



St. Matthew

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Third Sunday of Advent
December 15, 2024



Parish Purpose Statement

Our parish purpose is to use beauty and truth to inspire and develop disciples to transform the secular order by the grace of God, for His glorification and the edification of man.

OFFICE INFORMATION

Mon/Wed/Fri:
8:30 am - 11:30 am
12:30 pm - 3:30 pm

701 Church St.
Flint, MI 48502
(810)232-0880

StMatthewFlint.org

StMatthewCatholicChurchFlint

MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday
11:00 am (OF), 1:00 pm (EF)

Mon/Tues/Wed/Fri
12:10 pm (OF)

First Saturday
9:00 am (EF)

OF: Ordinary Form
EF: Extraordinary Form

CONFESSION

Sunday: 2:30 pm
Monday: 5:00 - 6:30 pm
Saturday: 10:30 - 11:30 am

ADORATION

Monday: 12:40 - 7:00 pm

LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Monday: 6:30 pm

PARISH INFORMATION

PARISH STAFF

PASTOR:
Fr. Anthony Strouse-franthonystrouse@flintcatholic.org

DEACON:
Dcn. Mark Danaho dcnmarkdanaho@flintcatholic.org

OFFICE MANAGER:

MUSIC DIRECTOR:
Joseph Dobos josephdobos@flintcatholic.org

FAITH FORMATION:
Amanda Williams amandawilliams@flintcatholic.org

CAMPUS MINISTRY:
Tim Goodrich timgoodrich@flintcatholic.org

BOOKKEEPER:
Allison Gonser

MAINTENANCE DIRECTOR:
Michael Wilson michaelwilson@flintcatholic.org

CUSTODIAN:
Damien Johnson damienjohnson@flintcatholic.org

HALL RENTAL

Interested in renting Augustinian Hall, Undercroft or the gym for an event? Contact our facility manager at: rentals@flintcatholic.org

BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS

Submit items by Monday for publication in the following week's bulletin to: Amandawilliams@flintcatholic.org

SACRAMENTS

BAPTISM - Call the office to make arrangements.

FIRST COMMUNION - If you believe your child is ready to receive his or her First Communion, there is no need to wait! Call the office to get the process started.

CONFIRMATION - If you or your child are seeking the sacrament of confirmation, please contact Amanda Williams at the parish office.

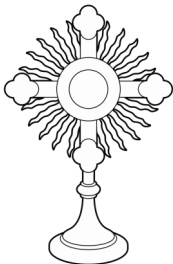
MATRIMONY - Contact Fr. Anthony at least 9 months in advance.

SACRAMENTAL PREP - We accept sacramental prep from Catholic schools as well as prep done at home. Call the office with any questions regarding your child's sacramental prep.

BECOMING CATHOLIC - If you are interested in becoming Catholic or just learning more, we look forward to helping you! Contact the parish office to setup a meeting.

ADORATION MONDAYS

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament occurs every Monday after the 12:10 pm daily Mass. Benediction is at 7:00 pm. Everyone is welcomed and encouraged to spend time with the Blessed Sacrament whenever is possible during our time of Adoration. It is an opportune time to pray, read, and reflect on our life. If you are interested in signing up to become a regular adorer, the sign-up is located on our parish website. We are in special need of adorers from 3:00 to 5:00 pm.



WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS

Anticipated Weekly Income: \$6,100

SCAN FOR QUICK DONATION, THANK YOU!



Week of:	November 17, 2024	November 24, 2024	December 1, 2024
Actual Income	\$ 7,315.26	\$ 6,331.81	\$ 6,715.14
Over (Under)	\$ 1,215.26	\$ 231.81	\$ 615.14

LITURGICAL LIFE AT ST. MATTHEW

SUNDAY'S READINGS

Ordinary Form

Third Sunday of Advent

Zephaniah 3: 14-18
Ps 12: 2-3, 4, 5-6
Philippians 4: 4-7
Luke 3: 10-18

Extraordinary Form

Third Sunday of Advent

Philippians 4:4-7
Ps 79: 2, 3
John 1: 19-28

LECTOR SCHEDULE

December 22	A Wilberding
December 24 (4:30)	JP McAvoy
December 25 (midnight)	K Downs
December 25 (10:00)	A Wilberding
December 29	M Wilson

MUSIC MINISTRY

"...and sing the love amazing..."

The 1 p.m. Sunday Latin Mass Schola needs more singers! We meet before Mass in the undercroft at 12:15 p.m. to go over the music that will be sung during Mass. We have a group of the most dedicated and pleasant singers. I am in awe of their talent and their zeal for the faith. However, expecting them to be here every single Sunday is unrealistic. The saying, "There is safety in numbers," is especially true for a choir.

