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# Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2019

The desert and the parched land will exult;  
the steppe will rejoice and bloom.  
They will bloom with abundant flowers, and rejoice with joyful song.

Isaiah 35:1-2

## St. Matthias

### ST. MATTHIAS CATHOLIC CHURCH

1685 Cordilleras Road  
Redwood City, CA 94062

**Parish Phone (650) 366-9544**

**Preschool Phone (650) 367-1320**

**Website:** [www.stmatthiasparish.org](http://www.stmatthiasparish.org)

**Email:** [info@stmatthiasparish.org](mailto:info@stmatthiasparish.org)

#### St. Matthias Mass Schedule

Tuesday & Thursday	5:30 pm
Saturday	5:00 pm
Sunday	8:00 am & 10:30 am

#### St. Charles Mass Schedule

Monday—Saturday	8:30 am
Fridays	6:30 am
Saturday	5:00 pm
Sunday	8:30 am, 11:00 am & 5:00 pm

#### Sacraments

##### Reconciliation

Saturday 3:45 pm or by appointment

##### First Communion and Confirmation

Email Sabrina Harper for information.

##### Baptism

Email Deacon Rich Foley for information.

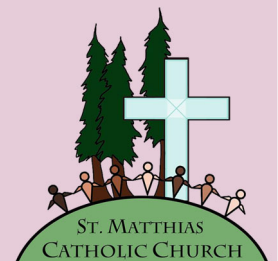
##### Marriage

Email Deacon Rich Foley for information.

**See the Staff Directory Inside the Cover for Contact Information.**

**St. Matthias** is a Roman Catholic Community striving to respond to the call of Jesus through worship and sacraments, faith formation, service, and social opportunities.

Under the guidance of the Pastor and pastoral staff, we seek to strengthen current lay leadership and develop and empower new leadership. Although a small parish, we commit ourselves and parish programs to hospitality, generosity to those in need, and outreach to all those seeking a faith community. As Catholics, we recognize the many challenges facing the Church, but we trust in the Holy Spirit to guide us into the future.



## **St. Matthias Staff Directory**

**Pastor, Fr. Dave Giorso**  
frdave@stmatthiasparish.org  
650-366-9544 x 2015

**Parochial Vicar,  
Fr. Samuel Musiimenta**  
frsamuel@stmatthiasparish.org  
650-366-9544 x 2015

**Hospital Chaplain,  
Fr. Malachi Theophilus**

**Parish Life Coordinator,  
Deacon Rich Foley**  
rich@stmatthiasparish.org  
650-366-9544 x 2016

**Deacon David Rolandelli**  
david@stmatthiasparish.org  
(650) 366-9544

**Deacon George Salinger**  
(650) 366-9544

**Pastoral Associate,  
Sabrina Harper**  
sabrina@stmatthiasparish.org  
650-366-9544 x 2021

**Parish Administrative Assistant,  
Lisa Bamford**  
lisa@stmatthiasparish.org  
650-366-9544 x 2010

**Bookkeeper, Fran Mylod**  
fran@stmatthiasparish.org  
650-366-9544 x 2011

**Music Director, Randall Watts**  
randall@stmatthiasparish.org  
650-366-9544 x 2013

**Preschool Director, Rosemary  
Juarez**  
rosemary@stmatthiasparish.org  
650-367-1320

**Preschool Administrative  
Assistants, Gigi Casey &  
Hilary Paulson**  
gigi@stmatthiasparish.org  
hilary@stmatthiasparish.org  
650-367-1320

## **Our Call to Prayer & Worship**

### **Third Sunday of Advent**

Put yourself in the scene of today's Gospel passage. John the Baptist is in prison. He has heard stories of what Jesus is doing, and wants reassurance that Jesus is the long-awaited Messiah. John's disciples and those who surrounded Jesus were faithful Jews who would have known Isaiah's prophecies by heart. God would send One who would bring sight to the blind, healing to those who were ill, salvation to all who longed to know God's mercy and peace. Jesus' response to the disciples' question rings as powerfully in our ears today as it surely did for the people who were with him that day. His actions are precisely those that the people had been told to expect. Jesus is the One for whom the people have been patiently yet anxiously waiting, like the farmer who waits for the fruits of his labor. Jesus is the One for whom our hearts long.

### **WAITING AND HOPING**

The people had been searching and waiting for generations for the Anointed One of God. They knew in their hearts that they needed someone to bring them back, to close the divide that had grown between God and God's people. John's baptism of repentance prepared them for the advent, or coming, of the Christ. John's message of repentance and the demands of faith, of justice, and care for the poor and oppressed, while comforting to the weak and vulnerable, was challenging to those in positions of power. Like prophets before him, he refused to ignore the promptings of God to speak God's word. And like many prophets who preceded him, John was imprisoned and eventually martyred. We can relate to the people who went out into the desert to be baptized. They heard John's urgent call to repentance and his declaration that the Messiah was coming soon. They heard him express God's care for those who needed it most. They were compelled to hear and respond. Their lives were changed, as their hearts were opened to the reality of God's love to which John so powerfully gave witness.

