



St. Matthew

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 22, 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:
Position Available

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. We will begin prep for 2025 Confirmations in the fall of 2024.

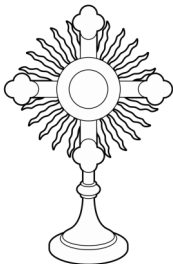
MATRIMONY - Contact Fr. Anthony at least 9 months in advance.

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 24, 2024 | December 1, 2024 | December 8, 2024 |
|----------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Actual Income | \$ 6,331.81 | \$ 6,715.14 | \$ 5,203.79 |
| Over (Under) | \$ 231.81 | \$ 615.14 | \$ (896.21) |

LITURGICAL LIFE AT ST. MATTHEW

SUNDAY'S READINGS

Ordinary Form
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Micah 5: 1-4
Ps 80: 2-3, 15-16, 18-19
Hebrews 10: 5-10
Luke 1: 39-45

Extraordinary Form
Fourth Sunday of Advent

1 Corinthians 4: 1-5
Ps 144: 18, 21
Luke 3: 1-6

LECTOR SCHEDULE

| | |
|------------------------|--------------|
| December 24 (4:30) | JP McAvoy |
| December 25 (midnight) | K Downs |
| December 25 (10:00) | A Wilberding |
| December 29 | M Wilson |
| December 31 (4:30) | JP McAvoy |

MUSIC MINISTRY

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

Midnight Mass at Saint Matthew's Church is at...midnight!

However, you will want to arrive at 11:30 p.m., Christmas Eve, for a festival singing of carols. You'll enjoy all your favorite carols, along with some that might be new to you.

A uniquely reverent atmosphere in the church on a crisp December night brings the Christmas story to life in a truly special way. Midnight Mass has been a cherished tradition among Christians since the earliest centuries. It offers a wonderful opportunity to invite those who are not Catholic, as well as Catholics who may not have attended church recently, to worship the newborn babe in the manger. As the final verse of "O Come, All Ye Faithful" beautifully expresses, "Yea, Lord, we greet Thee! Born this happy morning."

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

MASS INTENTIONS & EVENTS † (Deceased)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

4th Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday)

11:00a † John and Catherine by the Runyan Family
1:00p The People of St. Matthew Parish
2:30p Confessions

MONDAY, DECEMBER 23

St. John of Kanty (New)

12:00p Angelus
12:10p Intentions of Neil and Dorothy Allen by David & Dorothy Lyons
12:30p Adoration
5:00p Confessions
6:30p Vespers (Evening Prayer)
7:00p Benediction

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24 ** Offices Closed**

Vigil of Christmas

4:30p Intentions of Pope Francis

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25 ** Offices Closed**

Nativity of the Lord - Merry Christmas!

12:00a Intentions of Bishop Earl Boyea
10:00p Christians in the Holy Land
12:30p The People of St. Matthew Parish

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26

St. Stephen

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27 - Blessing of Wine after Mass

St. John

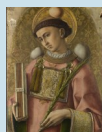
12:00p Angelus
12:10p † Fr. Gerald Ryan by Pat Dailey

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28

The Holy Innocents

10:30a Confessions
11:35a Rosary Walk

SAINT OF THE WEEK



St. Stephen, is recognized as the first Christian martyr. He was one of the seven deacons chosen by the apostles in the early church to distribute food and aid to the poor and widows, a role emphasizing service and compassion (Acts 6:1-6). Stephen was a powerful preacher who performed miracles and defended the teachings of Jesus Christ with courage. His defense before the Sanhedrin, as recounted in Acts 7, is a remarkable speech that traces the history of Israel, emphasizing God's faithfulness and highlighting the persistent rejection of His messengers. Stephen's words angered his accusers, leading to his condemnation and subsequent stoning. In his final moments, he demonstrated Christ-like forgiveness, praying for his persecutors and committing his spirit to God. Stephen's martyrdom served as a catalyst for the spread of Christianity, as his death prompted the dispersion of believers from Jerusalem. His legacy endures as a symbol of steadfast devotion, inspiring countless to remain faithful in the face of persecution.

St. Stephen, pray for us!

DON ANTONIO'S DISPATCH

Even though it's the 4th Sunday of Advent, since this is the bulletin for Christmas week, Merry Christmas to you and your loved ones! I hope you enjoy the light of the Christ Child, not just for one day, but for the entire Christmas season!! Below is our schedule for Masses for Christmas and the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God (both of which are holydays of obligation):

24 December

4:30 p.m. (no incense)

25 December

12:00 a.m. (Midnight)

10:00 a.m.

12:30 p.m. (Extraordinary Form)

31 December

4:30 p.m.

1 January

10:00 a.m.

12:30 p.m. (Extraordinary Form)

The offices will be closed on 24 & 25 December, and 31 December & 1 January. The rest of the week will be usual office hours.

FOR UNTO US A
CHILD IS BORN

ISAIAH 9:6

Merry
Christmas



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, January 13 from 7:00 pm—8:30 pm**. We will meet in the field-house.

GREATER FLINT AREA MEN'S GROUP

There will be no meetings the next two weeks due to Christmas and New Year's Day. The next meeting will be **Wednesday, January 8, 6:30-8:00pm in the church basement.**

CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

While we know our focus this season is upon the greatest gift given: the gift of Jesus; we acknowledge our love for our family and friends with an exchange of presents. Before the bows and wrapping paper are torn, take a moment to offer a prayer of thanksgiving for all the gifts your family has received this year:

Let us pause to enjoy the beauty of our Christmas Tree and the gifts that surround it. *(Allow for a moment of silence)*

We are all gifts to one another. Each one of us is unique and special in His sight. Let us be reminded of the gifts that each person here brings to our family. *(Allow time so that the gifts of each person are affirmed.)*

God, we thank you for all the blessings you have given to us, especially the gift of Your Son, Jesus. We ask your blessing upon our family as we share our love for one another in the exchange of presents.

BLESSING OF WINE

The blessing of wine on St. John's Feast Day, celebrated on December 27, is a cherished tradition that honors the Apostle's miraculous deliverance from poisoned wine through his faith and trust in Christ. According to tradition, St. John blessed a cup of poisoned wine with the Sign of the Cross, rendering the poison harmless—a powerful symbol of God's protection. In memory of this miracle, the Church blesses wine on this feast day, invoking prayers for the physical and spiritual well-being of those who drink it. This act reflects the Catholic understanding of sacramentals, which draw the faithful closer to God through His grace. The blessed wine reminds us of the unity and salvation found in Christ's love, making this blessing a meaningful tradition that deepens the joy and faith of the Christmas season.



For the blessing—Before Mass, please leave your wine at the altar rail in front of the side altar (Mary's side).

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.

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)

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

MARRIAGE BANNES

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