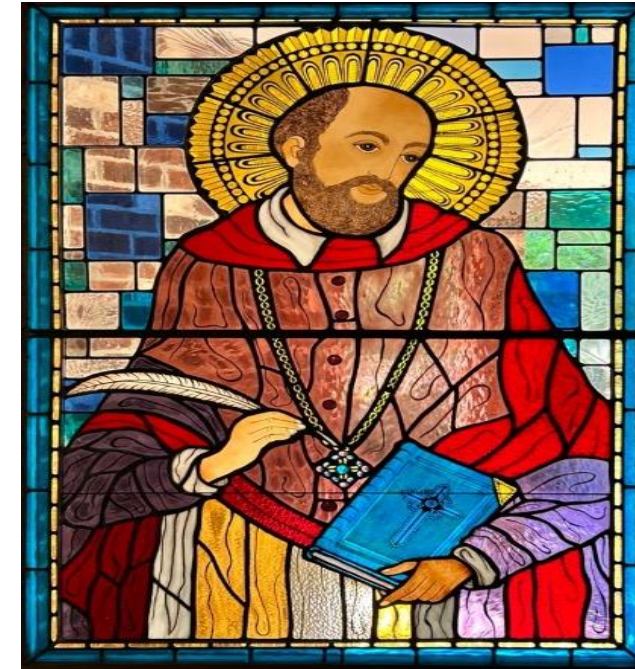


Our Parish Ministry and Mission Leads (updated 11/15/24)	
Pastor, Liturgy	Fr. Johnny Mintah Mensah
Parish Administrator	Paul Flaherty
Parish Secretary	Mary Marshall
Altar Servers	Jon Oliver
Bulletin	Elaine Lynch
Bulletin Advertisements	Paul Reardon
Columbarium	Paul Flaherty
Commemorative Pavers	Paul Flaherty
Counters Chair	Christine Dehnert-Fernald
Environment	Pat Lipinski
Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministers	Mary Flaherty
Faith Formation – Adult	Ed McNamee
Faith Formation – Elementary	Michelle Haas
Faith Formation – High School	Courtney Hudson
Faith Formation – Parish Catechetical Lead	Ed McNamee
Finance Council Chair	Michael Henig
Funeral Coordinator	
Greeters	Jessica Miller
Grounds Manager	Alan Downs
Hospitality/Funeral Receptions	Norah Iverson / Pam McNamee
Lectors Ministry	Ed McNamee
Liturgy	Christine Varone / Mary Flaherty
Music Ministry	Cathy Schirmer
New Members	Pat Lipinski
Order of Christian Initiation of Adults	Cheryl Henig
Parish Life	Rita Engle
Parish Outreach	Helen Yacobucci
Pastoral Care	Kathy DeForge
Pastoral Council Chair	Eric Chadwell
Sacramental Preparation – Baptism	Ed McNamee
Sacramental Preparation – Confirmation	Jessie Miller
Sacramental Preparation – 1 st Sacraments	Michelle Haas
Ushers	Ed Lipinski
Webmaster	Ed McNamee
To get in touch with any of our ministry or mission leaders, or to offer your time and talents, please contact the Parish Office.	

Church of Francis de Sales

176 Lovers Lane – Mathews, Virginia 23109

January 26, 2025, Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
 Mass intention for this Sunday is for the Repose of the Soul of Kenneth Marshall.



Roman Catholic Church

Pastor: Reverend Fr. Johnny Mintah Mensah

Rectory: 804-286-9271

Parish Administrator: Paul Flaherty

Parish Secretary: Mary Marshall

Parish Office: 804-725-2776

E-mail: office@fdschurch.org

Web page: <https://www.FdSChurch.org>

Office Hours: Monday 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Tuesday 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Friday 8:00 a.m.-Noon

Our Liturgy Schedule: Sunday Mass: 11:00 a.m.

Daily Masses: Tuesday and Fridays 9:00 a.m.

Holy Days: 6:30 p.m.

Every 1st Friday: Devotions to the Sacred Heart. Mass at 9:00 a.m. followed by Eucharistic Adoration.

Every 1st Saturday: Fatima Devotions Rosary at 9:30 a.m. followed by Mass at 10:00 a.m.

Sacraments:

Baptism: call the priest at least one month in advance.
Marriage: call the priest at least six months in advance.
Reconciliation on request.
Anointing of the Sick at any time upon request.

Introduction to the Liturgy of the Word:

First Reading: Nehemiah 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10: They read from the book of the Law and understood what was read.

Psalm 19: "Your words, Lord, are Spirit and life."

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:12-30: We are Christ's body.

Gospel: Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21: Today the Scripture passage is fulfilled.

On this Sunday of the Word of God we hear scripture passages that affirm its paramount importance. In the first reading, Ezra reads from the Torah to the people of Jerusalem, gathered openly in public for one of the first times after their exile. In the Gospel, Jesus declares that the scripture passage from Isaiah is fulfilled in their presence. God's Word is celebrated and accomplished in these readings; may it be today as well.

