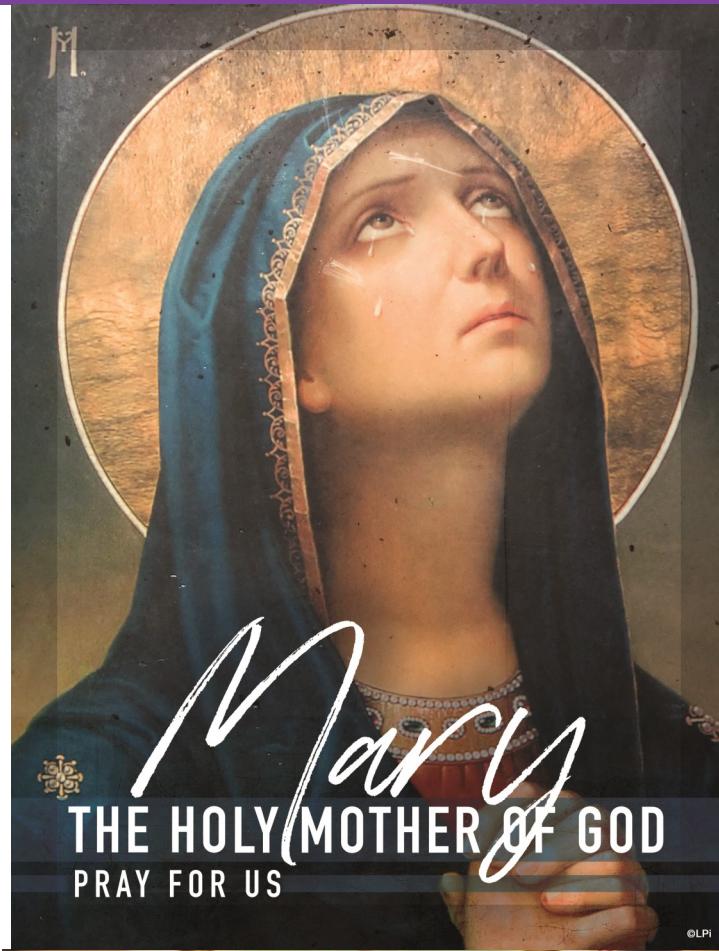


St. Matthew Catholic Church

January 1, 2023



Welcome New Parishioners!

Please see the Welcome Table in the Narthex (lobby) for registration info or contact Melinda Cannady at: mcannady@saintmatthewsparish.com. Visit our website: www.saintmatthewsparish.com for parish news and events. Instagram: @stmatthewstatesboro. Facebook: St. Matthew Catholic Church and Newman Center.

Mangia!

We hide ourselves and our secrets from God because we are afraid. Even Mary can seem too perfect to approach. The shepherds find the strength to speak to Mary and Joseph *at the moment they see the child in the manger*. They open their hearts and share what they've experienced. Saint Luke writes of the shepherds, *"When they saw this, they made known the message that had been told them about this child."*

When I was a college student, I visited Rome. Beggars often approached and said, "Mangia? Mangia?" I didn't speak Italian and thought, "Why are they speaking about the Christmas nativity scene?" My friend said, "Mangia means eat. They're hungry." That's when I realized more deeply than ever before that Mary puts her baby in a place designed for hungry animals to eat.

See that baby in the manger in your heart. Imagine Mary kneeling nearby looking at you with love. She doesn't cling to God for herself. In that cave, from the beginning, she quietly offers her son to hungry souls. The manger means vulnerable self-offering love. That's the sign. This week that same manger opens our hearts to tell Mary about our lives, too. ©LPI



MASS SCHEDULE

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

WEEKEND MASSES: Saturday: 5 pm (Spanish)

Sunday: 8 am, and 10:30 am*.

*Livestreamed to Facebook and YouTube.

DAILY MASS: M, T, Th, F at 12:10 pm;
W at 5:30 pm.

CONFESIONS: Wed: 5-5:25 pm, Sat: 4-5 pm,
or by appointment.

Please contact your parish representatives with questions, concerns, compliments, or ideas!

