

SAINT
MATTHEW
PARISH FAMILY

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
NEWS
January 25, 2026



CELEBRATING
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Welcome All Saints Catholic School & St. Joseph High School Students!



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

Fr. Frank Hoffmann, Pastor | Fr. Miguel Betancur Lenis, Parochial Vicar
Msgr. John Sabia

216 Scribner Avenue | Norwalk, Connecticut 06854

website: www.StMatthewNorwalk.org

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

*Christ Came for All. Not Some, but All.
We live His Mission of Love.*

*Love of God, love of neighbor. Our doors are open to all.
May you find Him here. May you bring Him out into
the world as bearers of His love, His Mercy, and His
forgiveness, to build up the Kingdom of God.*

CLERGY & PARISH STAFF

Phone: 203-838-3788 **Fax:** 203-838-8195

Address: 216 Scribner Ave. Norwalk, CT 06854

Website: StMatthewNorwalk.org

PASTOR: Fr. Frank T. Hoffmann

ext. 127; FrHoffmann@diobpt.org

PAROCHIAL VICAR: Fr. Miguel Betancur Lenis

ext. 123; FrLenis@Diobpt.org

IN RESIDENCE: Fr. Paul Sankar: 361-563-7400

PASTORAL ASSISTANT: Sr. Sally Norcross

ext. 118; SNorcross@StMatthewNorwalk.org

PARISH OFFICE: Mon-Thurs: 9am-4pm;

Friday: 9am-1pm

ext. 101; email: StMattParish@hotmail.com

BUSINESS MANAGER: Steve Buckett

ext. 103; SBuckett@StMatthewNorwalk.org

SPECIAL EVENTS/REC CENTER: Laura Reid

ext. 108, StMattRecCenter@gmail.com

REGISTRATION FORMS: available on our website,
StMatthewNorwalk.org and at the Parish Office.

CHURCH HOURS (See p. 3 for change as of 2/1)

Every day: 7:00am-9:00pm (seven days per week)

CONFESSIONS

Saturdays: 3:00pm - 3:45pm

Tuesday before First Friday: 7:00pm - 8:00pm

MASSES

Monday-Friday: 12:10pm in CHURCH

Saturday: 9:00am in CHURCH

4:00pm Vigil in Church & Live Stream

Sunday: 7:30am; 9:00am; 10:30am;

12:00pm; 5:00pm in Church

Padre Pio Mass: Last Monday: 6:30pm in CHAPEL

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

1st Friday: 1:00pm-7:00pm in CHURCH

2nd Thursday: 12:00pm-6:00pm in CHAPEL

HOLY EUCHARIST

If someone is ill, homebound or hospitalized,
please call Sr. Sally Norcross, ext.118

ADORATION CHAPEL

For access, please email: Chapel@StMatthewNorwalk.org

ANOINTING

To receive the Sacrament of Anointing: please contact
Sr. Sally, ext. 118, or ext.101.

BAPTISMS

Sundays, 1pm; Pre-Bap Workshops are held via Zoom.

Lorraine DeRosa: StMattSacraments@gmail.com

MARRIAGE

Lorraine DeRosa: StMattSacraments@gmail.com

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Janet Mitchell, ext. 107; StMattRelEd@gmail.com

CONFIRMATION

Terri Sargent, ext. 107; email: StMattRelEd@gmail.com

MUSIC MINISTRY

Val Wyman, ext. 109

YOUTH GROUP

Fr. Miguel Betancur Lenis, ext. 123

FrLenis@Diobpt.org

CONSULTATIONS:

Margaret Riobo: StMatthewConsultations@gmail.com

INTERCESSORY PRAYER:

Ramona Bouffard: StMatthewPrays@gmail.com

THIS WEEK AT ST. MATTHEW



MON 26	7:45am Fitness Group 12:10pm Mass 5:00pm Grades 1-5 Class 6:30pm Padre Pio Mass in Chapel 6:30pm Christmas Fair Meeting
TUES 27	12:10pm Mass 6:30pm Walking with Purpose
WED 28	9:30am Food Pantry 12:10pm Mass 6:15pm Bingo 7:00pm Knights of Columbus Meeting 8:00pm AA
THUR 29	7:45am Fitness Group 12:10pm Mass 5:00pm Little Angels Choir 6:00pm Youth Choir 7:00pm Adult Choir
FRI 30	12:10pm Mass
SAT 31	9:00am Mass in the Church 12:00pm Catholic Daughters Women's Retreat 3:00pm Confessions through 3:45pm Blessing of Throats after All Weekend Masses Blood Pressure Screenings at all Masses except 12pm & 5pm 4:00pm Vigil Mass
SUN 01	7:30am Mass 9:00am Mass 10:00am PreK/K- Gr.5 Class 10:30am Mass 11:30am Psalm Choir, OCIA, Catholic Daughters 12:00pm Mass 3:30pm Grades 6 & 7 Confirmation 5:00pm Mass

