

ST. MATTHEW PARISH

DECEMBER 2, 2018



PARISH STAFF
REV. J. THOMAS HERON
PASTOR
REV. GASPER 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
11:30AM
DAILY MASS
8:15 AM
HOLY DAYS
VIGIL 7PM
8:15 AM
12 NOON
CONFESSION
SATURDAYS 3:30 – 4:15 PM

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."

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 A WEDDING

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

BEFORE SURGERY ARRANGE TO BE
ANOINTED AFTER MASS OR CONTACT
THE HOSPITAL CHAPLAIN



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Saturday, December 1	
8:15AM	Herbert B. Smith
4:30PM	Donald & Teresa Hine
Sunday, December 2	
7:30AM	Tommy Peacock
9:30AM	Anthony Rio (2 nd Anniv)
11:30AM	Laura P. Coonan
Monday, December 3	
8:15AM	Roseanne Bilardo
Tuesday, December 4	
8:15AM	Ashley Baker Anthony Timbario Sr.
Wednesday, December 5	
8:15AM	Mark Ambler Anthony Baranowski Sr.
Thursday, December 6	
8:15AM	Joseph Speranza Elaine Dippolito
Friday, December 7	
8:15AM	Joseph & Helen Schank
Saturday, December 8	
8:15AM	St. Matthew Parishioners
4:30PM	Martin Brady Jane Graham
Sunday, December 9	
7:30AM	Cathy Palmer
9:30AM	Richard Wolfrom
11:30AM	Edward Szaetek

**Feast of the Immaculate Conception Mass
at 8:15 AM on Saturday, December 8th.**

PRAY FOR THE DECEASED

JOHN SMITH

PRAY FOR THE SICK

David Talone, JoAnn LaSorsa, Marie Carney, Greg Atkinson, Msgr. Robert Grudowski, Anthony Bonanno, Theresa Lenczewski, Luke Birkhead, Erik Kozlowski, Marlene Salkowski, John Walski, Carl Reiff, Joseph Blaszczak, Patrick Kelly, Sean McGonagle, Mary Pierce, Brian Dunlevy, Stephanie Hathaway, Charles Streibig, Kylie Reiff, Eduardo Gloria, Molly Glick, Deb Smith, Ann Campbell, Francina Capolingua, Cathy Pierlott, Lynn Bowman, James Gauger, Rita VanBuskirk, Caroline Smerecki, Joan Pierce, Kevin Miller, Rylan Borys, Susan Minnick, Jessica Jara, Kendall Soltys, Concezio Lelii, William McGrath, Carl Pierce, Ursula Kozlowski, Benedetto McDaniels, Kevin Kelly, Joanne Kalacinski, Anna Marie Ferrier, Mary Stoffel, Jeri McClennen, John Boccella, Jim Bokoski, Hans Pawling, Margie Burghart, Debbie Miller Hannon, Robert Berk, Emma Forlini, Baby Noah Marchetti, Theresa Steinhauer, Gregory Mazzochetti, Minnie Olearsky, Veronica Lilick, Jessie Bonkowski, Marlin McCarthy, Joe Lipinski, David Foults, Joe Januzelli, Owen Reichner, Patty Tomczak, Joe Spence, Charles Gehringer, Theresa Wagner, Debbie Beto, Michael O'Callaghan, Charles Kelley, Jeannie McGrath, Renee Marinelli, Tom Moore, Monica Farrell, Charlotte Marinari, Joan Dobry McCormick, Mary Hannoun, Estelle Budzilowicz, Margaret Palmer, Joseph & Florence Camaioni, Chris Moyer, Nick Donnelly, Edward Spurgeon, Peg Waszena, Louisa Sutura, Alex Petrolati, Lorraine Price, Eleanor Matsko, Lawrence Davis

