

**ST. MATTHIAS PARISH, MARLBOROUGH, MA**

**INTENTIONS OF THE EUCHARIST**

**Saturday, April 1 — 4:00 p.m.**

Helen, Joseph, and Jordan DeDeo — Memorial

**Sunday, April 2 — 10:00 a.m.**

Ann Thompson — Memorial

**Saturday, April 8 — 4:00 p.m.**

Theresa Harris — Memorial

**Sunday, April 9 — 10:00 a.m.**

Joseph Frane — 8th Anniversary Memorial

Gifts of Sanctuary and Altar Candles  
for the month of April are donated  
in loving memory of

*Joseph Calore*

**THIS WEEK AT ST. MATTHIAS**

**Saturday, April 1**

- **Grade 10—Confirmation Retreat**  
Downstairs Conference Room, 1:00 p.m.  
Church, 4:00 p.m. / Parish Hall 5:00 p.m.
- **Celebration of the Eucharist**  
Church, 4:00 p.m.
- **Grade 2—First Eucharist Retreat**  
Church, 4:00 p.m. / Parish Hall 5:00 p.m.
- **Lector Rehearsal for Palm Saturday Readings**  
Church, 5:00 p.m.

**Sunday, April 2**

- **Faith Formation Grades 1, 3, 4 and 5**  
Classrooms, 8:30 a.m. — 9:45 a.m.
- **Celebration of the Eucharist with Liturgy of the Word for Children**  
Church, 10:00 a.m.
- **Coffee Social**  
Parish Hall, following Mass
- **Palm Sunday Procession Rehearsal**  
Church, 11:30 p.m.
- **Lector Rehearsal for Palm Sunday Readings**  
Church, 12:00 Noon
- **Faith Formation Grades 6, 7 and 8**  
Classroom, 6:00 p.m.—7:15 p.m.

**Monday, April 3**

- **Rehearsal—Stations of the Cross**  
Church, 12:00 noon
- **Rehearsal—Holy Thursday**  
Church, 7:00 p.m.

**THIS WEEK AT ST. MATTHIAS CONT'D**

**Tuesday, April 4**

- **Rehearsal—Good Friday**  
Church, 7:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, April 5**

- **Shawl Ministry**  
Downstairs Conference Room, 6:45 p.m.

**Thursday, April 6**

- **Choir Rehearsal**  
Church, 7:00 p.m.

**Friday, April 7**

- **Easter Vigil Rehearsal** (not Lectors/Cantors)  
Church, 7:00 p.m.
- **Easter Vigil Liturgy of the Word Rehearsal With Lectors and Cantors**  
Church, 7:45 p.m.

**Saturday, April 8**

- **Celebration of the Eucharist**  
Church, 4:00 p.m.
- **Marlborough Community Cupboard**  
Bins at Church Entrances

**Sunday, April 9**

- **Faith Formation Grades 1 to 5**  
Classrooms, 8:30 a.m. — 9:45 a.m.
- **Celebration of the Eucharist**  
Church, 10:00 a.m.
- **Marlborough Community Cupboard**  
Bins at Church Entrances
- **Coffee Social**  
Parish Hall, following Mass

**Office Hours for the Week of April 2**

**Monday, Tuesday and Thursday**  
9:00 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.

**Wednesday**  
9:00 a.m. — Noon

**Weekday Masses for the Week of April 2**



Weekday Celebration of the Eucharist  
will be held

**9:00 a.m.**  
**Monday, Tuesday and Friday**

FROM FR. FRAN



**The Celebration of Christ's  
Passion, Death and Resurrection**

The central focus of our Catholic Christian year is just about upon us – the celebration of Holy Week and the Easter Triduum. Let me offer the following as an overview and refresher as we prepare to celebrate these great feasts.

On the first Sunday after the first full moon after the vernal equinox the Roman Catholic Church celebrates the Feast of the Resurrection of the Lord, or Easter. Due to this celestial calculation, Easter is known as a “moveable feast” and may occur between the dates of March 22 and April 25. This way of setting the date of Easter was instituted by the church at the First Council of Nicaea in the year 325.

The word “Easter” is from the Old English word “Eostre”, which, most likely refers to the name of an Anglo-Saxon goddess named Eostre. (The early church often “Christianized” elements of the “pagan” culture in which it lived.) In most of the non-English speaking world, the word for Christ’s passion, death and resurrection is based on the Latin word “Pascha” which is in turn derived from the Hebrew word: “Pesah”. We call Christ’s death and resurrection the “Paschal Mystery”.

