

# ST. MATTHEW CATHOLIC CHURCH

## STATESBORO, GEORGIA

### MINISTRY GUIDE



#### **GOD'S CALL**

Shortly after his election as Bishop of Rome, Jorge Mario Bergoglio, now Pope Francis, who had never studied in Rome and only went there for meetings when he had to, admitted: "I do not know Rome well. I know a few things. These include the Basilica of Saint Mary Major; I always used to go there. I know Saint Mary Major, Saint Peter's... but when I had to come to Rome, I always stayed on the Via della Scrofa," where there is an international residence for priests. "From there I often visited the Church of Saint Louis of France, and I went there to contemplate the painting of 'The Calling of Saint Matthew,' by Caravaggio."

"That finger of Jesus, pointing at Matthew. That's me. I feel like him, like Matthew... It is the gesture of Matthew that strikes me: he holds on to his money as if to say, 'No, not me! No, this money is mine.' Here, this is me, a sinner on whom the Lord has turned his gaze. And this is what I said when they asked me if I would accept my election as pontiff: 'I am a sinner, but I trust in the infinite mercy and patience of our Lord Jesus Christ, and I accept in a spirit of penance.'"

In the Pope's interpretation of Michelangelo Caravaggio's painting—itsself an interpretation of the Gospel account of Saint Matthew's call—the tax collector realizes that if he accepts Christ's call to

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discipleship, he will have to let go of his treasure, that he will have to place it, together with his time and talents, at the disposal of the Master. Disciples of the Lord Jesus must realize that they do not own what the Lord has given them, but they are merely stewards of God's gifts, which he has given them for a time, so that they may be used for the common good. But the rewards promised to Christ's disciple-stewards far exceed the "cost of discipleship": they will inherit eternal life.

This year, I again ask you to consider in prayer all the gifts that God has entrusted to you and how you can become a better steward of them and a better disciple of his Son here at Saint Matthew's. By means of this guide, I would like to invite you to examine your life in terms of the four "pillars" of stewardship. I ask you to consider the quality of your prayer, of your formation in the Catholic faith, of your hospitality to the other members of our community, and of your service to those in need. And then I ask you to consider how God is calling you to grow in each of these areas. You will soon have an opportunity to commit or recommit yourself and your gifts to the various ministries of prayer, formation, hospitality, and service here at Saint Matthew Parish.

—Fr. Douglas K. Clark, Pastor

## **WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

### **Daily Mass:**

**Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday at 12:10 pm; Wednesday at 5:30 pm**

### **Weekend Masses:**

**Spanish Mass – Saturday at 5 pm,**

**Sunday: English Masses at 8 am and 10:30 am (nursery for 3 and under available)**

**University Mass at 6 pm (when University in full session)**

### **Confessions:**

**Tuesday: 7-8 pm\*, Wednesday: 5-5:25 pm, Saturday: 4-4:45 pm, and Sunday: 5-5:45 pm\***

**Or contact the parish office to make an appointment**

***\*when University in full session***

### **Eucharistic Adoration:**

**Tuesday, 7-8 pm, First Friday, 12:45 pm – 5 pm**

**Adoration Chapel available 24/7 Sunday evening through Saturday afternoon in the Training Room**

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

Office Hours: 9:30 am – 4:30 pm, M-F

Phone: 912-681-6726

Email: [mcannady@saintmatthewsparish.com](mailto:mcannady@saintmatthewsparish.com)

Website: [www.saintmatthewsparish.com](http://www.saintmatthewsparish.com)



(search for St. Matthews Catholic Church)

Address: 221 John Paul Avenue,  
Statesboro, GA 30458

## **STAFF:**

Fr. Douglas K. Clark, Pastor.....912-681-6726

Fr. Tom Nellis (retired).....tfninboro@yahoo.com

Fr. Mike Smith (retired).....mhsinboro@yahoo.com

Deacon Mike McGrath-deaconmike@saintmatthewsparish.com

Deacon John O'Malley-deaconjohn@saintmatthewsparish.com

Helen Almeter, Pastoral Asst./DRE.....912-681-6726 ext. 203

Email: [halmeter@saintmatthewsparish.com](mailto:halmeter@saintmatthewsparish.com)

Melinda Cannady – Parish Administrator.....912-681-6726

Email: [mcannady@saintmatthewsparish.com](mailto:mcannady@saintmatthewsparish.com)

Keegan Ditto, Music Director.....keeganditteau@gmail.com

Brooke Maryniak – FOCUS Team Director (College Ministry)

Email: [brooke.maryniak@focus.org](mailto:brooke.maryniak@focus.org)

## THE FOUR PILLARS

Each Sunday, when we profess our faith, we say the words: “I believe in one holy, Catholic, and apostolic Church.” These are the foundation of our faith. Four key words—one, holy, Catholic, apostolic—that we can build and grow upon.

