

This Week at St. Matthias

Sunday, December 21

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday School Classes

Sunday School Christmas Tree Decorating

Sunday School Christmas Party

Church Offices Closed

- 7:45 AM Rite I Spoken Word Service – Sanctuary
- 9:20 AM Sunday School Classes – Sunday School Building
- 9:30 AM Rite II Service with Music – Sanctuary
- 9:30 AM Live-Stream Virtual Worship via Facebook
- 9:30 AM Nursery Care – Sunday School Building
- 10:30 AM Coffee & Conversations – Parish Hall
- 11:15 AM Rite II Service with Music – Sanctuary
- 11:15 AM Nursery Care – Sunday School Building
- 11:15 AM Adult Sunday School – Choir Room
- 12:15 PM Sunday School Tree Decorating – Sanctuary
- 12:15 PM Sunday School Christmas Party – Parish Hall

Monday, December 22

Hope Out of the Office – Vacation Day

- 9:00 AM Count Team Four – Church Office
- 3:00 PM Tutoring with Linda – Sunday School Building
- 6:00 PM Claudia's Al-Anon Book Club – Library
- 7:00 PM Al-Anon Meeting – Library

Tuesday, December 23

Hope Out of Office – Vacation Day

Church Offices Closing Early

- 9:00 AM Everyone's Counseling Center – Counseling Office
- 12:00 PM Church Offices Closing Early

Wednesday, December 24

Christmas Eve

Church Offices Closed

- 5:00 PM Christmas Eve Service – Sanctuary
- 5:00 PM Nursery Care – Sunday School Building
- 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Service – Sanctuary

Thursday, December 25

Christmas Day

Church Offices Closed

- 10:00 AM Christmas Day Service – Sanctuary

Friday, December 26

Church Offices Closed

- 6:00 PM Altar Guild Team Four Set Up – Sanctuary

Saturday, December 27

Church Offices Closed

- 9:00 AM Scrapbooking with Linda – Parish Hall

Sunday, December 28

Lessons & Carols Service

Cookies & Fellowship

Church Offices Closed

- 9:50 AM Sunday School Classes – Sunday School Building
- 10:00 AM Rite II Service with Music – Sanctuary
- 10:00 AM Live-Stream Virtual Worship via Facebook
- 10:00 AM Nursery Care – Sunday School Building
- 11:00 AM Coffee, Cookies, & Conversations – Parish Hall
Bring Your Favorite Cookies to Share!

Those on Our Prayer List

Immediate & Urgent Prayers

Josef Boeni	Joe Sturges
Anita Erickson	Mary Sturges
Jeannine Helm	Connie Tracey
Dolores Wilson-Malone	Vera Wilson

Parish Family Continued Prayers

Tristen Babcock	Deidre Huffman	Edna Marcus
Rose Brown	Larry Lock	Olive McPherson
Esther Catino	Anne Luposello	Tracy Morelli
Mother Jane Clark	Diana Mahoney	Mark Nethersole
Michael Clark	Imantee Mallay	Sheila Seale
Hugh Dial	Stanley Mallay	Kayla Taylor
Robert Eyer	Nadia Mashi	Linda Thorp
Miranda Foster	CZ Mathews	Liane Trainello
Connie Gamb	Elijah Mathews	Sandy Unger
Michael Giallella	Isabella Mathews	Stuart Wilson
Beverly Green	Jackson Mathews	
Anne Hollywood	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
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

12.21 Aurelia Longwater
12.24 Dale Powell
12.24 Jack Zimmer

Those Celebrating Anniversaries

12.21 Tony & Tracy Morelli
12.26 Darrel & Susan Kugler

Those Who Have Died

Philip Brabant, *very dear friend of Gustafson & Blume families*
Dorothy Roth Treadwell, *Elwood Treadwell's sister*

**The Advent Flowers and Greens are given to the
Glory of God & St. Matthias Church**

and in Thanksgiving for Diane Gustafson
Given with Love by Joe & Mary Sturges

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

CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED: The Church Offices will be closed for the Christmas break beginning on **Wednesday, December 24, 2025, reopening on Monday, January 5, 2026.** The office will be closing at 12:00 noon on Tuesday, December 23, 2025. If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact Fr. Jim Dorn. If Fr. Jim is unable to answer your call, please leave a voicemail message and he will call you back as soon as possible.

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).

