

Sts. Mary & Matthew Faith Community

St. Mary's Catholic Church
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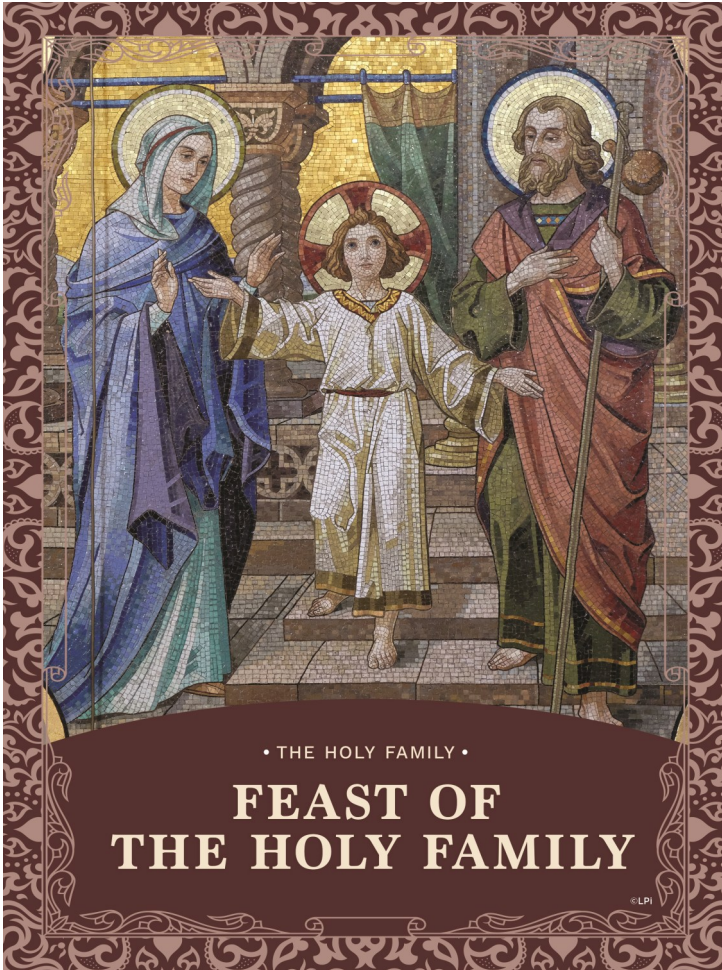
St. Matthew Catholic Church
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 Livonia, NY 14487
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Office Hours: Mon, Tues & Thurs 9:00 am to Noon

Office Hours: Mon-Wed 8:00 am to 1:00 pm

Website - www.stsmaryandmatthew.com Facebook - [stsmaryandmatthewfaithcommunity](https://www.facebook.com/stsmaryandmatthewfaithcommunity)

Our Mission Is To Go and Make Disciples of Jesus Christ ~ December 29, 2024



• THE HOLY FAMILY •

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Readings and Hymns

Readings801

Hymns:

St. Mary's:

- Entrance 256
- Offertory 251
- Recessional 245

St. Matthew:

Please See Hymn Boards

The Word of the Laird



Today we celebrate "Holy Family Sunday." The Gospel for this cycle of readings (Cycle C) is the story about Jesus remaining in Jerusalem after the feast of Passover and that Mary and Joseph had to travel back to Jerusalem and search for him. This was an ordeal of three days (similar to the "three days in the tomb"). In the understanding of that time even a part of a day was considered as one day. So following Jesus' crucifixion He was buried before sunset on Friday, He was in the tomb all of Saturday and He rose from the tomb sometime after sunset on Saturday.

You may recall that a year or two ago I mentioned having read the book "Three Days: The Search for the Boy Messiah" by Chris Stepien. I found it to be a delightful read. It not only considered the three days of the missing Christ child but it also explored the feelings and emotions of both Mary and Joseph in the situation in which they found themselves. Mary was engaged to Joseph and she is found to be pregnant. Joseph decides to divorce her quietly when an angel tells him the child was conceived not by another man but by the Holy Spirit.

The devotion that Mary and Joseph, the trust that they developed in each other, must have been phenomenal. It was against that background that Jesus was born and raised to be the person that He was and is.

Thanks be to God.



