



# St. Matthew Catholic Church

Celebrate Love Share

Established 1944

Dear Parishioners,

Please continue to join me and the Universal Church in **keeping the Sabbath Holy! We thank you for “attending” daily and Sunday Masses at our parish via Livestream and YouTube. Parents, I will be offering a “talking point” at the end of each Sunday homily to guide a family discussion about the Gospel message.** Helen will send you some brief questions/ideas to help. Those questions will be posted in the comments of our Livestream so you have easy access to them right after Mass has concluded and while the homily and Gospel reading are fresh in your hearts and minds! **Please see the rest of the newsletter for our Palm Sunday and Holy Week plans. Easter is coming. Jesus will rise. Death is defeated! NOTHING can change the truth of salvation.**

Even when the cross is unexpected we are called to take it up, and you have humbly shouldered the burden. This is a time of fear, anxiety, and stress for the entire world. Yet, **we see you choosing to put your faith first and indeed to live a life of faith over fear.** As a staff, we are humbled by your example of continuing to evangelize through sharing your gifts of music, teaching, art, information sharing via social media, sewing surgical masks, blood donations, messages of faith and hope, and continued financial support of local small businesses and our parish. Many of you have sent messages of encouragement, support, appreciation, baked goods, lunch, gift cards, flowers, and your tithe. **THANK YOU!**

While this situation may prevent us from gathering, we are still a community of faith joined together in the Body of Christ with all the saints! However, it's not a permanent way forward, and I look forward to seeing more than your family photo in your usual spot in our pews soon. ☺ In the meantime, you can find daily and Sunday Mass readings at the following website: [usccb.org](http://usccb.org). **I encourage you to take advantage of our FORMED program**, which is available online. Here, you will find many salient and spiritually nourishing resources, including commentaries for both the daily and Sunday Mass readings. I recommend them as a good way to continue the practice of the faith during an unusual time. God is always with us no matter what!

To access FORMED for free go to:

- 1) [www.formed.org](http://www.formed.org)
- 2) Select “Sign Up”
- 3) Select: “I Belong to a Parish or Organization”
- 4) Type in “St. Matthew, Statesboro, GA”
- 5) Explore and Enjoy!

Let us join together in our prayers for an end to this pandemic. We remember most especially those who are sick, quarantined, or severely affected in anyway by this viral outbreak. **If you are in need of the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick please call: (478) 955-5854.** You are my family, and I wish you every blessing in this season! Glory be to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Fr. John R. Johnson  
Pastor