

This Week at St. Matthias

Sunday, November 30

First Sunday of Advent

Red Bag Sunday

Church Offices Closed

- 7:45 AM Rite I Spoken Word Service – Sanctuary
- 9:20 AM Rite II Service with Music – Sanctuary
- 9:30 AM Live-Stream Virtual Worship via Facebook
- 9:30 AM Nursery Care – Little House
- 9:30 AM Coffee & Conversations – Parish Hall
- 10:30 AM Rite II Service with Music – Sanctuary
- 11:15 AM Nursery Care – Little House
- 11:15 AM Adult Sunday School – Choir Room

Monday, December 1

- 9:00 AM Count Team One – Church Office
- 12:00 PM Building & Grounds Workday – Parish Hall
- 6:00 PM Claudia’s Al-Anon Book Club – Library
- 7:00 PM Al-Anon Meeting – Library

Tuesday, December 2

- 9:00 AM Everyone’s Counseling Center – Counseling Office
- 6:00 PM Advent Study with Janette Dorn – Church Office

Wednesday, December 3

- 8:00 AM Everyone’s Counseling Center – Counseling Office
- 10:30 AM Bible Study with Wanda Klaas – Parish Hall
- 5:00 PM Tutoring with Linda – Little House (5pm-7pm)

Thursday, December 4

- 7:00 PM Al-Anon Meeting – Library

Friday, December 5

Church Offices Closed

- 1:00 PM Altar Guild Team One Set Up – Sanctuary
- 4:00 PM Singing Saints’ Fellowship – Choir Room
- 4:30 PM Singing Saints’ Rehearsal – Sanctuary

Saturday, December 6

Church Offices Closed

- 9:00 AM Stacy’s Stamping Camp – Parish Hall

Sunday, December 7

Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday School Classes

Church Offices Closed

- 7:45 AM Rite I Spoken Word Service – Sanctuary
- 9:20 AM Sunday School Classes – Little House
- 9:30 AM Rite II Service with Music – Sanctuary
- 9:30 AM Live-Stream Virtual Worship via Facebook
- 9:30 AM Nursery Care – Little House
- 10:30 AM Coffee & Conversations – Parish Hall
- 11:15 AM Rite II Service with Music – Sanctuary
- 11:15 AM Nursery Care – Little House
- 11:15 AM Adult Sunday School – Choir Room

SUNDAY SERVICE ATTENDANCE

DATE	SERVICE	ATTENDANCE
11.23.2025	7:45 AM Service	16
11.23.2025	9:30 AM Service	76
11.23.2025	Sunday School	11
11.23.2025	11:15 AM Service	31
	Total	134
	Online Views	273

Those on Our Prayer List

Immediate & Urgent Prayers

- | | | |
|----------------|--------------|-------------|
| Deidre Huffman | Mary Sturges | Sandy Unger |
| Larry Lock | Kayla Taylor | Vera Wilson |
| Nadia Mashi | | |

Parish Family Continued Prayers

- | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Renee Babcock | Beverly Green | Edna Marcus |
| Tristen Babcock | Jeannine Helm | Olive McPherson |
| Rose Brown | Anne Hollywood | Tracy Morelli |
| Esther Catino | Anne Luposello | Mark Nethersole |
| Michael Clark | Diana Mahoney | Sheila Seale |
| Mother Jane Clark | Imantee Mallay | Joe Sturges |
| Hugh Dial | Stanley Mallay | Linda Thorp |
| Anita Erickson | CZ Mathews | Connie Tracey |
| Robert Eyer | Elijah Mathews | Liane Trainello |
| Miranda Foster | Isabella Mathews | Stuart Wilson |
| Connie Gamb | Jackson Mathews | |
| Michael Giallella | Don Manny | |

Family & Friends Continued Prayers

- | | | |
|------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Mindy | Eyer Family | Eleanore Meade |
| Nathan Allabaugh | Cheryl Ferrell | Danny Nemeth |
| Anakin Boeni | Maria Figueroa | Felicidad Robinson |
| Isabel Boeni | Tony Flores | Autumn Rose |
| Danielle Chavez | John Gilbert | Sandi Rzepka |
| Deena Chavez | Brenda Kelley | Gene Ruryk |
| Ivan Davila | Frances LaCroix | Suzanne Ruryk |
| James Dorn, Jr. | Francine Lacroix | Les Smith |
| Mary Dorn | Una McLachlan | Kishma Thomas |

