

St. Matthias Parish



www.stmatthiasparish.org

St. Matthias is a Roman Catholic Community in the Archdiocese of San Francisco striving to respond to the call of Jesus through worship and sacraments, faith formation, service, and social opportunities. To see the full calendar of events, visit <https://www.stmatthiasparish.org/parish-calendar/>



Donut Sunday

December 15th is Welcome Weekend! Stay for Coffee, Donuts, and Community after the 9:45am Mass.

Su



Children's Liturgy
During 9:45 AM mass

Su

GIFT Program
Sunday, Dec 8th at 11am

Su

Giving Tree Donations Due
Sunday, Dec 8th

Introduction to the Liturgy of the Word

Who better than John the Baptist to guide us during this season of preparation for Jesus' coming? Today we see John travel throughout the region proclaiming a baptism of repentance and recalling the prophecy of Isaiah. Baruch's prophecy, which we hear in the first reading, echoes Isaiah as well. All three trumpet God's mercy and forgiveness as they envision the coming of the Lord. Let us heed their call

First Reading Bar 5:1-9

Jerusalem, take off your robe of mourning and misery; put on the splendor of glory from God forever: wrapped in the cloak of justice from God, bear on your head the mitre that displays the glory of the eternal name. For God will show all the earth your splendor: you will be named by God forever the peace of justice, the glory of God's worship.

Up, Jerusalem! stand upon the heights; look to the east and see your children gathered from the east and the west at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that they are remembered by God.

Led away on foot by their enemies they left you: but God will bring them back to you borne aloft in glory as on royal thrones. For God has commanded that every lofty mountain be made low, and that the age-old depths and gorges be filled to level ground, that Israel may advance secure in the glory of God.

The forests and every fragrant kind of tree have overshadowed Israel at God's command; for God is leading Israel in joy by the light of his glory,
with his mercy and justice for company.

Second Reading Phil 1:4-6, 8-11

Brothers and sisters:

I pray always with joy in my every prayer for all of you, because of your partnership

for the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus. God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

And this is my prayer:

that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception,

to discern what is of value, so that you may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Gospel Lk 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the desert.

John went throughout the whole region of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah:

A voice of one crying out in the desert:
"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight his paths.

Every valley shall be filled
and every mountain and hill shall be made low.

The winding roads shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth,
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

MUSIC

December 7-December 8

39 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
70 The King Shall Come
TAIZE: The Kingdom of God
43 People, Look East

Welcome to Advent

Welcome to a new liturgical year and the season of Advent! Advent includes the days and nights before the Nativity of the Lord (Christmas). Advent means “coming.” During this time we read and sing about God’s promises. It is a time of waiting and preparing. We wait for the blessed hope, the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ. We wait in hope that all will be one and the Kingdom of God will be realized.

In Advent, we prepare ourselves and our hearts for Jesus’ birth, when the light of Christ pushes out the darkness. Our liturgical color is purple which is a symbol of reflection and anticipation. An Advent wreath is displayed and holds four candles. A new candle is lit on each of the four Sundays before Christmas. The four candles traditionally represent hope, faith, joy and peace.

While Advent is a time of celebration and anticipation of Christ’s birth, it is more than that. It is only in the shadow of Advent that the miracle of Christmas can fully be understood and appreciated.

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

December 9th is a Holy Day of Obligation. Mass at St. Matthias will be at 7:00pm.

Masses at St. Charles will be at 10:30am (School/Community Mass) and 5:00pm.

Reconciliation

As we prepare ourselves for the coming of Jesus, we open ourselves to God’s grace in the sacrament of Reconciliation. St. Charles Church will “Leave the Light On for You,” Wednesday evenings from 6:30-7:30pm, December 4, 11, and 18, for all those who would like to receive the sacrament. We hope you will take advantage of this opportunity.

Music Ministry News

The music of December starts with the season of hope—Advent. We live in a world that longs for hope and the promise of peace, justice that brings relief of despair, and the healing power of the Spirit. We pray to know the Light of Christ:

We hunger to see your Light.

We long to see your loving face.

Upon our darkness, Lord, a Light has shone!

“Beyond the Moon and Stars”

Our songs express hope, light, peace, and joy. We put away our bells and refrain from singing The Gloria until finally, Christmas Eve arrives and we join in proclaiming “The Christmas Gloria”: Gloria in excelsis Deo!

We invite you to embrace the joy of this season by participating in the extra opportunities for you here at St. Matthias Church:

*The four Sunday liturgies of Advent

*Dec 7 Christmas caroling, cookies, and cocoa, 3:15pm

*Dec. 8 Donate gifts for the Giving Tree, a lovely St. Matthias Church tradition

*Dec 9 liturgy celebrating Immaculate Conception of Mary at 7PM.

*Dec. 15 Spirit Mass for the youthful of all ages. 9:45am liturgy.

*Dec 19 Simbang Gabi Mass and celebration at 7PM.

*Dec 23 Simbang gabi service at St Charles.

*Christmas Eve and Christmas Day!

Music ministry welcomes new members and people who want to participate in the ministry just for the season. Please connect with Melanie.

Contributing to our Liturgical Environment

This month, the church is filled with liturgical symbols that reflect the season of Advent—the wreath, the candles, the purple cloth. Later, flowers, gold and light will help us celebrate the joy of Christ’s coming. Our changing liturgical environment adds to the sacredness of our space and to our experience of the Mass.

For the first time in many years, you will soon have the opportunity to make a donation specifically earmarked for costs associated with our liturgical

environment. Special "Flower Offering" envelopes will be enclosed with our Christmas letter to all parishioners and will be available in the church. If you appreciate what these environmental touches add, we hope you will consider making a donation. Funds received will be used throughout the year to beautify Lent, the Easter season, Ordinary Time, Masses of Remembrance and more. Thank you for your support!