This Week in the Liturgy of the Church

Tuesday, January 28, 9:00 a.m. Weekday Mass
Tuesday of the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time.
Friday, January 31, 9:00 a.m. Weekday Mass
Friday of the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time.

SERVING THIS WEEK JANUARY 26, 2025:

Greeter: P. Pastiva
Usher: C. Hall / J. Emerson
Lectors: P. Hyer / E. McNamee
Eucharistic Ministers: M. Flaherty/C. Varone/M. McDonough
Counters: H. Keitz / R. Engle

SERVING NEXT WEEK FEBRUARY 2, 2025:

Greeter: H. Keitz
Ushers: R. Dobson / A. Downs
Lectors: M. Flaherty / S. Zheng
Eucharistic Ministers: C. Henig / M. Henig / K. Deforge
Counters: H. Keitz / R. Engle

FdS Parish Offertory Income Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 [Through the end of December 2024 – 6-months]				
Month	Budget	Actuals	Actual Less Budget	Percent Actual / Budget
December Totals	\$14,583	\$19,126	+\$4,543	+31.2%
Year To Date to 12/31/24	\$87,500	\$91,387	+\$3,887	+4.44%
THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED FINANCIAL SUPPORT. OUR PARISH'S COSTS CONTINUE TO RISE AND WE REQUEST YOU CONSIDER INCREASING YOUR DONATIONS SO WE CAN MEET OUR FUTURE OPERATING EXPENSES.				
LET US CONTINUE OUR MISSION AS A CATHOLIC PARISH TO LIVE, PREACH, AND TEACH THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST.				

Lord Hear Our Prayer

Parishioners: Jean Tanner, Sharon Simmons, Alice Mercer, Gloria Bosley, Matthew DeForge, Grace Hall, Cathy Walker, Rita Engle, Paul Reardon, Bitsy Riffe, Joe Hudgins, Jack Carey, Connie Lodge, Chuck Reale, Dick & Lois Morley

Family: Dottie Long, Rita Guarino, Patsy Lynch, Fred Moody, James McLaughlin, Margaret McLaughlin, Ruth Brown, Timothy Farrell, Maria Hurst, Catherine Bennett, Justin Bennett, David Colligan, Melissa Wilson, Vicki Krieger, Marie Pribble, Paul Oliver, Cindy Lockemy, Riley Hunt, Kathryn Turner, Elizabeth Scott, Margaret Mann, Philip Varone, Lil Chambers, Martha Lynch Guerrette

Friends: Joy Long, William Scott Smith, Nan & Doug Seals, Lourdes Parker, Tom Justis, Maureen Connolly, Norm Connolly, Francis McLoughlin, Joan Hauray, Don Parker, Larry Whitfield, Janet Letizia, Callie Penic, Carl Roane, Nikki Traynor, Christopher Leavy, Page Respass, Kim Owens, Tavey Callow, Debbie Traynor, Paul Bing, Tom & Michele Teubert, Ashley McBurney, Bill Campbell, Tommy Atkinson, Sr., Vicki Pruitt, Walt McLaughlin

PRAY FOR AN END TO ABORTION

Please Pray For Our Military Men and Women and their Families.

Lord, hold our troops in Your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform in our country's time of need. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

CAPT Andrew Bohn, Operations Officer for Task Force Grant, son of Jeff Bohn & Suanne Dittmeier, US Army, Washington, DC

CAPT Ryan Carey, son of Jack & Ginny Carey, US Navy, Norfolk, VA

MSGT, EOD, Cameron Farrell, great-nephew of Elaine Lynch, US Air Force, Tyndall AFB, FL

LT Patrick Sopko, son of Suzanne Sopko & Ron Sopko, US Navy, Norfolk, VA

1st LT Spencer Walsh, grandson of Pat & Jimmy Walsh, US Army, Fort Hood, TX

1st LT Grace Walsh, granddaughter-in-law of Pat & Jimmy Walsh, US Army, Fort Hood, TX

Pray for the safe return of **Austin Tice**, freelance journalist and former Marine Captain, **captured in Syria on August 13, 2012**

Locations of overseas deployments are not listed for the security of all military members.

We welcome our visitors today.

We hope you have been fed in body and spirit. If you are Catholic and plan to make Francis de Sales your home, please see an usher or greeter for registration information.

If you are not Catholic and would like to learn more, call the office at (804) 725-2776 to discuss our OCIA program.

Our Announcements

Red Cross Blood Drive will be held on **Tuesday, January 28th** at the Piankatank Ruritan Building on Route 198 from 12:30-6:00 PM. Mathews Branch of the NAACP is sponsoring and you can reserve a time at redcrossblood.org or by calling 804 725-2485.

2024 Tax contribution letters have been prepared, please contact the office if you would like to receive a copy of your contributions.

