



St. Matthew

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Second Sunday of Advent / Immaculate Conception
December 8, 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: 7:00 am ; 6:30 pm
Friday: 7:00 am

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.

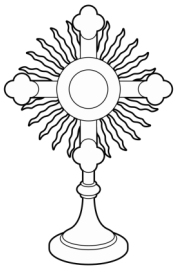
MATRIMONY - Contact Fr. Anthony at least 9 months in advance.

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 signup 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 10, 2024	November 17, 2024	November 24, 2024
Actual Income	\$ 9,166.32	\$ 7,315.26	\$ 6,331.81
Over (Under)	\$ 3,066.32	\$ 1,215.26	\$ 231.81

LITURGICAL LIFE AT ST. MATTHEW

SUNDAY'S READINGS

Ordinary Form
Second Sunday of Advent

Baruch 5: 1-9
Ps 126: 1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6
Philippians 1: 4-6, 8-11
Luke 3: 1-6

Extraordinary Form
Immaculate Conception

Proverbs 8: 22-35
Judith 13: 23
Luke 1: 26-28

LECTOR SCHEDULE

December 15	K Jayabalan
December 22	A Wilberding

MUSIC MINISTRY

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

Although Advent lasts only four weeks, it features some of the finest hymns of the church year. One notable Advent hymn is "Comfort, Comfort Ye My People," based on the verses from Isaiah 40:1-5. Its lyrics convey the hope for brighter days ahead with the coming of the Messiah. These well-known words are often sung in Handel's oratorio, "Messiah." The melody of this hymn originated in France during the 1500s and has an almost dancelike rhythm. As such, this energetic hymn can be viewed as an Advent carol that embodies the message of the scripture.

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



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MASS INTENTIONS & EVENTS † (Deceased)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

2nd Sunday of Advent / Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Trad.)

9:30a Catechesis of the Good Shepherd / Faith Explorers
11:00a Intentions of Greg Jenkins by St. Matthew Parishioners
1:00p The People of St. Matthew Parish
2:30p Confessions

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (New) / St. Juan Diego (New)

7:00a Lauds (Morning Prayer)
12:00p Angelus
12:10p † Brendon Fitch by the Fitch Family
12:30p Adoration
5:00p Confessions
6:30p Vespers (Evening Prayer)
6:45p Marian Consecration (Youth Group)
7:00p Benediction

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10

Our Lady of Loreto (New) / St. Melchiades (Trad.)

Anniversary of the Dedication of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

12:00p Angelus
12:10p † Robert Dailey by Pat Dailey

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11

St. Damasus I

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

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12

Our Lady of Guadalupe

6:30p Prophets Bible Study

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13

St. Lucy

7:00a Lauds (Morning Prayer)
12:00p Angelus
12:10p † Charles Palumbo by the Kray Family

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14 *Return Giving Tree Gifts*

St. John of the Cross (New)

10:30a Confessions
11:35a Rosary Walk

SAINT OF THE WEEK



St. Lucy, also known as Lucia of Syracuse, is a martyr whose life and death have inspired devotion and legend throughout history. Born in the late 3rd century in Syracuse, Sicily, she is celebrated for her faith and dedication to Christ, even in the face of persecution during Emperor Diocletian's reign.

According to tradition, Lucy vowed to remain a virgin and devote her life to serving the poor and needy, rejecting a marriage proposal from a wealthy pagan suitor. This suitor, angered by her refusal and her Christian beliefs, reported her to Roman authorities. Lucy was subjected to severe torture, including the removal of her eyes—a detail that has made her the patron saint of vision and the blind. Miraculously, some accounts claim her eyesight was restored before her death, further cementing her status as a figure of divine grace. St. Lucy's story continues to inspire millions as a testament to courage, faith, and selfless love.

St. Lucy, pray for us!

DON ANTONIO'S DISPATCH

As a reminder, for this year in the Diocese of Lansing, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, which is transferred to 9 December in the Ordinary Form, is not a holyday of obligation. In the Extraordinary Form, it remains on 8 December, even though it's a Sunday. But, everyone is welcome to attend the 12:10 p.m. Mass on Monday, which will be the Ordinary Form (OF) celebration of the Immaculate Conception.