### **GOD IS WITH YOU**

We too ache for God's healing and peace. We wait for God to break into our lives with love. Who among us has not at times felt weak, feeble, afraid? Take heart, you are not alone. God is with you. God is ready to save us from the darkness of sin and lead us to joy in the presence of God's mercy. This is the message of Advent, and of the whole of the gospel: God desires so deeply to be with us that God came to be one with us in Jesus Christ.

**Today's Readings: Is 35:1-6a, 10; Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10; Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11**

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## Prayer Tree

**Network** Our Prayer Tree Network is a very special group of people who regularly pray for the needs of the community. All may request prayer for a special need or intention for healing, grieving, discernment, strength, comfort or support by contacting our Prayer Tree Network. The members spend some time every day in prayer for the requests that are received. If you are interested in finding out more about this valuable ministry, please call the parish office at (650) 366-9544.



### Pastoral Care of the Sick

Do you know a parishioner ill at home, homebound, or in a care facility who would like to receive Communion or anointing? Call the parish office, and we will arrange to have a priest visit.



### Offer a Mass Intention for your loved one:

A Mass Intention is a special way to honor a beloved friend or family members, whether in death, for healing, in celebration of a special day, or simply for prayers and guidance. please email [lisa@stmatthiasparish.org](mailto:lisa@stmatthiasparish.org).

## Mass Intentions

<b>Saturday, Dec 14</b> <i>St. John of the Cross, Priest &amp;</i>	5:00 pm	<b>Bart Coulter †</b>
<b>Sunday, Dec 15</b> <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i>	8:00 am 10:30 am	<b>People of St. Matthias</b> <b>Linda Meek Keller †</b>
<b>Tuesday, Dec 17</b> <i>Late Advent Weekday</i>	7:00 pm	<b>Tito &amp; Baby Boy Ora †</b>
<b>Thursday, Dec 19</b> <i>Late Advent Weekday</i>	5:30 pm	<b>Anita K. Bon †</b>
<b>Saturday, Dec 21</b> <i>Late Advent Weekday</i>	5:00 pm	<b>Mimi Piparo †</b>
<b>Sunday, Dec 22</b> <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>	8:00 am 10:30 am	<b>Paul &amp; Dolores Falzon †</b> <b>People of St. Matthias</b>

## St. Vincent de Paul of San Mateo County

Strategically located in South San Francisco, San Mateo and Redwood City, St. Vincent de Paul's Homeless Help Centers offer clients basic survival necessities such as a hot meal, clothing, sleeping bags, bus tokens, ID cards, laundry and mail services.

To expand our services for our neighbors in need, SVdP recently opened a Clothing Closet in Redwood City. We are in need of volunteers to help with this effort!

Hospitality volunteers work one-on-one with SVdP clients to provide much-needed clothing, necessities and dignity. Shifts are available on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 12-4 pm.

If you are interested, please contact Alicia at [arangel@svdpsm.org](mailto:arangel@svdpsm.org) or call (650) 588-5734. Thank you for being compassion in action!

### We pray for those who are ill in our community...

Jean Balibrera  
Candy Gray  
Glafira Valencia  
Anna Vugrinecz  
Kurt Wallace  
Bruce Dinkel  
Rose Herrera  
Margaret Henry  
Liz Vugrinecz  
Jim Donnelly  
Sarah Rose Hove  
Marge Bartlemus  
Erin Magee  
Will Richardson  
Shirley Roybal  
Pamela Foley  
Andres Gutierrez  
Marian Deglioni  
Rose & Richard Marino  
Peggy Perez

**...that they may be comforted by the love of Jesus.**

# Our Call to Stewardship

All we have is a gift **from** God. What we do with what we have is our gift **to** God.

Sharing our gifts and returning them to God means giving generously of our time, talent, and treasure. To find out ways to share your time and talent, visit this page or [www.stmatthiasparish.org](http://www.stmatthiasparish.org).

## Treasure Received

July 2019-June 2020 (income needed to balance budget)	<b>\$332,000.00</b>
Year-To-Date Received	<b>\$111,749</b>
Monthly Need	<b>\$27,667</b>
November Sunday Collections	\$21,631
+ Electronic Donations	\$4,430
<b>Total Offertory for November</b>	<b>\$26,061</b>
<b>Difference (Monthly Need - Received)</b>	<b>\$1,606</b>



**CREATING A  
CULTURE OF  
GENEROSITY**

## Archdiocesan Annual Appeal 2019 Called to Care & Share

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY! WE HAVE EXCEEDED OUR GOAL FOR THE 2019 ARCHDIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL: CALLED TO CARE & SHARE.

