

PRE-BAPTISM A mandatory Pre-Baptism instruction class is scheduled on the second Sunday of every month at 10:30 AM in the Faculty Room of the school. Please call the parish office at 732-985-5063 to register.

BAPTISM Baptism is normally celebrated on Sunday afternoons at 1:00 PM. Please note Baptisms are not celebrated during Lent. To arrange for Baptisms please call the parish office at 732-985-5063.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION Spiritual Direction is available to all members of the parish of St. Matthew. To make an appointment with a certified Spiritual Director call Deacon Frank Yuhas at 732-985-5063.

RCIA Adults wishing to become Roman Catholic or receive First Eucharist and/or Confirmation should contact the Parish Office for information on the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults.

MARRIAGE Marriage arrangements should be made one year in advance and prior to any social plans. Contact the Parish Office for all pre-marriage information.

MINISTRY TO THE SICK or HOMEBOUND Our Priests, Deacons and Eucharistic Ministers regularly visit and bring Communion to homebound parishioners or those in local area hospitals and nursing homes. If you or a family member is admitted to one of the local hospitals, please inform them that you are from St. Matthew's Parish. Contact the Parish Office to arrange such visits.

TO CONTACT A PRIEST IN GENUINE EMERGENCIES INVOLVING THE SICK OR DYING: CALL THE RECTORY OFFICE. AFTER BUSINESS HOURS DIAL THE PARISH EMERGENCY # at: 732-725-7213.

RELIGIOUS FORMATION If you are new to the parish and wish to enroll your child in the Religious Formation Program, please call the **Office of Religious Formation at 732-985-3903. Office hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM.**

MORNING PRAYER Monday through Friday at 8:15 AM.

ST. MATTHEW PRAYER CHAIN Call Tom or Pat Krosnowski at 609-586-2320 with your request or email it to tekpak59@yahoo.com & it will be sent to a group of people who will pray immediately. All requests will be confidential and will remain on the prayer list until you ask for them to be removed.

MIRACULOUS MEDAL NOVENA Saturday Morning after 8:30 AM Mass.

PARISH ORGANIZATIONS/MINISTRIES-

Parish Pastoral Council: Gary Bouchard 732-543-2280
Council for Financial Affairs: Kevin Carroll 732-248-0579
Choirs/Music Ministry: David Jules 732-985-5063
Lectors/Ushers: 732-985-5063 Deacon Frank Yuhas
Eucharistic Ministers: 732-985-5063
Religious Formation: 732-985-3903
St. Matthew's School: Secretary 732-985-6633.
HSA: Rose Gibson - 732-985-6633.
Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA): Deacon Frank Yuhas 732-985-5063.
Spiritual Direction: Deacon Frank Yuhas 732-985-5063
Youth Ministry: Mrs. McCaffrey 732-548-1843
Rosary Altar Society: Dot DeStefano 732-985-7726
St. Vincent de Paul Society: Carol Coakley 732-985-5063
Social Ministry Group: Barry Demarest 732-985-5063
Philippine-Amer. Assoc.: Nini Mendoza 732-287-3671
Father's Club: Larry Getz 732-463-8103
Bereavement Group: 732-985-5063
Legion of Mary: Terri McCoola 732-985-2549
Knights of Columbus: Donald Becker - 732-985-2874
Mothers' Group: Peggy Oliveira - 732-777-1502
Athletics: Jon Gonzales—732-985-7286

MASS INTENTIONS Contact the Parish Office to schedule a Mass for our beloved dead.

STEWARDSHIP God invites all people to be good stewards of the gifts and talents he has entrusted to us. Become an active parishioner and share some of your time and talent with our community. All parishioners are urged to give a weekly preplanned generous contribution based on a percentage of their income. Please use the church envelope system.

MUSIC MINISTRY For information regarding our Adult Choir, Children's Choir, Middle Choir, Youth Choir or Handbell Choir, contact the Parish Office at 732-985-5063.

HOLY ORDERS If you are interested in learning more about the priesthood, diaconate or religious life, contact Father George at the Parish Office (732-985-5063).

SCRIP OFFICE Chris Baglivo Dellbeni - 732-985-7219. Hours: **September - June:** Monday - Friday: 7:30 - 9:00 AM; Mon., & Weds., - 2:30 - 3:30 PM, Tues., Thurs., & Fri. - 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM; Sunday: 1st & 3rd Sunday of the Month - 8:00 AM - 12 Noon.

Summer: (July - Aug.) - Tuesday & Friday Mornings: 8:00-9:00 AM; Sunday: 1st & 3rd Sunday of the Month - 8:00 AM - 12 Noon.