PRAY FOR THE MILITARY

Staff Sgt Daniel Furtak, Lt. Michelle R. McNally, SSKC Terence J. McNally Jr., Sgt. Robert Bonneau, Andrew Midgett, Lt. Col Evah McGinley, The 108th Wing McGuire AFB, Petty Officer George Horning Jr., 1st Lt. Stanley J. Reimer III, SR Brett Pellicciotti, Sgt. Thomas Mazzochetti, Robert Catapano U.S. Army 101st Airborne, Michael Bondra, Senior Airman Jacob Shoemaker, Senior Master Sgt. Curt W. Zeiders III, Edward Sobeck, 2nd Lt. Ryan D'Ambrosio, 2nd Lt. Eraina D'Ambrosio, Lt. Col Jeffrey Matthew, Brenden Torphy

CELEBRANTS MASS SCHEDULE

12/1 4:30 Fr. Ryan
12/2 7:30 Msgr. Owens 9:30 Msgr. Ricci 11:30 Fr. Heron
12/8 4:30 Msgr. Ricci
12/9 7:30 Fr. Heron 9:30 Fr. McKeany 11:30 Msgr. Owens
12/15 4:30 Msgr. Owens
12/16 7:30 Msgr. Ricci 9:30 Fr. Ryan 11:30 Fr. McKeany
12/22 4:30 Fr. McKeany
12/23 7:30 Msgr. Owens 9:30 Fr. Heron 11:30 Msgr. Ricci
12/29 4:30 Fr. McKeany
12/30 7:30 Msgr. Ricci 9:30 Msgr. Owens 11:30 Fr. Heron

CCD/PREP



FAMILIES OF ST MATTHEW PARISH

THE CHILDREN OF THE PARISH ARE

INVITED TO LEAD ...AN ADVENT TREE LIGHTING SERVICE, SATURDAY DECEMBER 22 at the closing of 4:30PM Mass.

ALL FAMILIES ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE.

ALL the Children of the parish, from the tiniest to the tallest will present the true meaning of Christmas....and wish for the whitest and brightest Christmas by blessing and lighting the Nativity and the Tree on Fayette Street. (All Candidates preparing for First Eucharist, First Reconciliation and Confirmation should attend the Advent Tree Lighting Service.)



Confirmation: March 30, 2019 11am (Saturday) (Grade 7 only this year)

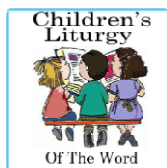


First Reconciliation (Penance) March 11, 2019 6:30pm (Monday)



First Holy Communion April 28 and May 5 at the 9:30 and 11:30 Masses

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.**



Christmas Eve, Monday, December 24
4:00 PM – Church – Fr. Heron
4:00 PM – Hall – Fr. McKeaney
7:00PM – Church – Msgr. Owens
Christmas Day, Tuesday, December 25
7:30 AM – Fr. McKeaney
9:30 AM – Msgr. Ricci
11:30 AM – Msgr. Owens

2018 Day of Sanctification For Priests

The priests of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia assemble each year for a day of prayer and reflection on the Sacred Priesthood. This year our priests will gather with Archbishop Chaput at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary on **Monday, December 3, for the 2018 Day of Sanctification for Priests.** Please pray for all priests of the Archdiocese with the following prayer from the Roman Missal:

Lord our God, who in governing your people make use of the ministry of Priests, grant to these men a persevering obedience to your will, so that by their ministry and life they may gain glory for you in Christ. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



Electronic Parish Giving is convenient for you and there is **NO COST** for you to participate. To register

visit www.parishgiving.org or www.stmatthewparish.com

We are a Stewardship Parish November 25, 2018

Offertory.....	\$8,840.00
E-Giving.....	\$1,763.00
R & D.....	\$515.00
Holy Day.....	\$30.00
Religious Retirement.....	\$113.00
Christmas Flowers.....	\$40.00
Total.....	\$11,301.00

Thank you for your generosity!

2nd Collection Dec 1 & 2 Religious Retirement Fund

To contact St. Mary Quasi Parish Father Gismondi – St.marylatinmass@gmail.com



The 2019 Calendars are available in the back of the Church. Please take one home with you. Thanks!



