; Fax: 203-838-8195
Pastor: Fr. Jeffrey W. Couture
ext. 127; FrCouture@Diobpt.org
Parochial Vicar: Fr. Jose Ignacio Ortigas
ext. 114; FrIgnacio1971@gmail.com
Deacon Miguel Betancur Lenis
Miguel.BetancurLenis@Diobpt.org
Pastoral Assistant: Sr. Sally Norcross
ext. 118; SNorcross@StMatthewNorwalk.org
Parish Office: M-Th: 9am-4pm; Friday: Closed
ext. 101; 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
Special Events/Rec Center Coordinator: Carol Cosgrove, ext. 108, StMattRecCenter@gmail.com

MASS & CONFESSION SCHEDULE

in Church unless otherwise noted

Sat: 3pm - 3:45pm; **Sun:** 4pm-4:45pm
Tues: 6:30pm - 7pm; **Thurs**: 7-8pm in CHAPEL

Masses

Saturday: 9:00am in CHAPEL
4:00pm Mass & Live Stream
Sunday: 7:30am Mass I 9:00am Mass
10:30am Mass & Live Stream
12:00pm Mass I 5:00pm Mass
Mon-Fri: 12:10 pm & Live Stream Masses
Tuesdays: 7:00pm

Adoration

First Friday: 1-7pm
Thursdays: 7-8pm in CHAPEL

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. Jeff, ext. 127; Sr. Sally, ext. 118, or ext.101.

BAPTISMS
Sundays, 1pm; Pre-Bap Workshops are held via Zoom.
Contact Lorraine DeRosa: Lorraine.711@hotmail.com.

MARRIAGE
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
Olivia Buisson, ext. 115; YouthCoordinator@StMatthewNorwalk.org

MUSIC MINISTRY
Val Wyman, ext. 109

CONSULTATIONS:
Margaret Riobo: StMatthewConsultations@gmail.com

INTERCESSORY PRAYER:
Ramona Bouffard: StMatthewPrays@gmail.com

This Week at St. Matthew

MON 05
10:00am New Horizons Exec. Board
12:10pm Mass & Live Stream
6:30pm Fitness Group

TUES 06
12:10pm Mass & Live Stream
1:00pm New Horizons Movie
6:30pm Confessions during Advent
7:00pm Mass during Advent

WED 07
10:00am Food Pantry
12:10pm Mass & Live Stream
1:00pm New Horizons Cards & Games
1:00pm Diocesan Event (not open to public)
5:00pm Little Angels Choir
6:00pm Youth Choir
6:00pm Junior Youth Group
6:30pm Fitness Group
7:00pm Adult Choir
7:30pm Knights of Columbus
8:00pm AA

THUR 08
SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
Parish Office is closed on all Holy Days.
8:00am Mass
12:10pm Mass & Live Stream
7:00pm Mass, Adoration, Joyful Mystery Talk

FRI 09
8:30am Diocesan Event (not open to public)
12:10pm Mass & Live Stream

SAT 10
3rd WEEKEND OF ADVENT
Blood Pressure Screenings after all Masses except 5pm
9:00am Mass **IN CHAPEL**
3:00pm Confessions through 3:45pm
4:00pm Mass & Live Stream
5:00pm Gr. 3-5 Youth Group
5:00pm Knights of Columbus Movie Night

SUN 11
7:30am Mass
9:00am Mass (Gr. 2-3)
10:00am Gr. 2-3 Class
10:30am Mass and Live Stream
11:30am Catholic Daughters Meeting
12:00pm Mass
1:00pm psalm Choir
1:00pm Missionary Families of Christ Christmas Party
4:00pm Confession during Advent
4:00pm All4Hymn Choir
5:00pm Mass

Our Newly Baptized

St. Matthew warmly welcomes

Archer Gavigan & Grace Fodiman

to our Parish Family. Congratulations to their parents and loved ones!

