

**ST MATTHEW**  
CATHOLIC CHURCH AND NEWMAN CENTER



# **2022-2023 MINISTRY GUIDE**



**Learn more about opportunities to serve Him as  
part of the St. Matthew Parish Community!**



# Welcome to the St. Matthew Family...

YOUR PARAGRAPH TEXT



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## Social Media and Video Content



St. Matthew Catholic Church  
and Newman Center



[stmatthewstatesboro](https://www.instagram.com/stmatthewstatesboro)



St. Matthew Catholic Church Statesboro GA



# Worship

## **Altar Servers**

Altar Servers are mature students who have made their First Communion (grades 4 and up) and assist the priest and deacon at Mass and special liturgies. Each altar server is a member of a team that serves once every 3-4 weeks. Training is required and refresher training sessions are held periodically. Contact: Helen Almeter at [halmeter@saintmatthewsparish.com](mailto:halmeter@saintmatthewsparish.com).

## **Altar Society**

Members of the Altar Society are those who help care for the liturgical items used during Mass by cleaning sacred vessels, cleaning and ironing altar linens, purificators, corporals, etc. Items can be collected after Mass each Sunday and returned to the sacristy on Friday. Contact: Helen Almeter at [halmeter@saintmatthewsparish.com](mailto:halmeter@saintmatthewsparish.com)

## **Choir**

Choir members are those who sing at either the 8 am, 10:30 am, or 5 pm Masses and Holy Days, as well as at special liturgies. Enthusiasm is the only thing you need to join. Choir practice is on Thursdays at 7:30 pm. Contact: Music Director Peter Vecchio at [peteramd@gmail.com](mailto:peteramd@gmail.com).

## **\*Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist to the Homebound**

Volunteers in this ministry should be adult (age 18 or older) Catholics in good standing who have been invited to the ministry of the Eucharist by the pastor. Once trained, ministers take the Eucharist to the sick or homebound each week at a time that is convenient for the minister and recipient of the Eucharist. Contact: Jamie and Becky Woods at [becky000333@yahoo.com](mailto:becky000333@yahoo.com)





### Hand Bell Choir

Hand Bell Choir members are musicians who play the hand bells as part of a choir. An ability to read music is helpful but not required. The choir will rehearse seasonally to provide special music at the Easter and Christmas Masses. Contact John J. Gleissner at [johnjgleissner@gmail.com](mailto:johnjgleissner@gmail.com)

### Lectors

**Who:** Lectors (ages 16 and up) are those who have a clear voice and a commitment to preparation in order to proclaim the Word at Mass. Lectors are scheduled to serve every 6-8 weeks after participating in a training session. A book that helps the lector understand the context of the reading and provides help with pronunciation is offered. Ministry leader: Fr. Jason Adams. Contact Pastoral Assistant Helen Almeter at [halmeter@saintmatthewsparish.com](mailto:halmeter@saintmatthewsparish.com)

### Sacristans

Sacristans are those who assist the priest and deacons in setting up for Mass by preparing the liturgical items needed for Mass as well as cleaning and putting sacred vessels and altar linens away after Mass. Sacristans serve on a team that rotates monthly. One-on-one training will be provided at an arranged time. Contact Helen Almeter at 912-681-6726 ext. 203 or [halmeter@saintmatthewsparish.com](mailto:halmeter@saintmatthewsparish.com).

### Ushers

Ushers are volunteers who assist with the flow and movement of people and parts at Mass. by opening doors for parishioners and visitors as they enter the Church, assist in finding seats, direct people to restrooms, the nursery or training room, take up the collection, and help find gift bearers. Ushers are provided guidelines and training before they begin serving. Periodic refresher training takes place as needed. Contact Dean Rakoskie at [dean.rakoskie@gmail.com](mailto:dean.rakoskie@gmail.com)

# Faith Formation

*Faith Formation ministries support families in their primary role as educators of the faith through a formal Religious Education curriculum and provide access to resources and classes that enable parishioners of all ages to live the Catholic faith more fully.*

### Catechists:

Catechists are Catholics who teach the faith. A strong knowledge of the faith, interest in sharing/teaching, and a commitment to weekly preparation of lessons is needed. Religious Education classes are scheduled for Sundays from 9 am until 10:15 am, September-May. Training and an introduction to the curriculum are provided. Contact: Helen Almeter at 912-681-6726 ext. 203 or [halmeter@saintmatthewsparish.com](mailto:halmeter@saintmatthewsparish.com).