Christ established one Church, his bride, based on one set of doctrines that, while they can be closely examined and understood or explained in a deeper way, never change. Over the centuries and millennia, they may be studied and more fully interpreted, but Truth is not something that can be altered to suit us.

The Church is holy. This doesn’t mean perfect! Holy brings to mind reverence and Christ-likeness. The Church is the keeper of the sacraments that allow us to share in the kingdom of God: Baptism, Reconciliation, First Communion, Confirmation, Marriage, Holy Orders, and Anointing of the Sick. The Church is the guardian of these gifts that help us on our journey to heaven.

You know, of course, that the word Catholic is from the Greek word meaning “universal”. Jesus told the disciples to go out unto all the nations! In churches all over the world, Catholics worship together at Mass each Sunday. We are reading the same Old Testament, New Testament and Gospel readings and participating in a liturgy that stretches all the way back to the first Christians... even to our Jewish fore bearers!

Our Church is apostolic. If you visit St. Paul’s Outside the Walls in Rome, you can look at the mosaics of the popes that stretch all the way back to Peter. The apostles have faithfully passed on both sacred scripture and sacred tradition from one generation to the next. They guide us, inspire us, and pray for us as we grow together in faith.

Local parishes of all sizes throughout the world are built on this foundation. Four pillars to anchor us to the bedrock of our lives: Jesus Christ. As we begin a new year, we look to build another layer on this foundation by examining the four pillars of Stewardship: Prayer, Formation, Hospitality and Service. These are designed to help us as we worship Jesus, grow in our faith, welcome our fellow Christians, and serve alongside each other... all as Christ taught us to do!

When we hear the word Stewardship, we think about things being asked *of* us. Stewardship is more than “giving back.” Stewardship is about *growing*. We hope this guide will, first and foremost, assist you in finding the information you need to be everything Christ made you to be. Please read it carefully as you pray about what God wants to do for you to draw you closer to him and to fulfill your deepest spiritual needs.

### **Stewardship Committee:**

Fr. Douglas K. Clark  
Susan Babot  
Melinda Cannady  
Jackie Coston  
Daniel Jenkins  
Deacon John O’Malley  
Chris O’Malley  
Deborah Parker  
John Parker

## PRAYER

***“The Lord tells us: ‘The first task in life is this: prayer.’ But not the prayer of words, like a parrot; but the prayer of the heart: gazing on the Lord, hearing the Lord, asking the Lord.” – Pope Francis***

- **Attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation.** Look and listen with fresh eyes. Think about the parts of the Mass as they happen. Listen to the prayers and the readings. Notice that the music is carefully chosen to enhance the readings of the week. Listen to your own heart and spiritual needs. Pray for yourself, your family, and others. Listen to the words of consecration: ancient and powerful. Kneel before Christ, present in the Eucharist. Receive Jesus! Kneel afterwards and thank him. Ask him to help you go forth from Mass and share what you have heard and done.
- **Daily prayer time.** Good relationships are built on communication. Are you talking with God regularly? The rosary is prayed 20 minutes before daily Mass. Join us!
- **Scripture.** Reading the bible with both mind and heart through the practice of Lectio Divina. Visit the website [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org) and type in “Lectio Divina” in the search bar. Click on [Ever Ancient, Ever New: The Art and Practice of Lectio Divina](#).
- **Eucharistic Adoration:** Come spend time with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Tuesdays, 8-9 pm in the church, First Fridays from 12:45 pm until 5 pm. The Adoration Chapel is available 24-7 Sunday evening through Saturday afternoon in the training room.
- **Confession.** “Don’t be afraid of confession. When someone is in line for confession he feels all these things - even shame - but then, when he finishes confessing, he leaves (feeling) free, great, beautiful, forgiven, clean, happy.” – Pope Francis
- **Prayer Resources:**

Daily Readings: [www.usccb.org/calendar](http://www.usccb.org/calendar)

Websites: [www.wordonfire.org](http://www.wordonfire.org)  
[www.umdatholic.org/homiliesmain](http://www.umdatholic.org/homiliesmain)

Twitter: Follow Pope Francis on twitter! [www.twitter.com/pontifex](http://www.twitter.com/pontifex)

**Altar Servers:** Those who have made their First Communion are eligible to assist the priest and deacon at Mass. Altar Servers set an example of reverence and prayer when they serve. New Altar Servers Training: **Saturday, November 8 at 10:30 am**. Contact Helen Almeter at 912-681-6726.