Banns of Marriage I

The Parish Family prays for

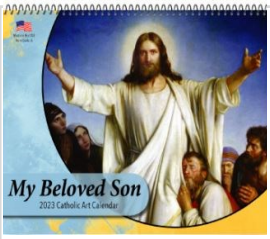
Vanessa Nicholas and **David Lugo**

as they prepare to receive the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony.

"The Family that Prays together Stays Together"

Fr. Joseph Sidera, CSC,
will speak at all Masses except 9am & 5pm

This weekend we welcome Fr. Joseph Sidera, CSC, who will speak Dec. 3-4 about how his order, the Holy Cross Fathers, came to promote the slogan, "The Family that Prays together, Stays together." The slogan was popularized by Fr. Patrick Peyton, CSC. The Rosary is at the core of the slogan. In 2001, Fr. Peyton was made a Servant of God.



2023 CALENDARS

This weekend, the 2023 Calendars are available at all Church entrances. Please feel free to pick one up! Available in English & Spanish. We thank Magner's Funeral Home for their sponsorship!

POINSETTIAS

FOR OUR HOMEBOUND

Next Weekend: December 10-11

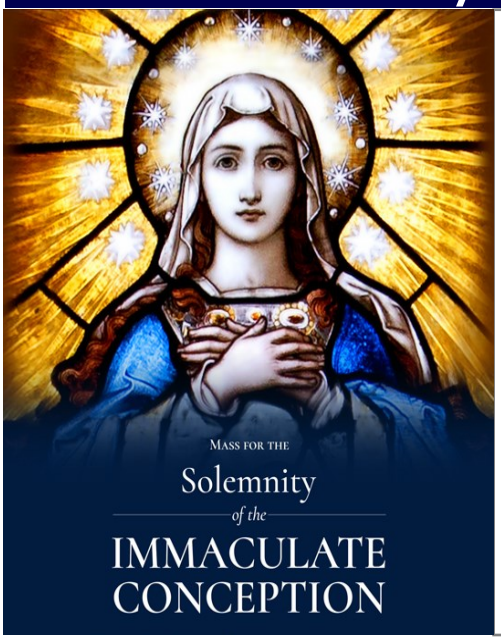
Would you like to brighten Christmas for a Parishioner? Next weekend after Mass, stop by the Parish Office Hallway to pick up a poinsettia, a name/address tag, and a bulletin to deliver to a parishioner who can no longer get to Church. It's our way of letting them know that we haven't forgotten them. So we bring them our love, and a smile. We especially encourage families with young children to help out as it warms the holiday season for our home bound members to see children!

THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE

The Second Candle on the Advent Wreath represents Peace and is often called "the Bethlehem Candle." It reminds us of Mary and Joseph's journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem before Mary gave birth to Jesus.

Dear Jesus,
you entered our world
on Christmas
as the Prince of Peace.
This Advent,
fill us with a deep and
abiding peace. Help us
share that peace with everyone
we encounter, especially those
who need it most. Amen.

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception



Thursday, December 8

Mass Schedule: 8:00am | 12:10pm | 7:00pm

A Holy Day of Obligation

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception celebrates that Mary, the Mother of Jesus, in order to be a most perfect vessel for the Savior, was herself conceived without original sin. It is a Holy Day of Obligation.

As we seek to renew ourselves
to prepare for Jesus during this Advent Season,
we have the opportunity to come to Mass to ask for Our Lady's intercession in seeking and doing the will of God in all things.

After 7pm Mass join Fr. Jeff for

A Reflection on the Joyful Mysteries

with Adoration & Rosary

"Join me for a Reflection on the Joyful Mysteries, and how we witness by these Mysteries of the Rosary, Mary's journey and calling from the Annunciation to the Finding of Jesus in the Temple. These Mysteries call to mind the moments of joy we find in the most challenging of times." ~Fr. Jeff

† Mass Intentions †

Monday, December 5
12:10 pm † Michael Walsh

Tuesday, December 6
12:10 pm † Marion Provenzano
7:00 pm † Marie Francoise Pratt

Wednesday, December 7
12:10 pm † Kristofer Arnold

Thursday, December 8
8:00 am † Michael & Anna Biscardi
12:10 pm † Anne M. Donnelly
7:00 pm † Margaret O' Brien