Parish Council

Chairperson: Rebecca Creasy: rlhcresy@gmail.com
Rachael Barrett: barrett.rachael@yahoo.com
Carolyn Couch: carolyn_couch@hotmail.com
John Douglas: JD03672@gmail.com
John J. Gleissner: johnjgleissner@gmail.com
Rachel Lacy: rachel.ploor@gmail.com
Alejandra Lara: alelarach@gmail.com
Kim Macy: 2.macysparade.6@gmail.com
Joe Sikes: jojosikes@hotmail.com
Maureen Stobb: mstobb@georgiasouthern.edu
High School Representative: Roderick Uribe

Finance Council

Eric Pollak, Chairperson: 912-414-6929, epollak@fdic.gov
Cindy Gant: 912-682-1894
Steve Healy: 912-865-2869, healysj1@gmail.com
Ryan Macy: 912-536-2715
Dr. Brian Vlcek: blvlcek@georgiasouthern.edu
Dr. Mike Wall: 912-531-2559

Pray for our Sick

 Names will be kept on the list for four weeks unless the office is notified otherwise. Please pray for: Jim Agnew, Terri Beasley, Bill Bolen, Drew Brandon, Margaret Brewer, Claire Burton, Orlena Bussie, Judy Cielocha, Karl Collins, Maria Curtin, Rob Dannacher, Marguerite DeFoe, Judy Cowning, Fred Denson, Dorothy Downs, Nadia Durrence, Karen Dwyer, Chris Eaton, Candace Floyd, Dolores Gant, Joe & Cassie Gay, David Greene, Bob Grovenstein, Toni Haffey, Kate Hall, Nola Hammond, Bob Haranda, Jordan Hathaway, Emory Holloway, Kelly Howard, Mary Harrington, Tricia Harris, Jon Hart, Jim Howenstein, Pat Jackson, Mattie James, Miranda Johnson, Peggy Kearns, Greyson Kennedy, Cecilia Krause, Paul LeFebvre, Marq Lett, Virginia Lindsey, Mellie London, Selah March, Sarah Mathis, Hugh and Linda McClendon, Bobby Mee, Makala Mitchler, Ginger Morris, Janet O'Brien, Cathy Orr, Brooks Padgett, Sandie Perrin, Rick and Kathy Poole, Dave Reichard, Margie Rouse, Audrey Senecal Sidway, April Shuman, Dot Sink, Shirley Smith, Michael Smoak, Carol Sowell, Steve Steinman, Carolyn Strozzo, Joe Subarton, Joe Sutter, Sullivan family, Patsy Tempio, Jo Ellen Tolliver, Connie Tousley, Shirley Wilson, Morgan Wurst, Wurst Family, and their caregivers.

Communion Ministry to the Sick/Homebound

If someone needs to be added to the list for Communion Ministry to the Sick/Homebound, please contact Melinda Cannady at 912-681-6726.

For those in the Military

Alax Baysinger, Audrey Brenden, Cole Carter, Christopher Doty, Ryan Erikson, Jose Irizarry, David Liddell, Sean Limbach, Anthony Mullen, Lexi Murry, Brandon Luke Revenue, Lance Lewis, Matthew Robbins, Cody Stevens, Brian Sullivan, Sean Sullivan, Kevin Tyler, and James Ziegler.

Volunteer Parish Nurse

Mary Anderson is a retired registered nurse who shares her knowledge of the local medical community and resources with parishioners that seek or need a medical advocate for themselves or their loved ones. She also conducts blood pressure checks on Hospitality Sundays. She can be reached at 912-682-1147.

STAFF DIRECTORY

Fr. Jason P. Adams, Pastor.....jadams@diosav.org or 912-681-6726
Fr. Douglas K. Clark (retired-in-residence).....912-681-6726
Fr. Tom Nellis (retired).....tfnlnboro@gmail.com
Deacon Mark Girardeau.....deaconmark@saintmatthewsparish.com
Deacon Mike McGrath.....deaconmike@saintmatthewsparish.com
Deacon John O'Malley.....deaconjohn@saintmatthewsparish.com
Helen Almeter, Pastoral Asst./DRE.....912-681-6726 ext. 203
Melinda Cannady, Parish Office Administrator.....912-681-6726
David Wentworth, FOCUS Team Dir.david.wentworth@focus.org
Peter Vecchio, Music Director.....peteramgd@gmail.com

The St. Matthew Consolation Ministry

Our Purpose: To console those in grief, to support Masses for the deceased through the ministry's designated contributions, to pray for and with those who have suffered loss, and to pray the Rosary for comfort and healing.

