



Saint Matthew's Church

A Roman Catholic Community

25 Mountainview Street, Voorheesville, NY 12186-9551

Phone: 518-765-2805

email: stmatthewsvoorheesville@verizon.net

Faith Development

email: stmatthewsfaithdevelopment@verizon.net

PARISH STAFF

Rev. Christopher DeGiovine.....Pastor
 Madge DevinePastoral Associate for Liturgy & Music
 Andrea FreemanPastoral Associate for Administration
 Joy GalarneauPastoral Associate for Faith Development
 Charlene LoganGrounds/Gardens Maintenance
 Peggy McQuade ...Pastoral Associate for Hospitality
 Jack Stevens.....Building Manager
 Chrisi YoungPastoral Associate for Faith Development
 Junior High/High School

Peg NeriTrustee

Chris GorkaTrustee

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil	5:00 pm
Sunday	8:30 am and 10:30 am
Weekdays (T, W, F)	8:30 am
Holy Days	As Announced
Rosary & Novena	6:30 pm on Mondays (September - May)

WEBSITE

stmatthewsvoorheesville.org

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

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 Parish Office at least 6 months prior to the wedding date, to arrange.

Anointing of the Sick - First Fridays immediately following 8:30 am Mass or by appointment

Eucharistic Adoration - First Fridays 9:00 am to 4:00pm with Benediction at 3:45pm

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 the Parish Office. All inquiries are kept confidential.

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.

sun mon tue
2 3 4
9 10 11 **CALENDAR**

Monday, December 31
Parish Office Closed for New Year's

Tuesday, January 1
Parish Office Closed for New Year's

Wednesday, January 2
Music Ministry -7pm

THOSE WHO ARE ILL...

Pat Grovenger, Frank Barone, Jean Lewis,
Pat Arthur, Joel Rivera, Brendan Farmer,
Elicia McMullen, Alex Duncan

Hospital or Home Visits

Please contact the parish office when serious illness and/or hospitalization occur to arrange a visit or the Anointing of the Sick.

**THANK YOU... THANK YOU
...THANK YOU!!!**

Because of your generosity we have exceeded our goal of \$500,000.



Thank you to all who have given and to all who have supported us with your prayers. We are most grateful. Please know that if you would like to still contribute you may do so.

The more we exceed our goal the larger percentage that stays here with St. Matthew's.

Pastor's Message

On this Feast of the Holy Family our second reading can be taken from John's first letter (there are two options for the first and second reading on this feast). John's first letter is written to help us realize who we are as children of God and how much we are loved by God. *See what love the father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. And so we are. And so we are!* We are part of God's holy family, brothers and sisters of Jesus, Son of the Father. Just like the young Jesus in today's Gospel who brings fear and sorrow to his parents when he stays behind in Jerusalem, we do not need to be "perfect" in order to be holy, to be loved by God. Pope Francis, in his marvelous letter *Gaudete et Exsultate* makes it very clear that we are all called to holiness not perfection. God loves us as we are and calls us into a relationship of love that grows and develops over time. If we are trying to love God and love one another by what Pope Francis calls the "little details of love" then we are on the road to the fullness of life that God promises to all who trust in God.

John in his letter goes on to write: *Beloved, we are God's children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed. We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.* What a remarkable statement. Do we believe that we are God's children right now? Do we recognize that what keeps us from fully accepting that reality is our wondering about how it will all work out in the future? All John suggests we need to do to be God's children is to *believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another as he has commanded us.* In other words have faith in God and practice those "little details of love" that will continue to call us ever more deeply into holiness and fullness of life. You do this as part of God's holy family by raising your children and grandchildren with love, by helping your elderly parents, by visiting a sick friend or neighbor, by celebrating Mass, by donating to the needy and the poor ...

On this feast of the Holy Family let us live in confidence that *we are God's children now* and let us continue to practice those "little details of love" that build our families and communities into holy families and holy communities.

Fr. Chris



HAPPY NEW YEAR !

**FROM FR. CHRIS &
ST. MATTHEW'S STAFF**

Please join us on
Tuesday, January 1st at 9:00 am
as we celebrate

**The Solemnity of Mary
the Holy Mother of God
*a holy day of obligation***



FAITH DEVELOPMENT

God of all time, help us enter the New Year quietly,
thoughtful of who we are to ourselves and to others,
mindful that our steps make an impact
and our words carry power.

May we walk gently.

May we speak only after we have listened well.

Creator of all life,

help us enter the New Year reverently,
aware that you have endowed
every creature and plant, every person and habitat
with beauty and purpose.

May we regard the world with tenderness.

May we honor rather than destroy.