Friday, December 9
12:10 pm † Alfred Laroche

Saturday, December 10
9:00 am † Dr. Frank & Mrs. Vivian DiCorato and Peter Cella
4:00 pm † Beverly LaJoie & Art Hornick
† Gilberto Valle
† Jack Andranaco
† Doug Reid
† John Joseph Zabinski
† Buzz Baron
† Marion & Louis Condit
† Marilou Peters
† Living Intention, Brynn Tobin

Sunday, December 11
7:30 am † Betsy Brown
9:00 am † Vincent Philip D'Alessio
10:30 am † Mary Ellen Horne
† Maria Pazmino
† Doug Reid
† Franco & Anthony Trani
† Ospino Family
† Earl Smethurst
12:00 pm † Marge delCastillo
5:00 pm † John Coyne

In Loving Memory

Please pray for
Ralph Bosch
Dominick Lacerenza
Tom Burns
Catherine Doyle
Andy D'Alessio
who have gone home to the Lord.
Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, And may perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace, Amen.

Parish Support

November 14 -20, 2022

Offertory:	$ 10,941.00
Online Giving:	$ 4,872.50
Paypal	$ 200.00
Total Regular Collection:	**$ 16,013.50**
Offertory, same week in 2021	$ 15,644.50
Offertory, same week in 2020	$ 12,794.00
Votive Candles	$ 561.00

November 21-27, 2022

Offertory:	$ 10,642.00
Online Giving:	$ 4,373.50
Paypal	$ 615.00
Total Regular Collection:	**$ 15,630.50**
Offertory, same week in 2021	$ 15,254.50
Offertory, same week in 2020	$ 11,712.76
Votive Candles	$ 564.00

Thank you for your generosity
in supporting St. Matthew Programs and Ministries.
We can only offer what we do with your offerings.
For our 2022 Parish Enhanced Offertory Program, click here:
https://www.osvhub.com/stmatthewnorwalk/forms/comittment-card-2022

St. Matthew Parish Online Giving
EASY. SAFE. CONVENIENT

For your convenience, we have two Online Giving options.

St. Matthew Online Giving (left QR scan) or PayPal (right QR)

The Sanctuary Candle

The Sanctuary Candle
is offered in loving memory of
Paladino and Mete Families
offered by Mary Paladino.
Please remember them in your prayers.

Sanctuary Flowers | Candle Memorials

Sanctuary Candle: Would you like to honor a loved one with the Sanctuary Candle Memorial? Our beeswax Candle burns 24/7. Your loved one will be prayed for and their name will appear in the bulletin during the week of the gift. The Offering is $25. Please contact the Parish Office: 203-838-3788, ext. 101.
Sanctuary Flowers: You may memorialize the Altar flowers in memory of a loved one. Their name will appear in the bulletin during the week of the gift. The Offering is $200. You can also **Sponsor Special Events or Holy Days:** Your child or grand-child's First Communion, Confirmation, Feast Days, etc. The Offering is $250 for a special event. Please contact the Parish Office to arrange: 203-838-3788, ext. 101.

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS

Sunday, Dec. 11 Meeting

The Catholic Daughters Court 2640 will meet Sunday, December 11 after the 10:30am Mass in the Newman Center. If you are interested in becoming a member and have questions in regard to the Catholic Daughters' mission, please contact Nancy Piro: **nap21861@aol.com** or join us at this meeting.

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS

Dec. 10-11 Weekend

Next weekend the Parish Nurses will be doing blood pressure screenings after all Masses except the 5pm, in the Conference Room across from the Parish Office. Interested in Parish Nursing? Please contact Nancy Mola: **NancyMola@gmail.com**

ADVENT GIVING TREE

Please help us spread the true meaning of Christmas by purchasing a **GIFT CARD** for families who need our support. The need is greater than ever!