Communion for the Homebound



Do you have a family member or friend who is homebound and wishes to receive Communion? Please contact Sr. Sally Norcross: 203-838-3788, ext. 118; SNorcross@StMatthewNorwalk.org

Baby Not Yet Baptized?



Do you have a new baby or child under 3 years who needs to be Baptized? Please contact Lorraine DeRosa, Baptism Coordinator, to schedule a Pre-Baptism Workshop via Zoom: StMattSacraments@gmail.com after

which Lorraine will schedule a Baptism date. Baptisms take place Sundays at 1:00pm.

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light; (Is 9:1)

Psalm:

The Lord is my light and my salvation. (Ps 27)

Second Reading:

I urge you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,
that all of you agree in what you say,
and that you be united in the same mind and in the same
purpose. (1 Cor 1:10)

Gospel:

He left Nazareth and went to live in Capernaum by the sea,
in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali,
that what had been said through Isaiah the prophet
might be fulfilled. (Mt 4:13-14)



NEW CHURCH HOURS AS OF FEB. 1

From Fr. Frank... We recently had a security assessment of our Parish buildings and grounds by a Norwalk Police Department Officer. One strong suggestion is that we should not have the Church open when no one is around, especially in the evening.

As a result, the Church will be locked at 6pm every evening during the week and shortly after the conclusion of the last Mass on Saturday and Sunday.

The Church will continue to unlock every morning at 7am. For anyone concerned about getting locked in, all doors of the Church leading outside will always be able to be opened by anyone leaving the Church regardless of whether the doors are locked or not.

Also, anyone who wishes to pray outside the hours that the Church will be open can use Our Lady of the Visitation Chapel 24/7. For access to the Chapel, please email Ramona at Chapel@StMatthewNorwalk.org or visit the Parish Office.

NEW CHURCH HOURS AS OF FEB. 1

Monday-Friday: 7am-6pm
First Friday and Fridays of Lent: 7am-8pm
Saturday: 7am-5:30pm
Sunday: 7am-6:30pm

PRAYER



24-HOUR ADORATION CHAPEL

Our Lady of the Visitation Chapel

Our Adoration Chapel is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, providing a sacred space for prayer, reflection, and rest at any time - day or night. Access to the Chapel is by keypad entry. For access, email: Chapel@StMatthewNorwalk.org and provide your name and contact info. You will be sent the code to unlock the Chapel door using the key pad.

FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION

Friday, Feb. 6: 1pm-7pm in Church

On the First Friday of each month, we offer extended Eucharistic Adoration, inviting parishioners to honor the Sacred Heart of Jesus and deepen their devotion through prayer and silence before the Blessed Sacrament.

ADORATION FOR VOCATIONS

Thursday, Feb. 12: 12pm-6pm in Chapel

Each Second Thursday, we gather in prayer before the Eucharist to pray specifically for vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and religious life, asking the Lord to raise up holy shepherds and faithful servants for His Church.

PRAYER LINE & ROSARY GROUP

A resource in times of urgent prayer need. For prayer requests or to join, contact Ramona Bouffard: StMatthewPrays@gmail.com

PARISH ROSARY VIA ZOOM

Sundays at 8pm via Zoom

All are welcome to pray the Rosary together via Zoom every Sunday at 8pm. Scan QR Code on Sundays to join. If you need assistance, contact Patrick Kelley: PatWmKelley@gmail.com



PADRE PIO PRAYER GROUP

Monday, Jan. 26: 6:30pm in Chapel

Last Monday of the month.

Mass, Prayers, Adoration, Benediction with Rosary and prayers for the Holy Father's intentions. All are welcome!