Military & First Responders

- Jeff Blumenauer, U.S. Army Reserve
Nicole Blumenauer, U.S. Army Reserve
Vick Boothe, U.S. Army, Undisclosed Location
Delani Carter, U.S. Military Academy at West Point
Spencer Coole, U.S. Air Force, Charleston Air Force Base, SC
Greta Gaasch, U.S. Army Reserve
Lucas Freiberg, Federal Corrections Officer, Coleman Federal Prison
Jeremy Linney, U.S. Army, SOCOM, MacDill Air Force Base, FL
Tyler Mathews, U.S. Army, Iraq
Ryan Moore, Clermont Fire Department Station #3
Christopher Morelli, Orange County Sheriff’s Office, Deputy
Stephen Nettles, U.S. Navy, NAS Pensacola, Flight School
Luca Newby, U.S. Marine Reserves
Tyler Reece, U.S. Army, Afghanistan
Logan T. Wells, U.S. Marine Reserves

Those Celebrating Birthdays

- 11.30** Daisy Hayes
- 12.1** Harry Barnes
- 12.3** Lana Hanifin
- 12.4** Harlene Reid
- 12.5** Guillermo Pascal

Those Celebrating Anniversaries

- 11.30** Stuart & Maureen Wilson
- 12.2** Bill & Lois O’Neal
- 12.4** Roylando & Angela Smith

**The Altar Flowers are given to the
Glory of God & St. Matthias Church**

**The Sanctuary Candle is given to the
Glory of God & St. Matthias Church**

CELEBRATING OUR YOUTH MINISTRY: We are excited to share a meaningful step forward in supporting our growing children's ministry. After thoughtful discussion and with deep gratitude, Fr. Jim and the Vestry have decided to transition our Children & Youth Minister position into a formally compensated role beginning January 1, 2026. This decision reflects our commitment to nurturing the faith of our youngest members and recognizing the extraordinary dedication that Karen has already poured into this program. Through countless hours preparing lessons, coordinating Sunday School, leading Vacation Bible School, and inspiring our youth with energy, creativity, and compassion, she has helped shape a vibrant foundation for the future of our church family. We are profoundly thankful for Karen's past and ongoing service, and we are grateful to be in a place where we can further support her ministry and the important work she continues to do with our children. We look forward to all that God will continue to do through her leadership in the months and years ahead. Please join us in celebrating this next chapter for our church and for the children we are blessed to serve.

THANK YOU: A huge joy filled thank you to every volunteer who jumped in with heart and enthusiasm to build and distribute our Thanksgiving baskets! Your love, hard work, time, tenderness, and big smiles brought hope and comfort to families who truly needed it this season. Each basket you touched carried more than food; it carried warmth, dignity, and the gentle reminder that no one in our community is alone. Your kindness became a blessing far greater than you may ever know. You showed our community what the love of Jesus looks like in action!

And to our loving church family—thank you for giving so generously. Your faithful support made it possible for these baskets to be filled with care and shared with those who needed them most. Because of your open hearts and open hands, many families felt God's comfort and compassion in a very real way this Thanksgiving. Together, you created moments of hope. Together, you reminded our community of the power of love, and because of all of you, families felt seen, supported, and loved. Thank you for shining God's light so brightly!

RED BAG SUNDAY: Please consider taking a bag this Sunday (or an envelope for a monetary donation) and filling it with a few of the items needed at the Neighborhood Center of South Lake. Red bags, monetary donation envelopes, and lists of needed items can be found at our Neighborhood Center Kiosk at the back of the church. These items help support the work of the Neighborhood Center of South Lake as they care for those in need within our community. Your participation is very much appreciated. Please contact Keith Whitacre (952.239.5870 or keith.whitacre@gmail.com) or Peggy Hope (352.429.9778 or rush1937@embarqmail.com) if you have any questions. A big thank you to Keith and Karen Whitacre for their generous donation of red bags!

