

# Saint Matthew's Church

## A Roman Catholic Community

25 Mountainview Street, Voorheesville, NY 12186-9551

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Faith Development

email: [ffsmv@gmail.com](mailto:ffsmv@gmail.com)

### PARISH STAFF

Rev. Rick Lesser ..... Pastor .....email: [rick.lesser@rcda.org](mailto:rick.lesser@rcda.org)

Rev. Desmond Rossi..... Priest in Residence

Deacon Nicholas Ascioti..... Faith Development : [nascioti@gmail.com](mailto:nascioti@gmail.com)

Carl Alexandrov ..... Pastoral Associate for Liturgy & Music

Andrea Freeman ..... Pastoral Associate for Liturgy

Christina Lupo..... Pastoral Associate for Administration

Tom Lenseth..... Building Manager

Peggy McQuade ..... Pastoral Associate for Hospitality

Melissa Usher..... Pastoral Associate for First Communion

Chrisi Young ..... Pastoral Associate for Faith Development 6-12

Mary Gay Wood..... Trustee

Stephen Goss ..... Trustee

### MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil	5:15pm
Sunday	9:30am
Weekdays (Wed., Friday)	8:30am
Holy Days	As Announced
Rosary & Novena	6:30 pm on Mondays

#### Sacramental Reconciliation

Fridays 8:00am; Saturday evenings after the Vigil Mass;  
During Adoration on First Fridays or by appointment

### WEBSITE

[stmatthewsvoorheesville.org](http://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 - Second Friday of the month immediately following 8:30 am Mass or by appointment

Eucharistic Adoration - First Friday of the month 9:00am-11:00am

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.

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) - 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.

**REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS**

**THOSE WHO ARE ILL...**

Joel Rivera, Brendan Farmer, Nick Siver,  
Susan Albright, Alexandra Simpson,  
Jay Brown

**Hospital or Home Visits**  
Please call the Parish Office

- Mon., March 30** Rosary 6:30pm
- Tues., March 31** Rehearsal for Holy Thurs  
and Good Friday 5:30pm  
Faith Sharing Zoom 6pm
- Wed., April 1** Music Ministry 7pm
- Thurs., April 2** Senior Lunch 11:30am  
NO Chair Yoga  
Holy Thursday Potluck Dinner 6:30pm  
Holy Thursday Liturgy 7:30pm  
Night Prayer at Altar of Repose 9:30pm
- Fri., April 3** Stations of The Cross 3pm  
Liturgy of The Lord's Passion 5:30pm  
Simple Soup Supper 6:46pm
- Sat., April 4** OCIA Easter Vigil Practice  
TBD

**ALTAR LINEN MINISTRY**  
March 29 — Susan Abram  
April 5 — Carol Haley

**NEW SCOTLAND COMMUNITY  
FOOD PANTRY**  
The New Scotland Community Food Pan-  
try is grateful for any and all dona-  
tions. **There is a need for the following:**  
**Sugar, Flour, Gravy, Snacks and Crack-**  
**ers.** As always, thank you for your gen-  
erous support!

**STEWARDSHIP** March 21— March 22, 2026

Offertory.....	\$5,927.00
E-Giving.....	\$2,421.00
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$8,348.00</b>


**Budgeted Total  
Needed for Each Week.....\$8,252.00**

**E - GIVING**  
If you would like to give a one-time dona-  
tion **OR** set up a continuous contribution  
payment, please scan the QR Code. Your  
stewardship will help us  
meet our weekly expenses!

*Thank You!*



**GOOD FRIDAY SIMPLE SOUP SUPPER**  
**April 3<sup>rd</sup>, approximately 6:45pm, which  
follows the Liturgy of The Lord's Passion.**  
Soup selections will be New England Clam  
Chowder, Potato Chowder, Vegetable and  
Tomato Soup. To provide our caterer, Casa  
Mia's, with an accurate count, **we ask you to  
please sign-up at either entrance of the  
church by this Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup>.**



**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**  
St. Matthew's Church *Good Friday Stations* will be  
*this Friday, April 3rd at 3pm.*





**CHILDREN'S CHOIR**  
Our Children and Youth Choir will sing "Run to the  
Garden" as the introit on Easter Sunday. **Rehearsal is  
immediately after Mass this Palm Sunday.** Please  
email [ewelina.hensel@gmail.com](mailto:ewelina.hensel@gmail.com) with any questions.  
We look forward to seeing you at rehearsal. Ewelina  
Hensel and Carl Rorie Alexandrov- St. Matthew Music  
Ministry



**HOLY THURSDAY POTLUCK DINNER**  
Everyone is welcomed to join us on **Holy Thursday, April 2, 2026  
6:30PM** for St. Matthew's **Potluck Dinner!** Bring along your favorite  
dish to share or we encourage creativity for you to try out that new  
recipe you've been wanting to do! Spend the evening in fellowship  
with our community! Sign up sheets  
are at both entrances of the church  
**OR** feel free to use the QR Code!