† Mass Intentions †



Monday, January 26

12:10 pm † Living Intention, Jennifer Tan

6:30 pm † Living Intention, Mary & Bob Presto

Tuesday, January 27

12:10 pm † Patrick & Ellen Thompson

Wednesday, January 28

12:10 pm † Living Intention, Rani George

Thursday, January 29

12:10 pm † Helen DeStefanis

Friday, January 30

12:10 pm † Rita Smith

Saturday, January 31

9:00 am † Living Intention, Ruchi Reyes

4:00 pm † Mary DiRollo

† Donna Rende

† Nina & Carmine Moccia

† Alice Uzwiak

† Billy Laux & Ronnie LaJoie

† Denise Dvorachek

Sunday, February 1

7:30 am † Parishioners of St. Matthew

9:00 am † Lucille Blouin

10:30 am † Charles Provenzano

† Arturo Maya Monzalve

† Anne & Lloyd LaBarre

† Egidio Tilesio

† Palmina Tilesio

† Leonardo Tilesio

12:00 pm † Dr. William F. Stephanak

5:00 pm † Walter A. Orlowski

In Loving Memory

Please pray for those who have entered into Eternal Life:

† **Bernadette Schiavone**

† **Barbara Giardini**

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

The Parish Offertory totals were unavailable at the time of this publication. Thank you for generosity in supporting all of our Parish programs and ministries.

For your convenience, we have two secure Online Giving options.
St. Matthew Online Giving (left) or PayPal (right QR)



Contribution Statements

END OF YEAR
GIVING
STATEMENTS

Thank you for your support of St. Matthew Parish Family. Contribution Statements for 2025 will be mailed out by

bulk mail the week of January 26th. To ensure the deductibility of your Parish Contributions, please be sure that you have received your final year-end statement before filing your 2025 taxes.



Report Summary

Pledged: \$1,216,948.97

Paid: \$557,001.41

Honor a Loved One

Consider offering a Sanctuary Candle in Memory/in Honor of your loved one. Your loved one will be prayed for the week and their name will appear in the bulletin during the week of the gift. Please contact the Parish Office to arrange: 203-838-3788, ext. 101. Stipend for one week is \$25.00.

The Sanctuary Candle



The Sanctuary Candle burns in Loving Memory of

Patricia Romanos

offered by her daughter

Rosemary Colangelo.

Please keep her in your prayers.

NATIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Sunday, January 25

We will officially kick off National Catholic Schools Week by welcoming Parishioners Matthew Kovatch and Meghan Debes, who will be speaking at our Masses. They will briefly share their personal experiences and how Catholic education has helped shape their faith, learning and service. Matthew is an 8th Grader at All Saints Catholic School, Norwalk, and Meghan is a Senior at St. Joseph High School, Trumbull.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BAKE SALE

Jan. 24 -25 after all Masses

Please support the Knights of Columbus at this weekend's Fundraiser Bake Sale! All of the proceeds will go to the many charities and groups that need help in our community, including St. Matthew Church, Malta House, Homes for the Brave, Family and Children's Agency, Coats for Kids and Norwalk Toys for Tots. Questions? George Ribellino: 203-856-7101 OR GK Mark Ludwig: 646-315-3787.



CABARET NIGHT

featuring
Fr. Frank, Val Wyman, Mary Bozzuti Higgins

Saturday, Feb. 14 at 6:30pm
Doors open: 5pm

Mark your calendars for an evening of entertainment and celebration at our Cabaret Night, featuring Fr. Frank, Val Wyman, and Mary Bozzuti Higgins.

Tickets: \$25 per person; \$150 for a table of 8 - perfect for friends or ministry groups! BYO food and beverages. This adults-only evening promises great music, fellowship, and fun, all while supporting St. Matthew Parish. Don't miss what's sure to be a memorable and festive night!

To purchase tickets, please contact:

Heather Ribellino: HRibellino@sbcglobal.net



BLESSING OF THROATS

Next Weekend at all Masses: Jan. 31 & Feb. 1

Tuesday, Feb. 3 at 12:10pm Mass

The Blessing of Throats, celebrated on the Feast of St. Blaise, invites us to entrust our health and well-being to God. Through the intercession of St. Blaise, patron saint of throat illnesses, the Church prays not only for healing, but also for continued protection from illness.

This blessing is not only for those who are sick, but for all who wish to place their health, speech, and daily lives in God's care. It is a reminder that God is concerned with the whole person, body and soul, and an invitation to deepen our trust in His healing presence and grace.

