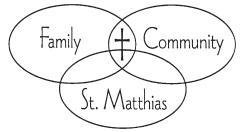
Saint Matthias the Apostle

Christian Stewardship Time, Talent, Treasure



2021 Guide Book & Directory

We, the family of St. Matthias, called to be Disciples of Christ, reach out with a loving and caring spirit.

Proclaiming the message of the Risen Lord, we provide for the spiritual growth and development of our community. By sharing liturgies, ministries, and responsibilities, we promote God's Kingdom.

St. Matthias the Apostle 1200 West Sprague Road • Parma, Ohio 44134 440-888-8220 • stmatthiaschurch.org Saint Matthias the Apostle Parish 1200 West Sprague Road, Parma, Ohio 44134

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Dear Followers of Our Lord Jesus,

We are presenting this booklet to you as a means of continuing our mission of Stewardship. A community that embraces Stewardship as a way of parish life builds on a foundation of four pillars: **Prayer** - praying daily, especially with gratitude; **Formation** - educating the mind and forming the heart; **Service** - reaching out to others; **Hospitality** - welcoming ALL who come to our doors. Each of our ministries can be placed within one of these four pillars, showing that gifts of time, talent and treasure are connected and help to form the Body of Christ of which every person in our parish is a part.

Remember, everyone is extremely important in God's eyes, and everyone has been given gifts of time, talent and treasure that can be shared with God's people. We use our gifts and talents to serve our family, friends, neighbors, parish and community. By the washing of the feet, Jesus taught us how to serve each other. Pray about your God-given gifts, use them and encourage others to use their gifts as well. Please consider getting involved in one of the following ministries.

If you are a new parishioner, Welcome! We invite you to review this booklet and get involved with our church community. If you have any questions, just give us a call or e-mail me at: rstrapper@yahoo.com.

Finally, I wish to deeply thank those who made this booklet possible our Advertisers. Please support them.

In God's love,

Fr. Ray

Stewardship Prayer

Almighty and everlasting God, you have given me everything: Life, family, friends, employment, food,

Clothing, shelter, your love, and the promise of eternal life.

For these gifts I give you praise, but I am especially Grateful for the gift of your Son, Jesus!

I will thank you by giving a portion of my time, talent, and treasure to My family, community and my parish family, St. Matthias.

Thank you God for all that you have bestowed on me! Amen.

Prayer

Eucharistic Adoration

Through Eucharistic Adoration we give glory to Jesus Christ by entering into the Mystery of His Divine Presence and love. We foster a greater appreciation of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Also we find rest, refreshment and the graces necessary to persevere in our daily crosses.

Eucharistic Adoration is held Monday through Thursday 6 P.M. to 10 P.M. and on Friday 4 P.M. to 10 P.M. Those interested in Eucharistic Adoration are asked to commit to a specific hour each week; while the host is not exposed, you are encouraged to commit to a specific hour.

Age: High School age and older

Time Commitment: 1 hour a week or be part of a time-shared group or substitute when needed

Training/Qualifications: Love for the Eucharist **Contact:** Mary Ellen Brandt at 216-351-5244 or

Elaine Mieval at 440-842-6079

Lay Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Eucharistic Ministers distribute the Body and Blood of Christ to the faithful at Mass. The Diocese commissions new Eucharistic Ministers yearly. Some ministers distribute the Eucharist to the homebound.

Age: High School Senior or older and must be confirmed Time Commitment: Scheduled in advance, part-time and substitute positions available

Training/Qualifications: Love for the Eucharist and a one-day diocesan training course is required.

Contact: Randy Lamb at 216-524-5547 (Home) or 440-349-5237 (Office).

To be a Visiting Eucharistic Minister, call the rectory at 440-888-8220.

Ministers of the Word of the Lord (Proclaimers)

Ministers of the Word prepare for, pray about and proclaim the Word of the Lord faithfully with their heart, mind and soul. Ministers must be willing to spend time preparing and praying about the Readings before they will read them on their scheduled weekend Mass.

Age: High School age and older

Time Commitment: Scheduled in advance, usually not more than once

a month.

Contact: Training: Ann Clark at 216-219-9960

Music Ministry

The Music Ministry's mission attempts to serve the Gospel and give praise to God, have concern for people at its center, contribute to the ongoing conversion of the congregation and the musicians, and strive for the highest quality possible.

The love of music is the first and foremost qualification. The ability to read music is a plus, but not a necessity. Ability to sing (carry a tune) is required and a willingness to commit to participate in weekly rehearsals and a week-end Liturgy with the singer or musician's chosen choir. There usually is one rehearsal per week, per music group, varying in length from 60-90 minutes.