2026 FLOWER & SANCTUARY CANDLE CHARTS: The Altar Flowers and Sanctuary Candle Charts for 2026 are posted on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall. **The cost for flowers this year is \$45.00, and the Sanctuary Candle is available for a heartfelt offering of your choice.** Please be sure to print clearly and include all the information needed for the bulletin: in memory of, celebration of, or thanksgiving for, name or names of who they are being given for, and who they are being given by. Please contact Hope Blume (352.394.3855 or hopeblume@stmatthiasfl1.com) if you have any questions.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Sunday School will meet this **Sunday, December 21, 2025, at 9:20 am!** Please join us in the Sunday School Building just to the right of the Sanctuary. We don't want you to miss any of the fun. There is a lot happening this month and we're meeting every Sunday in December AND January! Please contact Karen Freiberg (703.862.2894 or freiberGs4@aol.com) if you have any questions.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PARTY: The Sunday School Christmas party will take place this **Sunday, December 21, 2025.** It starts immediately following the 11:15 am service where we will decorate the Christmas tree in the Sanctuary. After decorating, we will move to the Parish Hall for games, prizes, and create a craft and candy train. There will also be pizza served for lunch. Please be sure to let Karen know how many in your family will be attending so we have enough of everything. RSVP to Karen Freiberg (703.862.2894 or freiberGs4@aol.com) as soon as possible.

NURSERY CARE: Nursery Care is available every Sunday in the Sunday School Building during the 9:30 am and 11:15 am services for all infants and children aged 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.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL (Everyone is Always Welcome to Join Us): Adult Sunday School will meet this **Sunday, December 21, 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.

GENESIS STUDY WITH JANETTE DORN (Everyone is Always Welcome to Join Us): Please join Janette Dorn as she provides a Bible Study of Genesis Chapters 1-13 beginning on **Tuesday, January 13, 2026, at 6:00 pm** in the Parish Hall. Please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall and/or contact Janette Dorn (352.235.5168 or jsmdorn@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

VBS 2026 PLANNING MEETING (Everyone is Always Welcome to Join Us): Please join Karen Freiberg on **Thursday, January 15, 2026, at 6:00 pm** in the Parish Hall to begin brainstorming and planning our next VBS adventure! If you are interested in participating or planning to participate, Karen is looking forward to you joining in and seeing you all at the meeting! Please contact Karen Freiberg (703.862.2894 or freiberGs4@aol.com) if you have any questions.

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!

**warm blankets · hoodies · sweatshirts · jackets · leggings (*gently used welcomed - any sizes*)
feminine products · hygiene items (*any type*) · shelf stable milk and food items · wet wipes**

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2026: Are you thinking about being a part of the VBS team? It's going to be great...God Loves You to the Moon and Back: Blasting Off into Outer Space. Below are the lyrics to a song we'll be learning. I can't stop singing it, so I have also included a link to a YouTube video to the music and movements. The kids will have a blast (see what I did there). Let's get movin' and groovin' together this summer at VBS. We will have our first meeting in January. Hugs and blessings, Karen Freiberg (703.862.2894 or freibergs4@aol.com)

CELEBRATION

Song by Forrest Frank

You, you, you, you, you know what to do (uh, huh)
It's time to put your phone down and raise your attitude
The God who made the birds, sea, sun, and the moon
Isn't somewhere far away, He is standin' in the room (that's true)

So let it scream, let it shout, let Him know what you're about
Keep it movin' and groovin', don't leave a single doubt
That today is the day that the Lord has created
Why would I sit around just waitin'?

Let's have a celebration (celebration)
It's time to clap our hands and stomp our feet
Let's have a celebration (celebration)
If you believe that Jesus set you free

It's time to celebrate, ay, ay, ay
Ay, ay, ay, ay
Ay, ay, ay, ay
Don't sit there waitin', let's have a celebration

Me, me, me, me, I need less of me
Father, Son, and Spirit, that's who I call G-O-D
I used to be a blind man until You let me see
"That who the Son sets free," You said, "Is truly free indeed"

So let it scream, let it shout, let Him know what you're about
Keep it movin' and groovin', don't leave a single doubt
That today is the day that the Lord has created
Why would I sit around just waitin'?

