



# St. Matthew's Church

**Rev. Thomas Chevalier, Pastor**

25 Mountainview Street, Voorheesville, NY 12186-9551  
 Phone: 765-2805 Fax: 765-3701 Faith Formation 765-2373  
 email: stmatthewsvoorheesville@verizon.net

**Office Hours: Monday – Friday 9 AM to 3 PM**

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

**STAFF** Ellie Dorn.....Coordinator of Youth Ministry  
 Suzanne Schultz.....Coordinator of Faith Formation  
 Paul Davignon.....Deacon  
 Andrea Freeman.....Parish Secretary  
 Rebecca Kiegle.....Parish Secretary  
 Madge Devine.....Director of Music Ministry  
 Jack Stevens.....Building Maintenance  
 Bill Rogers.....Building Maintenance  
 Bill Kelly.....Trustee  
 Mary McGinty.....Trustee

**MASS SCHEDULE**

Saturday Vigil	5:00 PM
Sunday	8:30 AM and 10:30 AM
Weekdays (M, T, W, & F)	7:30 AM
Holy Days	As Announced
Rosary & Novena	6:30 PM on Mondays (September – May)

**Prayer Chain** – Call the Parish Office to initiate our parish Prayer Chain for any special intentions you may have.

**Sacraments of Baptism and Marriage** – Please call the office for information on baptismal preparation classes. For marriages, call Father Tom, at least 6 months prior to the wedding date, to arrange.

**Hospital or Home Visits** – Please contact the parish office when serious illness and/or hospitalization occur. Many area hospitals no longer list patients by parish, so we rely on your timely notification to arrange a visit or the Anointing of the Sick.

**Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)** – Those who are interested in finding out more about joining the Catholic Church are asked to please call Deacon Paul. All inquiries are kept confidential.

**Parish Membership** – A heartfelt welcome to all new parishioners. We invite each family or individual to please register with us by calling or stopping by the parish office. Registration places you on our mailing list and ensures you receive up-to-date information on parish happenings.



**December 14, 2008**

*Mass Intentions for the Week*

**Saturday, December 13**

**5:00 PM: Kay Withkowski- 3<sup>rd</sup> Anniv.**  
 req. by: The Taber Family  
**and for: Kenneth Guyer**  
 req. by: Evelyn Bernstein,  
 Kay & Bruce Boettcher & Family

**Sunday, December 14**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

**8:30 AM: Pat Tracy**  
 req. by: John Tracy & Family  
**and for: Tom & Mary Rogers & Dr. Charles & Helen Rancourt**  
 req. by: Bill & Mary Ellen Rogers

**10:30 AM: Blanche Blozen**

req. by: The Kiegle Family  
**and for: Robert Dorn**  
 req. by: The Freeman Family

**Monday, December 15**

NO MASS

**Tuesday, December 16**

7:30 AM:

**Wednesday, December 17**

7:30 AM:

**Thursday, December 18**

NO MASS

**Friday, December 19**

7:30 AM:

**Saturday, December 20**

**5:00 PM: Irvin Burch**  
 req. by: Jim & Clare McAssey

**Sunday, December 21**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**

**8:30 AM: Deceased Members of the Men's Association**  
 req. by: Men's Association

**10:30 AM: Frank McDermott**

req. by: his family

*\*Please remember that whenever the Voorheesville Central Schools District cancels or delays classes because of inclement weather, morning liturgy on that day will also be cancelled.*

**Saturday, December 13**

Children's Choir 9:30 – 11:00 AM  
Coffee Social after 5:00 PM Mass

**Sunday, December 14**

Coffee Social after 8:30 &  
10:30 AM Masses  
Grade Pre K-1<sup>st</sup> – 10:30 AM  
Youth Choir 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM  
Faith Formation Gr. 6-8 4:30 PM

**Monday, December 15**

Rosary & Novena 6:30 PM  
Confirmation Session #3 7:00 PM

**Tuesday, December 16**

Grades 2-5 -- 3:15-4:30 PM

**Wednesday, December 17**

Grades 2-5 -- 3:15-4:30 PM  
Music Ministry -- 7:00 PM  
Holiday Choir – 7:45 PM

**Saturday, December 20**

Children's Choir 9:30 – 11:00 AM

**Sunday, December 21**

Grade Pre K-1<sup>st</sup> – 10:30 AM  
Youth Choir 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