Please bring Gift Cards by Dec. 18th:

You can drop gift card in the Offertory Basket
Or Bring to the Great Room Doors & place
Gift Cards in Giving Tree Box
from Mon- Thurs: 9am -4pm
Or Mail Gift Cards to the Parish Office:
Attention: Steve Buckett

We are collecting cards to Walmart, Target, or Grocery Stores for the families in need at Blessed Sacrament Parish in Bridgeport.

Advent Family Project

Fill a Christmas Box with Food

As an individual or family, prepare a box at home, and fill it with the items listed below on each day of Advent.

Feel free to decorate your boxes, and mix & match your items!

On the 4th Sunday of Advent, Dec. 18, please drop off your Christmas Box at our St. Matthew Food Pantry.

Remember, the Gospel of Matthew states,
"Whatever you do for the least of my brothers and sisters, you do for me."

Dec 1-4: 3 boxes of pasta; 2 jars of pasta sauce
Dec 5-9: 3 boxes of pancake mix; 2 bottles of syrup
Dec 10-13: 3 cans of vegetables; 2 jars of applesauce
Dec 14-18: 3 small bags of dried beans; 2 cans of tuna fish; 3 boxes of cereal; 2 cans of coffee

Come get in the Spirit!

SHOP A VARIETY OF

BEAUTIFUL & UNIQUE GIFTS FOR ALL AGES

A Variety of VENDORS in the Rec Center

Food & Festive Beverages available for purchase

Raffle Prizes

Gift Wrapping

THIS WEEKEND!!!!

We're very excited to invite you to join us for a fun, festive time at our inaugural St. Matthew Christmas Sip & Shop Event, Dec. 3-4.

The Rec Center will be transformed into a bustling Holiday Market with carefully-curated Vendors showcasing Jewelry, Boutique Items, Clothes, Accessories, "Make Your Own Ornaments," Candles, Seasonal Home Décor, and more!

There will also be a Gift Wrapping Station, Vendor Raffle & 50/50 Raffle, Christmas Trees with twinkle lights, Food, Specialty Drinks and Holiday Music!!

Our hope is for you to have a fun day out, and to leave the Sip & Shop with gifts checked off your list for family & friends - and yourself!!

And the best part: Admission is FREE!

St. Matthew Church
2022 Advent & Christmas Schedule
Opportunities to Prepare Your Heart for Christ

DAILY MASS
Mon - Fri: 12:10pm
Tuesdays: 7:00pm
Saturdays: 9:00am in Chapel*

ADVENT CONFESSIONS
Saturdays: 3:00pm - 3:45pm
Sundays: 4:00pm - 4:45pm
Tuesdays: 6:30pm - 7:00pm
Thursdays: 7:00 - 8:00pm in Chapel*
Friday, Dec 23: 7:00pm - 8:00pm
Saturday, Dec 24: 10:00am - 12:00pm

ADORATION
Thursdays: 7:00pm - 8:00pm in Chapel*
except on Dec. 8, a Holy Day
First Friday, Dec 2: 1:00pm - 7:00pm
Friday, Dec 23: 7:00pm - 8:00pm

2nd WEEKEND OF ADVENT

Advent Mission with Fr. Joseph Sidera, CSC
Dec. 3-4: Fr. Joe will speak at all weekend Masses on "The Family that Prays Together Stays Together"

Hand-carved Olivewood Gifts from the Holy Land
Dec. 3-4: After all Masses, opportunity to purchase religious items recognized by the Holy Father

Filipino Mass & Advent Talk with Fr. Ignacio
Sunday, Dec. 4, 2:30pm

Christmas Sip & Shop
Saturday, Dec. 3: 12pm-7pm in the Rec Center; Sunday, Dec. 4: 10am-5pm in the Rec Center

REACHING OUT
Giving Tree: Grocery Store Gift Card Collection for Blessed Sacrament Families
Family Advent Project: Fill a box with non-perishables to welcome the Christ Child

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
A Holy Day of Obligation: Thursday, Dec. 8 Masses at 8:00am, 12:10pm, 7:00pm
Fr. Jeff's Talk on the Joyful Mysteries to follow 7pm Mass, with Adoration in the Church & Rosary