In the gospels, Jesus’ death occurs at the time of the Jewish feast of Passover, the celebration of the Hebrews’ escape from slavery in Egypt. Christ has become our “Passover” from death to new life. In The Gospel according to John, Jesus, the Lamb of God, is killed at the very hour that the lambs are slaughtered for the Passover feast. Therefore, in Christian theology, we no longer sacrifice animals to ask God’s favor, rather *God* has sacrificed his only son *for us*, once and for all. Reconciliation between God and humanity is accomplished in Jesus death on the cross.

We call the celebration of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday the Paschal Triduum. While the word “triduum” connotes “three days”, what we celebrate is actually *one continuous feast* lasting for three days. These days are counted as the Hebrews counted them, from sundown to sundown.

There are two separate celebrations on the first day of the Paschal Triduum which begins at sundown on Holy Thursday. We first celebrate the Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper, where we recall Christ’s offering to his disciples of his body and blood in the form of bread and wine. We also recall his “command” of service in the ritual called the “*mandatum*”. In the washing of each other’s feet as Jesus did at the last supper, we reaffirm our commitment to do as he did in acts of love and charity.

The next movement on day one of the Paschal Triduum is the celebration of the Lord’s Passion and the Veneration of the Cross. Traditionally this takes place on Friday afternoon, but due to patterns in our American culture, we

tend to gather in the evening for this ritual. With the conclusion of this liturgy, the first day of the Easter Triduum ends. From Friday, sundown to Saturday sundown, the second day of the Triduum, is considered a “day without the sacraments”. This is the day of Christ’s rest in the tomb.

The third and final day of the Easter Triduum begins at nightfall on Saturday. This is the Great Vigil of Easter. In our time zone with early Daylight Saving Time, the Easter Vigil usually begins around eight o’clock. As the church tells us that the Easter Vigil shouldn’t begin before nightfall, it also tells us that it should conclude before the sunrise. There is a bit of a tradition in the church that the Easter Vigil be held in the middle of the night, (think of midnight mass at Christmas), concluding as the first rays of dawn break on Easter Sunday morning.

The Easter Vigil begins outdoors with the assembly gathered around the fire that symbolizes the rebirth of the Church. The Paschal Candle, lighted from the new fire leads the Assembly into the pitch dark church. The light of Christ overcomes the darkness!

Any vigil in the church’s liturgy is a time to tell the stories God’s presence throughout history. We read a variety of scripture passages that unite us with our ancestors in the faith at the Easter Vigil.

The highpoint of the night is the baptism of new Christians. The Assembly also gets to renew their baptismal promises during this first Mass of Easter. The Easter Triduum continues with the masses of Sunday morning and quietly ends with evening prayer at sundown.

Of course, all of this celebration of the Paschal Mystery is about much more than ritual and time schedules. It’s about renewal and a deepening of faith. I invite you to come and be a part of this wonderful celebration as our parish family gathers together with parishes throughout the world to declare: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

**PARISH FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP**

<b>Weekly Offertory Goal:</b>	<b>\$4,000.00</b>
Total Collection of March 18, 19.....	\$4,347.00 *
Of that amount ParishPay donations were	\$1,227.00
Parishioners celebrating Mass March 18, 19.....	332

\*This represents a surplus of \$347.00 to the Weekly Offertory goal. Thank you.

**SPECIAL COLLECTION**

<b>Parish Maintenance</b>	<b>April 8 and 9</b>
<b>Rice Bowl Collection</b>	<b>Thursday, April 13</b>
<b>Holy Land</b>	<b>Friday, April 14</b>

## FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

### FAITH FORMATION



Congratulations to our Confirmation candidates and our First Eucharist candidates for completing their retreat times in preparation for receiving the Sacraments.

**First Eucharist** — Sunday, April 30 at 10:00 a.m.

**Confirmation** — Pentecost Sunday, June 4 at 10:00 a.m.  
Bishop Robert Reed will administer the Sacrament at 10:00 am Mass.

Thank you to those parishioners who attended the Lenten Supper Friday evening. Our newly formed Saint Vincent dePaul Society is the recipient of donations received during this supper.

Faith Formation gatherings for **Sunday, April 2:**

Grades 1, 3, 4 and 5	8:30 - 9:45 pm.
Grades 6,7,8	6:00 - 7:15 pm.

### ST. MATTHIAS ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CONFERENCE UPDATE

Our new St. Vincent de Paul conference has been officially sanctioned by the Archdiocese of Boston and is in the final stages of becoming active. We will be ready to visit the needy sometime in April. We are currently making visits with other conferences to get training in how to best determine the needs and how to utilize our resources to meet the needs. We have a checking account with \$500 in it. We have started fundraising, but have a need for considerably more funds if we hope to help the needy in our community! We currently are on the St. Matthias web site and will add our phone number this week (we are purchasing a track phone).