### Catechist Aide:

Catechist Aides assist the catechist during instruction and help supervise students during Religious Education. Religious Education meets each Sunday from 9 am until 10:15 am, September-May. Contact Helen Almeter at 912-681-6726 or [halmeter@saintmatthewsparish.com](mailto:halmeter@saintmatthewsparish.com).



### Nursery Volunteers

Volunteers substitute when nursery staff is limited or unavailable to provide childcare for children ages 3 and under in the nursery. Patience, good rocking chair skills, and sharp eyes are needed. When: 8 am or 10:30 am Sunday Mass. Contact Helen Almeter at 912-681-6726 ext. 203 or [halmeter@saintmatthewsparish.com](mailto:halmeter@saintmatthewsparish.com).

### Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults Sponsor:

A RCIA sponsor is 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. Sponsors serve as mentors to candidates and catechumens as they pray, study, and discern the Catholic faith. Contact Helen Almeter at 912-681-6726 ext. 203 or [halmeter@saintmatthewsparish.com](mailto:halmeter@saintmatthewsparish.com).

### Rosary Group

Members of the Rosary Group gather to pray the Rosary by offering special intentions for our country and world peace at 4:30 pm on Wednesdays in the Adoration Chapel. Contact: Jo Tolliver at 912-481-7167

### \*Vacation Bible School (VBS):

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

### Men's Prayer Group

**Who:** Men of all ages who gather for communal prayer in the Conference Room to spend an hour in spiritual meditation and prayer. The Group meets on Thursday mornings at 8 am. Contact: Steve Healy at 865-2869 or [healysj1@gmail.com](mailto:healysj1@gmail.com).



## Hospitality and Fellowship



*The Hospitality Team welcomes new parishioners and helps integrate all parishioners into one community of believers.*

### Greeters

This ministry team welcomes parishioners, visitors, and guests to our weekend Masses by offering a word of welcome, a smile, and information to those entering the church. Volunteers should plan to arrive early and be alert to anyone who needs help finding bathrooms, the nursery or cry room, or information. Contact:

\_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_



**Volunteers assist in the set up and clean up of the coffee, lemonade, and donut fellowship once per month.** For the 8 am Mass, help is needed to pick up donuts, set up coffee, and lemonade. At the 10:30 am Mass, help is needed to refresh coffee, lemonade, and donuts or to clean up afterward. **Contact Melinda Cannady at 912-681-6726 or via email at:** [mcannady@saintmatthewsparish.com](mailto:mcannady@saintmatthewsparish.com).





### Funeral Meals

Our parish provides a meal for the family members of the bereaved after a funeral Mass. Volunteers are needed to help provide food, set up before the meal, assist with serving lines and drinks, as well as cleaning up afterwards. **Contact Melinda Cannady at 912-681-6726 or via email at: mcannady@saintmatthewsparish.com.**

### Knights of Columbus Council 14275 (?)

The Knights of Columbus is a fraternal organization of Catholic men, founded under the principles of charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism. This organization provides men with an opportunity for building up the parish community and family life by emphasizing the value of family, youth, church, council, and community activities. The local council meets the 3rd Monday of the month at 7 pm in the 8th grade classroom. **Contact Grand Knight Bobby Babot at robert.babot@gmail.com or 912-346-6664.**



### Parish Council of Catholic Women (PCCW)

All women of the parish are invited to join our local Council of Catholic Women. The group meets the 4th Monday of each month at 6:30 pm for fellowship, prayer, programs, and to plan opportunities for service within the parish and local community. Contact: Rosa Meza at mezarosa@yahoo.com

### Student Dinners

Volunteers help provide an entree, side dish, salad, or dessert for one of the college student dinners after the 5 pm Sunday Mass during the fall or spring semester. The purpose of the dinners is to help the campus ministry leadership team and student leaders make contact with Georgia Southern students to invite them to attend discipleship opportunities planned for each semester. **Contact Helen Almeter at 912-681-6726 or at halmeter@saintmatthewsparish.com**



### Welcome Team

Volunteers who serve on the Welcome Team meet and welcome new parishioners with a welcome basket and provide information about parish life. Members also help new families connect with pastor, staff, and fellow parishioners and assist with a quarterly brunch or fellowship for newly registered families. Contact Justin and Donna Randall at (check which email address (or both) \_\_\_\_\_).