**Altar Society:** Members of the altar society help care for the liturgical items used during Mass. This includes cleaning sacred vessels, cleaning and ironing altar linens, purificators, corporals, etc. Contact Margaret Girardeau at [jlmmg@bulloch.net](mailto:jlmmg@bulloch.net).

**Choir:** Can’t read music? No problem! Enthusiasm is the only thing you need to join. Choir practice is on Thursdays at 7 pm. Contact Music Director Keegan Ditto at [keegandittea@gmail.com](mailto:keegandittea@gmail.com) or Assistant Director Brianne Varnerin at [bv00504@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:bv00504@georgiasouthern.edu).

**\*Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist at Mass:** Those interested in this ministry are required to undergo training and meet the Diocesan requirements to serve, including VIRTUS training. Only Catholics in good standing are allowed to distribute Communion at Mass or to the homebound. The ability to serve on scheduled dates is very important. Please contact Helen Almeter at 912-681-6726 ext. 203 or via email at: [halmeter@saintmatthewsparish.com](mailto:halmeter@saintmatthewsparish.com)

**\*Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist to the Homebound.** This ministry allows those who are sick or homebound the opportunity to receive the Eucharist when they can’t make it to Mass. Volunteers in this ministry should be Catholics in good standing and will need to attend VIRTUS, complete a background check and undergo training. Contact: Dr. James Stephens at 912-489-7025.

**Lectors:** Proclaimers of the word at the weekend Masses. A clear voice and a commitment to preparation is needed. A book that helps the lector understand the context of the reading and provides help with pronunciation is offered. Once the required training is completed, new lectors are added to the rotation. **Contact Deacon John O'Malley at: 912-536-8101 or via email at: [deaconjohn@saintmatthewsparish.com](mailto:deaconjohn@saintmatthewsparish.com)**

**Sacristan:** Sacristans help prepare the liturgical items needed for Mass, including setting up for Mass and cleaning and putting things away after Mass. Training will be provided. **Contact Helen Almeter at 912-681-6726 ext. 203 or via email at [halmeter@saintmatthewsparish.com](mailto:halmeter@saintmatthewsparish.com)**

**\*Ushers:** The ushers greet parishioners and visitors as they enter the Church, assist in finding seats, directing people to restrooms, the nursery or training room, take up the collection and help find gift bearers. VIRTUS training, a background check and signed code of conduct are required for those serving in this capacity. **Contact Danny Jackson at 912-531-4203 or via email: [DJackson@lortobco.com](mailto:DJackson@lortobco.com)**

**\*VIRTUS required for this ministry. For upcoming VIRTUS training sessions, please visit: <http://diosav.org/chilyouthprotection> and click on "VIRTUS Training Dates".**

## **FORMATION**

***"We are living in an information-driven society which bombards us indiscriminately with data—all treated as being of equal importance—and which leads to remarkable superficiality in the area of moral discernment. In response, we need to provide an education which teaches critical thinking and encourages the development of mature moral values."* - Pope Francis**

**\*Catechists:** teach the faith to the young people of the parish based on the curriculum laid out by the Diocese. Training is provided and VIRTUS training is required by the Diocese. A strong knowledge of the faith, interest in sharing/teaching, and a commitment to weekly preparation of lessons is needed. **Contact: Helen Almeter at 912-681-6726 ext. 203 or via email at: [halmeter@saintmatthewsparish.com](mailto:halmeter@saintmatthewsparish.com)**

**\*Catechist Aide:** Assist the catechist during instruction and helps to supervise students during Religious Education. **Contact Helen Almeter at 912-681-6726 or via email at: [halmeter@saintmatthewsparish.com](mailto:halmeter@saintmatthewsparish.com)**

