CHURCH OF SAINT MATTHEW

78 RIDGEWAY STREET EAST STROUDSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

<u>Parish Office</u>: 570-421-2342 Fax: 570-421-8414

Website:

www.stmatthewspa.org

E-mail:

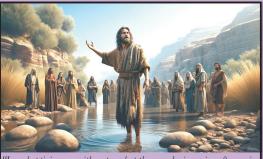
rectory@ptd.net

Religious Education ccd1@ptd.net

Youth & Campus

Ministry

campusministry@ stmatthewspa.org



'I am baptizing you with water,...but the one who is coming after me is nightier than I. ...He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.''

CLERGY:

Fr. Donald J. Williams, Pastor
Email: frdon@ptd.net
Fr. Brian J. T. Clarke, Senior Priest
Email: frclarke@ptd.net
Fr. Sergio Pamplona Parochial Vicar
Email: sergisleo@gmail.com
Deacon Kevin Scheirer,
Email: deaconscheirer@gmail.com
Deacon Luis Rivera,
Email: luisriveraofs@yahoo.com

Msgr. John A Bergamo,
Pastor Emeritus

<u>Mission Statement</u>: 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:

All daily & weekend Masses are Live-Streamed. Go to our website *www.stmatthewspa.org* & click on the YouTube icon.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:

Tuesday through Friday from 12:30 pm until 6 pm. 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, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday: 8:30 am-2:00pm Closed 11:45 am-12:30 pm for Mass. Closed Thursdays 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:

If you or a family member is homebound or hospitalized & would like a pastoral visit (Communion, Confession, or Anointing of the Sick), please call the Parish Office @ 570-421-2342.

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. Brian Clarke if you would like to discern a vocation to priesthood, religious life, or marriage. Fr. Ryan Glenn 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

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

"Advent invites us to a commitment to vigilance, looking beyond ourselves, expanding our mind and heart in order to open ourselves up to the needs of people, of brothers and sisters, and to the desire for a new world."









ADVENT.....PEACE

Many Christians find themselves grappling with the ups and downs of life, and some days it feels like peace is just out of reach. However, the Holy Scripture has a treasure trove of verses reminding us of the serenity that comes from faith in God. As we explore just a few of these verses together, let's open our hearts to understand how peace can flow into our lives through faith in Jesus Christ and by following His teachings. It is in these moments of reflection that we can truly find solace and strength from the Word of God. May these verses encourage and uplift us as we embark on this journey of faith, patiently awaiting the blessings of peace that He promises.

GOD'S PROMISE OF PEACE

In our lives, we often face circumstances that can shake our spirits and disturb our inner peace. Yet, we are reminded through Scripture that God's promise of peace is unwavering. When we trust in Him and follow His ways, we can find comfort knowing that He is our ultimate source of tranquility. God has made a commitment to provide us with peace that surpasses all understanding, even amidst life's storms. In a world where chaos seems to reign, let's remind ourselves of the promises God has given us, knowing that we can rest assured in His care.

John 14:27:

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid." This verse highlights the unique peace that Jesus offers, which is different from worldly peace.

PEACE THROUGH FAITH

Faith holds a remarkable power, transforming our doubts into certainty and our fears into confidence. Through the lens of faith, we begin to experience peace that isn't bound by our circumstances. With faith in Christ as our anchor, we can weather any storm. As we turn to this Scripture passage, we find not only guidance in times of trouble but also reassurance that our trust in God brings an unshakeable peace that the world cannot give. Together, let's embrace this peace and allow it to flourish in our lives.

Philippians 4: 6-7

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." This passage encourages believers to seek peace through prayer and trust in God.

PEACE IN SUFFERING

Even in moments of suffering, we can cling to the promise of peace. It may seem paradoxical, yet Scripture reminds us that it is in our trials and tribulations that we often experience a deeper connection with God and His peace. We are encouraged to recognize that our struggles are not in vain but can lead us closer to God, who provides comfort and hope. Together, let's learn to embrace suffering as an opportunity to seek His peace and draw strength from His presence. We can discover that even in the hardest of times, His peace can fill us with assurance and boldness to persevere.

Isaiah 41:10

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

We are reminded of the many paths through which God's peace can flow into our lives. From seeking forgiveness to finding tranquility in prayer, from nurturing our faith to cultivating gratitude, each aspect contributes to a holistic peace we can embrace. Let us commit to living out these principles, allowing God's Word to transform our hearts and guide our actions in love and understanding.

So together, let's choose to cultivate a spirit filled with joy and peacefulness. As we unite in faith, may we shine as beacons of hope and healing in a world that desperately needs it, bringing glory to God in the process.