Let's have a celebration (celebration)
It's time to clap our hands and stomp our feet
Let's have a celebration (celebration)
If you believe that Jesus set you free

It's time to celebrate, ay, ay, ay
Ay, ay, ay, ay
Ay, ay, ay, ay
Don't sit there waitin', let's have a celebration

Celebration (oh yeah)
It's time to clap our hands and stomp our feet (uh, yeah)
Let's have a celebration (ooh, ooh)
If you believe that Jesus set you free (oh)

<https://youtu.be/QEc2dK3IG3c?si=okz3NNIb63QKrLym>

Mark Your Calendars for the Following Important December & January Dates

DATE	Day	EVENT	TIME
December 21	Sunday	Fourth Sunday of Advent Services	7:45 AM•9:30 AM•11:15 AM
December 21	Sunday	Sunday School Classes <i>Nursery Care Available at 9:30 am & 11:15 am services</i>	9:20 AM
December 21	Sunday	Christmas Tree Decorating in Sanctuary	12:15 PM
December 21	Sunday	Sunday School Happy Birthday Jesus Party <i>Parish Hall</i>	After Tree Decorating

Church Offices Closed
Wednesday, December 24, 2025 – Sunday, January 4, 2026
Contact Fr. Jim via his mobile phone if you have a pastoral emergency.
If he is unable to answer the phone, please leave a message and he will call you back as soon as possible.

December 24	Wednesday	Christmas Eve Service <i>Children's Program</i> <i>Nursery Care Available in Sunday School Building</i>	5:00 PM
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December 24	Wednesday	Christmas Eve Service <i>Fr. Jim Sermon</i>	7:00 pm
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December 25	Thursday	Christmas Day Service	10:00 AM
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December 28	Sunday	Lessons & Carols Service	One Service - 10:00 AM
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December 28	Sunday	Sunday School Classes <i>Nursery Care Available</i>	9:50 AM
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December 28	Sunday	Cookies & Fellowship <i>Parish Hall</i>	11:00 AM
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January 4	Sunday	Epiphany Service <i>Sunday School Epiphany Pageant</i>	One Service - 10:00 AM
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January 4	Sunday	Sunday School Classes <i>Nursery Care Available</i>	9:50 AM
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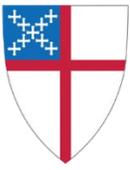
January 4	Sunday	Potluck & Fellowship <i>Parish Hall</i>	11:00 AM
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January 25	Sunday	Sunday Service	One Service - 10:00 AM
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January 25	Sunday	Sunday School Classes <i>Nursery Care Available</i>	9:50 AM
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January 25	Sunday	Annual Parish Meeting <i>Sanctuary</i>	11:00 AM
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January 25	Sunday	Potluck & Fellowship <i>Parish Hall</i>	11:30 AM "ish"
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ST. MATTHIAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Love Lives Here

December 15, 2025

Dear St. Matthias Family –

We want to continue to be good financial stewards as well as good stewards of the environment, and as we shared in the past, we have found that many envelopes were either not picked up and/or not used over the last few years. The trends are showing less check and cash giving and more online giving, for which we are very grateful. As many have been giving through online banking and the St. Matthias online giving portal, we have decided to continue to do away with the traditional giving envelopes and use the same plan as the past two years.

We wish to accommodate everyone with how they would like to provide their giving and ask that you please return the portion below to the Church Office no later than **Sunday, December 28, 2025**. Once we receive your information, we will accommodate your giving choices. If we do not hear back from you by Sunday, December 28, 2025, we will assume you do not need envelopes.

Everyone's current giving number will remain the same. If you need a reminder of your current giving number or you do not have a current giving number, please let us know and we will provide the information to you.

If you would like to begin giving via the church's website at <https://stmatthiasfl.com/online-giving>, please feel free to contact us and we will be happy to help you.

Please read and mark below your preferred choice for giving envelopes.

- If you are giving online and/or prefer not to receive giving envelopes, please mark that choice below.
- If you would like to continue to receive giving envelopes, please mark that choice below and indicate if you plan to give weekly, monthly, quarterly, or annually. This will determine how many giving envelopes we provide to you (52, 12, 4, or 1).
- If you need a reminder of your current giving number or would like a giving number, please indicate below.

Envelopes and giving number reminder cards will be provided on Sunday, January 11, 2026.

Thank you for your financial support and prayers as we continue to share the mission and outreach of St. Matthias, as well as work on ways to streamline our processes, use resources wisely, and save money.

Love and Blessings,

Hope Blume

Hope Blume
Parish Administrator

PLEASE RETURN TO THE CHURCH OFFICE NO LATER THAN SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2025.

NAME: _____

- Giving Envelopes **NOT** needed (giving online or providing my own envelopes).
 Giving Envelopes **ARE** needed (please indicate below **how many envelopes** you would like).

I/We plan to give:

- Weekly (52) Monthly (12) Quarterly (4) Annually (1)
 Giving Number needed (new to the church family or have not yet received a giving number).
 Giving Number reminder (have a giving number, just need a reminder).

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.



FREE

Vintage Ceramic Dog Figurines are free to a lover of Boston Terriers. Please call Peggy Hope 352.988.7525 if you are interested.

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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