<b>Total Goal</b>	<b>\$65,273</b>
Previously Received	\$33,139.00
Matching Donations	\$35,646.91
Combined Total	\$68,603.91
<b>REFUND DUE TO St. Matthias</b>	<b>\$3,512.91</b>

Our St. Matthias community never ceases to amaze!

**105%**

### Second Collection: St. Matthias Building Fund

Our second collection next weekend is for St. Matthias' Building Fund. This quarterly collection is used for maintenance needs of the parish community. Most recently, monies donated were used to paint the interior of the Rectory and seal and strip the parking lots. Thank you for your generosity!

All families who attend St. Matthias Church are asked to register in the parish. This helps us to know who our members are and to provide services that meet your needs.

#### NEW IN THE PARISH OR CHANGE OF STATUS FORM

To register in the parish or make a change in address, to add or remove family members, please fill out the form below. (Please cut it out and place in the collection basket).

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone / Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

- ( ) new to the parish ( ) change of address ( ) would like information  
( ) moving, remove from list ( ) would like a visit

## Giving Tree for St. Francis Center

November 30-December 15th

Our annual Giving Tree will be set up November 30th. Unwrapped gifts will be collected for children of all ages and will be distributed through St. Francis Center. The deadline to bring your gifts will be Dec 15th at 11:30 am. This is a lovely way to share our many blessings with our neighbors in need.



## Breakfast with Santa



Saturday, December 14 at 10:00 am | Fr. Lacey Hall

All St. Matthias families and parishioners are invited to bring their friends and family members to enjoy our annual Breakfast with Santa. Santa will visit and be available for photos between 10:45 am and 11:15 am. Choose the seating time that works best for your family (10 am or 11 am). Breakfast will be served by St. Matthias middle and high school youth. We Ho, Ho, Hope you can join us! Tickets are \$5 per person and are available for purchase from Eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/breakfast-with-santa-2019-tickets-82899110471>

## Simbang Gabi Masses

An annual tradition from the Filipino spiritual tradition will be celebrated for nine days leading up to Christmas. Simbang Gabi in Deanery 11 (comprised of 9 parishes in San Carlos, Redwood City, East Palo Alto, and Menlo Park) is being hosted in 6 parishes this year as listed in the schedule below. The novena of Masses begins on December 15 and culminates on December 23. Those who will be going from church to church to complete the nine-day celebration are encouraged to return

to their home parish for Christmas Masses. Through Simbang Gabi, the deanery hopes to offer a deeper spiritual experience leading to a more meaningful Christmas season for all. This



celebration of faith also hopes to strengthen the bonds between cultures and between parishes, thereby strengthening fellowship and family life in our community and deanery.

12/15	5:00 pm	St. Pius
12/16	6:00 pm	Nativity
12/17	7:00 pm	St. Matthias
12/18	7:00 pm	Vallombrosa
12/19	7:00 pm	St. Charles
12/20	5:00 pm	St. Raymond
12/21	5:00 pm	Mt. Carmel
12/22	TBD	call 650-323-7914
12/23	7:00 pm	St. Denis

## The Best Christmas Eve Pageant

Tuesday, December 24th at 4:30 pm | Church

Our annual Christmas Eve Pageant will be on Tuesday, December 24th at 4:30 pm, and Mass will follow. Our St. Matthias Preschool children are invited to be part of the assembly. Younger elementary and middle school aged children dress in costumes and process into the Church (they are not required to memorize lines). They help tell the Christmas story, the story of our Savior's birth, through their presence and with song. Two high school aged youth are the narrators of the story. Our rehearsal will be held on Sunday, December 22nd at 11:30 am. Contact [Sabrina@stmatthiasparish.org](mailto:Sabrina@stmatthiasparish.org) for more details or to sign up. <https://signup.com/go/SWBzCHq>

Our Call to Community Building

## MLK Jr. Day of Service

Monday, January 20, 2020



Peninsula Multifaith Coalition, a group comprised of many different faith traditions, is bringing together our diverse community to build bridges of

understanding and respect through an annual day of service.