# Outreach

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

ACTS helps Bulloch County residents with rent, utilities, medication, furniture, food, gas, and a few other necessities. Volunteers are needed to help interview clients, process paperwork, and complete data entry. ACTS is currently open on Wednesdays from 9 am until 11 am. **For more information on volunteering, contact ACTS President and parishioner Beth Kadlec: eekadlec@gmail.com.**

## **Backpack Buddies**

This program provides nutritional support for school age children and their families who are enrolled in the free lunch program at local schools because they fall below the poverty line. St. Matthew Parish provides a bag of food for 28 Mill Creek Elementary schoolchildren and their families each week during the school year. This bag of food gives families protein, fruit, snacks, and milk to help supplement their weekend meals. **Volunteers are needed to help pack bags and transport them to Mill Creek. For more information, Pattie Beblowski at: pattieb@georgiasouthern.edu.**



## **Blood Drives**

Our parish hosts 6 blood drives per year. Our cost includes keeping the AC units set at a chilly 68 degrees all day in the social hall. Our goal for each drive is 30 units. Donors of all blood types are always needed. Volunteers are asked to assist with registration on the day of the drive and at the canteen, helping donors safely transition from donation to snack table. If you are interested in helping out, contact **Deacon John O'Malley** [deaconjohn@saintmatthewsparish.com](mailto:deaconjohn@saintmatthewsparish.com) or **Melinda Cannady** at 912-681-6726 email: [mcannady@saintmatthewsparish.com](mailto:mcannady@saintmatthewsparish.com)

### Card Ministry

The St. Matthew Parish Card Ministry is an outreach to our homebound parishioners. The parish office provides an updated list of addresses and asks parishioners to send a card to those who are unable to join us each week due to illness or mobility issues. For special seasons such as Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter, a care package of devotional books, candy, and art from the Religious Education students is sent. **For volunteer information, contact Melinda Cannady at [mcannady@saintmatthewsparish.com](mailto:mcannady@saintmatthewsparish.com).**

### Consolation Ministry

Members of this ministry team send notes of condolence to parishioners on the death of a family member and to the immediate family of a parishioner who has died, sponsors a prayer session in the Church's chapel on the third Saturday of each month for those who are grieving or experience loss or sadness. Every fall the group sponsors a Rosary for America in October. The group helps organize a Mass of Remembrance in November on All Souls Day. In addition, the Ministry provides educational materials on grief, domestic abuse prevention, and suicide prevention. Members also help maintain the Marian Grotto, which includes a prayer ribbon wreath for intentions. **For more information, contact Joyce Bergin: [bergjoy@yahoo.com](mailto:bergjoy@yahoo.com).**

### Giving Tree

Each Christmas, the parish sponsors 125 children and teens to provide Christmas gifts for those whose parents cannot afford them. Parishioners take a tag from the tree and return the wrapped gifts for distribution. Volunteers are needed to prepare the tags for the tree, sort gifts as they are returned, and place reminder phone calls for gifts that haven't been returned by the deadline. Help is also needed to deliver gifts to the schools. Contact Melinda Cannady at 912-681-6726 or [mcannady@saintmatthewsparish.com](mailto:mcannady@saintmatthewsparish.com) to volunteer.



### Sewing Project

The Sewing Project began as an effort to provide simple cotton dresses and gowns for children in the Village of Hope orphanage in Haiti. Members of the group sew both at home and on designated "sewing days" in the social hall. They create hundreds of dresses, layettes, and shirt/shorts combinations for boys. These items are delivered by Dr. Randy Smith and his Medical Mission to Haiti team. The team is now exploring the idea of providing basic alterations for children with special needs whose parents have trouble finding off-the-rack clothing that fits well and can't afford to pay for alterations themselves. For more information, contact Lue Healy at [healsj1@gmail.com](mailto:healsj1@gmail.com).

**Soup Kitchen:** The Soup Kitchen provides Saturday lunch to the needy in our community through an ecumenical and community outreach program offered at First Methodist Church.: Volunteers assist with preparation and serving of a lunch on a Saturday from 9:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. **Contact Diana Ray at [diana-d-ray@hotmail.com](mailto:diana-d-ray@hotmail.com) for more information.**