**\*Nursery Staff:** Supervision of children ages 3 and under in the nursery at the 10:30 am Mass. VIRTUS training, background check, and signed Code of Conduct are required. Patience, good rocking chair skills, and sharp eyes are sought! **Contact Helen Almeter at 912-681-6726 ext. 203 or via email at: [halmeter@saintmatthewsparish.com](mailto:halmeter@saintmatthewsparish.com)**

## **RCIA Sponsor**

Sponsors serve as mentors to candidates and catechumens as they pray, study, and discern the Catholic Church. A sponsor should be a Catholic in good standing and be willing to share their testimony and offer support and prayer to the candidate/catechumen on their faith journey. **Contact Helen Almeter at 912-681-6726 ext. 203 or via email at: [halmeter@saintmatthewsparish.com](mailto:halmeter@saintmatthewsparish.com)**

## **\*Vacation Bible School**

This one-week program engages our children in a fun program of learning, music, crafts, and games each summer. VIRTUS training, background check, and a signed Code of Conduct are required. If you love crafts, dancing, storytelling, or sports, we can use your help! Volunteers are needed to help in a variety of areas: to teach, organize crafts, conduct games, or lead music. **Contact Helen Almeter at 912-681-6726 or via email at: [halmeter@saintmatthewsparish.com](mailto:halmeter@saintmatthewsparish.com)**

**\*VIRTUS required for this ministry. For upcoming VIRTUS training sessions, please visit: <http://diosav.org/chilyouthprotection> and click on "VIRTUS Training Dates".**

## **HOSPITALITY**

*“To live as true children of God means to love our neighbor and to be close to those who are lonely and in difficulty.” – Pope Francis*

### **Craft Group**

The Craft Group meets every Tuesday from 10 am until noon to talk and craft! Anybody is welcome to join. [Contact Gisela Guenther at 764-9743](tel:764-9743) or via email at: [wg102831@frontiernet.net](mailto:wg102831@frontiernet.net)

### **Friends of FOCUS**

Supports our FOCUS team as they work to evangelize on campus at Georgia Southern and reach out to the next generation of Catholics, who will become pillars in our local parish, like current parishioners Nolan and Jessica Kujawski, Joe Jennings, FOCUS missionaries on other campuses like Dominic Price, Margaret O’Toole, and Stephanie Shipley, or seminarians for our Diocese of Savannah like Sean O’Brien. Some will join far flung parishes elsewhere, sharing their faith with others and raising families in the Church. What a wonderful thing to see the seed planted here in Statesboro, Georgia, grow, blossom, and bear fruit here and all over the world! If you are interested in helping with any of the following, please [contact Dr. Teri Melton at 912-481-7554](tel:912-481-7554) or via email at [temelton@frontiernet.net](mailto:temelton@frontiernet.net)

- Hosting the FOCUS missionaries for dinner
- Inviting students who can’t go home to join you for Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter, etc.
- Offering a ride to Mass
- Providing a student with a place to stay between semesters if they can’t go home and don’t have housing options
- Financial support for student dinners, activities, and conferences

**Hospitality Sunday:** On most second Sundays of the month, we gather in the social hall for coffee, conversation, and donuts! Volunteers are needed to help set up (making coffee, lemonade, and setting out plates, cups, napkins, etc.) and clean up afterwards. Volunteers are also needed to greet new parishioners and guests and make them feel welcome when they attend. [Contact Melinda Cannady at 912-681-6726](tel:912-681-6726) or via email at: [mcannady@saintmatthewsparish.com](mailto:mcannady@saintmatthewsparish.com)

### **Knights of Columbus**

The K of C is a fraternal service organization of men, founded under the principles of charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism. This organization provides men with a vehicle for building up the parish community and family life with an emphasis on family, youth, church, council, and community activities. The Knights of Columbus meets the third Monday of each month at 7 pm. [Contact Grand Knight John Sullivan at tel:912-536-7804](tel:912-536-7804) or via email at: [pasullivan64@yahoo.com](mailto:pasullivan64@yahoo.com)

### **Parish Council of Catholic Women**

Women of the PCCW seek to help the parish and local community through prayer, leadership, and service. PCCW meets the fourth Monday of each month at 7 pm. All ladies of the parish are invited to join. [Contact Kaye Price at 489-2043](tel:489-2043) or [kfp@nctv.com](mailto:kfp@nctv.com)