BINGO
Sunday at 6:00 PM.



SUNDAY, March 29, 2009-Fifth Sunday of Lent

- 7:30 AM Mary Jane Mennicucci r/o Marie Reybert
- 9:00 AM Virginia Bodnar r/o Olga Vitello
- 10:30 AM Angelina & Salvatore LaFiura r/o Jim & Phyllis Miller
- 12:00 PM Harold Fitzpatrick r/o The Loperena Family

MONDAY, March 30, 2009

- 7:00 AM Ethel Hickey r/o Kevin & Mary Carroll
- 8:30 AM William Crawford r/o Dorothy Crawford

TUESDAY, March 31, 2009

- 7:00 AM Peter A. Pavlis r/o Margaret Fisher
- 8:30 AM Jack Patton r/o Connie Patton & Family

WEDNESDAY, April 1, 2009

- 7:00 AM George Fitzmaurice r/o Sister
- 8:30 AM Patrick Fudge r/o Connie & Tom Patton

THURSDAY, April 2, 2009

- 7:00 AM Jack Kelly r/o Joseph Madr
- 8:30 AM Bill Reybert r/o Dot & Jen

FRIDAY, April 3, 2009

- 7:00 AM Mary Christensen r/o Family
- 8:30 AM George Macechok r/o Fran Macechok & Family

SATURDAY, April 4, 2009

- 8:30 AM Louis Mazza r/o Mary Kryzwicki
- 5:00 PM The People of the Parish

**SUNDAY, April 5, 2009
Palm Sunday of The
Lord's Passion**

- 7:30 AM Brett Griffen r/o The Clark Family
- 9:00 AM Nicholas Salardino r/o The Perrotte Family
- 10:30 AM Francisco S. Fortunato, Sr. r/o The Micabalo Family
- 12:00 PM Bill Reybert r/o Sharon Boehmer

FLOWER MEMORIALIZATION

In addition to the Easter Flower envelope you will find in your envelope packet, you will find Easter flower envelopes in the vestibule of the church. If you would like to make a donation toward Easter flowers in memory of someone, please put the name(s) in the space provided (please print clearly). On Easter Sunday we will print these names in the bulletin. We will need your donations by March 30th in order to place your memorial in the Easter bulletin.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

SATURDAY, March 28, 2009

Confessions: 11:00 AM and after 5:00 PM Mass
Vigil Mass: 5:00 PM
NO activities permitted in Parish Center, Cafeteria or School

SUNDAY, March 29, 2009

Masses: 7:30, 9:00, 10:30 AM; 12:00 Noon
Music Committee: 11:45 AM, Music Room
Tricky Tray
Evening Prayer: 4:00 PM, Church
NO Bingo
NO activities permitted in Parish Center, Cafeteria or School

MONDAY, March 30, 2009

Childrens' Choir: 4:00 PM, Music Room
Middle Choir: 4:45 PM, Music Room
Athletics: Parish Center
Taize Prayer: 7:00 PM, Church
Adult Education "More Class on the Mass": 7:00 PM, Room 2
Adult Bells: 8:00 PM, Church
Mens' Basketball: Parish Center

TUESDAY, March 31, 2009

Religious Formation: 4:15 PM, School
Religious Formation: 7:00 PM, School
Carnival Food Committee Meeting: 7:00 PM, Room 1
Athletics: Parish Center

WEDNESDAY, April 1, 2009

Scouts: 12:20 PM, Cafeteria
Religious Formation: 4:15 PM, School
Religious Formation: 7:00 PM, School
Social Ministry Meeting: 7:00 PM, Room 1
Parish Penance Service: 7:00 PM, Church
Athletics: Parish Center

THURSDAY, April 2, 2009

Legion of Mary Meeting: 10:00 AM, Counting Room
Youth Choir: 5:45 PM, Music Room
Altar Server Training: 6:00 PM, Church
Altar Server Retreat: 7:30 PM, Cafeteria
Youth Bells: 6:30 PM, Music Room
HSA Exec. Bd. Meeting: 7:00 PM, Room 1
Adult Choir: 7:30 PM, Church
Athletics: Parish Center
Mens' Basketball: Parish Center

FRIDAY, April 3, 2009

Stations of the Cross: 12:15 PM and 7:30 PM
Pasta Dinner: 6:15 PM, Cafeteria
Cheerleading: Parish Center/School/Cafeteria
Fathers' Club: 8:00 PM, Room 1

SATURDAY, April 4, 2009

Confessions: 11:00 AM and after 5:00 PM Mass
Cheerleading: Parish Center/Cafeteria/School
Vigil Mass: 5:00 PM

WEEK AT A GLANCE

SUNDAY, April 5, 2009 -

Palm Sunday of The Lord's Passion

Masses: 7:30, 9:00, 10:30 AM; 12:00 Noon

Athletics: Parish Center

Evening Prayer: 4:00 PM, Church

Bingo: 6:00 PM, Cafeteria

Youth Ministry: 7:30 PM, Parish Center

PLEASE NOTE:

There will be no bingo this Sunday, March 29th, due to our Tricky Tray.

