

# CHURCH OF SAINT MATTHEW

78 RIDGEWAY STREET EAST STROUDSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

Parish Office:  
570-421-2342  
Fax: 570-421-8414

Website:  
[www.stmatthewspa.org](http://www.stmatthewspa.org)

E-mail:  
[rectory@ptd.net](mailto:rectory@ptd.net)

Religious Education  
[ccd1@ptd.net](mailto:ccd1@ptd.net)



## CLERGY:

Fr. Donald J. Williams, Pastor  
Email: [frdon@ptd.net](mailto:frdon@ptd.net)  
Fr. Ryan P. Glenn, Assistant Pastor  
Email: [frryan@ptd.net](mailto:frryan@ptd.net)  
Fr. Jaime Perez R., Assistant Pastor  
Deacon Kevin Scheirer  
Email: [deaconscheirer@gmail.com](mailto:deaconscheirer@gmail.com)  
Msgr. John A Bergamo,  
Pastor Emeritus

The Next Holy Day of Obligation:  
**Tuesday, December 8, 2020**  
The Immaculate Conception of the  
Blessed Virgin Mary

**Mission Statement:** The Parish Family of St. Matthew, East Stroudsburg, in the Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania and the Diocese of Scranton, endeavors to provide a welcoming environment to all. Guided by the Holy Spirit, through prayer and worship, and the sharing of our resources, we humbly strive to witness the Good News and to spread the Kingdom of God.

## Mass Schedule:

Monday through Friday.....12:00 pm  
Friday.....6:30 pm (*Spanish*)  
Saturday..... 8:00 am & 4:00 pm  
Sunday..... 8:00 am,  
9:15 am (*Spanish*), 10:45 am, 12:15 pm,  
2:00 pm (*Spanish*), 6:00 pm

## Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:

Suspended until further notice; however, the Church is open daily for private prayer from 6 am until 6 pm.

## Sacrament of Penance (Confession):

Confessions in Spanish on Fridays at 5:30 pm until 6:20 pm. In English, Saturday after the 8:00 am Mass until 9:00 am and Saturday afternoon from 3:00 pm until 3:45 pm or by appointment.

## Parish Office:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 8:30 am-1:00 pm  
(Closed Holidays)  
Phone: 570-421-2342

## Sacrament of Marriage:

Couples contemplating marriage should contact us at least 6 months before the date on which they wish to marry. This should be done before any other arrangements are made.

## Homebound/Hospitalized:

In need of Communion, Confession, or the Anointing of the Sick, please call the Parish Office.

## In the Case of an Emergency:

Please call the Parish Office. If closed, listen to and follow the prompts to be connected to a priest. Emergencies are situations such as an anointing when in danger of death.

## Vocations :

Please contact Fr. Don Williams or Fr. Ryan Glenn if you are discerning a vocation to priesthood, religious life, or marriage. Fr. Ryan is Assistant Vocation Director for the Diocese of Scranton.

## What Age to Register as an Adult:

When one finishes formal education (High School or University), young adults need to register with the parish as adults.

**Welcome to St. Matthew's Parish:** Please see the next page for information about registering, baptizing your child, or obtaining a signed eligibility form to be a Godparent for Baptism or a Confirmation Sponsor.

### **How do I join St. Matthew's Parish and be considered an active parishioner?**

Registering to be a parishioner at St. Matthew's Parish could not be easier. Simply visit or call the office to complete a parish registration form. Parishioners are considered to be active in our data base if they attend Mass regularly and support the parish to the best of their ability through the envelope or electronic giving system (the only way, albeit not the best, that we know people who register are active and still part of the community).

All are welcome to worship at St. Matthew's Parish. However, to fully participate in the life of the community one needs to be an active parishioner. Full participation would include scheduling a baptism, obtaining a Godparent or Confirmation sponsor eligibility letter, starting marriage preparation, and other similar services. Active parishioners, simply call the Parish Office for information.

### **We invite you to regularly worship with us on Sunday and make St. Matthew's Parish your home.**

It can be intimidating to return to regular Sunday Mass if you have been away for a while. Our priests gladly welcome you home without any judgment. We would also be willing to meet with you to discuss anything that is holding you back from regularly joining with our community for Sunday Eucharist.