**BOTH
 OFFICES
 CLOSED
 December 31 &
 January 1**



Saturday, December 28

St. Matthew 4:30 pm—For the People of this Faith Community

Sunday, December 29—The Holy Family

St. Mary's 8:30 am — Betty Schrader (St. Mary's Choir)
St. Matthew 10:30 am—Ralph Messura (Wife Fran and Family)

Monday, December 30

St. Matthew 9:00 am—Frank & Betty West (Nancy O'Connor)

Tuesday, December 31—Holy Mary Mother of God

St. Mary's 9:00 am
St. Mary's 5:30 pm—For the People of this Faith Community

Wednesday—January 1—Holy Mary Mother of God

St. Matthew 9:00 am—For the People of this Faith Community

Thursday—January 2

St. Mary's 9:00 am—Jim Fitzsimmons (Joan and Family)

Saturday, January 4

St. Matthew 4:30 pm—Jennie Koch (Ralph & Cherie Palmer)

Sunday, January 5—The Epiphany of the Lord

St. Mary's 8:30 am — For the People of this Faith Community
St. Matthew 10:30 am—Ann Crilly (Alexander Crilly)

WEEKEND MINISTRY SCHEDULE

JANUARY 4 & 5

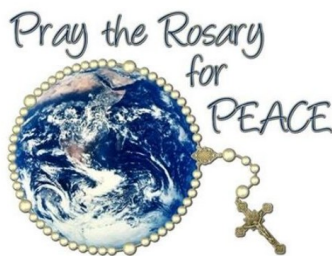
4:30 pm—Communion Ministers: P. Rodman, J. Patel; **Lector:** D. Winter; **Sacristan:** B. Woodruff

8:30 am—Altar Servers: C. Andres, L. Norris; **Communion Ministers:** H. Hawes, D. Horning; **Lector:** S. Brown; **Greeter/Ushers:** P&S Stumpf, D. Horning; **Sacristan:** H. Hawes; **Announcer:** N. Healy; **Live Stream:** P. Stumpf

10:30 am—Altar Server: C. Corridi; **Communion Ministers:** B. Cope, K. Gsellmeier; **Lector:** D. Sykes; **Sacristan:** K&R Gsellmeier

Our Staff

Rev. William Laird, Pastor
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John Hoffman, Deacon
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Melissa Szczesniak, Asst. Regional Finance Director
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Joan Madigan, Administrative Assistant
hstmaryo@dor.org
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Kathryn.Morsch@dor.org
Mary Stansfield, Administrative Assistant
Mary.Stansfield@dor.org



JOIN US for 1st SATURDAY ROSARY

We are coming together to pray the Rosary for our country and peace in the world. All are invited on January 4th for **1st SATURDAY ROSARY** from 11:00 - 11:30 am at St. Matthew Church.



Mary, the Holy Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation)

Tuesday, 12/31 St. Mary's, 5:30 pm
Wednesday, 1/1 St. Matthew, 9:00 am

In Memory of Loved Ones

Contact your Parish Office to remember a loved one. A donation of \$50/year is requested.

In Memory Of

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Richard O'Connor | Dan & Shirley Mulvaney |
| Pat Conlon | Jay Nowakowski |
| Lucille DeClerck | Robert & Mary Oelwang |
| Jule DeClerck | Paul & Martha Pfuntner |
| Joseph & Betty Eberwein | Joe Rausch |
| Mary Iten | Patrick L Guenther |
| Leo Iten | Frank & Estelle Rodman |
| Paul Jones | Nan Ryan |
| Beverly Luther | John Scherberger |
| Ralph & Rocco Messura | Michelle Stefano |
| Betty West | Kathie Regelsberger |
| Leo & Mary Ann Morsch | Lois Cicero |
| Lenny & Marie Shumway | Debra Czudak |
| Linda Murphy | James Sheehan |
| Patrick Argentieri | Anita Stefano |
| Ofc. Anthony P. Mazurkiewicz | Joan Shattuck |
| Jean Marie Dellies | Betty Schrader |
| Joseph Carusotti | Leigh Ann Hockey |
| Kay C. Gordon | Larry & Eleanor Milligan |
| Thomas Linehan | |

Deceased Members of the following:

Chuck and Cathy Schwalenstocker Family
 Helinski and Ellison Families
 Giuliani Family
 Jones Family
 Muscato Family
 Enright & Yatteau Families
 Kurtz, Martin & O'Neil Families
 Kucich & Juriaco Families
 Quinn, Donato & Lewis Families
 Gilbert & Somers Families
 Paul & Martha Pfuntner
 Baier, Root and Shaw Families
 Mazurkiewicz and Rumfola Families
 Moeller & Fritzen Families
 Cicero and Lyeth Families
 Hockey and McGinnis Families
 Koch Family



In your Christian Charity, you are asked to remember in your prayers

William Boyea

who God called to eternal rest. May he rest in peace and may the Risen Lord strengthen his family in their time of loss.