THERE IS AN APPOINTED TIME FOR EVERYTHING...

Please pray for the safety of our men and women in the military service who are supporting our country faithfully especially: Cpl. Christian Peterson, Jerry Russel, Spc. Patrick Faulkner, Sgt. Daniel Kimenski, Spc. Tony Graziano, Spc. Jason Sellio, Spc. John Peterson, Pfc. Kevin Laneto, Spc. Richard Lantz, LTC. Patrick Donahoe, Alonzo Brown, Cpl. Kevin Klemick, Cpl. Todd Burton, Sec. Capt. Suzanne Plantec, Sgt. K.M. Yocom Delgado, Staff Sgt. Patrick D. Williams, Airman 1st Class William Ashton, Staff Sgt. Michael Schwartz, PFC Mark Towle, Daniel DeLeon, Lance Cpl. Corey Emerson, Sgt. Bryan Steinhauser, Christopher John McKaig, Spc. Jesse James Dunn, Thomas C. Woodlee, 2nd Lt. Sean Donahoe, Lt. Col. Daniel Spano, USMC, Airman 1st Class James P. Lightner

A TIME TO HEAL...

Please pray for those in our Parish Family who are sick:
Mary Bushman and William Forberger
Dear God, we place our worries in Your hands, we place our sick under Your care and humbly ask that You restore Your servants to health again. Amen

A TIME TO WEEP...

Please pray for those of our Parish Family who have died, especially:
Barbara L. Costa & Wilhelmina DiTomaso
Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen Ecclesiastes

ADULT EDUCATION

Monday, March 30, 2009—"More Class on the Mass" - 7:00-8:30 PM in Room #2 of the school. Due to the overwhelmingly positive response to the last "Class on the Mass" as promised we'll be having another evening to discuss the history of the mass, what we do at worship and what changes are in store in the not-too-distant future. Come and spend an evening learning more about how we worship.

SPRING LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Fr. George and the Parish Pastoral Council invite all leaders of Parish Organizations to attend the 2009 Spring Leadership conference, which will be held on Saturday, April 18, 2009. We will begin by celebrating the 8:30 AM Mass and the Leadership Conference will follow in the school cafeteria from 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon. The agenda for this conference will include:

- ~ Setting a Theme for the Upcoming Year.
- ~ Scheduling Meetings and Events for all Parish Organizations from September 2009 to August 2010.
- ~ Presenting Opportunities for Organizations to be Represented on the 2009-2010 Parish Pastoral Council.

Organization leaders who wish to attend should RSVP to Gary Bouchard at 732-543-2280 by April 15th. It is especially important that a member of your organization be prepared to discuss as completely as possible all the dates, times and rooms you require for your meetings and other activities.

Those groups who are not represented at this meeting can no longer be assured of their first choices for limited parish meeting space. We hope that you will all share our renewed sense of purpose as we take action to make our parish community stronger than ever.

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT FOR THE 5th SUNDAY OF LENT

The climactic event of Jesus' passion and death is drawing closer; a time when the great confrontation between Jesus and the powers of darkness takes place. Jesus invites his disciples into a great mystery with curious pronouncements:

Those who love their lives just as they are, will lose them. If a grain of wheat dies, it will bear much fruit. When Jesus is lifted up, he will draw all to himself. The Christian steward knows life can't be lived in complacency. We are called to die to self, bear more fruit, be raised up with Jesus. In today's Gospel reading Jesus brings discomfort to those who are comfortable. How would we respond to Jesus?

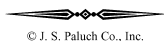
Stewardship of Time and Talent— Mar. 16-Mar. 22
 # of people 438 # of hours 746

SACRIFICIAL OFFERINGS 2009

Avg . Wkly. Offerings Needed to Cover Exp.	\$21,812.00
Weekly Offering: March 22, 2009	\$11,761.40
Electronic Contribution	\$978.88
Other Income	\$943.00
Over/(Under)	(\$8,128.72)
Expenses Paid Last Week:	
Payroll & FICA Taxes—Church	\$17,553.37
Operation & Maintenance	\$2,791.57

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

From the Pastor



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EASTER FLOWERS

The center of the Church Year, Easter is the time to “pull out all the stops” (if I could use a church music metaphor—both figurative and literal.) We are all used to smells and bells, flowers and candles. These added flourishes bring to the senses the joyous fact that The Lord is Risen!