### **Baptism Information Sessions**

Parents who are new to St. Matthew's Parish or who are not active parishioners (see above) and would like to have their child baptized are invited to attend an informational session. This session can be attended before the child is born so that you are ready for Baptism when the birth occurs.

During the Baptismal information session a priest communicates the importance of Sunday worship, explains the requirements the church has for selecting Godparents, and guides parents through the steps necessary to schedule a baptism. Worship with us at a 12:15 pm Sunday Mass and afterwards join us for our baptismal information session in the St. Matthew's Center (when facing the altar exit through the door on the left by the confessional). We offer a session every two weeks for your convenience:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Place</u>
August 16, 2020	After 12:15 pm Mass	St. Matthew's Center

### **Eligibility Forms to be a Godparent or Confirmation Sponsor**

New or inactive parishioners, please join us for Mass any Saturday evening at 4:00 pm. After Mass the priests have scheduled time to be available to discuss eligibility requirements to be a Godparent or Sponsor (available on our web site or by calling the office). Simply introduce yourself after Mass and tell the priest that you would like to understand the requirements to be a Godparent or Confirmation Sponsor.

We will require a period of time that the prospective Godparent or Confirmation Sponsor regularly attends Mass at St. Matthew's Parish and expresses a desire to regularly attend Sunday Mass going forward before eligibility forms will be signed. Please meet with us several months before the Baptism or Confirmation to discuss eligibility requirements. All are welcome!



**ATTENTION...BRIDGE CLOSURE**

The bridge on Ridgeway Street between Crystal St. & Braeside Ave. will be closed from August 24th until the end of the year. Work is being done on the bridge and there will be a posted detour for all traffic, pedestrians, & bicycles.



**MEMORIALS**



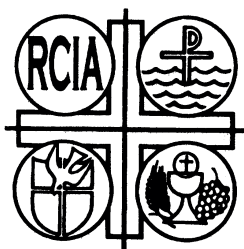
*If you would like to memorialize a bouquet of flowers or a candle for a loved one or for a special intention, please contact the Parish Office at 570-421-2342 ext. 100.*

**Available Dates: 2020**

October 17-18	1 Bouquet
October 31-November 1	1 Bouquet
November 14-15	1 Bouquet
November 28-29	1 Bouquet
December 5-6	1 Bouquet

**RCIA**

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults



With the gift of Jesus' Precious Blood on the Cross and in the Eucharist, let us reflect on the freedom given to us through our Baptism into him — to be heirs of the promise and liberated from sin. The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is the way by which persons become "citizens of the Kingdom" through Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. Inquiry sessions are ongoing.

For more information, please contact Deacon Kevin at [deaconscheirer@gmail.com](mailto:deaconscheirer@gmail.com) or call the Parish Office at 570-421-2342 Ext. 100.

**YOUTH IN ACTION**

**FAITH FORMATION Religious Education**



*For Information on 1st Communion, Confirmation... & CCD*  
 Friend us on Facebook & get all upcoming dates and CCD information for the 2020-2021 year  
 Search **S-A-I-N-T Matthew's CCD Program**, spell out the word saint.  
 CCD E-mail: [ccd1@ptd.net](mailto:ccd1@ptd.net)

**USE OF PARISH HALL, ST. MATTHEW'S CENTER, AND/OR THE CHURCH**

We don't know what the future holds as to the scheduling of activities, but if we are allowed to open up and just to be on the safe side, please drop off or email your schedule and room request to the Parish Office: [rectory@ptd.net](mailto:rectory@ptd.net).

I will need **in writing**: a **list of dates, times, room preference, your group or organization name, your name, & contact telephone #**. Please respond as early as possible. We will do our best to accommodate you, however, 1st come/1st served, plus certain activities may have priority.

If you have any questions, please contact Ann Marie at the Parish Office: 570-421-2342 ext. 100. or email: [rectory@ptd.net](mailto:rectory@ptd.net). Thank You!

**THE HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR AUGUST 2020**

**Universal: The Maritime World**

We pray for all those who work and live from the sea, among them sailors, fishermen and their families.