"Through the intercession of Saint Blaise, bishop and martyr, may God deliver you from every disease of the throat and from every other illness. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." The priest makes the sign of the cross over the recipient as the blessing is offered.

CONFESSIONS before First Friday

Tuesday, Feb, 3, 7pm-8pm in Church

Confessions will be held on Tuesday, February 3, from 7pm-8pm in the Church. As St. Faustina reminds us, "In Confession, the soul finds peace and is renewed." All are invited to take this time to experience God's mercy and the grace of a fresh beginning.

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, Feb 3, 7pm

A reminder that the Finance Council will meet on Tuesday, February 3, at 7pm. Please plan to attend.

HELP NEEDED - LINEN MINISTRY

Our Linen Ladies Ministry is in need of one or two additional volunteers. Due to ongoing health issues, we've lost two faithful members of this behind-the-scenes ministry. Volunteers help by picking up altar linens about once a month to be washed and ironed. This is a quiet but important service that supports our liturgical life. If you're able to help, please contact Karen Iaco: KarenClaco@aol.com or 203-451-1240.

New Horizons Feb. Mass & Luncheon

Thursday, February 12, 2026

Enhance Your Spiritual Life with Mass at 12:10PM.
Luncheon to immediately follow Mass.



MENU

**Eggplant Rollatini with Rigatoni
& Marinara Sauce**
**Fresh Salad, Rolls, dessert,
coffee, tea, soft drinks**

Members: \$14 | Guests \$17

Reminder: Please bring a donation to the Food Pantry.

For more information, contact Joe Tremonte: 203-846-2783.

DEADLINE DATE: Monday, Feb. 9 at 11am

Leave reservation below & payment in an envelope in the
Parish Office for Joe - *New Horizons February 2026 Luncheon*

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Members \$14 _____ Guests \$17 _____

Check Amt _____ Check No. _____ Cash _____

LET US PREPARE FOR LENT

Men's Retreat

SPONSORED BY KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
COUNCIL 14360 -
ALL MEN OF ST. MATHEW PARISH ARE
WELCOME AT NO COST

February, 7, 2026 | 9 AM - 1 PM
ST. MATTHEW CHURCH GREAT ROOM
Led by Fr. Miguel

Contact George Ribellino for more info at
203-856-7101 or gribellino@sbcglobal.net

Feb. 7 Men's Lenten Retreat with Fr. Miguel

Join us as we prepare our hearts for Lent with a Saturday of prayer, reflection, and fellowship. All men are welcome. You don't have to be a Knight to attend.

9:00am Mass followed by Coffee & light refreshments in the Great Room. Talks and prayers with Fr. Miguel. Lunch served between 12:30pm -1pm. Retreat will conclude between 1:30pm-2pm. Cost: Free to attend!

Please register by February 2, 2026
Scan QR Code to register →



We look forward to spending this meaningful day with you!

AT ST. MATTHEW CHURCH

CATHOLIC APOLOGETICS CLASSES

First & Last Thursday of the Month
7:00-8:15pm starting February 5

- ✓ ' Who is God and how do we know He exists?
 - ✓ Is the Church really infallible?
 - ✓ What does the Church teach about gender & sexuality?
- And more...



Led by Suan Sonna,
Director of Apologetics
for the Diocese of Bridgeport

All are welcome!

Can't attend in person? **Join via Zoom.** Email Suan Sonna for the link: suan.sonna@diobpt.org

First & Last Thursdays of Every Month

Beginning Feb. 5: 7pm - 8:15pm in the Great Room
Brought to us by The Forum for Catholic Discipleship

Feb. 5: Introduction to Apologetics: Good vs. Bad Apologetics

Feb. 26: Authority in Catholicism:

Scripture, Tradition, and Magisterium

Mar. 5: The Nature of God: Simple and Triune

Mar. 26: The Existence of God

Apr. 30: The Humanity and Divinity of Jesus

May 7: The Blessed Virgin:

Mother of God and Immaculately Conceived

May 28: The Blessed Virgin:

Always Virgin and Assumed into Heaven

Join us for Malta House Annual CASUAL FRIDAY

Dinner | Fundraiser

Friday, Feb. 6, 2026 @6:30 PM

St. Ann Club, Norwalk

Learn more:

www.maltahouse.org/events

OR scan this code >



GROW IN FAITH | TOGETHER FOR THE GLORY OF GOD...