Contemporary Music Group rehearses on Thursday at 7 P.M. Joyful Noise praise and worship group's rehearsal schedule varies, but usually has 2 or 3 rehearsals per month depending on upcoming events.

Contact: Sigmund Mikolajczyk at 440-582-0142

For Cantors Contact: Joseph Mikolajczyk at 440-823-0304

E-Prayer-Line

The Internet based E-Prayer-Line is an immediate notification for prayers for someone in the parish. Anyone with an e-mail address can participate. This is a way to get involved on a part-time basis with no time commitments. There are approximately 5-7 requests per week. The prayer-line is a great opportunity to deepen one's prayer life. Prayers and prayer requests are always welcome.

Age: Young Adult and older with web access

Time Commitment: About 7 prayer requests a week; schedule praying on your own time

Training/Qualifications: Prayerful Heart

Contact: Dianne Laheta at dlaheta@stmatthiaschurch.org

Altar Servers

Altar Servers assist the Celebrant(s) and the congregation in administering the physical functions of the liturgy allowing the congregation to focus more clearly on the entire Celebration. Family servers strongly encouraged for this ministry.

Age: Anyone who's made his or her First Communion Time Commitment: Usually one Mass a month Training/Qualifications: Several short sessions

Contact: Deacon Tom Litwinowicz at 216-235-8264



Formation

RCIA Rite Of Initiation of Adults

RCIA provides an ongoing process of conversion and "walking" with the people inquiring about the Catholic Faith as they journey through the stages of catechesis and conversion. The catechumenal process is a spiritual journey which varies according to God's grace and the free cooperation of the individuals involved, as well as circumstances of time and place.

In order to be a member of the team or sponsor, one must have a desire to share faith with the Inquirers and be willing to journey with them. Different areas of ministry are required for the formation of a team: Hospitality Minister—a person with a welcoming spirit who sets up and provides hospitality; Catechist/Scripture Sharer—versed in scriptures and knowledgeable about the Catholic Faith.

Table Leader–has some knowledge of scripture and is willing to share faith stories and direct discussion; Sponsor–a companion, guide, model of faith who "walks along" the journey with the inquirer.

The RCIA journey is year-round and begins when the person inquires. There are four distinct stages that are integral to the Process: Pre-Catechumenate, Catechumenate, Enlightenment, and Mystagogia. Age: Adult

Time Commitment: Varies throughout the program

Training/Qualifications: Fully initiated member of the Catholic Church

Contact: Dianne Laheta at 440-888-8220



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RCIA for Children

RCIA provides an ongoing process of conversion and "walking" with the children inquiring about the Catholic Faith as they journey through the stages of catechesis and conversion.

Participants: age 16 years or younger; to assist the candidates in the program you must be 16 years or older

Time Commitment: Meets weekly for 2 hours for catechesis. Begins October and concludes in May.

Training/Qualifications: Fully initiated member of the Catholic Church **Contact:** Dianne Laheta at 440-888-8220

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is an approach to the religious formation of the child. It is rooted in Sacred Scripture, liturgy, and the educational philosophy and method of Maria Montessori.

Each week the children gather in a room prepared for them called an "atrium." This specially prepared space contains many materials that the children can work with and use. For example, there is an area in the room set aside for work with the articles of the Mass: a smaller than child-size model altar, chalice, paten, lectionary, sacramentary, tabernacle, chasubles, among other articles. Another area is dedicated to the sacrament of baptism; another has dioramas depicting key events in the life of Jesus (the Annunciation, Visitation, Nativity, the Presentation in the Temple, the visit of the magi, and the Last Supper), yet another for a few select parables, and a prayer table is set up in an area where the children gather to pray.

This particular type of religious experience is well suited to the needs and capacities of the young child.

St. Matthias has two atriums. The upper room is dedicated to children 3-6 years of age. The classroom area is dedicated to children 6-9 years of age. This program is held on Sundays from 9-11 A.M. beginning in September and concluding in May. It is highly recommended that children enroll in the program at age 3. Children must have a minimum of 2 years atrium experience to enroll in the 6-9 year-old program. ONLY CHILDREN NEW TO ST. MATTHIAS WILL BE ALLOWED TO ENROLL IN THE 6-9 YEAR OLD PROGRAM WITHOUT PRIOR ATRIUM EXPERIENCE.

Contact: Dianne Laheta for volunteer opportunities and more information regarding this program at 440-888-8220.

Sacramental Preparation Baptism

Preparation for the Sacrament of Baptism begins prior to the Baptism. This includes teaching about the Baptism ritual and scriptures. Opportunity is for Catholic adults, preferably with families to share from the heart their experience. There are usually several Baptisms a year.