Rite of Acceptance and Welcome

OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults, formerly RCIA) is a process in the Church to guide and support those who are responding to God's call to become a fully initiated member of the Roman Catholic Church. The first step in the process is a public acceptance of God's invitation and a welcome by the community of believers. On Sunday, December 8th at the 9:45 a.m. Mass at St. Matthias, Fr. Samuel led the ritual of the Rite of Acceptance and Welcome.

Seven individuals from St. Matthias and St. Charles parish communities have expressed their intention to continue their spiritual journey. Most will receive the sacraments of initiation at the Easter Vigil. Some are already Baptized and seek to receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist.

Fr. Samuel and the candidates' sponsors and parents blessed them with the sign of the cross to strengthen them as they continue their preparation for the sacraments.

The St. Matthias and St. Charles communities welcome the following and support them as they continue their sacramental preparation:

Josie and Shea Connolly (SC), Forrest and Carlen Rhodes (SC), Rohan Sanghvi (SM), Anna Newman (SM) and Lawrence Esbig (SM).

Please keep these candidates and their sponsors in your prayers.

Extra Vases to take home

Following a recent cleaning of the sacristy, we found ourselves with a surplus of vases. Before we dispose of them, we would like to offer them to you! They are on table in Father Lacey hall. Take them home with you and fill them with Christmas ornaments, holly berry branches or amaryllis bulbs! There is no limit per customer. Take as many as you can use. After December 8th, they will be disposed of.

Last Call for the Giving Tree !

The Giving Tree has returned to the church as a reminder of our annual holiday gift drive in support of the St. Francis Center. Donated gifts are distributed through their Holiday Toy Program for needy families in our area. The Giving Tree is up early because we only have the weekends of Nov 30/ Dec 1 and Dec 7/8 for collecting your donations. The last day to drop off gifts will be Sunday, December 8. Gifts do not need to be wrapped or tagged, but donations of Christmas wrapping paper and bows are also appreciated. Thank you!

Replacing the Church Sound System

We recently had our church sound system evaluated by St. Charles parishioner and sound professional, Joe Boerio. He was able to make some minor and immediate improvements! We are now developing plans to completely replace our old sound system. This is something we have long wanted to do, and Fr. Roy hopes to make it happen within the next year! If you would be interested in giving financial support for this important upgrade, please speak to Fr. Roy or contact the parish office. Thank you!

December Senior Luncheon

"O Come, all Ye Faithful" and let's Deck Borromeo Hall with Christmas Cheer!! Please join us on Wednesday, December 11th at noon for a delicious lunch prepared especially for you by the "Elves" of St. Charles.

All registered parishioners of St. Charles and St. Matthias 60 years + are cordially invited to lunch on the second Wednesday of every month. Doors open at 11:45am.

To reserve your spot please RSVP to Kathy Fagliano at 650-591-7349 ext. 402 or

kfagliano@stcharlesparish.org.

MASS INTENTIONS

SAT, December 7th @ 5:00PM — Renee Rhodeman Watson †

SUN, December 8th @ 9:45AM — Mary & Bradley Westphal †

Please contact lisa@stmatthiasparish.org if you would like to schedule a mass in the first quarter of 2025.

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

Jerry Acozta

Tommie Fogliani

Sofia Rodriguez Gaddi

Joy & Charles

Rudolfo Pelayo

Rose Marino

that they may be comforted by the loving embrace of Jesus.

And for the repose of the soul of

Alberto Rodriguez,

who died this past week.

Second Collection

Dec 7 & 8

Retirement for Religious

This QR code will take you directly to our website giving page.



St. Matthias Catholic Preschool

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Contact Preschool Director

Rosemary Juarez at

rosemary@stmatthiasparish.org

or call (650) 367-1320



PARISH CONTACT

INFORMATION

1685 Cordilleras Road

Redwood City, CA 94062

Parish Phone (650) 366-9544

Preschool Phone (650) 367-1320

www.stmatthiasparish.org

St. Matthias Mass Schedule

Saturday 5:00 pm

Sunday 9:45 am*

St. Charles Mass Schedule

Monday—Saturday 5:00 pm

Sunday 8:30 am* & 11:00 am

*LIVESTREAMED MASSES

Pastor, Fr. Roy Remo

frroy@stmatthiasparish.org

Parochial Vicar,

Fr. Samuel Musiimenta

Adult Faith Formation Coordinator,

Deacon Rich Foley

rich@stmatthiasparish.org

Deacon David Rolandelli

david@stmatthiasparish.org

Parish Administrative Assistant,

Lisa Bamford

lisa@stmatthiasparish.org

Music Director, Melanie Dresbach

melanie@stmatthiasparish.org

Preschool Director,

Rosemary Juarez

rosemary@stmatthiasparish.org

650-367-1320

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Jeri Richardson-Daines
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DRE# 01461819

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jeri@nuterrarealestate.com
nuterrarealestate.com

TONY Y. CHAN



1633 Old Bayshore Highway #280
Burlingame | CA 94010

Phone 415-533-6558
Email tony@nareigus.com
Web www.nareigus.com



陈有杰
Managing Broker
Lic#01938263



Mercedes Roses
Realtor
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400 Woodside Road
Redwood City, CA 94061
Phone 650-369-4103
Fax 650-369-2104

CRIPPEN & FLYNN

Alan I. Stanley
Funeral Director FDR 2708
650-369-4103

Staff@crippenflynn.com
www.crippenflynn.com

Email lisa@stmatthiasparish.org for more information!