SUNDAY SCHOOL: There is NO Sunday School this Sunday, November 30, 2025, the fifth Sunday of the month. *WE WILL HAVE SUNDAY SCHOOL EVERY SUNDAY IN DECEMBER, YES, INCLUDING DECEMBER 28 AND EVERY SUNDAY IN JANUARY.* We will be practicing for our Epiphany Pageant each Sunday in December in addition to brief class lessons. Please attend as many Sundays as possible. The pageant is January 4, 2026, in place of Father Jim's sermon. Regular Sunday School classes will resume January 11, 2026. Please let me know if your child/ren will not be available for the pageant.

Class lessons for December will center around Advent and Christmas. Advent materials have started going home with the kiddos, and the youngest class will also learn a bit about Hannukah and how Jesus might have celebrated the season.

During this time of the year, it can be very busy and stressful, to which our kiddos are not immune. Relax and hug a lot! "Find Joy: A common experience around the holidays as parents can be feeling like they are not doing enough or not making this time of the year special enough for their children. Try to reframe negative self-talk, and practice self-compassion and gratitude and to find joy in what we do have and what we can offer. It is enough to do our best, and this is also a good reminder and modelling strategy for children and for strengthening family connections.

Parent Self-Care: Self-care for parents around the holidays is important, even though we may find ourselves placing our needs on the back burner. With this responsibility, try to find time to prioritize your own physical and mental health needs by practicing self-care, anything from cooking your favorite meal to setting boundaries for yourself and others. The trick is to schedule self-care activities into the day, just as we would schedule other things in our lives." *(taken from Psychology Today)*

Sending hope, joy, peace and love, Karen (hugs and blessings too)

THANK YOU: Many thanks to Fred, Fanya, Rod, Linda, and Amy for coming out and decorating the St. Matthias Christmas tree. Thank you to Karen, the Sunday School kids, and parishioners who made the ornaments and to Peggy for hand painting them. The tree is a beautiful reflection of the love and community of St. Matthias. Treat yourself to a walk through the Enchanted Forest and check it out! Fondly, Mindy Giallella

OFFICIAL ST. MATTHIAS CANVAS TOTE BAGS – NOW AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE: Sturdy canvas tote bags featuring the **St. Matthias logo and Love Lives Here design** are on sale for **\$5.00** each. Bags may be purchased on Sundays or through the Church Office. These cute bags make perfect stocking stuffers or gifts for family and friends! If you have any questions, please contact Linda Denslow (407.923.6423 or lindadenslow@gmail.com).

NURSERY CARE: Nursery Care is available every Sunday during the 9:30 am and 11:15 am services for all infants and children ages one month to three years old. Abby Giallella and Nicholas Crumbo are our amazing caregivers who create a fun, safe, and loving environment for our youngest church family members and visitors. Please contact Karen Freiberg (703.862.2894 or freibergs4@aol.com) if you have any questions.

COFFEE & CONVERSATIONS (Everyone is Always Welcome to Join Us): Please join us **Sundays in the Parish Hall from 10:30 am to 11:00 am** for fellowship, coffee, and conversation. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet others and sometimes enjoy a few home-baked treats. All are welcome! Please contact Peggy Hope (352.988.7525) if you have any questions and/or would like to help.

BUILDING & GROUNDS WORKDAY: Please join Fred Jones on **Monday, December 1, 2025, at 12:00 noon** to complete some needed building & grounds projects around the Church campus. If you are available to assist and/or have any questions, please contact Fred Jones (407.325.2256 or fjones59@cfl.rr.com) or Maxine Hylton (305.775.3415 or maxhyl1@gmail.com).

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL (Everyone is Always Welcome to Join Us): Adult Sunday School will meet this **Sunday, November 30, 2025, at 11:15 am** in the Choir Room. Please contact Dolores Wilson-Malone (856.625.1515) or Matt Mobley (407.267.2312) if you have any questions.