Hearing the great voice of Saint Matthew's congregation tells me that many of you sing well enough to be valuable assets to our talented Schola. You don't need to read music to sing in the Schola. If you can match pitch and carry a tune, please consider joining us! Feel free to talk with me after Mass or email me to the address listed below. Either way, do continue your great singing, and remember to pray for the musicians of our parish.

Joseph Dobos, Director of Sacred Music.
josephdobos@flintcatholic.org

MASS INTENTIONS & EVENTS † (Deceased)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15

3rd Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday)

9:30a Catechesis of the Good Shepherd / Faith Explorers
11:00a The People of St. Matthew Parish
12:00p Coffee & Donuts (Undercroft)
1:00p † Ron and Pam Sneller by the Hodack Family
2:30p Confessions

MONDAY, DECEMBER 16

St. Eusebius of Vercelli (Trad.)

12:00p Angelus
12:10p † Stephen Racine by the Family
12:30p Adoration
5:00p Confessions
6:30p Vespers (Evening Prayer)
7:00p Benediction
7:00p Youth Group

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17

12:00p Angelus
12:10p † Kaveon Dux by the Kray Family

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18 Ember Wednesday

12:00p Angelus
12:10p † Leona Kirbitz by the Kirbitz Family
6:30p Greater Flint Catholic Men's Group (Undercroft)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19

6:30p Prophets Bible Study

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20 Ember Friday

12:00p Angelus
12:10p † Cy Dailey by Pat Dailey
1:00p Church Decorating

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21 Ember Saturday

St. Peter Canisius (New) / St. Thomas (Trad.)

10:30a Confessions
11:35a Rosary Walk

SAINT OF THE WEEK



St. Eusebius of Vercelli was a pivotal figure in the early Church, celebrated as the first bishop of Vercelli in northern Italy. As bishop, Eusebius played a critical role in combating Arianism, a heresy denying the divinity of Christ. His efforts were marked by courage and resilience, notably during the reign of Emperor Constantius II, an Arian sympathizer. Eusebius refused to compromise his faith, even under persecution. He was exiled multiple times for his staunch opposition to Arianism, enduring hardships with unwavering faith. Eusebius also emphasized pastoral care, uniting his clergy in a monastic style of communal living, which inspired greater spiritual discipline and unity. Eusebius contributed to the preservation of orthodoxy at critical moments in Church history, including his participation in the Council of Milan (355). His legacy as a bishop, theologian, and defender of the faith earned him recognition as a saint and a model of fidelity to Christian truth.

St. Eusebius, pray for us!

DON ANTONIO'S DISPATCH

I hope you all rejoice today, because we are more than halfway to Christmas! This third week of Advent really puts us in the homestretch to Christmas. We especially get close as we being the "O Antiphons" from 17-23 December, days that specifically focus us on the Nativity of our Lord.

Special thanks to those this week who will help us decorate the church on Friday after the 12:10 p.m. Mass. We have such a beautiful church for Christmas, and it's a joint effort between our parish volunteers and the good people at Vogt's. Thank you for your stewardship of your time and talents!

Recently, a parishioner asked a question which may have also been a question for you: are the days when Mass is celebrated for the People of St. Matthew Parish just fillers for Mass intentions? The 1983 Code of Canon Law, the law

book which governs all Latin Rite Catholics (including those who attend the Extraordinary Form Masses) lists different expectations of pastors. Among them, in canon 534 §1 states, "the parish priest [pastor] is bound on each Sunday and holyday of obligation in his diocese to apply the Mass for the people entrusted to him." So each Sunday and holyday, I have to say Mass for you, my parishioners. This is for your spiritual benefit so that the fruits of the Mass are given for you all, and not just the individuals for whom others have Masses said. Since we only have two Sunday Masses, each week only one of them is available for individual intentions. I know this creates a bit of a backlog for scheduling Sunday Mass intentions, but it is meant for your good, and I hope you experience the graces that flow from celebrating Mass for you each week!

EXPLORING THE CATHOLIC FAITH

YOUTH GROUP

Any teens interested in joining St. Matthew's youth group can sign up on the parish website. The next meeting will be on **Monday, December 16 @ 7:00 pm—8:30 pm**. We will meet in the field-house.

GREATER FLINT AREA MEN'S GROUP

We will meet **December 18th from 6:30-8:00 pm** in the church basement. Come for fellowship and formation in the Catholic faith. No previous attendance or instruction is necessary. The group will pray Vespers and study the Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, which is available as a book and for free on the Vatican website.

CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Who is a prophet? A prophet is a person who speaks and predicts; but the distinctive trait of the prophet is that the word he announces is not his own: it is the word of God. The prophet is a voice, but he can only speak because he has first listened to the voice of God who has spoken to him. The entire life of the prophet is based in this listening. In the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd atrium, the children hear the clues from the prophet Isaiah, and the prophet Micah about the Child who is to come.