COMFORT & JOY CONCERT WITH STEVE ANGRISANO & SARAH HART
Christmas Concert: Saturday, Dec. 17 at 7:00pm

2nd ANNIVERSARY MASS FOR MSGR. WALTER C. ORLOWSKI
Wednesday, Dec. 21, the 12:10pm Mass will be offered in Memory of Msgr. Walter C. Orlowski

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS EVE): SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24
Confessions with Visiting Priests: 10:00am - 12:00pm
Christmas Eve Masses: 4:00pm Vigil with Children's Pageant & Live Stream; 6:00pm Mass; 11:00pm Mass with Adult Choir

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS DAY): SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25
Christmas Day Masses: 9:00am Mass; 10:30am Mass & Live Stream; 12noon Mass (no 5pm Mass)

SOLEMNITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
New Year's Eve, Saturday, Dec. 31: 3:00pm Confession; 4:00pm Vigil Mass & Live Stream
New Year's Day, Sunday, Jan. 1: 7:30am Mass; 9:00am Mass; 10:30am Mass & Live Stream; 12:00pm; 5:00pm

***CONFESSIONS, MASSES & ADORATION WILL TAKE PLACE IN CHURCH, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED IN CHAPEL.**

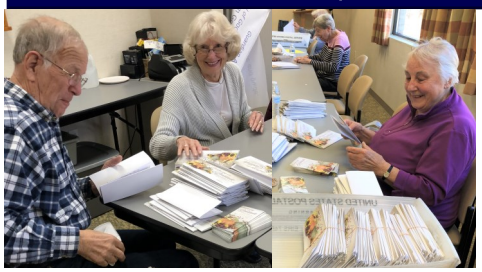
Thank You, FLOWER COMMITTEE

Our Sanctuary was beautiful this Thanksgiving, thanks to Aggie Squeo and our Flower Committee. We thank them for their dedication!

Thanksgiving Turkey Collection - largest ever

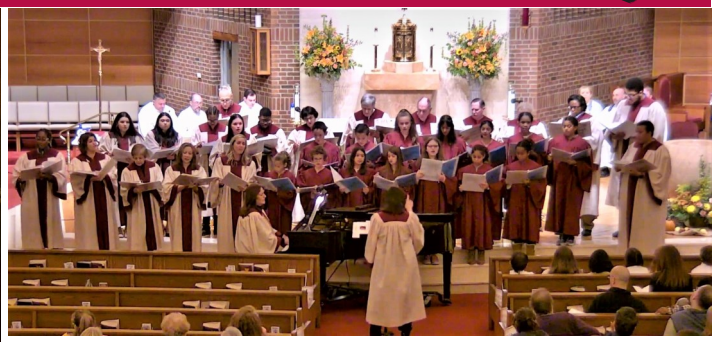
We are truly blessed by the generosity of all of our Parishioners who supported our Thanksgiving Food drive. Sr. Sally and our St. Matthew Food Pantry Volunteers, led by Beverly Martin, distributed 150 turkeys and hams, along with hundreds of bags of groceries and gift cards. A special thanks to this great team of volunteers for coordinating the week-long effort and filling our freezers with donations. Thank you to Al DiGuido's Al's Angels for donating food bins!

Thank You, Parish Mailing Team!



Our Parish Office gets busy during the holiday seasons, so we are most grateful and thankful for this dedicated group of volunteers, led by Barbara & Mark Sibiskie and Mary Jane Johnston who spend many, many hours of their time to help fold, stuff and stamp envelopes! To join the Mailing Team, contact: StMattParish@hotmail.com.

Interfaith Thanksgiving Prayer Service



WHERE MANY GATHERED AS ONE IN PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING

CHRISTMAS ALTAR FLOWERS

honoring loved ones...

If you would like to make an offering in Memory of your loved ones, their names will be listed in the the Christmas and New Year's bulletins. Put form below in an envelope, and drop in Offertory Basket or Parish Office.