Part of our fundraising was donations at the simple suppers this lent. We also will have a box at the entrance to the church. We will keep the parishioners informed periodically in the bulletin with how we have been able to assist the needy. Please keep us in mind when you are considering your personal yearly donations to charities! If you know of an organization or company looking for community outreach opportunities please let us know. A special collection to support SVdP will be held the weekend of May 6 and 7.

Thank you for your consideration and prayers.

### CATHOLIC APPEAL UPDATE AS OF 3-27-2017

Goal:	\$21,536.00	
Received:	\$13,327.00	62% of goal
Donors:	78	

Please contact Theresa Salafia, Catholic Appeal Coordinator, at 508-460-9255 or [tsalafia@stmattpar.org](mailto:tsalafia@stmattpar.org), with any questions.

### CRS Rice Bowl Stories of Hope



This week, Catholic Relief Service Operation Rice Bowl invites us to hold in special prayer the people of Ethiopia and all those who struggle with hunger caused by droughts.

Catholic social teaching inspires and guides how we are to live and work in the world. In this principle, *Care for God's Creation*, we remember that God created every plant, every mountaintop, every animal-everything. And God said that these things are good. We find God in these good things, and so we must take care of creation-both for ourselves and for all of our human family. For more information, visit [crsricebowl.org](http://crsricebowl.org)

### CORI PROCESSING

If you have not yet turned in your CORI form, please see Diane Balinski following mass next weekend, or bring it to the office during normal business hours. Please note that all volunteers **must** complete a CORI form each year.

### PRAY FOR THE HEALING OF THE SICK

#### *Please Pray For...*

*Richard Abraham, Boyle Family, Nancy Bradford, Laurie Burt, Peggy Cronin, Delia Cruz, Connie Cyr, Del Cyr, Clara Mae Dickerson, Doyle Family, Colin Fawkes, John Gifford, Joe Gillis, Hannah Gluck, Russ Hokanson, Emma Johnson, Kathryn Keeler, Emma Larrivee, Maura McGuniess, Holly McIntyre, Kay McNeill, Roger Melenson, Michael Messom, Theresa Morrill, Megan Murphy, Deborah Natoli, Theresa Perry, Deacon Doug Peltak, Jean Peltak, Elaine Pilecki, Andy Rivers, Benjamin Smith, Edward Suzano, Ray Thomas, Trunfio Family, and Amy Noel Wyman.*

To add someone to this prayer list, please call the parish office at 508-460-9255 or email [amin@stmattpar.org](mailto:amin@stmattpar.org).

### SCRIPTURE READINGS

You are encouraged to read and pray from scripture at home during the week as you reflect on this Sunday's Word and prepare to celebrate next week's Eucharist.

#### Readings for April 2 — Fifth Sunday of Lent

Ezekiel 37:12-14; Romans 8:8-11; John 11:1-45

#### Readings for April 9 — Palm Sunday

Matthew 21:1-11; Isaiah 50:4-7; Philippians 2:6-11  
Matthew 26:14-27:66

## Holy Thursday *Reflection by Jared Auclair*

Today we enter into the holiest liturgy of the year, the Holy Triduum. The Holy Triduum begins with the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper and continues through the Mass of the Resurrection of the Lord. If you have attended the Triduum before you may have noticed there is no dismissal at the end of the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper and no welcome or dismissal from the Good Friday service. That is because, although three calendar days, the Triduum is considered one solemn liturgy representing the unity of Christ's Paschal Mystery.

The beginning of the Triduum, Holy Thursday, or the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper, Jesus gives us the gift of the Eucharist and the gift of a "Model" of how to live a Christian life. Let's first look at the Eucharist. As the second reading tells us, "Jesus took bread, and, after he had given thanks broke it and said, "This is my body that is given up for you. Do this in remembrance of me. In the same way, Jesus said, "This is the cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." In this act Jesus offered himself as nourishment and ongoing strength, making himself ever present in our lives.

The second gift, a "Model" of how to live a Christian life, is deeply rooted in the act of washing of the feet, an act of humble service, usually performed by a slave in Jesus' time. Jesus washes the feet of his disciples in loving service to them, thus showing that our God is a servant God. We, as disciples of Jesus, should wash the feet of our neighbors and enemies, even putting their needs before those of our own. Jesus' time on earth was deeply rooted in service, which will culminate tomorrow night with his final act in service to God and the human family with his crucifixion for the forgiveness of our sins.

As I reflect on the gift of the Eucharist and Jesus' model of Christian service, I can't help but realize that service to each other is the true path to everlasting life. I ask, will you join me in making an effort to live a more Christ-like life, one in service to others? As we prepare for Holy Week, have we embraced our own weakness, and that of others, as Jesus did?

