St. Matthew Parish
April 29, 2018

Parish Staff
Rev. J. Thomas Heron
Pastor
Rev. Gaspar Genuardi
Pastor Emeritus
Rev. Msgr. Robert Grudowski
Pastor Emeritus
Msgr. Thomas Owens
Deacon Joseph Carr
Paulette Trainer
Business Manager
Mary Kay McKenna
Coordinator of Parish Ministries

Mass Schedule
Saturday Vigil: 4:30 PM
Sunday: 7:30 AM
9:30 AM
11:30 AM
Daily Mass
8:15 AM
Holy Days
Vigil 7 PM
8:15 AM
12 Noon
Confession
Saturdays 3:30 – 4:15 PM

Sacrament of Baptism
1st, 2nd, and 3rd Sundays of the month after 11:30 Mass to register for Baptism go to www.stmatthewparish.com

Sacrament of Matrimony
You must submit a wedding form at www.stmatthewparish.com to schedule an appointment

Sacrament of the Sick
Before surgery arrange to be anointed after Mass or contact the hospital chaplain

219 Fayette St, Conshohocken, PA 19428
(610) 828-0424 X 4, Fax: (610) 825-5168
E-mail: stmatthewrectory@verizon.net
Website: www.stmatthewparish.com
St. Matthew Cemetery: (610) 828-0424 x5
St. Benedict Cemetery: (610) 828-0424 x5

Conshohocken Catholic School Early Childhood Center: (610) 828-0755
Director: Carol Kearney

New Parishioners
We welcome all new members to our parish family. For your convenience please register on the web at www.stmatthewparish.com

“We, the people of St. Matthew Parish desire to grow in faith and in union with Jesus Christ and with one another. Through worship, prayer, ecumenical outreach, education, and action, we seek to respond to the challenges of the gospel in our community. We strive to become a place of welcome and reconciliation to each person who comes to us; a people of faith, empowered by love to reach out in service to the community. We are confident that God will assist us and bless us as we strive to realize this vision.”
The Fifth Sunday of Easter
April 29, 2018

Saturday, April 28
4:30PM Marie Golas

Sunday, April 29
7:30AM Sr. Jean Streibig
9:30AM John DiDonato (1st Anniversary)
11:30AM Carmen Cancelliere

Monday, April 30
8:15AM Mary & William Maher
Tuesday, May 1
8:15AM Leokadia Wojcich Karas
Angeline Williams

Wednesday, May 2
8:15AM Laura Jean Lukens
Thursday, May 3
8:15AM William Weychert
Friday, May 4
8:15AM Molly Kilgallon
Saturday, May 5
8:15AM John M. Masciantonio
4:30PM Betty & Ed Pruskowski
Rita Champagne

Sunday, May 6
7:30AM Margaret & Charles Williams
9:30AM James J. Fritz (7th Anniversary)
Bill Freas (3rd Anniversary)
Joseph A. Botto
11:30AM Robert Gruchacz
Maureen Hartnett

PRAY FOR THE DECEASED
Teresa Sensinger, David Smerecki, John Maksimowicz

PRAY FOR THE SICK

PRAY FOR THE MILITARY

Mass Schedule Ascension
Wednesday, May 9
Vigil 7PM Thursday, May 10, 8:15 AM & 12 Noon
**CCD/PREP**

Interested in sharing your faith with our most precious treasure, our children? Volunteer to teach or assist with our Religious Education Program. We meet one hour between the 9:30 and 11:30 Masses Sunday mornings from Sept - March. Consider getting involved with a dedicated staff and a wonderful group of children. The most important qualification is a love for Jesus and a desire to share it with our young ones. Contact Mary Kay at 610-828-0424 ext. 6 or mckennamaryk@gmail.com.

Please renew your registration as soon as possible. Renewal forms available in CCD office and sent home for those already in program.

** Parents: REGISTRATION FOR FIRST GRADE AND NEW STUDENTS FOR 2018 HAS BEGUN. VISIT THE ST. MATTHEW WEBSITE CLICK ON LINK **

**LITURGY OF THE WORD FOR CHILDREN** is held every Sunday at the 9:30AM Mass. All children (ages 3 – 9) are invited from the altar to the sacristy to share in a child-like presentation of the Readings of the Day. They return after the Prayer of the Faithful. Parents and older siblings are encouraged to accompany younger siblings. 10 year old and up are encouraged to become altar servers.

