

DECEMBER 2, 2018 — FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

ST. MATTHEW APOSTLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

8001 LONGVIEW ROAD, KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI 64134



www.stmatthewapostle.org

Check us out on Facebook at Saint-Matthew Apostle
Get our weekly bulletin at www.stmatthewapostle.org.

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday 3:00 pm
Sunday 8:00 and 11:00 am

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Tuesday 6:15 am
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 8:30 am

CONFESSIONS

Saturday: 2:00 pm Wednesday-Friday: 7:45 am

STAFF

Fr. Richard Rocha 816-763-0208
Pastor
Dcn. Joe McNeal 816-695-7566
Director of RCIA joe.mcneal@stmatthewapostle.org
Jessica Ast 816-888-5020
Pastoral Assistant jessica.ast@stmatthewapostle.org
Eddie Bruton
Buildings and Grounds

OFFICE OF YOUTH PROTECTION

Kathleen Chastain 816-392-0011
Victim Advocate victimadvocate@diocesekcsj.org
Jenifer Valenti 816-812-2500
Ombudsman jenifervalenti@att.net

PARISH OFFICE

Phone: 816-763-0208 Fax: 816-765-2617 Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 9:00 am – 4:00 pm, (Closed on Friday)

St. Matthew Apostle Mission Statement

St. Matthew Apostle Parish is a Catholic community committed to Jesus Christ, nourished by the Eucharist, blessed by Life, and guided by the Gospel. ~ Answering the call to follow Christ as disciples challenges us to support one another on our journey of faith and to witness that faith to others. ~ Dedicated to the mission of Christ, we strive to be a worshipping community reaching out, welcoming, and embracing all people.

Welcome to St. Matthew

We welcome all who want to deepen their relationship with God to join us. To become a registered member of our community, please call the Parish Office.

Mass Intentions for the Week

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| Monday | December 3—St. Francis Xavier (M) <i>No Mass</i> |
| Tuesday | December 4—St. John Damascene (m) 6:15 a.m. ✕John Rogers |
| Wednesday | December 5—Advent Weekday 8:30 a.m. ✕Tom Shipley |
| Thursday | December 6—St. Nicholas (m) 8:30 a.m. ✕Maria Luisa Casillas |
| Friday | December 7—St. Ambrose (M) 8:30 a.m. ✕Nancy Spaw 6:00 p.m. ✕Bernard Martin |
| Saturday | December 8—Immaculate Conception (S.) 8:30 a.m. People of the Parish |
| | Vigil—2nd Sunday of Advent 3:00 p.m. ✕Robert & Mary Rocha |
| Sunday | December 9—2nd Sunday of Advent 8:00 a.m. ✕Phyllis Bahner 11:00 a.m. People of the Parish |

Please remember in prayer those who have died.
Grant them eternal rest and peace O Lord!

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS

| | |
|------------------|---------------------------------|
| Monday | December 3 |
| 9:00 am | Rosary Makers |
| 7:00 pm | Neocatechumenal Way Talk |
| Tuesday | December 4 |
| 9:00 am | Homeschool Coop |
| 10:00 am | Quilters and Crafters |
| 6:30 pm | Manos Amigas |
| Wednesday | December 5 |
| 9:00 am | Adoration Homeschool Coop |
| 10:00 am | S.T. Planning Meeting |
| 2:00 pm | Benediction |
| 6:45 pm | Little Saints |
| 7:00 pm | Neocatechumenal Way Talk |
| Thursday | December 6 |
| 9:00 am | Homeschool Coop |
| Friday | December 7 |
| 7:30 am | Adoration and Confessions |
| 6:00 pm | Vigil for Immaculate Conception |
| Saturday | December 8 |
| 8:30 am | Mass for Immaculate Conception |
| Sunday | December 9 |
| 5:00 pm | Charismatic Prayer Group |

ALL WEEKEND: Religious Retirement Appeal

Bulletin Deadline: Monday at Noon

SILVER THREADS

All parishioners age 55 and up are invited to join our group and share in our activities. If you haven't joined us lately, or not at all, check out the activities below and make plans to join us. You'll be glad you did!

December 12—Christmas Luncheon! Join us on Wednesday, December 12 for our Christmas Potluck! Please arrive by 11:15 am. We are excited to say that we will be joined by the Children's School Choir (25 of them) from Presentation School. We will provide the ham and mashed potatoes and gravy. Please bring your favorite side dish to share. A sign-up sheet is in the Gathering Space so we can make sure we have a variety and food for everyone.

For information about our group or attending our away activities, check the Gathering Space for sign-up sheets or call Thelma Smith at 816-388-3257.

NEARBY ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES

Wednesday, Dec. 19—6:00pm
St. Regis/St. Matthew Apostle at Regis

Thursday, December 20—6:00pm
St. Bernadette's.

SIGN UP FOR CHRISTMAS MINISTRIES

There are sign up sheets on the Ministry Board for anyone interested in signing up for a ministry for Christmas Masses.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Please help us decorate St. Matthew Apostle with beautiful poinsettias! You can remember a loved one with a memorial donation at Christmas to purchase poinsettias which adorn our church on Christmas Eve and throughout the Christmas season. Memorials will be listed in an insert in the Christmas bulletin.

You will be able to pick up your poinsettia(s) after Mass on the weekend of January 5 & 6, or you can donate your poinsettia for delivery to a homebound parishioner with a note wishing them a Happy New Year.