LET US KEEP EACH OTHER IN PRAYER

2nd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 11:1-10

Romans 15:4-9

Matthew 3:1-12

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

SATURDAY- December 6

4:00pm Rodica Hangan from her Daughters

SUNDAY- December 7 Second Sunday of Advent

8:00am John Ferro from Ann Marie Onken

9:15am Our Parishioners

10:45am Tara Anne Cioni & Maureen Cioni from Judy

Snyder

12:15pm Linda Coburn from Stephen Coburn & Mary

Whelan

2:00pm Nestor Dario Aybar Carrera su higa Sahira Aybar

6:00pm Daniel Finn from Jim & Judy Alfieri

MONDAY- December 8 <u>The Immaculate Conception of</u> the Blessed Virgin Mary

7:00am Diane Aromando from Joe Zoppi

12:00pm Margaret Yaggie from her family

7:00pm (Spanish) Parishioners

TUESDAY- December 9

8:00am (Spanish) Fidel Antonio Morales Linares de familia

12:00pm Sandra Carroll from Joan & Allen Hild

WEDNESDAY- December 10

8:00am (Spanish) Kevin James Brody de Amigos

12:00pm Armando Valles Medel from his family

THURSDAY- December 11

8:00am (Spanish) Dr. Frank Boris III

12:00pm Stan Zuba from Rose Marie & Family

FRIDAY- December 12 Our Lady of Guadalupe

8:00am (Spanish) Carolyn Chamberlain

12:00pm Fran McNulty from his Family

7:00pm Angel Luis Colon from his family

SATURDAY- December 13 St. Lucy, Virgin; Martyr

7:00am Tara Jean Dougherty

8:00am Jean Ward

4:00pm Patricia Masucci from the Meringolo Family

SUNDAY- December 14 3rd Sunday of Advent

8:00am John Ferro from Bob & Anne Marie Pohlman

9:15am Todas los difuntos

10:45am Jennifer Sobrinski from David & LoriJo Yarosh

12:15pm Michael Angel Guevara from his family

2:00pm Our Lady of Guadalupe w/ Bishop Bambers

6:00pm Our Parishioners

MEMORIALS

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FOR THOSE IN NEED OF HOPE, HEALING & HEALTH 570-421-2342 Ext. 100

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FOR THE MILITARY

To add to this list, please call the Parish Office during regular business hours: 570-421-2342 Ext. 100

Lt. Col. Glenn Berdela, Jr. Lieutenant JG Jeffrey Van Solkema Lance CPL Joseph Buza Capt. Joshua Schnaitman Sgt. Benjamin Manter Sgt. Josh Coulter Major Christopher J. Warnagiris SN Andrew D. Merklin P03 Kevin Finn AWR3 Parker Thompson Air Force Chaplain Fr. Jeff Ballou Petty Officer 3rd Class Chelsea Lynn Serrano 1st Lt. Army Corps of Engineers Chad Madison 2nd Lt. Matthew Ercolino Sgt. Rory Hazlett 1st Lt. William J. Vichinsky 2nd Lt. Matthew P. Duffy Lt. David Chestnut Staff Sgt. James Nahorniak Petty Officer 3rd Class

Kevin J. Gonzalez Major Joseph Kodnovich Sgt. Jack Martinez Capt. Jake Sroka ITS2 Charles H. Jaycox Lt. Brian M. Wisbauer Capt. Ranger Airborne Ryan Waltner Capt. Dorian Santiago George Puma Major Brian McLaughlin Capt. Tyler McLaughlin 1LT Justin McLaughlin PVT. Dilan Reinhardt 2LT Joseph Voitek 1LT Nico Fluri 1LT Dominique Wilbur 1LT Brian Wilbur FA Connor P. Smith (USCG) 1st Lt. Lennox Ramsey PFC Kyle Kaufmann US Navy E5 Benjamin Rettle 2nd Lt. Peter Warhold Marine Sean Murray All Military Personnel







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Preparing for the Lord's coming isn't only about our own heartsit's also about making a way for His love to reach those in need. Through the Catholic Ministries Appeal, our Diocese is able to comfort God's people by feeding the hungry, caring for the sick and elderly, and forming future leaders in the faith.

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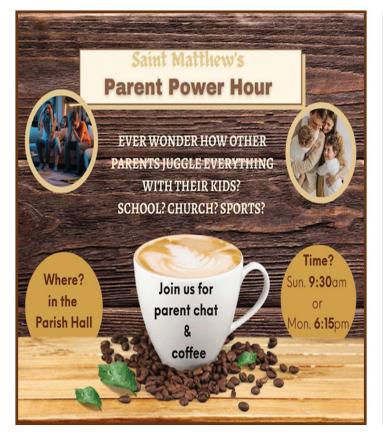


St. Matthew's Parish has benefited in the following ways:

- ◆ Campus Ministry Subsidy
- ♦ Hispanic Ministry Subsidy
- ♦ Religious Education Grant
- ♦ Hispanic Grant
- ♦ Homeless Grant
- ♦ Seminarian's Support
- ♦ Pro-Life Grant
- ♦ Notre Dame Support
- ♦ Vocation Center for Aspiring Candidates for the Priesthood
- ◆ Permanent Diaconate Candidate Support

Gifts can be given in various ways:

- * One Time Gift
- * Sustaining (recurring, monthly) gift
- * Pledge-indicated by the donor
- * Prayer Requests



STEWARDSHIP IN ACTION...