**Scripture Readings**

**Sunday:** Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/  
1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

**Monday:** Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/  
Mt 21:23-27

**Tuesday:** Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Mt 21:28-32

**Wednesday:** Gn 49:2, 8-10/Mt 1:1-17

**Thursday:** Jer 23:5-8/Mt 1:18-25

**Friday:** Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Lk 1:5-25

**Saturday:** Is 7:10-14/Lk 1:26-38

**Next Sunday:** 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a,  
16/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38



**OUR PRAYERS  
FOR PROTECTION OF OUR  
FRIENDS & FAMILY IN THE ARMED  
FORCES**

Richard Bailey, Evan Craig,  
Austin Freeman, Adam Kodra,  
CDR Dennis P. McKenna

## SAINT MATTHEW'S PARISH

Like many homes, our church building always seems to be lacking enough storage space. As a consequence, we are always evaluating how well we are using the limited space that we do have. During our most recent search for an unused corner, it became apparent that the Reconciliation Room, located at the Baptismal Font, was probably larger than it needed to be. It was really too nice a room, however, brightened by a stained glass window and with a tile floor, to be used for storage. It did seem appropriate however for use as a Reservation Chapel. Thanks to the electrical skills of Tom Lenseith and the painting skills of Jack Stevens, some nice improvements have already been made to that room. In coming days we hope to make some other cosmetic improvements that will enhance it, as a place worthy to house the reserved Eucharist. When the tabernacle is moved from its current location to this new Reservation Chapel, we will divide the room opposite the pastor's office. One half of that space will be remodeled slightly, to serve as a Reconciliation Chapel, with the other half being used for the storage we were seeking.

We are fortunate to have such talented and generous people among us, that we can make such nice improvements in the normal course of events. Our thanks to them for their good work on behalf of our parish.

Sacrificial Giving To Our Parish

In this weekend's readings, both Isaiah and John the Baptist demonstrate that they know what God asks of them and rejoice in being able to respond. Each weekend those who worship at Saint Matthews demonstrate that they know the call to Christian Stewardship that we have all received. We are always grateful to those persons whose parish support allows us to exist. Last weekend, our weekly collection was \$7,288.71 which allowed us to pay \$1,169.23 to National Grid, \$330.00 to recharge our fire extinguishers and \$413.98 in postage costs. More exciting than those, however, were the extra donations which were made toward enlarging our nativity set. In addition to the new donkey which we have been promised, we are also awaiting the addition of a shepherd boy (his name is Daniel) and one standing sheep. Many thanks, to those parishioners and friends whose generosity made both our routine and our extraordinary payments possible. Thank you.

**2009 CALENDARS**

The beginning of the new liturgical year which began on the First Sunday of Advent signals that the new calendar year will begin soon! Once again our good friends at Reilly & Son Funeral Home have donated wonderful color calendars illustrating some of our Catholic Traditions to guide us through the next twelve months. Our thanks to them for supplying these calendars for our parishioners. They are available for you at the entrances of the church.

**NATIVITY RAFFLE**

Mike Fields, one of our parishioners, has contributed a beautiful manger scene under glass, which he recently made to be raffled off as a gift to Saint Matthew's. Our thanks to Mike for so generously remembering our parish in his use of God's gifts. Chances on this fine Christmas decoration for your home at \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00 will be available after all masses. Thanks again to Mike, and good luck to all who will participate in this raffle.

## 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

St. Matthew's Music Ministry was gifted with a beautiful fresh wreath this past week. The gift was from a "Thankful Parishioner". The wreath is gracing the front door of Madge Devine's home until we are able to decorate the church for Christmas. At that time we will place the wreath in the area of the choir. One of the greatest gifts you can receive is the gift of being appreciated. We appreciate being appreciated!

### CHURCH GREENING

Decorating the Worship space for the holidays will take place at 1 PM on Sunday December 21<sup>st</sup>. All are welcome to participate; no reservations required! Plan to help us, and get some last minute Christmas spirit.

### ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE

The Advent Penance Service will be celebrated as a cluster service for St. Thomas, St. Lucy's, St. Bernadette's, Christ the King and St. Matthews. The Sacrament of Reconciliation has long been a part of our preparation for Christmas. This years service will be held at Christ the King Church on Monday December 15, 2008 at 7:00 PM. Please make the sacrament of Penance a part of your spiritual preparation if you can.

### LECTOR WORKBOOKS

The new liturgical year has begun with the First Sunday of Advent. The new year begins the new cycle of readings for our prayer together, this year it will be The Year of Saint Mark. In order to assist those serving the parish as Lectors at liturgy, we have once again gotten workbooks for their weekly preparation. The new books are now available for Lectors in the sacristy. If you have not picked one up please do so and sign the list so we know that each Lector has gotten one.

### FAITH FORMATION/ YOUTH MINISTRY

#### ATTENTION: PARENTS OF CHILDREN ATTENDING CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

If you are seeking the Sacrament of First Eucharist at Saint Matthew's, please contact Suzanne at your earliest convenience 765 -2373.

#### REMINDER:

The first session of First Communion preparation is a parent only session on Tuesday, January 6, 2009 at 7:00 pm

#### 6 - 8 GRADE REMINDER

Faith Formation for grades 6 - 8 will be this **Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 PM.** Please remember to bring your unwrapped gift item and your bag of baking chips. If your teen is unable to attend on their Faith Formation day, please contact Suzanne or Ellie at 765-2372.

#### CONFIRMATION SESSION #3 REMINDER

Confirmation Session #3 will be held this Monday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. Please remember to bring your completed sponsor form with you.

### MEN'S ASSOCIATION

**COME JOIN US IN SERVICE!** Check your calendar to see if you can join us for the following service event --- **Please call Tom Dorn at 765-3304**  
**Capital City Rescue Mission - Saturday, Dec 13<sup>th</sup>**

### ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS

Hurry to get some of the remaining Entertainment books! They will be available for purchase after masses from now through Sunday, 12/14. This year's edition contains valuable discount offers for many local businesses at a price of still only \$30. They make great holiday gifts as well! Thank you for support our fundraising effort."

### COMMUNITY EVENTS

#### HELP NEEDED

Driver needed to take parishioner living in Weatherfield to weekly medical appointment at Memorial Hospital. Parishioner is willing to pay for this help. Contact Carol Huber @765-9025.

**DECEMBER 14, 2008**

### OUR LOVE AND PRAYERS TO THOSE WHO ARE ILL...

Donna Amato, Gloria Bogart, Haysha Acebal, Raymond Banuls, Bill Boyd, Brendan Burke, Diana Burns, Carly Carey, Connie Castellana, Mary Charron, Susan Coffey, Tim Colchin, Joan Conway, Joseph Coury, Mildred Coury, Philip Davis, Doris Doyle, James Finnessey, Bobby Flagler, Richard Frank, Elizabeth Gaimari, Amanda Gibbs, Lynn Giudici-Reynolds, Christine Gwaldis, Ricky Haggerty, Richard Harrington, Ricky Hoffman, Lorraine Holland, Catherine Johnston, Brett Lee, Jean LeCarl, Bob LeClair, Melissa Lee, Joe Markel, Helen McGinty, Mary Ann Morrison, Maureen Palumbo, Bryan Pettit, Nicole Retajczyk, Mike Ricci, Tina Rosen, Kathy Sansone, William Skicki, Allison Thomas, Mary Walas, Angie Jean Wimpperman, John Withkowski, Anna Davis, Ruth Ulion, Walter Greene, Patrick DeWane, Jeannie Mormile, Kathy Jornov, Aggie Tucker, Payton Gordinier, Donna DeVellis, Bernie Pafunda, Lois Parmelee, Richard Arthur, Claire Broderick, Tim Finnigan, Bertha Meservey, Marie Cullen, Joseph Long, Will Hladun, Katie Traudt, Maureen Daugherty, Eric Dagner, Marilyn Farrell

We are a Roman Catholic Community called by Jesus Christ to proclaim the Kingdom of God through sacramental lives of prayer and ministry. Guided by the Holy Spirit, we strive to give witness to the Gospel by serving God and others.  
Our Parish Mission Statement



The candle in the chapel is lit this week in loving memory of Rhonda M. Irvin  
Requested by her family