**St. MATTHEW STUDENTS EXCEL:** Our parish recently received notification of the performance of our high school students. We are particularly proud of those who demonstrated academic excellence. Roman Catholic High School: First Honors: **Cole Francis Wittman**

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

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**JOB OPPORTUNITY**

Merion Mercy Academy, an independent, all girls Catholic High School sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy, has an opening for a full time teaching position in the Theology department for the 2018-2019 school year. Roman Catholics with a religious studies degree and secondary certification are asked to submit a cover letter and résumé by Monday, **May 7th**. Experienced preferred. Send to: Mary Ann Danovich, Assistant Head of School for Academic Affairs, at madanovich@merion-mercy.com.

St. Matthew Parish is offering a one day pre-Cana program on **Saturday, October 27, 2018** from 8:30am – 4 pm followed by Mass at 4:30PM. Cost $200 per couple. Couples from all parishes are welcomed. Contact Helene at hclegg100@aol.com to register for the class.

**St. Matthew’s Conshohocken Young Adult Group** aims to provide fellowship through social, spiritual and service opportunities for those in their 20s and 30s and the young at heart. To sign up for events and more please join the St Matthew Conshohocken Young Adult Facebook group. If you have any questions, please contact Tony Moral at tony.moral2@gmail.com or Erin Garrett at erin.garrett@gmail.com. **May 15th** Volunteer at Cradles to Crayons 6 PM. Please contact Tony or Erin for more information.

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**We are a Stewardship Parish**

**April 22, 2018**

**Collections**

- Offertory……………………………………$10,657.00
- E-Giving……………………………………$1,585.00
- R & D…………………………………………$300.00
- Ascension ………………………………..$10.00
- Mother’s Day Flowers……………………$668.00
- Easter ………………………………………$170.00
- Misc………………………………………..$43.25
- **Total………………………………………. $13,433.25**

Thank you for your generosity!

**Upcoming 2nd Collections:**

- Catholic Home Missions – May 5th & 6th
- Peter’s Pence – June 23rd & 24th

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The Lafferty Family & the parishioners of St. Matthew request the honor of your presence at the Mass of Thanksgiving celebrating the 40th Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood of their brother, uncle and pastor Fr. Tom Heron on Sunday, the Twentieth of May two thousand and eighteen at eleven-thirty o’clock in the morning.

Reception to follow in the Parish Hall.

Concert by Mark Bani at two o’clock in the afternoon in the Church.

40th Anniversary Dessert Table: If you would like to make a dessert for Father Heron’s 40th Anniversary on May 20th please contact the parish center stmatthewrectory@verizon.net or 610-828-0424 x 4. Desserts can be dropped off on May 19th after the 4:30 Mass in the Parish Hall. Thank you.

Pre-Jordan Instructions: The Sacrament of Baptism is administered in church on the first three Sundays of each month following the 11:30 A.M. Mass. In preparation for having a child Baptized, parents are required to attend “Pre-Jordan Instructions.” Classes are the 1st Tuesday of each month. The next class is May 1 at 7PM in Church. You will be required to attend a class if this is the Baptism of your first child. To schedule your Baptism go to www.stmatthewparish.com

Altar Servers: Are you 10 years old or older? Do you want to help in the parish? Join the St. Matthew’s Altar Servers. E-mail stmatthewrectory@verizon.net

Prayer Shawl Ministry: We most warmly invite you to be a part of this Ministry by meeting with us in the St. Vincent DePaul room Tuesday, May 8 at 7PM. If you know of someone who might like to receive a shawl, please let us know—or make one yourself for someone special to you. Contact Alice O’Connor acaoc@verizon.net

St. Matthew’s Seniors will meet every third Wednesday of the month. Our May meeting will take place on May 16th, in the Parish Community Center at 12:30pm. We will have a short business meeting, and lunch ($5). ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND! Any question or concerns, please call Kitty McNally @ 610-825-9291 or Pat Hanna @ 610-272-3610.

Electronic Giving: Parish Giving is convenient for you and there is NO COST for you to participate. To register www.parishgiving.org or www.stmatthewparish.com

Clothing Drive
St. Vincent de Paul Clothing Drive is scheduled for May 5, 2018 on Third Ave. from 9am-2pm. Start putting your items away now!
FOOD BANK CLOSING

After many years of dedication to feeding the less fortunate of the community the St. Vincent de Paul food bank will close its doors on June 1, 2018. Many thanks to Bill & Peg McAvoy, Tom Maloney, Pat O’Laughlin and Mary Bodnar for years of dedicated service.

Month of May

In honor of Mary we will say the Rosary and have Benediction every Monday evening in the month of May at 7PM with Deacon Joe Carr. Please join us!