Since, in the OF, the Immaculate Conception gets moved to Monday, the Feast of the Anniversary of the Dedication of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception (our Cathedral in Lansing) gets moved to Tuesday. The Cathedral in Lansing is our Mother Church of the Diocese (though it's not the oldest). It is the visible sign of unity (along with the bishop) of our entire diocese. It reminds us

that we are not a stand-alone institution, but part of a larger whole, connected with our sister parishes across south-central Michigan.

And lastly, Thursday is the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Bishop Boyea will celebrate a Mass at that parish in Flint at 6 p.m. on Thursday. I remember once reading a stat (that hopefully is accurate) that the apparition at Tepeyac ended up converting some 15 million people. That more than accounted for all those who left the Church due to the errors of Martin Luther. Our Lady of Guadalupe is the patroness of the Americas and the New Evangelization. May she continue to bring people into discipleship with her Son. ¡Que viva La Virgen de Guadalupe!

EXPLORING THE CATHOLIC FAITH

YOUTH GROUP

The St. Matthew Youth Group teens have been working through the *33 Days to Morning Glory* and will do their Marian Consecration on Monday, December 9th after Vespers (6:30 pm). Cookies & Punch will be served after.

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 16th @ 7:00 pm—8:30 pm**. We will meet in the field-house.

GREATER FLINT AREA MEN'S GROUP

We will meet **December 11th 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

And Mary said: "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior." (Luke 1:46-47) This prayer is an expression of the deep joy Mary feels, a joy that is overflowing from her heart and soul. It is a prayer of not just thanking God for what he has done, but it is a prayer that begins with a cry of admiration and praise in the presence of God. In the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd atrium, the children hear this prayer, and respond with their own prayers of praise, as they reflect upon the Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth.

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.

THE PROPHETS BIBLE STUDY

The Prophets: Messengers of God's Mercy, discover how God is constantly calling you to a deeper relationship with him, as well as the ways you are called to be the voice of God to others. Our next meeting is **December 12th at 6:30 pm**.

EMBER DAYS—DECEMBER 18, 20, & 21

Ember Days are a long-standing tradition of fasting, prayer, and almsgiving, observed quarterly to mark the changing of the seasons. Instituted by the early Church, these days serve as a way to sanctify the natural cycles of the year and give thanks to God for His blessings. The Ember Days are observed on the Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday following specific liturgical milestones: the Feast of St. Lucy (December), the First Sunday of Lent, Pentecost, and the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (September).

While their observance is now optional in the Roman Rite, Ember Days remain a meaningful devotion for those seeking to deepen their connection to the Church's liturgical cycles.

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 any-time. Thank you in advance for your donations.



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

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.

GIVING TREE

Our giving tree is up! If you are able, please take an ornament and purchase a gift between the suggested amount of \$30–\$40 on clothes/toys for each child for Christmas (suggestions are on the tags). **Please return the item wrapped, with the Giving**



Tree Tag securely attached to the wrapped gift, no later than Sunday, December 14. If you are unable to take a tag from the Giving Tree, but would like to help, you can make a monetary donation to help purchase gifts. Place your donation in an envelope, drop it in the collection basket or bring it to the office. **Be sure to mark “Giving Tree” on your envelope.** If you have any questions, contact the parish office or Christa Danic at (248) 709-6790. Thank you for your generosity!

IN & AROUND OUR PARISH

Flint Catholic CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve

4:00 - St. John Vianney
4:00 - St. Mary
4:30 - St. Matthew
5:00 - Christ the King
10:00 - Our Lady of Guadalupe
10:30 - St. John Vianney

Christmas

Midnight - St. Matthew
9:00 - St. Mary
10:00 - St. Matthew
11:00 - St. John Vianney
12:30 - St. Matthew (EF)

COFFEE & DONUTS

Join us in the Undercroft for refreshments and fellowship after the 11 am Mass every 1st & 3rd Sundays of the Month! **Our next Coffee & Donuts will be on December 15th.** Call the office to sign up to bring donuts on either the first or third Sunday of the month.

CHRISTMAS CHURCH DECORATING



We will need volunteers to assist with the decorating of our church on Friday, December 20th after the 12:10 pm Mass. Please call the office if you are able help.

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

Support those who have given a lifetime. Women and men religious have dedicated their lives to service—praying, teaching, and caring for those in need—usually for little to no pay. Today, their religious communities do not have enough retirement savings. Your donation provides for the essential care, medicine, and daily needs of thousands of senior women and men religious. Please give generously.

Envelopes for your donation to the Retirement Fund for Religious are located on the tables at both entrances of the church.