Lover of all souls,

help us enter the New Year joyfully,
willing to laugh and dance and dream,
remembering our many gifts with thanks
and looking forward to blessings yet to come.

May we welcome your lavish love.

In this new year, may the grace and peace of Christ bless us now and in the days ahead.

- Vinita Hampton Wright

THANK YOU FROM RESPECT LIFE

The Respect Life Group of St. Matthews Church would like to thank our community for your continued support of the giving tree. Your generosity humbles us. Your gifts supported Community Maternity Services, Mary's Corner, Birthright, A single mom with twins, and Family Promise. Your donations will bring joy to many people and children around the capital district. **THANK YOU!**

Respectfully Yours, Respect Life Group

PARISH OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS

The Parish Office will be closed on Monday, December 31 & Tuesday, January 1 for the New Year's Holiday.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL SQUARES

The St. Matthew's Men's Association will be selling squares after ALL masses for the College Football National Championship, on Monday, January 9th at 9PM. As always, squares are \$5 apiece, with \$250 in winnings distributed to participants in this 50/50 good cause. Completed squares-sheets will be available at the church entrances after the 1030 mass on Sunday the 6th, or see them on-line at the church's website.



EPIPHANY COFFEE SOCIAL

Next weekend we celebrate the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord. Please join us next Weekend January 5 & 6 for a coffee social after all masses.



Welcome Family Promise Guests

***This Week December 30 - January 6th
we will welcome our Family Promise Guests***

***We hope their stay with us
will be an enriching experience for all.***

Please pray for our guests and our ministry volunteers.

MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS

Scheduled for next weekend January 5 & 6

5:00pm --

Lectors

Ernie Katzwinkel, Michael Bucciferro

Communion Ministers

Midge Sehl, Andrea Freeman,
Anne-Jo McTague, Mike Kelly,
Mary Spreer, Anne Pennock

Altar Servers

Lucas Edson, 2 Volunteers needed

Sacristan/Ushers

Bob Harms (S), Mark Barrett (S)
Midge Sehl (U), Bill Sehl (U),
Paul Kelly (U)

8:30am--

Lectors

Pam Otis, John Zongrone

Communion Ministers

Barbara Emerick, Ann Kelly,
Julie-Ann Fortran, Tim Vivian,
Kristin Vivian, Mike Sikule

Altar Servers

Stephen Rapp, Auden Rapp,
Jackson Rapp

Sacristan/Ushers

Peg Neri (S), Ed Ardizone (S),
Jan Ardizone (U)

10:30am-

Lectors

Kathleen Sullivan, Kara Enides

Communion Ministers

Fran Arthur, Gwen Genovesi,
Richard Trautwein, Joan Porco,
Barry Bablin, Anne Miller

Altar Servers

Mary Genovesi, Jason Bablin,
Joseph Bablin

Sacristan/Ushers

John Schachne (S), Margaret Schachne (U),
Gerry Langhauser (U), Barry Bablin (U)

**Altar Linens will be done the week of January 6
by: *Alice Mensching***

***(linens may be picked up anytime after 10:30 Mass
And returned no later than Friday)***

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 29

5:00PM : Mike Ricci
req. by: Anne Pennock
and for: David Scott
req. by: Fr. Chris & St. Matthew's Parish

Sunday, December 30

*Feast of the Holy Family of
Jesus, Mary & Joseph*
8:30 AM: Laura Barton 1yr. Anniversary
req. by: Fr. Chris & St. Matthew's Parish
and for: John Donaldson
req. by: Anne Meilinger

10:30 AM: James Anderer
req. by: Kathy & Andy Sullivan

Monday, December 31

*Seventh Day within the Octave
Of the Nativity of the Lord*
NO MORNING LITURGY

Tuesday, January 1

Solemnity of Mary the Holy Mother of God
9:00AM: Holy Day Liturgy

Wednesday, January 2

*Memorial of Basil the Great
& Gregory Nazianzen*
8:30AM: Morning Liturgy

Thursday, January 3

Memorial of the Most Holy Name of Jesus
NO MORNING LITURGY

Friday, January 4

Memorial of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
8:30AM: Morning Liturgy

Saturday, January 5

5:00PM : David Scott
req. by: Andrea & Dan Freeman

Sunday, December 6

Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord
8:30 AM: Lucy Calabrese
req. by: John Mazzeo
and for: Carol Keefe
req. by: Gudrun & Bill Bellerjeau
and for: John Donaldson
req. by: Ernie & Linda Kitchen

10:30 AM: Michael Donohue –1yr. Anniversary

req. by: Fr. Chris & St. Matthew's Parish
and for: Lucille Doyle
req. by: Kim Orlando & Mary Hannell