Contact: Parish Office at 440-888-8220



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Sacramental Preparation Reconciliation, Eucharist, Confirmation

Assist children in preparing for the reception of the Sacraments. See PSR handbook for the requirements regarding Sacramental Preparation.

Age: Adult instructors, Junior high and older can assist the teacher Training/Qualifications: Fully initiated member of Catholic Church, Virtus training

Contact: Dianne Laheta at 440-888-8220

Sacramental Preparation Marriage

Preparation for the Sacrament of Marriage begins 6 months prior to the wedding. This includes monthly meetings with the priest or deacon, attending a pre-cana class and/or meeting with selected married couples in the parish. Opportunity is for Catholic married couples to share from the heart their thoughts on marriage. There are usually several marriages a year.

Contact: Fr. Ray, Deacon Ken or Deacon Tom at least six months in advance.

Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study studies the Bible with emphasis on issues specific to the woman's role in family and ministry. This is an introductory Bible study group which each person has an opportunity to share her views.

Age: Women High School age and older

Time Commitment: Tuesday after 8:30 A.M. Mass. All are welcome even if only able to attend an occasional Tuesday.

Training/Qualifications: Prayerful Heart **Contact:** Florence Visk at 440-804-6174

S.M.A.R.T. Level I & Level II

PSR for 4th through 9th graders

Age: High School age and older

Time Commitment: Monday evenings; Level I & Level II 6 P.M.-7:15 P.M.

Contact: Dianne Laheta at 440-888-8220

Home Church

Home Churches are small faith sharing groups (8-15) that meet and reflect on the Sunday readings. The Shepherds lead the groups and also provide a linkage to the entire parish. Shepherds agree to attend four Shepherds' meetings each year.

Age: Everyone

Time Commitment: Usually meets monthly

Training/Qualifications: Virtus if home church includes children

Contact: Ann Clark at 216-219-9960



Service

Parish Pastoral Council

The pastoral council provides the communal means of carrying out the mission of the parish. The council works with the pastor in defining parish strategy.

Age: High School age and older

Time Commitment: Council meets 5 times a year, preparation varies,

and service terms either 2 or 3 years Training/Qualifications: Prayerful Heart **Contact:** Pamela Ziss at 216-642-1161

Parish Finance Council

The Parish Finance Council is a consultative body assisting the Pastor in business and administrative matters of the parish.

Age: Minimum of 18 years old

Time Commitment: Meets every other month, individuals perform

their assignments according to their schedules

Training/Qualifications: General business, accounting or finance knowledge

Contact: Donna Ross at 216-403-8967

Liturgy Commission

The Liturgy Committee provides guidance to the Pastor about our parish liturgies. The commission is responsible for identifying the liturgical needs of the parish. The committee strives for better celebrations that foster and nourish faith and builds and sustains a tradition that reflects the community of St. Matthias.

Age: High School age and older

Time Commitment: Individuals perform assignments to their schedules. Group meets 4-8 times a year.

Training/Qualifications: Prayerful Heart

Contact: Ann Clark at 216-219-9960 ann.clark@stmatthiaschurch.org

Worship Environment Committee

The Worship Environment Committee is a subcommittee of the Liturgy Commission. The group plans and sets up the seasonal environment in the worship area.

Age: High School age and older

Time Commitment: Group meets on a seasonal basis

Training/Qualifications: Flower arrangement or interior design is

helpful

Contact: Betty Yurik at 440-237-3589

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Good Samaritan Ministry

The Good Samaritan Ministry (formerly Saint Vincent DePaul) leads women and men to join together to grow spiritually by offering person-to-person service to the needy and suffering of our parish.

Age: High School age and older

Time Commitment: Part-time, meets quarterly, provides service calls

on an as needed basis

Training/Qualifications: Compassionate Heart **Contact:** Elaine Mieyal at 440-842-6079

Brookside Center

An opportunity to volunteer at a Near West Side Hunger & Outreach Center providing food, clothing and spiritual help to the needy of the near West Side of Cleveland.

All ages with willingness to help others and ability to have fun are welcomed. Substitute or Part-time opportunities are available. About 4 community meals are served a year. Center volunteers can help out weekly. The Brookside center is located at 3802 Pearl Road (just north of the zoo).

Age: High School age and older

Time Commitment: Part-time, Full time and Substitute positions

available

Training/Qualifications: Compassionate Heart

Contact: Brookside at 216-749-4295

Metanioa

An overnight hospitality center for Cleveland's street people operates at St. Malachi Parish. It is open 3 nights/week from November thru March. Volunteers offer a hot meal, a warm place to sleep, showers, direction to local social services and a class called "Courage to Change". This class helps our homeless brothers and sisters take the next step forward.