In our church donation packets there is an envelope labeled “Easter Flower Offering” (purple and yellow—you can’t miss it). Many parishioners realize that most of our flowers are donated—and we are grateful to a generous benefactor! Please know that your offering will be used to defray all the added costs of the Holy Week Liturgies: candles (for the altar and the congregation at the vigil), incense, bread and wine, palms for Palm Sunday and especially the ensemble musicians.

Thank you for your willingness to keep our worship experience among the best in the diocese! ~ Fr. George

LENTEN/EASTER SCHEDULE 2009

Stations of the Cross

Fridays during Lent at 12:15 PM and 7:30 PM
April 3 – Living Stations of the Cross at 7:30 PM

Evening Prayer (Solemn Vespers)

Sunday Evenings at 4:00 PM

Taize Prayer

Monday Evenings at 7:00 PM
(No Taize Prayer during Holy Week, April 6)

Parish Penance Service

Wednesday, April 1 at 7:00 PM

Holy Thursday, April 9

Morning Prayer at 8:30 AM
Mass of the Lord’s Supper at 7:30 PM

Good Friday, April 10

Morning Prayer at 8:30 AM
Celebration of the Lord’s Passion at 3:00 PM
Stations of the Cross at 7:30 PM

Holy Saturday, April 11

Morning Prayer at 8:30 AM
Blessing of Food at 11:00 AM
(note the change from last year)

Easter Vigil at 7:30 PM

Easter Sunday, April 12

Masses: 7:30, 9:00 and 10:30 AM; 12:00 PM
(overflow may be in the Parish Center)

ADULT CONFIRMATION

Adult Confirmation classes are open to all Catholics who have received the sacraments of Baptism & First Holy Communion but have not been Confirmed. Classes will begin on Monday, April 20th in the Faculty Room of the school and will continue for the next 5 weeks. Each class will last approximately 1 hour. The final class will take place on May 18th. All candidates will be confirmed at the 12 Noon Mass on Pentecost Sunday, May 31st. To qualify all candidates must attend all 5 classes and furnish a copy of their baptismal certificate. For additional information call Deacon Frank Yuhas at 732-985-5063.

ALTAR SERVER TRAINING

All altar servers should attend a mini-retreat and training session this Thursday, April 2nd, from 6:00-9:15 PM. There will be prayer followed by a practice session. Some new procedures will be introduced and Holy Week services will be reviewed. We will end with a movie and pizza. If you can’t make it, please call the church office.

There were also 4th Graders (and others) who expressed interest in becoming servers this past fall. These young people (any others) who would still like to join the ranks should attend this retreat. All parishioners in 4th-12th grades are eligible. Thank you to all the servers who continue in this most important ministry. Your dedication is appreciated!

LENTEN SPAGHETTI DINNER

Social Ministry will host a Lenten Spaghetti Dinner on Friday, April 3rd, 2009 in the cafeteria beginning at 6:15 pm. Tickets can be purchased at the door—Adults \$6.00; children under 12 \$3.00.

OPERATION SOUP KITCHEN

Lent is a penitential season. It is a time for prayer, fasting and alms giving. There will be a soup pot placed in the lobby of the church every weekend before and after all masses. In the spirit of sacrifice we ask that you purchase one less order of cookies, candy & chips and place the cash equivalent in the soup pot. Your donations will be used to feed the homeless housed at the Ozanam Family Shelter. We also ask that you take a moment to pray that these residents may find permanent housing soon. Participating in the project will help you to fulfill your Lenten commitment of prayers, fasting and alms giving.

ALTAR ROSARY SOCIETY NEWS

The Altar Rosary Society Communion Service will be at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, April 7, 2009. Deacon Frank will be our speaker. Let’s not wait any longer to peek into that long awaited “Mystery Bag.”

**TUITION ASSISTANCE APPLICATIONS
FOR 2009-2010 NOW AVAILABLE**

Applications for financial aid through the Diocese of Metuchen Tuition Assistance Program for the 2009-2010 school year are now available at all diocesan elementary and secondary schools. Completed applications must be received by Private School Aid Service by no later than **Tuesday, March 31, 2009**. To obtain an application form, please contact the Principal or main office of the school where the student is registering. A printable version of the form, both English and Spanish, is also available on the diocesan website at www.diometuchn.org/schools/tuition-assistance.