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 December 4 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



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, **December 11** 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. 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

Casino Trips: scheduled for the 2nd Tuesday of each month: **December 11 & January 8.** Bus leaves 9:00 AM from 11th & Fayette, 9:15 AM from 3rd & Fayette, 9:30 AM from St. Mary's. Call Joe (610-825-4596).



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. We are having a **Young Adult Christmas Card writing and Advent Social on December 18th**. To sign up for this event contact Erin Garrett at erin.garret@gmail.com or join the St. Matthew Conshohocken Young Adults Facebook group. If you have any questions, please contact Tony Moral at tony.moral2@gmail.com



Block Collection and Parish Census

The Annual Block Collection has been mailed. The Collection is an integral part of our commitment to God and our Parish which is accomplished through Stewardship. The Census allows you to tell the Parish about your family, what changes may have taken place and update the records of the Parish. Many, Many thanks to our parishioners who have generously contributed to this appeal and continue to contribute through the year to this annual appeal. The total amount to date is **\$42,061.00.**



TRASH AT ST. MATTHEW CEMETERY

Please do not dump trash at the cemeteries. Kindly take your trash with you. We appreciate your undivided attention to this matter.

December 15, 2018, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Event: "Dare to Prepare" Advent Retreat for Teen Girls

Young Women of Grace is hosting an Advent retreat for teen girls ages 12+. The day features a continental breakfast after Mass, pizza for lunch, social time, games, lots of Christmas treats and a very special Christmas craft. Author Susan Brinkmann, OCDS will give two presentations on the critical role women play in the world today through the gift of their feminine genius, and how to welcome Emmanuel by learning to practice the presence of God. A local youth minister will also address the girls on the importance of respecting themselves in their dress and in how they relate to themselves and others. Cost is just \$30 per girl. **More Information:** Visit the "Events" Page at www.womenofgrace.com for more information.

Location: St. Agnes Church in Sellersville, PA

If a Prenatal Diagnosis is poor, you are not alone. *Lily's Gift*, is a network of concerned parents and professionals who have experienced or worked closely with issues surrounding poor prenatal diagnosis. A collaboration of the Office for Persons with Disabilities, Catholic Social Services and the Office of Life and Family, this service can provide a peer support team to assist couples during this critical time. For support call 215-587-3530 or email LilysGiftLuke12.27@gmail.com. For more information about a Catholic response to PPD visit www.Lilysgift.org or www.benotafraid.net.



St. Charles Seminary Open House and Christmas Concert

ST. MARTIN OF TOURS CHAPEL

Sunday, December 9 – Open House and Christmas Concert: Please mark your calendars and plan to attend our annual Open House and Christmas Concert, featuring our seminarian choir. The Open House and seminary tours begin at 1:00 p.m. and the concert begins at 4:00 p.m. in our St. Martin of Tours chapel. Visit <https://www.scs.edu/node/2506>

Host an exchange student and learn about the world! AFS is looking for wonderful host families willing to open their homes and hearts to an outstanding teenager. As a current AFS volunteer, I know how this experience will be rewarding for the student and your whole family. AFS is a non-profit organization supported by volunteers who work towards the mission of making our world more peaceful through promoting cultural understanding through exchange. If you would like to host a student, please visit www.afsusa.org/host or email jgreenwell@afsusa.org. Thank you.

December 9, 2018, 3:00 -4:30 PM

Event: Christmas Concert at the Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter & Paul - Our annual Christmas celebration is back and better than ever. Cathedral Music Director Charlene Angelini leads an uplifting program of beautiful carols and the traditional music of Christmas, performed by the combined forces of the Cathedral Choir and the choirs of the Philadelphia Archdiocese. Resounding brass add to the spectacle as voices rise in celebration of the festive season! Free parking available. Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter & Paul, 1723 Race St. Philadelphia, PA 19103. To purchase tickets: visit cathedralphilaconcerts.org

Wigilia Advent Social - St. Mary's Hall (at the corner of Elm and Oak Streets in Conshohocken) Sunday