Contact: Lynn Muniak at 440-476-8549

Visiting Eucharist Minister to the Homebound

Bring the Eucharist to those in our parish who cannot be with us at Sunday Liturgy. This means traveling to their homes or care facilities.

Age: Adult

Time Commitment: Per your availability

 $Training/Qualifications: Commissioned \ Eucharistic \ Minister - 2 \ hour$

diocesan Eucharistic Minister Training **Contact:** The Parish Office at 440-888-8220





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Womankind Prenatal Care Center

Womankind is a prenatal care center assisting mothers-to-be with medical, counseling and educational services at no cost to the client. Committee members can have a variety of skills: nursing, administrative, marketing, communications or organizational.

Age: High School age and older

Time Commitment: Part-time, Full time and Substitute positions

available

Training/Qualifications: Compassionate Heart **Contact:** Womankind at 216-662-5700

Find a Need and Fill it Ministry

Short term projects that change quarterly and address practical needs in Parma and Cleveland communities. This ministry is intended for parishioners who want to be involved in charity work and don't have time for long-term commitments. For example, we have sewn Angel Gowns, collected old eye glasses for homeless and crocheted sleeping mats for homeless. Volunteers choose whatever project(s) they wish.

Age: Children, teens, adults, older adults

Time Commitment: Varies with each short-term project

Training: None. Read bulletin or listen to Mass announcements

Contact: Patti Bertschler at 216-334-5056

Collection Counters

Counters count and record the Sunday collection.

Age: Minimum of 18 years old

Time Commitment: approx. 5 times/year; substitute positions available

Training/Qualifications: Helpful Heart **Contact:** Parish Office at 440-888-8220

Membership Commission

Members of this Commission focus on increasing attendance by exploring ways to be more inviting and welcoming.

Age: No age requirements Time Commitment: varies

Training/Qualifications: Helpful Heart **Contact:** Kathy Byrne at 440-829-7153

Spiritual Life Commission

Members of this Commission will focus on renewal, alpha, retreat days, parish mission and other ways to improve our spiritual growth.

Age: No age requirements Time Commitment: varies

Training/Qualifications: Helpful Heart **Contact:** Louise Miller at 216-524-3082



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Stephen Ministry

The Stephen Ministry is designed to train laypeople for caring ministry. Loving others in Jesus' name is a challenge and an opportunity for all who are God's children. Likewise, the joy of helping others is the privilege of all Christians, for the Holy Spirit has given gifts to each Christian to use in service to others and to build up the church (1 Corinthians 12:7-11). Stephen Ministry will rely on the gifts the Holy Spirit has given to our lay members so that, as more people are equipped to care, Christ's love for us will be able to go out from us in a greater and more effective way than it does now.

Contact: Deacon Tom Litwinowicz at 216-235-8264



Greeters

Greeters open doors and welcome all worshipers at the weekend Masses. They make all worshipers feel welcomed. Greeters show up 10 to 15 minutes before Mass. Those interested in being a greeter should be friendly and cheerful. This is a wonderful opportunity for families to participate in parish life.

Age: Anyone

Time Commitment: Sundays, Part-time, Full time and Substitute

positions available

Training/Qualifications: Friendly Heart

Contact: The Parish Office at 440-888-8220

Ushers

Ushers serve the worshipping community by providing a warm and comfortable environment so that all may feel welcome in the house of the Lord. These warm friendly individuals greet, serve and direct the worshiping community. Ushers provide directions during the Communion service and help with the collection of financial gifts during the offertory. Usually need to be in attendance 15 minutes prior to and after Mass.

Age: High School age and older

Time Commitment: Sundays, Part-time, Full time and Substitute

positions available

Training/Qualifications: Friendly Heart

Contact: The Parish Office at 440-888-8220

Activities for Children through Grade 8

Provide activities for grade school and junior high students. Activities include: Bible Camp, Junior High Camp, cosmic bowling, etc.

Age: Parents of families

Time Commitment: Depends on event or activity

Training/Qualifications: Virtus training **Contact:** Dianne Laheta at 440-888-8220



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Bowling League

Join other church members for some fun each second Saturday of the month from 6-9 P.M. at Seven Hills bowling lanes. This is a mixed couples bowling league. Substitutes are welcomed.

Age: 18 years or older

Time Commitment: Second Saturday of the month from 6-9 P.M. Full time or substitute

Contact Lynn Zielaskiewicz at 216-925-2387 or Tom Shiban at 440-840-5785