In the atrium the children hear the Prophecy of the Mother. God chose a special mother for this child. Who is this mother? What made her so special? There is another name contained in this prophecy for Jesus: Emmanuel, which means God is with us. How does it feel to know God is with us?

LADIES STUDY GROUP

Tuesday evenings 6:30-8:00

Continuing our study of "How the Saints Shaped History" by local author, Randall Petrides. This book "focuses on the essential role of the saints as vessels of God's grace in moving the Church (and the world) through her two-thousand-year history.

Wednesday mornings 10:00-11:30

"A Right to be Merry" by Mother Mary Francis, PCC. "Can life really be 'merry' inside a Poor Clare cloister? This happy book reveals the challenges, cares and joys of that cloistered life." And it reminds us of the importance of their prayers for the sanctification of our world. Both meet at the home of Rae Ann Houbeck, Grand Blanc – 810-919-8696.

OPLATKI—AVAILABLE AT BOTH ENTRANCES

Oplatki, also known as Christmas wafers, is a deeply rooted Catholic tradition, particularly cherished by Polish, Slovak, and Lithuanian families. Oplatki are thin, rectangular wafers made from unleavened bread, often embossed with religious imagery such as the Nativity, the Holy Family, or angels, symbolizing the sacredness of the season. On Christmas Eve, the family gathers in prayerful anticipation of Christ's birth. The head of the household begins the ritual by sharing the oplatki with each family member, offering blessings and prayers for peace, health, and prosperity in the coming year. Each person reciprocates by breaking a piece of the wafer and sharing it with others, expressing forgiveness and mutual love in the spirit of Christ. This act mirrors the Eucharistic celebration, emphasizing the presence of Christ in the family and the call to live in communion with one another. This tradition is not just a cultural practice but a sacred moment that unites the family in faith and prepares their hearts for the celebration of the birth of Jesus.

OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

NORTH END SOUP KITCHEN

St. Matthew is signed up to assist at the North End Soup Kitchen on Thursdays. Come on out and give a hand. You can drop in from 2 pm to 5:30 pm, or sign up for a day on the parish website! This is a great outreach opportunity for the entire family!

HOPE IN THE BOX

There is a Hope in the Box for Catholic Charities container in the Narthex. Specific monthly needs are listed on the box, but any personal needs items can be donated at anytime. Thank you in advance for your donations.



COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

We are looking for volunteers to be able to help at the Community Pantry at the former St. Pius X parish center. It would be on Tuesdays from 9:00 to 10:30 am. Please contact Karen at 810-287-2490 if you are interested.

MEALS FOR MOMS

If you are an expectant mother of the parish and would like to participate, fill out the form available on our website and we will be in contact with you.

If you are interested in getting notifications whenever we have new families that are in need of meals, please email us at stmatthewmealsformoms@gmail.com

IN & AROUND OUR PARISH

Flint Catholic CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve

- 4:00 - Holy Redeemer
- 4:00 - St. John Vianney
- 4:00 - St. Mary
- 4:15 - Holy Redeemer (Life Center)
- 4:30 - St. Matthew
- 5:00 - Christ the King
- 7:00 - Holy Redeemer
- 10:00 - Our Lady of Guadalupe
- 10:30 - St. John Vianney
- 11:00 - Holy Redeemer

Christmas

- Midnight - St. Matthew
- 9:00 - Holy Redeemer
- 9:00 - St. Mary
- 10:00 - St. Matthew
- 11:00 - Holy Redeemer
- 11:00 - St. John Vianney
- 11:00 - Our Lady of Guadalupe
- 12:30 - St. Matthew (EF)

MARRIAGE BANNS

The following parties are preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage. Any impediments regarding these couples, please inform the parish office immediately.



Michael Straub & Mikeyla Agopian

Twelfth Night Celebration

January 5, 2025

*Come celebrate the last day of Christmas
and the Eve of Epiphany with us!*

- 3:00 pm - Epiphany Water Blessing (Church)
- 4:00 - Potluck Dinner & Celebration

www.StMatthewFlint.org

SEVEN SISTERS & FASTING BROTHERS

Seven Sisters is an Apostolate to strengthen Holy Mother Church. The mission is for strength, guidance, protection, safety, wisdom, discernment, holiness, and purity for our priests.

Fasting Brothers are men who commit to fasting in conjunction with the Seven Sisters all for the intentions of our priests.

United under the patronage of the Madonna of the Grapes, St. John Vianney, and Saint Margaret Clitherow the goal is for one heart united in love, one day a week, one hour, one priest's intention. It is complimented by fasting.

Ad majorem Dei gloriam. For more information on how to serve contact Donna Bussiere at (313) 407-9465.