Envelope #_____ Flower Offering: $ _____

Name: _____ Email or Phone: _____

In Memory of (Deceased)

_____

In Honor of (Living)

_____

Comfort & Joy Advent Concert

Saturday, December 17 at 7pm

Who's ready for some Comfort & Joy?!

Capture the spirit of Advent and Christmas by joining us for an evening concert featuring music sung by Sarah Hart and Steve Angrisano, leading figures in contemporary Catholic music!

All are welcome to this free event at St. Matthew.

A Meet & Greet will follow the concert with light refreshments served. Spread the word for all to attend a fun family night!

Comfort & Joy features a night of festive music with Sarah's and Steve's popular Advent concert. Don't miss this opportunity to see both artists live and in-person and enter into the spirit of Advent through this one-of-a-kind event!

To learn more about Steve & Sarah click on the following links:

Steve: https://www.steveangrisano.com/

Sarah: https://www.ocp.org/en-us/artists/3453/sarah-hart

Pray the Rosary | Sundays | 8pm

St. Matthew Parish Family gathers on Zoom to pray the Rosary, every Sunday at 8pm. All are welcome! You can pray via cell phone or via your computer's Zoom account.
For the Zoom link to join on the night of the Rosary, click here: stmatthewnorwalk.org/parish-rosary-on-zoom/

QUESTIONS or difficulty connecting, please contact Contact Patrick Kelley, Zoom Rosary Lead: PatWmKelley@gmail.com

NEW HORIZONS Mass & Luncheon

Thursday, December 15

Enhance Your Spiritual Life with
Mass at 12:10PM,
Luncheon to follow!

Menu
Chicken Francese
with wild rice & mixed vegetables,
Salad & Seasonal Dessert

Members: $14.00 Guests $17.00

Please remember to bring items for the St. Matthew Food Pantry.

For more information: Joan Walsh 203-845-0849

NOTE: Deadline Date, Monday, Dec. 12 at 11am

NEW HORIZONS LUNCHEON: Dec. 15, 2022

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Members $14_____ Guest $17_____
Ck Amt _____ Ck # _____ Cash_____

Please return to Parish Office by Dec. 12 at 11am.

FAITH FORMATION

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

Sunday, Dec. 4
9am—12pm: Pre K—Gr. 1 Mass & Class
3pm—6pm: Gr 6-7 Confirmation Prep, includes 5pm Mass
Sunday, Dec. 11
9am—12pm: Gr. 2-3 Mass & Class

The Second Candle

The Candle of the Second Week of Advent is the second Purple Candle. This candle represents Peace. We discover Jesus as The Prince of Peace, where He brings Peace on Earth and saves us from our own suffering and sinfulness.
Let us remember the Prayer of St. Francis, where we are called to say: *Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love. Where there is injury, pardon. Where there is doubt, faith. Where there is despair, hope. Where there is darkness, light. And where there is sadness, only joy.*

Directions: Color the leaves green. Color the candles in this order: 1. purple, 2. purple, 3. pink, and 4. purple. Number them 1-4.

Gr. 6-7 Confirmation

Confirmation and pre-Confirmation Candidates: Just a reminder we have class tonight, December 4th from 3pm-6pm at Church. Please arrive in the Great Room a few minutes early for announcements, attendance and instructions.

7th Grade Confirmation Class:

- Please remember your *All About My Saints* Reports.
- Sponsor Information

-Liz Reid, Confirmation Director

YOUTH GROUP

Olivia Buisson, Youth Group Director; Phone: 203-838-3788, ext. 115
email: YouthCoordinator@StMatthewNorwalk.org
YG Instagram: StMatt_Youth

All Youth Group Meetings take place in the Great Room unless otherwise noted.