MASS MINISTRY

All Youth and Adult Parishioners are invited to participate in Liturgical Ministries: Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion; Readers; Ushers; Altar Servers.
Contact JoAnn Esposito: JMStMatthew@gmail.com

CHOIRS

New to the area? Looking to get involved?
We have Choirs for ALL AGES!

[Little Angels Choir \(4-7 yrs\), Youth Choir \(Gr. 2-8\) & Adult Choir \(18 yrs+\) rehearse Thursdays, 5pm, 6pm, 7pm.](#)

[The Psalm Choir \(13-23 yrs +\) rehearses Sundays, 11:30am before and after 12pm Mass with pizza!](#)

No auditions for any choir!
Contact Val Wyman, Director: 203-451-5959.

FLOWER MINISTRY

Dedicated to decorating the Church with flowers for special Liturgical celebrations and the different seasons of the year. Contact Aggie Squeo: FitAgi50@aol.com

ADORATION SOCIETY

Adoration members sign up to spend time on the First Friday of each month with the Blessed Sacrament or on the 2nd Thursday of each month to pray for Vocations. Adorers are always needed!
Contact Ramona Bouffard: StMatthewPrays@gmail.com

SEWING MINISTRY

Members create textiles such as Baptism robes for each of our newly Baptized babies and children, and costumes for our Christmas Children's Pageants. Contact Pam Kress: ArfPam@optonline.net

ALTAR SOCIETY & LINENS

Members assist in maintaining the cleanliness of the Church and Sanctuary.
Contact Carmella Milici: JCMilici@frontier.com
Linen Ladies: Contact Karen Iaco: KarenClaco@aol.com

HOME BLESSINGS

Provides Parishioners the opportunity to have a priest visit to bless their home. Please contact Mare in the Parish Office to arrange for a blessing: StMattParish@hotmail.com

ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

[Sundays at 11:30am](#)

The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) welcomes adults who are seeking to learn more about the Catholic faith, enter the Catholic Church, or complete their Sacraments of Initiation. For more information, please contact Mary Ann Roberts: CinMare@yahoo.com

ST. JEROME BIBLE STUDY WITH FR. FRANK

Mondays: 7pm-8:30pm in the Great Room

[Feb. 2, 9, 16](#)

Come learn more about the meaning & message of the *upcoming weekend's readings*! Fr. Frank leads an in-depth look at the readings with explanation, prayer, & discussion. All are welcome. No fee.

Scan the code to learn more and register. -->

Questions? Contact Mare in the Parish Office:
StMattParish@hotmail.com



WALKING WITH PURPOSE

Bible Study for Women

GROUNDED IN HOPE - Winter Session

[Tuesdays: 6:30pm-8pm: Jan. 27; Feb. 3, 10](#)

Do you desire to deepen your Catholic faith and connect with women in our parish community? Enjoy a deeper personal relationship with Jesus through personal Bible study and small group discussions.

Scan the code to learn more and register. -->

There is no fee to register.
Questions? Contact: Noelle Vasquez & Ellen Arsenault: Wwp.StMatthewNorwalk@gmail.com



BEREAVEMENT GROUP

Fall Session has ended.

"The Lord is close to the broken hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." Though dying is part of the human experience, it doesn't mean that we are sufficiently prepared for its realization. Here at St. Matthew we offer a Bereavement Session in the Fall and in the Spring to help you deal with the grieving process. **For questions, please contact Sr. Sally Norcross:** SNorcross@StMatthewNorwalk.org or Patty DiCostanzo: SorrowNot@aol.com

PARISH NURSES

The Parish Nurses promote wellness through Blood Pressure Screenings on the first weekend of the month after all Masses except 12pm & 5pm. (Oct-May). If you are a nurse, and would like to help, contact Nancy Mola: NancyMola@gmail.com

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS

[First Weekend of month: Jan. 31-Feb. 1](#)

Would you like to take a simple step toward better heart health? Have your blood pressure checked by our parish nurses on the first weekend of each month after all Masses, except 12pm & 5pm in the Food Pantry across from the Parish Office.



faith Formation

Janet Mitchell, Director of Religious Education
 Terri Sargent, Confirmation Coordinator
 email: StMattRelEd@gmail.com; phone: 203-8383788, ext. 107

Sunday, Jan. 25

Gr 1-5: 10am-11:15am

Gr. 6-7: 3:30pm-5pm Mass

Monday, Jan. 26

Gr. 1-5: 5pm-6:15pm

2026 First Eucharist | Register NOW



First Reconciliation/First Eucharist 2026 Registration: There will be a number limit this year for each date, so register early for your first choice! Registrations are taken on a first-come basis!
PLEASE NOTE THE TIME CHANGE is now 10:00 am.