### **Stewardship Committee**

This committee meets monthly to plan, coordinate and implement our parish’s response to be good stewards of God’s gifts. If you are interested please [contact Melinda Cannady at 912-681-6726](tel:912-681-6726) or via email at: [mcannady@saintmatthewsparish.com](mailto:mcannady@saintmatthewsparish.com)

## **SERVICE**

*“Like the Good Samaritan, may we not be ashamed of touching the wounds of those who suffer, but try to heal them with concrete acts of love.” – Pope Francis*

### **Area Christians Together in Service (ACTS)**

ACTS provides emergency financial assistance to Bulloch County residents. ACTS is open Wednesdays and Fridays from 9-11 am and is located in the Outreach Center, 515 Denmark Street. Volunteers are needed to answer the phones, help interview clients, and with other office work. **Contact Beth Kadlec at [bkadlec@bellsouth.net](mailto:bkadlec@bellsouth.net) or Paula Cunningham at 912-764-8568 or via email at [pmc0@frontiernet.net](mailto:pmc0@frontiernet.net)**

### **Backpack Buddies**

We provide backpacks full of food to help provide weekend meals to local school children who are below the poverty line. We currently support 28 children. Volunteers meet in the kitchen on Friday to pack the bags and deliver them to the Mill Creek Elementary School. **Contact Pattie Beblowski at 912-587-5632.**

### **Funeral Meals**

One way that the parish reaches out to the bereaved is by providing a meal for them and their guests after the funeral. Volunteers will be contacted when a funeral takes place and asked to help with food or serving the meal. **Contact Melinda Cannady at 912-681-6726 or via email at: [mcannady@saintmatthewsparish.com](mailto:mcannady@saintmatthewsparish.com)**

### **Giving Tree**

St. Matthew Parish works with local agencies such as the Department of Family and Children Services to provide Christmas gifts for those who would otherwise have no gifts to open on Christmas morning. Every year before Christmas, names and suggested gifts are pasted to cards and hung from a Christmas tree in the lobby. Volunteers are needed to help with set up, sign-ups, and sorting returned gifts. **Contact Melinda Cannady at 912-681-6726 or via email at [mcannady@saintmatthewsparish.com](mailto:mcannady@saintmatthewsparish.com)**

### **Nursing Home Visitation**

Volunteers are needed to deliver gift baskets and visit with parishioners who are in nursing homes or are homebound. **Please contact the Melinda Cannady at 912-681-6726 or via email at [mcannady@saintmatthewsparish.com](mailto:mcannady@saintmatthewsparish.com)**

### **Silver Lining Club**

This ecumenical outreach is respite care for Alzheimer's and other elderly patients. Volunteers are needed to help facilitate the various activities and to provide a small luncheon. St. Matthew Parish provides volunteers on a rotating basis (but weekly volunteers are always welcome). The Silver Lining Club meets every Saturday from 10 am – 2 pm, at First Presbyterian Church 1215 Fair Rd. **Contact Mark Yocco at 912-481-1067 or via email at: [mark.yocco@gmail.com](mailto:mark.yocco@gmail.com)**

### **Soup Kitchen**

This ecumenical ministry meets every Saturday at First United Methodist Church from 10:45 am – 1 pm, to prepare and distribute meals to those in need. All ages are invited to be a part of this ministry. St. Matthew volunteers put together sandwiches, trimmings, and serve the meals. Volunteers also deliver bag lunches to The Summit apartments. We staff the program approximately every six weeks. **Contact Jackie Coston at 912-690-1071 or via email at [jack\\_boro@hotmail.com](mailto:jack_boro@hotmail.com) or Paula Cunningham at 912-764-8568 or via email at [pmc0@frontiernet.net](mailto:pmc0@frontiernet.net)**

**Worn Threads**

This ecumenical outreach collects good and gently-used clothing and small household items. These are donated or sold to those in need at a low price. Volunteers help sort, price, and sell items. Worn Threads is open M, W, F, from 10 am – 2 pm, Sat., 10 am – noon, and Th from 2-4 pm. [Contact Alex Lota at 912-681-6726](tel:912-681-6726) or via email at [aplota@hotmail.com](mailto:aplota@hotmail.com)

**We invite you to prayerfully consider opportunities for prayer, formation, hospitality and service as a means of building upon the foundation of your faith! If you would like more information about any of ministries listed in the guide, please contact the person in charge of that ministry.**