Thank you to all who contributed to the weekend of November 23, 2025.

Includes a \$3,000 annual donation

Envelopes/ Checks	Amount \$ 6,706	# Families 210	Avg. Amt. \$31.93
Loose (Cash)	\$ 2,241		
Electronic Giving	\$ 4,388	152	\$ 28.87
Total	\$ 13,335	362	\$ 30.65
Care & Education Of Clergy	\$	Online Giving Cards are available on the table in the k Church each PLEASE REG	Sunday. ISTER BE-



The Solemnity of
the Immaculate
Conception of the
Blessed Virgin Mary
Monday, December 8th
A Holy Day of Obligation

<u>Masses:</u> 7 am; 12 noon, 7 pm (Spanish)

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE MASS

A special Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Bambera on Sunday, December 14th.

A procession will take place at 1 pm followed by Mass in Spanish at 2:00 pm. A reception will be held in our Parish Hall following the Mass.

Everyone is welcome!



Everyone is welcome:

It's Beginning to Took a Tot Tike Christmas!

The following wreaths and Christmas

Trees are available to memorialize:

INSIDE TREES

3 small trees: \$40 each **WREATHS**

5 small wreaths \$35 each

OPLATKI

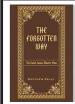
Christmas Wafer Packets \$3.50 each (We have a limited #)

Voice of John Christmas Card Fund Raiser.

The VOICE of JOHN Pro-life
Ministry is once again sponsoring
its annual Christmas Card sale.
This year's card is the second in
the Lamb of God Series designed
by artist Linda Ross from Saint
Matthew's Parish. A pack of
15 cards can be purchased for a
donation of \$20. All proceeds will
be used in the Ministry's educational
efforts for grades K thru 12, and
for adult education programs



available throughout the Dioceses of Scranton and Allentown.
The cards are available in the Parish Office.



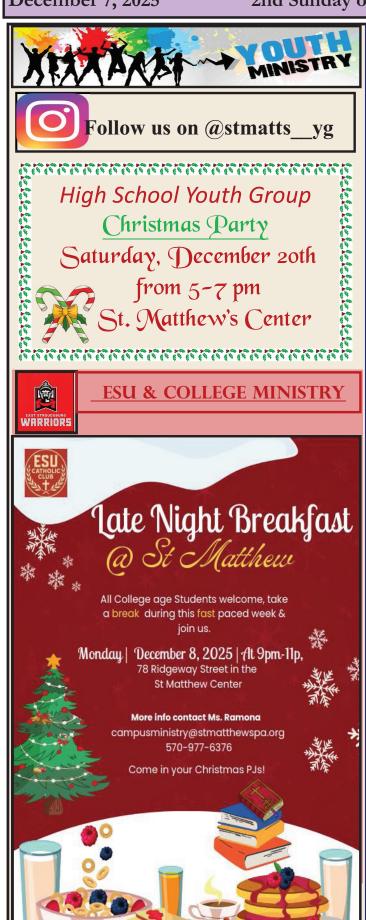
The Forgotten Way By Matthew Kelly

As you leave Church today, please pick up a copy of "The Forgotten Way" by Matthew Kelly.

We are grateful to an anonymous and generous parishioner who donated the books for St. Matthew's Parish!









Dec. 1, 2025, 5:30 -7:30p.m. Christmas Tree Lighting

- will take place behind the Dansbury Depot, located by the train tracks, at 7 p.m.
- On Crystal Street at the Depot

Nov. 27, 2025 - Jan.2nd, 9a.m.-5 p.m. Creches From Around The World

Enjoy over 100 tableaus of Mary, Joseph, and others around the crib of Jesus in the stable at Bethlehem.

- The Shawnee Inn & Golf Resort
- 100 Shawnee Inn Drive
- Location: Pearsall Room

Dec. 8, 6:30 - 9pm Popcorn Poetry

- A festive evening of poetry, comedy, and acoustic music at the Pocono Cinema & Cultural Center
- 88 S Courtland St.

Friday, Dec. 12, 6 - 8pm Christmas Fun for 6th, 7th, 8th graders

- Waffle Bar 👸 🥡
- Hot Chocolate Bar
- Music & Games & Prizes

Saturday, Dec. 20, 5 - 7pm for High School Students

• Christmas PJ Party



<u>Dec. 13, 6pm</u> Christmas Concert at St. Matthew's Church

- High school music groups come together to play music for us all.
- Reception to follow downstairs.

Nov. 28 - Feb 28, 2026 Snowmen of Stroudsburg

• Life-size snowmen, placed around Stroudsburg, creating a winter wonderland for visitors to explore.



JOSEPH J. PULA





Joseph J. Pula upervisor

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