Please plan to join us for this unique opportunity to work side by side with those of other faiths and cultures to benefit our local community. The day begins with an inspiring welcome from faith leaders at a volunteer breakfast. After breakfast, groups of volunteers work together on 20+ family friendly projects. Registration is now open by clicking the following link:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/pmcs-8th-annual-mlk-jr-multifaith-day-of-service-tickets-82917517527>

St. Matthias is a member of Peninsula Multifaith Coalition. To find out more about PMC, visit [www.peninsulamultifaith.org](http://www.peninsulamultifaith.org)

## New Year's Eve Retreat

Tuesday, December 31, 2019 from 7:00–10:30 pm | Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose

The Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose Center for Education & Spirituality present: New Year's Eve Retreat with Fr. Bartholomew, Hutcherson, O.P. on Tuesday, December 31 from 7:00–10:30 pm. Free will offerings gratefully accepted. Located at Dominican Center, 43326 Mission Circle (entrance off Mission Tierra) Fremont, CA 94539. Register by 12/28/19 <http://bit.ly/2019NewYrRtrt> or call (510) 933-6360

## Reading Partners Needed

Our mission at Reading Partners is to help children become lifelong readers by empowering communities to provide individualized instruction with measurable results. We believe that



**READING**  
**PARTNERS**

reading is the foundation for all future learning whether that be in science, math, or even history. Reading Partners delivers a highly effective and evidence-based program that had helped thousands of children master the fundamental reading skills they need to succeed in school and beyond.

As a volunteer tutor, you will work 1:1 with an elementary school student who is reading 6 months to 2.5 years below grade level. Sessions are held on school campuses during and after school hours. We work with 15 Title I schools across the Silicon Valley. Our school partners in Redwood City are Henry Ford and Selby Lane Elementary. Our partner in Belmont is Nesbit Elementary. We are also located in Mountain View, Sunnyvale, San Jose and Milpitas.

Our website is [www.readingpartners.org/locations/silicon-valley](http://www.readingpartners.org/locations/silicon-valley), we can also be reached at (408) 945-5720, or be reached at [volunteersv@readingpartners.org](mailto:volunteersv@readingpartners.org).

## Remembrance Table

If you brought a photograph or memento to our Remembrance Table in November and have not collected your items yet, they have been moved for safe keeping to the Rectory.

Please call 366-9544 or stop by during office hours to pick them up.

Thank you!

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# This Week @ St. Matthias

Welcome Weekend Financial Report			
<u>Sunday, Dec 15th</u>	<u>Monday, Dec 16th</u>	<u>Tuesday, Dec 17th</u>	<u>Wednesday, Dec 18th</u>
Third Sunday of Advent 8:00 am Sunday Mass 9:15 am RCIA (Rectory) 10:30 am Sunday Mass 11:30 am Giving Tree Gift Deadline 1:00 pm Confirmation Level II Meeting (Rectory) 5:00 pm HSYM (Rectory)		6:00 pm First Reconciliation Family Meeting (Rectory) 7:00 pm Simbang Gabi Mass (Church)	6:30 pm Leave the Light On—Reconciliation at St. Charles
<u>Thursday, Dec 19th</u>	<u>Friday, Dec 20th</u>	<u>Saturday, Dec 21st</u>	<u>Sunday, Dec 22nd</u>
5:30 pm Mass (MR) 7:00 pm Pastoral Council Meeting (DR)	9:15 am Rosary for Peace (MR)	5:00 pm Vigil Mass	Fourth Sunday of Advent 8:00 am Sunday Mass 9:15 am RCIA (Rectory) 10:30 am Sunday Mass 11:30 am Christmas Pageant Rehearsal (Church)

CR = Rectory Conference Room DR = Rectory Dining Room MR = Merry Room UR = Upper Room PS = Preschool

## Leave the Light On

Wednesday evenings, 6:30-7:30 | at St. Charles Campus  
 Each Wednesday evening during the season of Advent, the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be celebrated with parishioners of both St. Charles and St. Matthias at St. Charles Church.

## Weekday Mass & Saturday Reconciliation in the Merry Room

Beginning on Tuesday, December 3rd, daily Masses, held on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5:30 pm will be celebrated in the Merry Room instead of the Church building. Beginning on Saturday, December 7th, Reconciliation at 3:45 pm will be available in the Merry Room instead of the Confessional.

## Winter Hat & Scarf Drive

Time to get out those knitting needles, crochet hooks and looms. Our Winter Hat and Scarf drive for the homeless begins now and will continue through January. Use washable yarns, preferably not cotton. There will be a basket in the back of church to collect them. Scarves should be about 60" long to wrap around twice for warmth. Thanks in advance. Questions: Laurie at [lpmcoulter@yahoo.com](mailto:lpmcoulter@yahoo.com)

## Welcome Weekend

Dec 14-15 | St. Matthias Church

This weekend is designated as "Welcome Weekend." All are invited to Fr. Lacey Hall following Masses for hospitality. All who are new or visiting will be invited to stand for a special blessing at the end of each Mass.