Praying for Those Who Are Ill

Florence Ahl, Gary Anderson, Diane Backus, William Beeley, Katey Boldt-Norton, Teresa Burritt, Catherine Couture, Kevin DeCillis, Hazel Delaney, Crystal DeMay, Joseph Dispenza, Larry Ebersold, Dave Fulton, Mary Sarah Hanna, Joan Harvey, John Henry, Mary Ann Hipp, Debbie Holtz, Dan Jones, Peggy Knight, Jean Long, Mark (Whitmore) Maltese, Shoshana Margolin, Rose Mazurkiewicz, Steve Milligan, Nina Monteleone, Christina Palella, Mia Rafanelli, Ann Marie Redman, Kathy Reynolds, Mary Sheehan, Bill Sidlauskas, Alan Siracusa, Erin Siracusa, Kathleen Smith, Helen Stefano, Jim Stefano Sr., Marlene Tears, Ed Wendelgass

Would You Help Us Out?

Please review the list. If you requested a name to be added and the person no longer needs to be on the list, let us know so we can take the name off to add others. **As a reminder**, we need the permission of an **immediate** family member or the person themselves to place a name on the prayer list.



Church Chuckle

What did the wise men say after giving gifts of gold and frankincense? "But wait! There's myrrh!"

This Week in Our Faith Community

Monday, December 30

St. Matthew—9:00 am Mass

Tuesday, December 31

BOTH OFFICES CLOSED

St. Mary's—9:00 am Mass

St. Mary's—5:30 pm Holy Mary Mother of God

Wednesday, January 1—HAPPY NEW YEAR!

BOTH OFFICES CLOSED

St. Matthew—9:00 am Holy Mary Mother of God

St. Matthew—No adoration due to the holiday

Thursday, January 2

St. Mary's—9:00 am Mass

Friday, January 3

St. Mary's—10:00 am Noon Clothing Closet Open

Saturday, January 4

St. Mary's—10:00 am Noon Clothing Closet Open

St. Matthew—11:00 am First Saturday Rosary

St. Matthew—3:30—4:00 pm Reconciliation

St. Matthew—4:30 pm Mass

Sunday, January 5

St. Mary's—8:30 am Mass

St. Matthew—10:30 am Mass

A NOTE FROM YOUR DIRECTOR OF FAITH FORMATION AND YOUTH MINISTRY:

Dear Church Family,

MERRY CHRISTMAS! Today we celebrate the **Feast of the Holy Family** of Jesus, Mary and Joseph! Now that we have entered into the beautiful season of Christmas, today’s opening Antiphon relates, **“The shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.”** And the opening prayer (the Collect) at Mass reminds us that God in his great goodness, gave us the **“shining example of the Holy Family.”** All of us are called to holiness, making ALL our families holy. The model of **THE Holy Family** is one we can and should emulate, but all families are not created equal. Some only have one parent, some have extra parents (step-parents). Some children are raised by grandparents, and some have two moms or two dads. Last week our gospel passage told the story of Mary visiting her cousin, Elizabeth. These two women, cousins and believers, were also part of a holy family. The community of Sts. Mary and Matthew are a holy family—so this week’s celebration is for us all, with Jesus, Mary and Joseph as our guides.

The second reading from St. Paul’s Letter to the Colossians tells us how to best live as a family of true faith. **“Brothers and sisters: Put on, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do.” (Col 3: 12-13)** What a paradigm of holiness for us to aspire to.