ADVENT STUDY WITH JANETTE DORN (Everyone is Always Welcome to Join Us): Advent Study will meet this **Tuesday, December 2, 2025, at 6:00 pm** in the Church Office. Please contact Janette Dorn (352.235.5168 or jsmdorn@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

BIBLE STUDY WITH WANDA KLAAS (Everyone is Always Welcome to Join Us): Bible Study class will meet this **Wednesday, December 3, 2025, at 10:30 am** in the Parish Hall. Please contact Wanda Klaas (352.272.4653 or klaas46@yahoo.com) if you have any questions.

SINGING SAINTS (All Singers Welcome to Join Us): The Singing Saints will meet this **Friday, December 5, 2025, at 4:00 pm** in the Choir Room for fellowship and at 4:30 pm in the Sanctuary for singing. Please contact Gina Mobley (407.782.3065 or ginamobley@aol.com) if you have any questions.

STACY'S STAMPING CAMP (Everyone is Always Welcome to Join Us): Please contact Stacy Huntzinger at stampinstacy2010@hotmail.com if you would like to attend Stacy's Stamping Camp on **Saturday, December 6, 2025, at 9:00 am** in the Parish Hall. Come out and join in on the fun – All are welcome!

HIGHSCHOOL FIT PROGRAM NEEDS: The Families in Transition (FIT) program is currently in need of the items listed below. If you can help with any of the items listed below, please place them in the red rolling bin in the Parish Hall. Please contact Hope Blume (352.394.3855 or hopeblume@stmatthiasfl1.com) if you have any questions. Thank you very much for your continued support!

band-aids · crackers · canned meat · feminine products · hygiene items (any type)
juice boxes · shelf stable milk · wet wipes · leggings (gently used welcomed - any sizes)

Gifts Due to the Church by Tuesday, December 2nd

Christmas collection boxes will be located in the Parish Hall and the Church Sanctuary where you can place your unwrapped gifts.

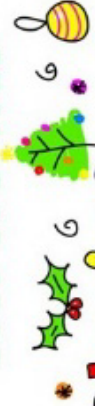
Please contact Co-Chairs, Hope Blume & Janette Dorn, or the Church office if you have any questions or concerns.

Hope: 352.978.6511 or hopeblume@gmail.com
Janette: 352.235.5168 or jsmdorn@gmail.com

**Please remember we are collecting
for High School aged students only.**



2025 UPDATED



Christmas

Gift List

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| Card Games | Body Sprays |
| Candy/Snack Gift Sets | Jewelry |
| Ear Buds | Make-Up Kits |
| Nail Polish Kits | Body Lotions |
| Holiday Socks | Perfumes |
| Hoodies | Axe Body Spray |
| | Solar Powered Chargers |
| Charging Pads / Portable Chargers for Cell phones | |
| Gift Cards to the Following Restaurants or Stores: | |
| McDonalds • Chick-Fil-A • Sonic | |
| Culvers • Subway • Jersey Mikes | |
| Amazon • Dollar General • Target • Walmart | |

Christmas Giving for Families In Transition High School Students

For the last few years we have been able to provide many Christmas gifts for our local Homeless High School Students who are a part of the Lake County School's Families in Transition program (FIT). These are the same students we have been helping provide food and personal hygiene items to throughout the year and we would once again like to extend our help in providing Christmas gifts.

High School aged students are typically the age group that is forgotten or hardest to provide for during the holidays and we want to help make a change and spread some Christmas cheer to these well-deserving young men and women.

If you are unable to shop for the students but would like to assist in making their Christmas extra special, gift cards to any local stores or restaurants make a perfect gift for students of this age. If you are unable to get a gift card, an online donation or check may be given and made payable to St. Matthias and we will purchase the gift cards. Be sure to choose the FIT fund if donating online and note in the memo line "FIT Christmas" for check donations.

Additional information
pertaining to this important
initiative is provided on the
back side.



ANGEL TREE PRISON FELLOWSHIP PARTNERSHIP MINISTRY



The Community Outreach Committee is pleased once again to partner with Angel Tree Ministry, a program of Prison Christian Fellowship. Through Angel Tree we embrace children who have an imprisoned parent by providing them with a gift, given in love, on behalf of the incarcerated parent. This year we have 57 children, from 23 families.

