

DECEMBER 23, 2018 — FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

# ST. MATTHEW APOSTLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

8001 LONGVIEW ROAD, KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI 64134



[www.stmatthewapostle.org](http://www.stmatthewapostle.org)

Check us out on Facebook at Saint-Matthew Apostle  
Get our weekly bulletin at [www.stmatthewapostle.org](http://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](mailto:joe.mcneal@stmatthewapostle.org)  
Jessica Ast 816-888-5020  
*Pastoral Assistant*    [jessica.ast@stmatthewapostle.org](mailto:jessica.ast@stmatthewapostle.org)  
Eddie Bruton  
*Buildings and Grounds*

## OFFICE OF YOUTH PROTECTION

Kathleen Chastain 816-392-0011  
*Victim Advocate*    [victimadvocate@diocesekcsj.org](mailto:victimadvocate@diocesekcsj.org)  
Jenifer Valenti 816-812-2500  
*Ombudsman*                      [jenifervalenti@att.net](mailto: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

<b>Monday</b> 4:00 p.m.	<b>December 24—Christmas Eve</b> ✠For All Our Deceased Loved Ones
<b>Tuesday</b> 9:00 a.m.	<b>December 25—Christmas</b> ✠For All Our Deceased Loved Ones
<b>Wednesday</b> 8:30 a.m.	<b>December 26—St. Stephen (F)</b> ✠Santos & Catherine Cisneros
<b>Thursday</b> 8:30 a.m.	<b>December 27—St. John (F)</b> Denny King
<b>Friday</b> 8:30 a.m.	<b>December 28—Holy Innocents (F)</b> ✠Julian & Aniceta Gonzales
<b>Saturday</b>  3:00 p.m.	<b>December 29</b> <b>Vigil—Feast of the Holy Family</b> ✠Santos Cisneros
<b>Sunday</b> 8:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	<b>December 30—Feast of the Holy Family</b> People of the Parish ✠Bob & Debbie Duhren

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

## THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<b>Monday</b>	<b>December 24—Christmas Eve</b> Office Closed
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>December 25—Christmas Day</b> Office Closed
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>December 26</b> Office Closed
<b>Sunday</b> 5:00 pm	<b>December 30</b> Charismatic Prayer Group

**ALL PARISH OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 24 THROUGH  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26 FOR CHRISTMAS  
AND MONDAY, DECEMBER 31 AND TUESDAY,  
JANUARY 1 FOR THE NEW YEAR.**

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**GOD BLESS YOU & YOUR FAMILIES WITH A  
HEALTHY, BLESSED CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR!  
FR. ROCHA & THE PARISH STAFF**

## WINTER WEATHER POLICY

The winter weather/snow closure policy for the parish follows the Hickman Mills School District policy. **If they are closed, we are closed** for 6:15am Mass and for all morning, afternoon, and evening meetings and events.

**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!

**January 23—First Luncheon of 2019!** Mark your calendars for our next potluck! Join us on Wednesday, January 23 at 11:30!

More details to come!

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.

## 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.

## 2018 YEAR END TAX NOTICE

Sunday, December 30, 2018 will be the last collection for the current tax year. Anything received after this date will be credited to the tax year 2019. Our Parish relies on your generous and consistent giving, so thank you all for the gifts of your time, talent and treasure to St. Matthew Apostle!

## 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

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.

## NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

The readings for the Feast of the Holy Family are:  
1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28; 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Lk 2:41-52

## MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!

Dear Parishioners,

As this Blessed Advent comes to a close and Christmas is upon us, I wanted to extend my gratitude to Almighty God for the gift of His Son, and this parish of St. Matthew Apostle.

God the Father not only authors life and pours out grace in the midst of it, He chooses to join us in our lives by becoming one of us. Jesus enters into our lives in order that we might do the same. Whatever the circumstances of your life right now ~ grief or joy, struggle or success, faith or doubt ~ Jesus has lived it Himself, and He longs to live it with you. Let Him be born again in your heart. Allow Him to enter into your moments and give you the life for which you were created.

I would like to thank all of our parishioners for your commitment to our parish this past year. I would also encourage those who have not yet made a pledge in our SMA Annual Appeal, to prayerfully consider a generous and heartfelt commitment to St. Matthew Apostle. The giving of your time, talent and treasure to the Lord continues to bear fruit for the Kingdom of God. I would also like to extend my gratitude to all who have, and will work so hard to make our Christmas celebrations truly wonderful. Thanks to all who will be involved in decorating our churches and setting up for the different Masses, this season and throughout the liturgical year. And a special thank you to the devoted members who work quietly behind the scenes. As we will celebrate our Christmas Masses at St. Matthew Apostle, you will be remembered in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and in my Divine Office.

Merry Christmas and God bless you!

Fr. Rocha

### SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Sacramental preparation is available for registered, active parishioners at Saint Matthew. Please contact Fr. Rocha for information on receiving the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Marriage. You can also call the Parish Office at 763-0208.

### ATTENTION PARENTS

There will be NO Little Saints PSR classes this Wednesday, December 26. Have a safe and joy-filled Christmas and a blessed New Year!

## MASS TIMES FOR CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEARS



### Mass Times for Christmas:

Monday, December 24:  
4:00 pm  
Tuesday, December 25:  
9:00 am

### Mass Times for the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God:

Monday, December 31:  
4:00 pm  
Tuesday, January 1:  
9:00 am

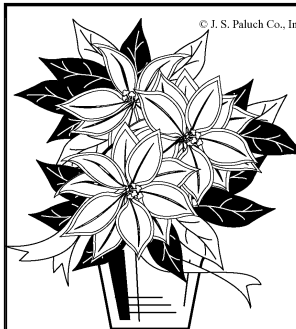


### MAY THEY BE RESTORED TO FULL HEALTH

Please remember to keep the sick, hospitalized, and homebound members of our parish family in your daily prayers. And, please notify the parish office when a loved one is hospitalized.

### NEED PRAYERS? WANT TO BE A PRAYER ANGEL?

If you have a prayer request or would like to join the Prayer Angels, contact Becky McNeal at [prayerangels15@gmail.com](mailto:prayerangels15@gmail.com) or call her at 816-763-6899.



### THANK YOU!

A big "Thank you!" to everyone who donated poinsettias to help beautify the church!

And if anyone would like to stick around after the 11:00 Mass and help decorate for Christmas, it would be GREATLY appreciated! Any time you can give is helpful!

### FINANCIAL FIGURES

The financial figures for the weekend of December 15 & 16 were not available at printing time. They will be posted in next week's bulletin.

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:victimadvocate@diocesekcsj.org) for more information.

INFORMATION SHEET

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St. Matthew #522252

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Kansas City MO 64134

Contact person: Jessica Ast @ 816-763-0208

MSPub 2003, AA-DC, Win 7

Trans day & time: Thurs 9 AM

Number of pages: Cover + 2 content + this page = 4 (4-4-JL)

Special instructions:

FedEx Shipping address:

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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](mailto:jessica.ast@stmatthewapostle.org)