Dec. 3: 12pm-7pm: Tabling at Christmas Vendor Shopping Event - Youth Volunteers needed! Contact Olivia for more info.
Dec. 4: 10am-5pm: Tabling at Christmas Vendor Shopping Event - Youth Volunteers needed! Contact Olivia for more info.
Dec. 4: 6-8pm, SYG
Dec. 7: 6-8pm, Jr YG
Dec. 10: 5-7pm, 3rd-5th Grade YG
Dec. 11: 6-8pm, SYG
Dec. 18: 4-7pm, Norwalk Regional Junior Youth Group at All Saints School

Children's Christmas Pageant

The annual St. Matthew Christmas Nativity Pageant will be performed again this year with children from Grades PreK-3rd. It will be held Saturday, December 24 during the 4pm Children's Mass. If your child would like to participate, please contact Janet Mitchell, DRE: StMattRelEd@gmail.com; ext. 107

Thank you, Faith Formation Students!

A HUGE THANK YOU to our Faith Formation Students, who helped affix the Thanksgiving Blessing Cards to hundreds of loaves of Blessed Bread on the day before Thanksgiving!

Fr. Jeff is grateful to anyone who would like to make a donation, small or large, before the end of the year. You have until December 31st to do so in order to receive a tax deduction for the year

Donating Appreciated Securities can give donors special tax advantages. Donating assets that have grown in value over a long period of time such as marketable securities allows a donor to receive an income tax deduction for the full market value of the stock on the date of the gift, provided they have owned the securities for more than 12 months. Most donors avoid liability for capital gains otherwise due on the sale of securities. We are not tax experts and this is not intended to provide you with tax advice. Please speak with your tax advisor as to how this would affect you.

Fr. Jeff would be glad to speak to you about this if you have any questions or would like to make a gift for a specific purpose: 203-838-3788, ext. 127.

WORSHIP & MEDITATION

GOSPEL MEDITATION

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

At sixty years of age, Maria and Paul had a beautiful life. High school sweethearts, they had four children, five grandchildren, a successful business, good friends and a fabulous beach house. They felt very blessed. Their strong faith in God saw them through some difficult challenges. Without warning, Paul died suddenly. Maria was devastated. Why did God do this? Why did God allow this to happen? An indescribable depth of sadness weighed heavily upon her heart. She felt betrayed by the God she thought was looking out for her. She was overwhelmed by despair. Have you ever experienced such incredible and deafening sadness? Where is God in all of the pain?

We often want God to fix things or intervene and change nature's course. When He doesn't act as we desire, it shakes our faith. We do not always understand or appreciate why things happen as they do. There is much that is beyond our control. John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus and Jesus is the way to God. There is something more going on in life than what we can see with human eyes. We are on a sacred path, and God is with us. God is with us in our confusion, suffering, doubts, and intense sadness. Jesus announced God's vision for humanity and taught people to see God and themselves for who they are. There is a way through and beyond all hardship and suffering. God does not abandon us.

God has a clear vision for the future, both for us individually and for our world. It is a vision of harmony and gentleness where all will live as one and the "wolf shall be a guest of the lamb." God is not indifferent. He is the God of "endurance and encouragement." In God, we see what we may be, what may come and who we can become. When Maria opened herself to God's creative presence, she learned to trust. She began to realize that she could endure more than she had imagined. She also discovered a spark of encouragement, bringing her through the sadness to where she could be. In retrospect, Maria knew that God's reassuring presence was with her.

Msgr. Walter C. Orlowski
Recreation Wellness Center

GENERAL HOURS OF OPERATION unless otherwise noted*

Track Level: Mon-Sun 5:00am-9:00pm

Court Level* for Open Gym: Mon-Sun 5:00am-9:00pm

PLEASE NOTE

***Court Level is closed to the public during these hours:**

MON/WED/FRI: 4:00pm -8:00pm

TUES/THURS: 4:00pm -9:00pm

The upper level Track and Workout Room will remain open during these hours.

Jay Egan, Executive Director;

Carol Cosgrove, Special Events Coordinator

For operational use or programming inquiries:

203-838-3788, ext. 108; StMattRecCenter@gmail.com

Parishioner Key FOBS required for entry.

· Anyone under 18 years must be accompanied by an adult.

Parishioners, apply for a FOB here:

StMatthewNorwalk.org/forms/fob-request

· *Please pick up your key fob in the Office one week after you apply.*

Protecting Seniors Nationwide
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