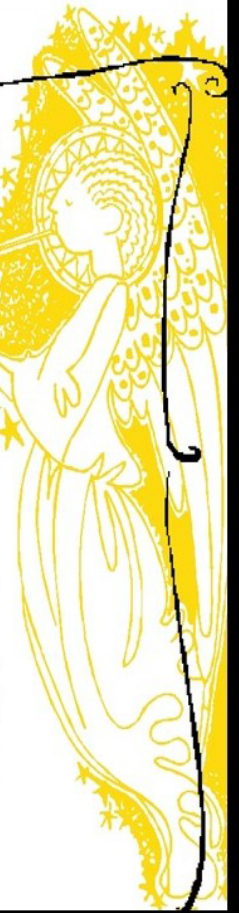
An outreach member will be in the Parish Hall after services to assist with Angel selection. Angels include a child's name, age, gift suggestions and a special Christmas message sent to the child from his/her parent. For those wishing to purchase gifts for a child, the suggested minimum value is \$50.00 to \$60.00.

If you chose to sponsor a child, please locate the child or angel's name and code number on the sign-up sheet; then record your name and phone number beside the angel's name.

On Sunday, **December 7, 2025** please return your gift in a **GIFT BAG** to the church. Remove the **BOTTOM** portion of the angel tag and remember to attach the **TOP** portion of the angel tag to your gift bag.

Everyone benefits from participating in Angel Tree: the children experience the joy of knowing their parents haven't forgotten them, the prisoner experiences the dignity of the child having something personal from him or her, and those who provide gifts experience the joy and spiritual growth of putting our faith into action. Thank you so much for your support of this ministry.

If questions, please contact Mary Anne Lock at 270.836.6128.



HOW TO GIVE A MONETARY DONATION FOR ANGEL TREE GIFTS

CHECK OR CASH: Envelopes are available at the back of the church for monetary donations to assist with gift purchases. A donation of any amount is very much appreciated.

ONLINE GIVING: If you would like some guidance, or additional information, you can use the following link to go to our website: <https://stmatthiasfl.com/online-giving/>.

Please use the following link for online giving: <https://onrealm.org/StMatthiasEpisc37600/Give>. Enter an amount and under "Fund" click on the arrow to drop down to **Angel Tree**.

TEXT GIVING: Send your text to **73256** and in the body of the text write **matthias** and the **amount**. For example, matthias \$50. The church's keyword for giving is **matthias**.

GIVE VIA TEXT MESSAGE

Text your church's keyword and amount to **73256** on your smart phone.

Once the text is sent, you will receive a confirmation message.

Click the link in the confirmation message to access the payment form.

Complete the payment form and verify the amount and fund.

When finished, click Give.

You will receive a receipt by text and email.

Your payment information is saved for future gifts.

If you have any questions, please call Hope Blume at the Church Office 352.394.3855.

Let's Talk SMAC

St. Matthias Ads and Classifieds

Supporting & Connecting Our St. Matthias Family!

If you have something to sell, or looking to buy, or a service to offer or one you're looking for, contact Karen Freiberg (freibergs4@aol.com) with all the pertinent information, and it will be included in our SMAC section.

IN SEARCH OF - IN NEED OF

We are moving and are in desperate need of **boxes** in a variety of sizes. Please leave any you want to get rid of in the Library for us. Thank you so much!! Hugs and Blessings, Karen and Dave Freiberg

IN NEED OF

We need a new or gently used oven to replace the current one in the church kitchen. If you are getting ready to replace your oven, and/or willing to donate an oven, please contact the church office at 352.394.3855 or hopeblume@stmatthiasfl1.com. Thank you!

FOR SALE

Twin Daybed with Trundle, Metal Twin Size Daybed with Pullout Trundle on Casters. Comes with cover, pillow shams, and sheets. Must pick up. \$75.00. Contact Maxine Hylton at maxhyl1@gmail.com if you are interested and/or have any questions.



FOR SALE

Wednesday Bible Study is selling hot/cold drink cups with all proceeds going to the a/c replacement loan. If you would like to purchase, please contact Anne Hollywood (228.229.6817) or Hugh Dial (863.557.8803). Cost is \$30.00 each and as you can see from the photos, they are beautifully handmade!

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