Our gospel passage from St. Luke, delves into what it’s like to be a parent in a holy family, while worrying about your child. *I’m here to tell you, even when your children are adults you still worry, which is natural because worry and love go hand in hand.* Here we have the story of 12-year-old Jesus being left behind in Jerusalem (for three days) after having celebrated Passover. When his parents finally find him, Mary laments, **“Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety.”** And can’t you just imagine Jesus, calmly replying, **“Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?”** These holy parents probably wanted to throw up their hands in frustration—yet we are told that even though they didn’t understand, **“his mother kept all these things in her heart.”**

As Christian families we strive for holiness. If we were blessed with parental examples that showed us how to love, we should thank God and count ourselves grateful. If we were not that fortunate then we must look to the Holy Family as our example. To live as holy families we must lovingly and unconditionally accept one another for who God made us to be. We must strive to keep those we love close to our hearts. We in our individual families, and within our church family, must live together in love. For me, that’s what it truly means to be holy.

Have a happy and holy week!

Peace and Love, *Jeanette*

Our Sacramental Life Together:

- Sacrament of Baptism:** Call either parish office for arrangements.
- Sacrament of Reconciliation:** Saturdays from 3:30 to 4:00 pm at St. Matthew or call either parish office for an appointment.
- Sacrament of Matrimony:** Please notify either parish office six months in advance of desired date.
- Anointing of the Sick:** Please notify either parish office if someone is sick at home, in a nursing facility or the hospital.
- Holy Orders:** If you’re interested in serving the People of God as a priest, please visit ROCpriest.org.

Remembering All Those Serving in Our Military

Sgt. 1st Class Jacob Allison, Lt. Colonels Brian & Maria Beecher, Gunnery Sgt. Roy Beecher, T Sgt. Daniel Beecher, SPC Joshua Beecher, HM2 (FMF), Adam Bock, George Boyd, Lt. Cdr. William Burke, SSGs Ramiro & Melanie Carrasco, Major Alanna (Parrinello) Cook, Lt. Colonel Steven Cook, Sgt. Scott Cunningham, Cmdr. Kevin DeCillis - U.S.N., Private Bruce Flieger, AG2 Diane Gagle, Capt. Levi Gangi, Major Walter M. Golden III, Lt. Col. Christinia R. Golden, Maj. Adam R. Golden, SPC Mark Griswold, Nathan Gutridge, Emily Hill, Fred Hill, SSG. Scott Jeffers, SSG Jason Junot, Cpl. Marine Nicole A. Maltese, Sgt. Richard Miller, Lt. Col. Jeffrey B. Murphy, Capt. Michael S. Redman, IT3 Christopher Redman, Col. Gregory Reese, Airman Tyler Regelsberger, Capt. John Rossiter, Gerald Ruf, Staff Sgt. Sean Schoonover, 2nd Lt. US Army Dennis Segrue, Airman 1st Class Kenneth A. Shelton, Marvin Singer, Lt. Commander John T. Slagle, Sr. Airman Josh Smith, Christopher Taber

PLEASE NOTIFY YOUR PARISH OFFICE WITH ANY CHANGES TO THIS LIST



Low gluten hosts are available at both Parishes.

Please advise a greeter prior to Mass so that we are sure to have enough low-gluten hosts consecrated.



Give Warmth, Give Hope

As we know, this is a difficult time of year for many of our neighbors. As we do each January, we will be offering everyone the opportunity to help our Livingston County friends and neighbors by providing funds for heat through Catholic Charities.

In the bulletin the first weekend in January you will find an envelope for a donation along with an auction item form to donate an item for the auction held at St. Matthew.

Items will be available for bidding throughout the month of January.

**MANY THANKS FOR YOUR
CONTINUED SUPPORT**



SERVANTS OF GOD

Prayer Ministries

In addition to Holy Mass, we at Sts. Mary & Matthew are blessed with many opportunities to enrich our prayer life, grow closer to God, and reflect on God's direction for our lives. Eucharistic Adoration takes place at St. Matthew after the Wednesday 9 am Mass. The Rosary Group meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month at St. Mary's to pray the Holy Rosary, followed by a lunch together. The Rosary is also prayed the 1st Saturday of each month at St. Matthew for those who would like to complete the Five First Saturday devotions. The St. Matthew Holy Family Candle and the St. Mary's Sanctuary Candle are available to schedule for your special intentions. Mass Cards sent in memory of or in thanksgiving can also be scheduled through either parish office. Please contact your church office for you or an immediate family member to be placed on the Prayer List for our Faith Community to offer prayers.

Our website can offer more detailed information on all of our Prayer Ministries.