ST. MARY’S GOLDEN AGE CLUB: Meets every Thursday at St. Mary’s Church Hall. Three-dollar fee. Play Cards 9:00 AM Snacks 10 AM Lunch 11 AM Play Bingo 12 – 2:30 PM


St. Matthew Newsletter: If you would like to receive the St. Matthew Newsletter go to www.stmatthewparish.com and scroll down to the bottom you will see Sign Up for Our Newsletter and click on SIGN UP. Fill in the information and you will receive a copy once a month via e-mail.

Mothers of Children with Disabilities Retreat: Tuesday, May 1, 2018 at Malvern Retreat House, Sr. Suzanne Mayer, IHM will direct a retreat for mothers and grandmothers who are raising children with disabilities and also those who have adult children with disabilities. Fr. Jim Olson will be the celebrant for Mass. There will be time to pray, reflect, and chat with other mothers. To register on line go to www.opdarchphilly.org. For more information please contact Malvern Retreat House at 610-644-0400 or the Office for Persons with Disabilities at 215-587-3530.

HIGH SCHOOL REUNION

On May 19, 2018 there will be an all class High School reunion for anyone who attended Archbishop Kennedy or St. Matthew’s. The event begins with an open house from 3 – 6pm at the former AKHS building and will be followed by an alumni reception from 5 – 10pm at the A field (A.A. Garthwaite Stadium) in Conshohocken. Tickets are $30 per person and are available for cash purchase at Coll’s Custom Framing, 324 Fayette St, Conshohocken, PA 19428 or via the link below if paying by credit card (plus fee).

https://allkennedystmatthewshsreunion.ticketbud.com/all-kennedy-st-matthew-s_hs-reunion

Please contact Bill Robinson (class of 93) at kennedyhs1993@gmail.com for additional information or inquiries.

SAVE THE DATE – THE HOLY NAME SOCIETY OF HOLY SAVIOUR PARISH – is sponsoring an overnight trip to see the Phillies play the Pittsburgh Pirates on July 7th. The game is at 4:00 PM at PNC Park in Pittsburgh. The cost is $150.00 which includes the game ticket, bus transportation and overnight accommodations. The bus will leave from Holy Saviour Parking Lot at 8:00 AM on July 7th. For reservations please contact Mike Angelucci, michaelangelucci@verizon.net or 610 213 1196.

The 2019 Mass Book will open in July. For your convenience, there will be Mass Intention forms in the back of church starting in June. Follow the instructions on the form and place in the collection basket or email your request to stmatthewrectory@verizon.net or 610-828-0424 X4. Financially it should open in the Fiscal Year which is July.
Sacred Scripture tells us a lot about Jesus of Nazareth - where He was born, where He grew up, who His parents were, what He taught, the miracles He performed, who His apostles were, His Passion, Death and Resurrection. These are the obvious facts we know about Him from Sacred Scripture. But another fact is clear. Jesus was a keen observer of nature. He had a poet’s sensitivity and vision that sees in nature’s everyday working, lessons for human life. Today’s Gospel is an example.

Springtime was pruning season in the vineyards and orchards in Palestine. It was the time when the strongest branches were strengthened and the weak and dead branches were fed to the fire. When Jesus looked out over the vineyards on a spring night, He saw the small fires burning the discarded branches. During the day, however, the vines were trussed and tended. They produced a great harvest of grapes and soon there would be good new wine.

Jesus used this image of pruning and strengthening to describe His relationship to us. We must be as tightly grafted to Him as branches are to the vine. If we stay connected to Him, He will be the strong vine from Whom we all draw our strength. Being connected means we always have His presence in our lives, someone who shares our lives, someone who is there for us. Is there anyone sadder than the person who is not connected to somebody? There is something about isolation that damages the human spirit. The loneliness and sense of isolation can be overwhelming. We feel disconnected.

If we stay connected to the vine, we will never be alone. It’s as though all of us share the same blood flowing through a common network of arteries and veins. Jesus is the heart whose rhythmic beat sends life-giving blood coursing through us.

Yes, He will prune, that is, He will remove whatever is old, diseased, excessive in our lives - anything that keeps us from living out our faith. Pruning is any experience that forces us to concentrate on what is most important, most valuable in our lives, namely, our relationship to Jesus. We all benefit from Jesus’ skilled pruning and as a result we bear more and richer fruit. A vineyard owner told me that the strongest point on any vine is the place where the vine and the branch are joined together. In a tree that is the weakest point, but in a grapevine it is the strongest point. I am the vine, you are the branches.... apart from me you cannot bear fruit *(John 15:6).* In other words, Jesus is saying, “I have the strength to hold you in your time of testing. I will never let you go.” Joined to Jesus we have a source of power, presence and purpose. We can live productive lives and experience the continuing Easter time of new growth and flowering, the springtime of our souls.