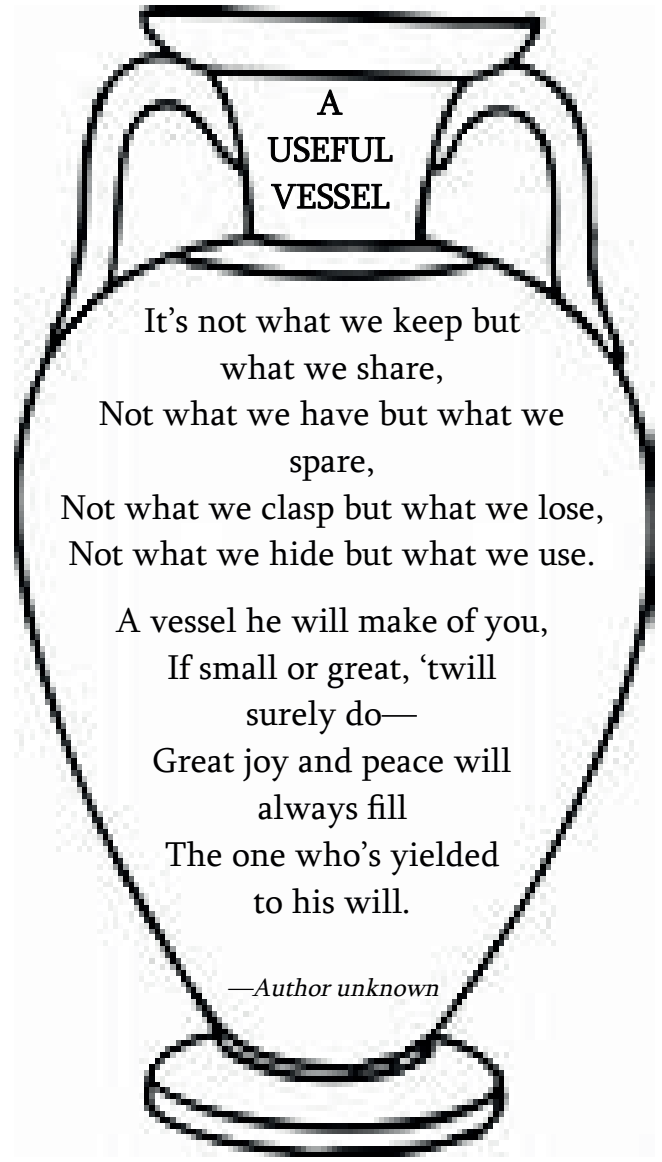
**OPEN ENROLLMENT AT  
NOTRE DAME ELEMENTARY**

Notre Dame Elementary School in East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania is currently accepting registrations for students in our Montessori pre-school program, kindergarten, and grades first through sixth. Students entering the Montessori program must be 3 years old by September 1, 2020. Students entering kindergarten must be 5 years old by September 1, 2020. We are also accepting applications for students entering 1<sup>st</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

Notre Dame offers an education for students beginning at the age of 3 years old. Our pre-school program begins at 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. five days a week. Students entering kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade will begin at 8:00 a.m. – 2:15 p.m. Extended care is available for grades pre-k – 6<sup>th</sup> from dismissal to 5:30 p.m.

Notre Dame offers a balanced academic curriculum that integrates faith, culture, and life. Notre Dame provides a safe and welcoming environment for all.

Please email Notre Dame Elementary School at [office@ndelementary.org](mailto:office@ndelementary.org) for more information.



**STEWARDSHIP IN ACTION...**

Collection from the weekend of July 26, 2020

	Amount	# Families	Avg. Amount
Envelops/Checks	\$ 5,428	115	\$ 47.20
Loose (Cash)	\$ 616		
Electronic Giving	\$ 3,144	155	\$ 20.28
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 9,188</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>\$ 31.75</b>
<i>Special Collection</i>	\$		

Thank you for your support of St. Matthew's Parish. We have 1314 registered families with 982 of those families considered active as they regularly contribute to our parish. We ask all parishioners to utilize envelopes or on-line giving for their weekly contributions so that we know who our current parishioners are. God bless you for your generosity.

**ONLINE GIVING...** Online Giving can help eliminate the fluctuation on parish finances which vacations, weather conditions, sickness, etc. can cause. Online Giving is an easy way to thank God each week for all your blessings. Go to [www.stmatthewspa.org](http://www.stmatthewspa.org) and click on the "Online Giving" icon on the homepage. For any questions, please call the parish office at 570-421-2341 ext. 107.

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Philip J. Bensing, SUPERVISOR