December 16 at 12:30 pm (following the 11 am Mass). This event is co-sponsored by St. Mary's Quasi-Parish and St. Mary Polish American Society and will feature some of the traditional foods enjoyed at a Polish Christmas Eve Wigilia. There will also be a basket raffle, blessed opłatki wafers available to take home, and pre-ordered babka and pierogi available for pick-up. Admission is \$15 and \$6 for children 18 or under. Family rate of \$45.00 for larger families (parents & children). Pre-ordered cinnamon and cheese babka are available for \$15 each and frozen potato pierogi are available for \$9 a dozen. To purchase tickets for the Wigilia Advent Social and order babkas and pierogi, please email stmaryconshy@gmail.com or call Dorothy Swedkowski at 610-630-0861.

College-Age* Retreat

January 4 – 6, 2019

Marianist Family Retreat Center
Cape May Point, NJ 08212

This retreat is designed to bring young people together of college-age (17-22). So whether you are in college or working come join us to renew your spiritual life, deepen your relationship with God and to meet new friends. Our time will be filled with prayer experiences, peer group discussions, Eucharist and lots of fun!

Cost: \$135 per person, double occ.

Register at: www.capemaymarianists.org or call 609-884-3829

Some financial aid is available

** High School Seniors are welcomed*

Reflections from my rocking chair



Dear Friends,

Be alert! Commercial Christmas would once more want to crush the Advent season. Why wait? The moguls of commerce would have you believe that waiting is a waste of time. My first glimpse of commercial Christmas was on September 20 at one of our retail stores. I'll spare them the embarrassment of being identified by name. The sad thing is they probably would not be embarrassed. Why wait? Buy your gifts early and often – especially often. Have you ever sat down at the Thanksgiving table already full? Junk food! The cook has every right to be disappointed. Do not allow commercial Christmas to dull your spiritual sensitivity. Liturgically, the church celebrates four weeks of the Advent season to quiet our senses and grow hungry spiritually for the coming of the Christ child.

“Advent is a time of waiting, longing, and begging. It is a time to pray “Come, Lord Jesus.” We look back to celebrate the first coming of Jesus at Christmas twenty centuries ago. We look forward with hope to the second coming of Jesus in glory. We seek out Jesus here and now in the Mass, when he comes to us in the Eucharist. We seek out Jesus in the people and events of our lives, when he comes to us in ordinary ways.” (Taken from the Magnificat Advent Companion)

Consider some Advent strategies.

Be sure to send Christmas cards that picture the coming of Christ or some aspect of his Nativity. A recent family photo with Seasons Greetings, or chestnuts roasting on an open fire just don't cut it. A real Christmas card is a way of evangelizing.

Somewhere in your decorations should be an honored place for the crèche – the birth scene in Bethlehem. An Advent wreath can be placed on the dinner table, one candle for each Sunday of Advent. Light it at each meal. At least on the inside of your home wait until December 17 to put out Christmas decorations. On that day the readings from Scripture at Mass turn toward contemplating the events leading up to his birth. Prior to that Advent has dwelt upon the prophets and their expectations of the Messiah to come. Having a quiet atmosphere inside the home makes the Christmas decorations, the Christmas prayer, and the Christmas meal all the more festive.

Find a way to broaden your gift-giving by sending food to a hospice facility or by wrapping toys for deserving children. Make a donation to Catholic Relief Services to assist them in their work for families in places far away in Syria, Iraq and sadly too many other parts of the world. “Peace on earth” should not become a vacant catchphrase.

While I recommend decorating inside only after December 17, I encourage outdoor lights as soon as possible in Advent. The lights soften the winter darkness and signal a hopefulness. Take time for spiritual reading and plan to attend Mass during the week wherever and whenever possible. Peace on earth might well cause us to look within – at the restlessness, at our sins. The child to be born is the very reconciliation of God – and that is a wonderful peace on earth. Be sure to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance that God's peace might reign in your heart.

May our four-week Advent season be fruitful that the coming of the Lord will inspire in us good cheer?

God bless us, everyone, Msgr. Owens