**ST. MATTHEW'S BBQ  
FUNDRAISER**  
Join us on **THURSDAY, April  
16th 4PM—6PM** for a  
delicious dinner provided by  
**Frese's Catering!** Choices  
are: **Pulled Pork with Mac &  
Cheese OR BBQ Chicken  
with Roasted Potatoes.** All dinners come with Corn Bread, Coleslaw  
and a Cookie! **All dinners are \$16. Prepaid orders are required with a  
Deadline of April 7th.** A great way to begin the spring season with a  
BBQ Dinner!

# Grateful Giving Campaign Updates

Number of Pledges: 135

Average Pledge: \$40 weekly

High Pledge: \$500 weekly

Low Pledge: \$3 weekly

% of Registered Families who have pledged: 12.71%

E-Givers: 39

Envelope Users: 75

Retirement Account (QCD) Inquiries: 12

*Thank you to all who have pledged!*

Please remember to return your commitment/intention page.

## BOOK CLUB

Our next read will be focusing on "Gaudium et Spes" " - The Constitution of the Church in the Modern World. Pope Leo is encouraging us to review some of the Vatican II documents in this 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. "The joy and hope, the grief and anguish of the people of our time...are those of the followers of Christ as well. Nothing that is genuinely human fails to find an echo in their hearts." (#1) "God alone is the judge and the searcher of hearts: he forbids us to pass judgement on the inner guilt of others." (#28) This would be a different kind of read - more of a study that invites us to ponder how God and the Church intersect with our lives. It is suggested reading this in 2 parts, starting a bit after Easter. You may visit: [https://www.vatican.va/archive/hist\\_councils/ii\\_vatican\\_council/documents/vat-ii\\_const\\_19651207\\_gaudium-et-spes\\_en.html](https://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_const_19651207_gaudium-et-spes_en.html) If you haven't been receiving emails regarding the Book Club and would like to, please call Christina in the office at 518-765-2805.



## GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION

Each year on Good Friday, parishes throughout the US take up a Special Collection to support Christians in the Holy Land. Your support helps the church minister in parishes, provide Catholic schools and offer religious education. It also helps to preserve the sacred shrines. The wars, unrest and instability have been especially hard on Christians. In these times of crisis, the **Pontifical Good Friday Collection** provides humanitarian aid to refugees. When you contribute to this collection, you become an instrument of peace and join with Catholics around the world in solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land.



## 2026 HOLY WEEK CALENDAR

### Palm Sunday Masses

Saturday, March 28— 5:15 pm

Sunday, March 29 —9:30 am

### Holy Thursday – April 2

Morning Prayer – 8:30am

Holy Thurs Pot Luck Supper 6:30pm

Liturgy of the Lord's Supper 7:30 pm

Night Prayer at Altar of Repose 9:30pm

### Good Friday – April 3

Morning Prayer – 8:30am

Stations of the Cross – 3:00 pm

Liturgy of the Lord's Passion 5:30pm

Simple Soup Supper – 6:45pm -Reservations required

### Holy Saturday – April 4

Morning Prayer 8:30am

Blessing of Easter Food Baskets – 11:00am

The Night Watch of the Resurrection

Easter Vigil Mass 7:30pm

### Easter Sunday - April 5

Mass 9:30 am

## FOOD BASKET BLESSING

In many Eastern European countries, it is a tradition to have a basket of food blessed on Holy Saturday. In Poland especially, the blessing of the baskets, a practice dating back to the 15<sup>th</sup> century is still maintained by most families. The food items in the basket are eaten at Easter



Sunday breakfast, and have special significance. The white napkin that lines the basket represents the shroud of Christ. The lamb in butter, sugar, dough, wood or even plastic stands for Jesus, the Paschal Lamb. The hard – cooked egg symbolizes new life or Christ rising from his tomb. Bread represents the bread of life given by God. Meat and

sausages are symbols of the resurrected Christ, horseradish represents accepting the bitter with the sweet in life, and vinegar symbolizes the sour wine given to Jesus on the cross. Salt is to add zest to life and preserve us from corruption, and sweets suggest the promise of eternal life or good things to come. If your family would like to include this Easter blessing as part of your Easter Celebration, bring a basket to the **Parish Lobby to be blest on Holy Saturday morning, April 4th 11:00AM.**

## THANK YOU FROM FAMILY PROMISE



Family Promise of the Capital Region, along with St. Matthew's Church, is tremendously grateful for the generosity our parishioners who provided needed items for their food pantry. Your immense kindness has been felt and appreciated by all of the families in need.