Choose EITHER May 2 OR May 9.

Online registration on [website](#) or scan QR code. —>>>>

Contact: Janet Mitchell, DRE: StMattRelEd@gmail.com



Pinocchio - First Reconciliation Lesson

Our First Communicants recently gathered for a lesson on Reconciliation by watching the beloved movie, Pinocchio. The class delved into the important lesson that Pinocchio learned about the choices he made and the consequences of those choices. This is a great way to introduce young minds to the concept of Reconciliation and encourage them to make positive choices in their own lives! Thank you to Catechist Mary Dwyer!



THINKING ABOUT NEXT YEAR? DISCOVER ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC SCHOOL

PRE-K-3 TO 8TH GRADE



THE FUTURE BEGINS HERE.

Vist Our Open House

JANUARY 25, 12-2PM

REGISTER AT
ALLSAINTSNORWALK.COM



Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

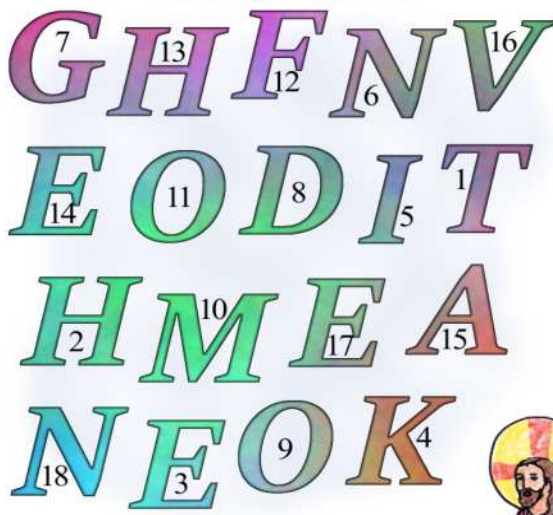
I was 22 years old, lying in bed one night while on a pilgrimage, when I suddenly sensed an idea in my mind: "Go to the seminary." There was no voice, no vision, but a gentle and unmistakable clarity. I simply prayed, "Lord, if that's from you, let me find great joy in it." Three days later, my heart was bursting with joy. I dropped everything and entered the seminary. The older I get, the stranger my rather careless and hasty departure seems to me. I followed not because it made sense, or because I was especially brave. I went because the Lord called me.

Something like this happens in today's Gospel. Jesus walks by Simon, Andrew, James, and John and says, "**Come after me**" (Matthew 4:19). And *immediately* they leave their nets and follow. There's no explanation, no hesitation ... just movement. Why? As St. John says, "**In this is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us**" (1 John 4:10). They do not leave their nets because his call made perfect, calculable sense. They left them because they were called. And Jesus' call is powerful.

Take a moment this week to remember when Christ first called you. However small or quiet it was, recall it, and give thanks. The more we marvel that Christ has called us personally, the more passionately and freely we will follow him.

— Father John Muir

St. Matt Youth Corner



What did Jesus say as He began to preach by the sea? Sort out the letters by their numbers to fill in the blanks.

Repent, for...



... is at hand.

Jesus Tells us to Repent

Today we hear about Jesus beginning His mission of preaching and healing the sick. The very first thing He tells the people is that they should repent from their sins.

Why do we need to repent of our sins? Why don't we just stop thinking about the bad things we did and start trying to be good?

Well, pretend your soul is like a garden. When you sin, it's like making a big hole in the ground. You can't grow flowers in a hole, and someone might trip on it and make the hole bigger. That's what can happen with sins too- little sins can cause bigger ones.

When you are sorry for your sins and go to confession it's like filling in the holes and planting flowers where they used to be. Keep your soul like a good garden and make sure you don't have any holes in it!



Answer to Unscramble puzzle on front: the Kingdom of Heaven

Unscramble and Fill in the Blanks:

A Prophecy about Jesus...



he people who walked in _____ have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in a land of gloom a _____ has shone.