2009 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS)

At Saint Matthew's we are planning an exciting Vacation Bible School for our children.

"Discovery Canyon" explores the Wonders of the World. Day 1-REJOICE, Day 2- PRAY, Day 3- ASK, Day 4-TELL, Day 5-SEEK . VBS will be held the week of July 6, 2009 from 9:15 AM to 12:15Fees: 1 child- \$50.00, 2 children-\$85.00, 3 or more children- \$120.00. Registration forms are available in the rack in the vestibule of the Church or at the Religious Formation Office. Please return completed registration form to the Religious Formation Office with payment. Checks are made payable to Saint Matthew Church. Deadline for registration is June 12, 2009. For additional information contact the Religious Formation Office at 732-985-3903.

FATHERS CLUB NEWS Reservations for the following trips can be made by phoning 732-947-7495 between 6:00-8:00 PM. **April 15th**—Sight & Sound—Behold the Lamb—1:00 PM Show, Family Style Dinner at 4:15 PM. Adults—\$110, Teenagers—\$80 and Children—\$70 (bus leaves at 9:00 AM). **June 25th**—Billy Elliot—The Musical; **July 9th**—West Side Story or Shrek—The Musical (details to follow).

GROCERIES ON US!

Enter our **SCRIP Raffle** for FREE GROCERIES. One Entry every time you make a SCRIP purchase in March. The winner will receive a \$25 SCRIP card to the grocery store of your choice (limit 1 entry per day!). First time purchasing SCRIP? Receive two entries with your first purchase! There's nothing to lose, only FREE groceries if you win! Support our SCRIP program and help St. Matthew School!

CHEERLEADING COMPETITION

On April 4th, St. Matthew cheerleaders will be hosting one of the Catholic Cheerleading Association competitions in the Parish Center. This is a fundraiser for the parish Athletics Department as well as a fun event to attend. We hope you can join us to support the St. Matthew Cheerleading Teams!! Doors open at 9:00 AM. Admission to the competition is \$5.00 for adults, \$3.00 for children/students and under 5, free.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Our Youth Ministry participated in Diocesan Youth Day this past Saturday. It was a wonderful day shared with other youth throughout the Diocese. It was a day of worship, workshops, skits, mass with the Bishop and entertainment by Mike Patin. If you would like info on Youth Ministry, please call James McCaffrey at 732-841-9042 or Jeanine Kohlbecker at 732-991-5385 or visit our website at stmattysm.110mb.com.

LENTEN REFLECTION All Rutgers catholic faculty, administrators & staff are invited to a Lenten Prayer Service at St. Peter's Church, Friday, April 3rd at 12:00 Noon. Lunch & fellowship will follow. RSVP: 732-932-8465 or e-mail coldon@rci.rutgers.edu by March 30th.

**CHRISM MASS, APRIL 6, 2009—7:30 PM
ST. FRANCIS CATHEDRAL, METUCHEN**

On Monday, April 6, 2009, Bishop Paul G. Bootkoski will celebrate the Chrism Mass with the priests of the diocese. At this Mass, the Bishop will bless the Holy Oils which each parish receives for the rites of anointing. Saint Ambrose (340-397) began this custom—which we now call the Chrism Mass—in his Cathedral in Milan. These Holy Oils, which are used to sanctify the Faithful, have been channels of holiness for centuries! The **Oil of Catechumens** is used to anoint the chest of infants and hands of adults before their Baptism; the **Oil of the Sick** is used on the forehead and hands of the infirm in the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick; and **Sacred Chrism** is used to anoint the head of newly baptized, the foreheads of confirmandi, the hands of a priest at this ordination, the head of a bishop at this ordination, and the altar and walls of new churches. These Oils are kept in an **ambry**; the Latin word *armarium* means cupboard or chest. At the Mass, all priests make a **Renewal of Commitment to Priestly Service**, committing themselves to their Bishop and to their ministry to God and His People; the Bishop and all Priests then ask the people for a pledge of their prayerful support. All are strongly encouraged to join in the ancient, grace-filled Chrism Mass at the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi in Metuchen at 7:30 PM.

SAVE THE DATE!

The Diocesan Annual Firefighters Mass will be held on Sun., Apr. 26, at the 12 Noon Mass at St. Francis of Assisi Cathedral, Metuchen. This mass will honor all active, retired and deceased firefighters within the Diocese. All firefighters and their families are invited. A reception will follow the Mass. We will recognize all fire departments that will be celebrating significant anniversaries this year. Please let us know if your department is among them. For information, visit www.diometuchen.org or call 732-562-2461.