When ordering a poinsettia, please use the red order form. Please put in an envelope marked "Christmas Poinsettia" with your payment and place it either in the collection basket or turn it into the office. **Deadline: Monday, December 10th**

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

The readings for the Second Sunday of Advent are:
Bar 5:1-9; Phil 1:4-6, 8-11; Lk 3:1-6

PREPARING THE WAY OF THE LORD...

Just as Jesus' parents, Mary and Joseph, patiently and joyfully awaited the birth of their baby boy thousands of years ago, we are a people waiting in joyful anticipation for the arrival of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Advent is a wonderful time to renew your faith and return to the Church: Be on the lookout for upcoming events such as confession and adoration times, retreats, and daily Mass opportunities.

Advent marks a time of joyful waiting. The character of Advent is two-fold: it's a time to prepare for the solemnities of Christmas in which the arrival of Jesus on earth thousands of years ago is remembered and celebrated. But it is also a time to recall that which we express each week in our profession of faith at Mass, that Christ will come (again) in glory to achieve the definitive triumph of good over evil.

During this Advent season "be on the lookout" for Jesus and respond to his presence just like John the Baptist did when he leapt for joy in his mother Elizabeth's womb, and like the shepherds in the field who believed and responded to the angel's proclamation. Look for Jesus in the faces of those you encounter each day, seek him out in your practice of daily prayer, and announce the presence of Jesus to others in whatever way your personal, spiritual gifts call you to do so. Allow your words and actions to point others toward Christ, by placing him at the center of your heart and mind. Let's do our best to prepare the way of the Lord!

Have a blessed week!

Fr. Rocha

ANGEL TREE

If you would like to have an "Angel" ornament dedicated to someone you loved that has passed away, please complete one of the forms found in the Gathering Space and return it by **next Sunday, December 9**. Donations are appreciated.

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is Saturday, December 8 and is a Holy Day of Obligation. We will have a Vigil Mass on Friday, December 7, at 6:00 pm and we will also have a Mass on Saturday, December 8, at 8:30 am.

NEOCATECHUMENAL RETREAT

A 3-day retreat is being presented by the Neocatechumenal missionaries who have been giving weekly presentations at St. Matthew Apostle this fall. All are invited to the retreat, which will provide an opportunity for spiritual growth and quiet reflection. The retreat will be from Friday evening, December 14 through Sunday afternoon, December 16. **It will take place at St. Regis** (8941 James A. Reed Rd., KCMO 64138).

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION CLASSES

"I wish not merely to be called Christian, but also to be Christian." — St. Ignatius of Antioch

Who: High School students or older that have not received the sacrament

When: Wednesday nights from 7:00 – 8:00pm

December 5

January 9

February 13

Retreat TBD

Practice is usually the week of the actual Confirmation

Confirmation Date: Feb 20, 2019 at Holy Spirit Church

Attendance at all sessions is mandatory

Where: St. Matthew the Apostle Church

Meet the first night in the Gathering Space

How: Please contact Mary Seura with your contact information before the first class, if possible: email – mseura2@att.net, cell – 816-517-5431 (please text)

A copy of your baptismal certificate will be needed before receiving the sacrament.

THE CALENDARS ARE HERE!

Our 2019 calendars are here! Please make sure you grab one!

We would like to extend a special thank-you to the families of Harold Erichsen, Cliff Shipley, Gary Bruton, Leo and Pinky Lantsberger, Ted Rastorfer, Joe Oakley, Carol Ann Burns-Wixom, Stan Lukowski, Gerald Auckly and Myron Garth who generously provided us with our parish calendars in memory of their deceased loved ones.

FINANCIAL FIGURES

For the weekend of November 17 & 18

Weekly Parish Contribution \$3,660.00

For the weekend of November 24 & 25

Weekly Parish Contribution \$3,892.00

This month's Figures

Total Income Budgeted for this Month \$22,291.67

Total Contributed to Date \$17,814.66

Needed To Meet Budget \$4,477.01

Year-to-Date Comparisons

July 1, 2018 thru June 30, 2019

Total Budgeted Income \$267,500.00

Total Actual Income \$98,744.70

Difference To Date – \$168,755.30

Thank you for your continued support to our parish. The gifts of your time, talents, and treasure are greatly appreciated.

REPORT CHILD ABUSE OF ANY KIND

The Diocese of Kansas City–St. Joseph is committed to combating sexual abuse in the Church. If you are a victim of sexual abuse, or if you *observe or suspect* sexual abuse: 1. Call the Missouri Child Abuse Hotline at 1-800-392-3738 (if the victim is currently under the age of 18), and 2. Contact your local law enforcement agency or call 911, and 3. After reporting to these civil and law enforcement authorities, report suspected *sexual abuse of a minor or vulnerable adult* to the Diocesan Ombudsman, Jenifer Valenti, at 816-812-2500 or JeniferValenti@att.net, if the abuse involves a priest, deacon, employee, or volunteer of the Diocese of Kansas City–St. Joseph. The Diocese has a sincere commitment to providing care and healing resources to victims of sexual abuse and their families. Please contact Kathleen Chastain, Victim Advocate at 816-392-0011 or victimadvocate@diocesekcsj.org for more information.

INFORMATION SHEET

Church name & address:

St. Matthew #522252

8001 Longview Rd.

Kansas City MO 64134

Contact person: Jessica Ast @ 816-763-0208

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Special instructions:

FedEx Shipping address:

8001 Longview Rd.

Kansas City MO 64134

Special instructions for delivery: Please leave bulletins in specially-marked Bulletin Drop Box on church building.

FedEx tracking e-mail: jessica.ast@stmatthewapostle.org