You have brought them abundant _____ and great rejoicing as they rejoice before you as at the _____, as people make merry when dividing spoils.

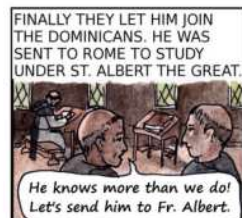
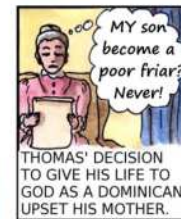
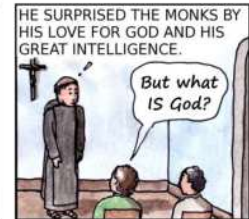
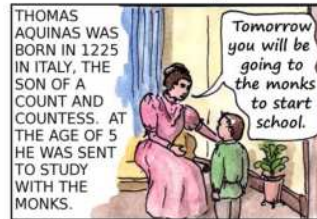
For the _____ that burdened them, the pole on their shoulder, and the rod of their taskmaster you have _____, as on the day at Midian.

Unscramble the words below to fill in the blanks in the prophecy from today's first reading.

OJY KOEY SSSNAKDRE
GLTHI EHSMSAD ASEVHRT

Saint Thomas Aquinas

January 28



SAINT THOMAS WROTE A GREAT WORK CALLED THE SUMMA THEOLOGICA, WHICH EXPLAINS MANY THINGS ABOUT GOD, MAN AND CREATION. HE NEVER FINISHED IT, THOUGH, BECAUSE HE REALIZED HE COULD NOT SHOW IN WRITING HOW AWESOME GOD REALLY IS. SAINT THOMAS DIED AT AGE 49.

GET INVOLVED - SERVING TOGETHER IN CHRIST

"Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me." Matthew 25:40

ST. MATTHEW DRIVE UP FOOD PANTRY

Wednesdays, 9:30am-11:30am

The St. Matthew Food Pantry provides non-perishable groceries each week, serving over 80 families in the Norwalk Community.

Can you bring a non-perishable item or two to help stock our shelves? Please drop off items in the vestibule of the Church or at the Parish Office. Contact Elizabeth ElizabethSzczygiel@gmail.com

ITEMS NEEDED

CEREAL
PASTA SAUCE
SMALL BAGS OF
RICE, BLACK BEANS
RAMEN NOODLES
KIDS SNACKS

OPEN DOOR SHELTER

Members prepare meals four times/year on Sunday for the Open Door Shelter in Norwalk. Meals prepped at St. Matthew in the kitchen. Contact Theresa Figueiras: TreNard@optonline.net

HEARTS & CRAFTS MINISTRY

The Hearts & Crafts Ministry crochet and knit hats and scarves in coordination with the Knights of Columbus "Coats for Kids" event in the fall. Bring your yarn, crochet hooks and knitting needles. Contact Terri Sargent & Karen DelVecchio: HeartsandCrafts@StMatthewNorwalk.org.

PROFESSIONAL CONSULTATIONS

Provides free, remote, professional consultations in the areas of finance and immigration assistance. For an appointment, contact Margaret Riobo: StMatthewConsultations@gmail.com

PARISH MAILING COMMITTEE

Members assist in folding, stuffing & sealing envelopes for Parish mailings. Contact MaryJane Johnston or Barbara Sibiskie: WJohnston7861@sbcglobal.net

WEEKLY BINGO

Every Wednesday, 6:15pm

Join us for some mid-week fun and a chance to win cash prizes every Wednesday! We pay out \$1,600 each week in cash prizes.

Doors open: 5:30pm

Games Begin: 6:15pm

Admission: \$2 adults, 18 yrs. + only

Food:

Italian Wedge from Mike's Deli,
Pizza from Leonardo's, snacks,
soft drinks available for purchase.

Proceeds benefit St. Matthew Ministry Programs and outreach.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers needed setting up, breaking down, and selling at the Bingo. If you can help, please contact Frank Billowitz: FrankJB13@gmail.com.