Our Mandate: "Bear each other's burdens and so fulfill the Law of Christ." (Gal. 6:2)

Contact: Melinda Cannady at 912-681-6726 or mcannady@saintmatthewsparish.com.

Weekly Collection

Collection Totals from Christmas will be included in the January 8 bulletin. Thank you for supporting our parish!

Abuse Hotline Number: To report sexual abuse of a minor by a Diocese of Savannah employee or volunteer, call the abuse hotline number, 888-357-5330, or the Office for the Protection of Children and Young People, 912-201-4074. To read the diocesan policy on sexual abuse of minors, go to www.diosav.org/childdiyouthprotection.

This Week at St. Matthew

Date:	Activities:	Mass Intention
Jan. 1 Sun.	8 am Mass 10:30 am Mass (Livestream)	+Dolores Collins +Madelyn Grovenstein
Jan. 2 Mon.	12:10 PM Mass	
Jan. 3 Tues.	12:10 pm Mass	
Jan. 4 Wed.	4:30 pm Rosary in Chapel 5 pm Confessions 5:30 pm Mass	
Jan. 5 Thurs.	8 am Men's Prayer Group 10:30 am Bible Study 12:10 pm Mass	
Jan. 6 Fri.	12:10 pm Mass	
Jan. 7 Sat.	4 pm Confessions 5 pm Spanish Mass	



SEEK
23

St. Louis, MO | Jan 2-6

focus

Please pray for the Catholic Eagles who are attending SEEK 2023 in St. Louis this week! As an event centered on the crux of the Gospel, the heart of SEEK will feature prayer, Eucharistic Adoration, Scripture, and the sacraments. Students will hear great talks from speakers, experience deeper fellowship with friends, and find out more about who God is calling them to be. Thank you for supporting our campus ministry program.

Condolences

Our sympathy is extended to James B. Collins, Karl and Cindy Collins and family at the passing of their mother, parishioner +Dolores B. Collins. May she rest forever in the peace of Heaven with Jesus.

BIBLE STUDY

Have you been thinking that you would like to know Jesus better? Have you wished that you could learn more about what the Bible says about Him?

Are you free to attend a weekly Bible class on Thursday Mornings? If so, you are invited to join other parishioners who will gather with me to begin a yearlong study of the Gospel according to John. The first meeting will be on Thursday, January 5th, at 10:30 am in the Conference Room of the Parish Center.

If work or other commitments make that impossible for you, why not tell Father Jason and/or Helen Almeter that you are interested? If there are others like you, perhaps an alternative could be created. The New Year is a perfect time to plan on learning how to use the Bible to know Our Lord more deeply and prayerfully.—Fr. Tom Nellis



Religious Ed.
and
Lifeteen
resume Jan. 8th





Happy New Year St Matthew Family!

As we welcome in 2023, what will this New Year look like for you? I share with you this story:

A boy asked his father, "Dad, if three frogs were sitting on a limb that hangs over a pool, and one frog decided to jump off into the pool, how many frogs would be left on the limb?"

The dad replied, "Two."

"No," the son replied. "Here is the question again: There are three frogs and one decided to jump, how many are left?"

The dad said, "Oh, I get the point! If one decided to jump, the others would too. So there are none left."

*The boy said, "No dad, the answer is three. The frog only **DECIDED** to jump."*

Does that sound like our last year's resolutions? We have great inspiration and great resolutions, but oftentimes we only *decide*, and months later we are still on the same limb of doing nothing. As New Year is upon us, 2023 is a chance to joyfully grow in one's faith. Growing in one's faith is not always easy, but it is worth the journey. Faith is meant to be lived with joy and not confused with convincing oneself to follow what one perceives is a bunch of rigid, cold rules. The following are some resolutions one could adapt to grow in faith as to bring about peace in one's life, which is ultimately satisfying.