**MINISTRY SCHEDULE  
SCHEDULE FOR – HOLY WEEK AND EASTER**

**APRIL 2 HOLY THURSDAY      APRIL 3 GOOD FRIDAY**

**7:30PM GREETER**  
Russ Hoyer  
Chrissy Oakley

**USHER**  
None Needed

**LECTOR**  
Stephen Rapp  
Julie-Ann Fortran

**COMMUNION MINISTER**

Ernie Papa —P  
Anne Miller—P  
Cathy Beadnell—C  
Millie Selby—C

**ALTAR SERVERS**

Maisy Oakley  
Christopher Usher

**SACRISTAN**

George Rapp  
Mark Barrett

**APRIL 4 EASTER VIGIL**

**8:00PM GREETER**  
Russ Hoyer  
Josh Terry

**USHER**  
Ernie Papa  
Mark Barrett  
Russ Hoyer  
Gwen Genovesi

**LECTOR**  
Ernie Kitchen  
Terry Devine  
Patty O'Toole  
Cheryl Dacullo-Hoyer  
Marcy Terry

**COMMUNION MINISTER**

Ernie Papa —P  
**Volunteer Needed—P**  
Andrea Freeman —C  
Gwen Genovesi—C

**ALTAR SERVERS**

Primo Hoyer  
Collin Terry  
Lizzy Terry

**SACRISTAN**

Mark Barrett

**5:30PM GREETER**  
Nancy Dilanni  
Melissa Usher

**USHER**  
Stephen Rapp  
Nancy Dilanni  
John Dilanni  
Russ Hoyer

**LECTOR**  
Stephen Hensel  
Jim Connolly

**PASSION READERS**

Narrator—Deacon Nick  
Voice — Melissa Usher  
Jesus — Fr. Rick

**COMMUNION MINISTER**

George Rapp—P  
Nancy Dilanni—P  
No Cup Minister Needed

**ALTAR SERVERS**  
Volunteers Needed

**SACRISTIN**

George Rapp  
Mark Barrett

**APRIL 5 EASTER SUNDAY**

**9:30AM GREETER**  
Chrissy Oakley  
Margaret Schachne

**USHER**  
Stephen Rapp  
Margaret Schachne  
Maria Mick  
Ron Rivers  
Nancy Dilanni **S-Hall**

**LECTOR**  
Ron Rivers  
Dan Weaver

**COMMUNION MINISTER**

Bob Boyle—P  
Michele Boyle—P  
Nancy Dilanni—C  
John Dilanni—C  
Melissa Usher—P **SH**  
Julie-Ann Fortran—C **SH**

**ALTAR SERVERS**

Maisy Oakley  
Christopher Usher  
Charlotte Usher

**SACRISTAN**

George Rapp

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**Saturday, March 28**

**5:15PM: Catherine Flansburg—1yr Anniversary**  
**req by:** Fr. Rick and St. Matthew's Parish  
**and for: Jim Hladun**  
**req by:** Gail Michalak

**Sunday, March 29**

**Palm Sunday of The Passion of The Lord**  
**9:30AM: Helen Rossner**  
**req by:** Michael Rossner  
**9:30AM: All Parishoners who are ill**  
**req by:** Fr. Rick

**Monday, March 30**

**Monday of Holy Week**  
**NO MORNING LITURGY**

**Tuesday, March 31**

**Tuesday of Holy Week**  
**NO MORNING LITURGY**

**Wednesday, April 1**

**Wednesday of Holy Week**  
**8:30 AM Joan Joyce**  
**req by:** Patty & Tom O'Toole

**Thursday, April 2**

**Holy Thursday**  
**NO MORNING LITURGY**

**Friday, April 3**

**Friday of The Passion of The Lord**  
**8:30AM Morning Prayer**

**3:00PM Stations of The Cross**  
**5:30PM Liturgy of The Lord's Passion**

**Saturday, April 4**

**8:30 AM Morning Prayer**

**7:30 PM The Night Watch of the Resurrection**  
**Easter Vigil Mass**

**Sunday, April 5**

**Solemnity of Easter Sunday of the**  
**Resurrection of The Lord**  
**9:30AM: Deceased Members of The**  
**Harley & McQuade Families**  
**req by:** Peggy & Tom McQuade

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