Cancellations: There will be a few times during the year that Bingo will not be held due to weather, holidays, etc. For notifications, email: Bingo@StMatthewNorwalk.org



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ST. MATTHEW COUNCIL

Jan. 28; Feb. 7 Men's Retreat

All men are welcome to join the St. Matthew Knights of Columbus Council #14360, one of the most active councils in the State. Members are committed to service, making their community a better place, deepening their faith, enjoying fellowship while supporting the Church and great causes. Contact: Mark Ludwig: SaintMatthewKnights@gmail.com

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS COURT ST. MATTHEW

1st Sunday: Feb. 1

Giving Tree for Malta House, Feb. 14-15

All women are invited to welcome to join the Catholic Daughters Court St. Matthew. Members support the Catholic Church, the clergy, and various educational and charitable causes. Meets in the Mary & Joseph Room. Contact Mary Buley: MTBuley42@gmail.com

NEW HORIZONS SENIORS

New Horizons is a group of Parish Members 60 yrs & older. Our goal is to provide enrichment for the spiritual and social life of our members with weekly Movies, bi-weekly Cards & Games, a monthly Mass with Luncheon, as well as Retreats and fun trips. All are welcome!

Contact Joan Walsh: JoanMWalsh@optonline.net

Cards & Games in the Mary & Joseph Room

1st & 3rd Wednesdays, 1pm (Sept - June)

Feb. 4, 25

Bring your own games & snacks.

RSVP: Claire Bartoli: Claire_Bartoli@yahoo.com

Movies in the Newman Center

Tuesdays at 1:30pm (Sept - June)

Feb. 3, 10, 17, 24

No reservations.

Questions? Joan Walsh: JoanMWalsh@optonline.net

Mass & Luncheon

Thursday, Feb. 12

Reservations required. Contact Joe Tremonte: 203-846-2783.

FITNESS GROUP

Monday & Thursday, 7:45am

Jan. 26, 29

The Fitness Group for women offers a beautiful and unique fusion of Traditional Fitness Elements, Yoga, and Tai Chi, taught by Aggie Squeo, whose expertise spans decades, including working with world-renowned fitness director Scott Cole offering Masterclass fitness programs.

Fitness Group classes are held in the mornings in the Rec Center GYM. To register or for more information, please contact Aggie Squeo: 203-852-1036.



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**Registration for Fitness Club required.
 To register, contact Aggie Squeo, 203-852-1036**

Jay Egan, Executive Director; Laura Reid, Special Events Coordinator
 Contact: 203-838-3788, ext. 108; or StMattRecCenter@gmail.com

ENTRY TO THE REC CENTER

FOBS are required for entry to the Rec Center. You must be an active, registered Parishioner of St. Matthew Church for at least six (6) months to receive a FOB.

FEE FOR FOBS: \$50

Please help us protect this facility by not giving access to anyone who does not possess a key FOB, or even if someone says their FOB is "not working." Please remember no one under the age of 18 is allowed in the Rec Center without adult supervision (21 years of age or older). Each adult FOB user can supervise up to six youth.

FACILITY HOURS

Visit our website for a full Rec Center calendar → StMatthewNorwalk.org/Recreation-Center



JAN. 18 - FEB. 13: TRACK & WORKOUT ROOM HOURS

Monday – Friday: 7:00am - 9:00pm
 Saturday - Sunday: 7:00am - 7:00pm

JAN. 18 - FEB. 13: LOWER LEVEL (Court level) OPEN to the PUBLIC:

Sunday, January 18: 7am - 8pm; All other Sundays: 7am - 3pm
 Monday, January 19: 7am - 4pm; All other Mondays: 9am - 4pm
 Tuesday: 7:00am - 3:00pm
 Wednesday: 7:00am - 4:00pm
 Thursday: 9:00am - 4:00pm
 Friday: 7:00am - 3:00pm
 Saturday: 7:00am - 9:00am; 4:00pm - 7:00pm

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 Thurs 10:00 - 4:00 (2nd & 4th wk of month)
 Sunday - Closed

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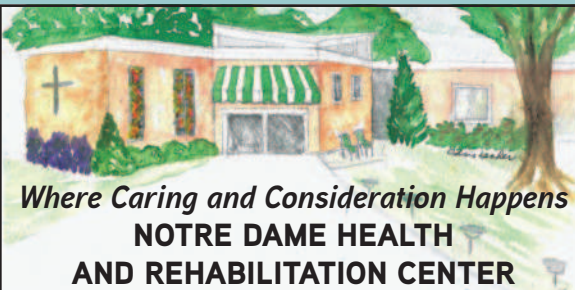
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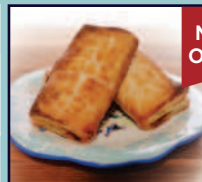


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