1. Embrace silence. In our fast-paced world, electronic gadgets and social media encompasses us with noise. With the hustle and bustle of work and taking kids to school, usually finding quiet time is the last thing on one's mind until one is asleep. Ironically, for most people, silence is deafening. We don't know how to sit still long enough to regroup before a laundry list of "to-do tasks" pops in our heads. However, if you can put aside time and schedule at least 5-10mintues of silence for yourself, you can re-orient and recharge yourself for the remainder of the day.

2. Pray. This actually builds on making time to embrace silence in your day. I define prayer as carrying on a dialogue with God. It is not a one-sided conversation in which you give God a set of your instructions and expect it to go as you commanded. Conversation and dialogue are a two way street. Perhaps some people have forgotten how to pray and I offer the following acronym I was

taught: T.I.P.S. Schedule at least a few minutes daily to practice these steps and then add more time to it as needed. First, “T” stands for ‘thanksgiving.’ Tell God what you are thankful for at this moment. “I” is for ‘intercessory prayer.’ This is where you can tell God who you know needs a special blessing or help carrying the burden of a particular issue. “P” is for personal petition.’ This is where you spend time telling God what help you need right now in your life. At this point, you have done all the talking and now it is God’s turn. “S” is for ‘silence.’ Just sit still and allow God to communicate to you the way God wants to communicate to you. Perhaps an image or a certain word comes to mind. Maybe nothing appears to happen in the time you allotted, but a seed is planted that manifests itself later. Be patient with yourself, especially if you know you have not prayed in a while like you should. If God is a parent, God will be patient and appreciate the growth and effort!

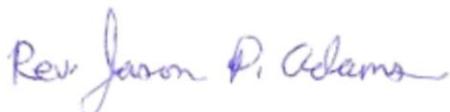
3. Be Generous. Each day you have on this earth is a gift, but what do you do with it? Practice having an attitude of gratitude. Generosity flows from being grateful for what you have and sharing it with others. It is not throwing a pity party for yourself for what you do not have. Whether it be time spent with a friend, encouragement given to a co-worker, or donating money to a charitable cause, these are all examples of sharing your time, talent, and treasure with others. Some of the most generous people are some of the happiest people you will ever meet, and that can be you too!

4. Stop comparing yourselves to others. Be Yourself! Do you ever catch yourself saying I wish I could be as pretty as her? I want to be as fit as he is? Perhaps something similar? Before you know it, you are making excuses for why you cannot do something and then putting the blame on God. It is great to have a role model to challenge you, but stop comparing yourself to others! Jackie Chan said it best, “I never wanted to be the next Bruce Lee. I just wanted to be the *first* Jackie Chan.” God created you for a specific purpose and a specific point in time. True peace will bring lasting happiness through your trials and tribulations once you embrace who you are and strive to be the best version of yourself.

5. Study and share your faith with others. While in college, I became great friends with the chairman of the student atheist, agnostic, and free thinkers group. While there, I observed many of its members were just people who had had their faith imposed upon them and never learned to appreciate it on their own, or were told it is bad to question church doctrine on particular issues and practices. To this I would retort, “The truth is not afraid of your questions, the question is, are you afraid of the truth?” Questions help us grow and enrich us in our faith. The more we dialogue and share our faith with others, the more we grow in appreciating our own Catholic faith while also clarifying stereotypes to others. Sharing your faith with others does not mean sitting down with someone and listing everything wrong with the perception you have of *their* faith. Much like prayer, sharing your faith is a two way street.

As we begin 2023, I pray that these suggestions will make your New Year a very spiritually enriching one as you continue growing and living out your faith. Remember to be patient with yourself and take it a day at a time. Growing in faith is a lifelong journey, not a sprint.

Yours in Christ,

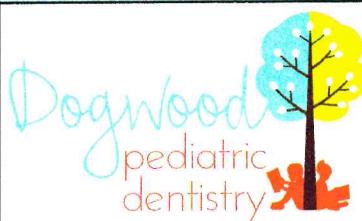


Rev. Jason P. Adams



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