Father Koo has decided to bring back to our Sunday Mass the **Presentation of Gifts by Parishioners**. If you or your family are interested in carrying the gifts to the Altar, please see Jon Oliver

Please submit any announcements for the bulletin to the Parish Office no later than Tuesday at 4:00 p.m.

Special Intentions for Mass: If you would like to have a Mass offered for the intention of a loved one, friend, or another special request, please stop by the parish office and we will be happy to assist you!

The beautiful flowers on the Altar this week were donated by Jim Maggard in Memory of Pat Reardon.



**The Claude V. Simmons Scholarship
Academic Year 2025-2026**

The Claude V. Simmons Scholarship Fund supports graduating high school seniors who are obtaining a Bachelor's Degree by attending a 4-year college or university and are qualified active members of the Church of Francis de Sales in Mathews County, Virginia. This is a 4-year renewing scholarship.

Current recipients and new applicants must submit an electronic application or renewal application for the 2025-2026 academic year to the Mathews Community Foundation by **March 05, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.**

Supporting documents are required as outlined in the application form on the Community Foundation website (i.e., Student Financial Information Form as well as a statement of reflection on personal growth and faith as a parishioner of the Church of Francis de Sales).

This link can be used by students who wish to apply:

[CFengage | High school - Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula](#)

On this page, students can access all the scholarship opportunities available to them by typing "Mathews" into the search bar. They will need to scroll until they find the Claude V. Simmons Scholarship, and there is a button that says "Apply Now," which will take them to our online scholarship's portal. They will need to create an account to apply, but if they are applying for multiple scholarships, they can use the same account to apply to them all.

Mr. Lincoln Boykin of the Community Foundation is available to answer any questions regarding the scholarship and to assist in submitting the application. Mr. Boykin can be reached by calling 804-436-1600 (Kilmarnock Office) or 804-725-3454 (Mathews Office). More info about scholarships and a timeline for this year's awards can be found at:

[CFengage | Community Foundation Scholarships](#)

Recipients will be selected based on greatest financial need.

Should you have additional questions, please contact Michael Henig at 804-725-7750 or call the Parish Office at 804-725-2776.

Take a Bite out of Hunger

Hands Across Mathews needs our help. Since August, local donations and food purchased from the peninsula food bank have not been enough to keep food on our shelves. We have been buying food weekly. In addition, a few local churches and organizations have been hosting food drives. As we go into the Holiday Season let's challenge ourselves to help our neighbors keep food on their table.



- Needs:
- Canned Proteins (Tuna, Chicken, Ham etc.).
 - Beans, Soups, Stews & Chili.
 - Canned Vegetables & Fruit.
 - Peanut Butter & Jelly.
 - Boxed Meals, Rice, Pasta & Sauce.
 - Cereals & Oatmeal

Please join us over the next few weeks and let's help restock the shelves. Extra bins will be placed at the back of the church for your donations. Thank you!

Journey Through the Bible: Patriarchs and Matriarchs of God's People (Genesis, Chapters 25-35)

This commentary is adapted from Little Rock Scripture Study's "Panorama of the Old Testament."

The accounts of Genesis 25-35 narrate the stories of the descendants of Abraham and Sarah. We see that God's promises are reaffirmed to their son and grandson, so that God comes to be referred to as "the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob." But these stories are filled not only with promises confirmed, but also with bitter family relationships. It is not Abraham's first son, Esau, who inherits the promises, but Isaac, conceived in Sarah's old age by the saving will of God. Isaac's wife Rebekah delivers twin sons, first Esau, then Jacob follows, gripping Esau's heel and prefiguring a life of conflict between the two sons.

As the boys mature, Jacob uses his cleverness to claim the inheritance that is due to Esau. Over and over Israel's stories demonstrate that God's promises cannot be merited or taken for granted. They do not belong by right to the nature or most obvious successor; rather, they are the free gift of God.

While Jacob is fleeing an enraged Esau, God meets with Jacob through a dream at Bethel. Jacob dreams of angels traveling up and down a stairway that stretches between earth and heaven. God stands beside Jacob, identifies himself, and reaffirms to Jacob the promises made to the family of Abraham: the land on which Jacob is lying, numerous descendants, and a blessing to all the families of the earth. God concludes in this way:

"I am with you and will protect you wherever you go, and bring you back to this land. I will never leave you until I have done what I promised you." (Genesis 28-15)

After taking both Leah and Rachel as his wives and giving fourteen years of service to their cunning father, Jacob prepares to return to his own land with his two wives, two maidservants, and eleven children. He learns his brother Esau is coming to meet him after many years of estrangement. Jacob fears that his brother Esau will take revenge for his deception. But on the night before they meet, Jacob encounters a divine visitor and they wrestle throughout the night. When Jacob asks the stranger for a blessing, God changes Jacob's name to Israel, which means "he who wrestles with God." So Jacob becomes the father of the nation that will be formed from the tribes of his sons, a nation that will certainly wrestle with God throughout its history.

At dawn Esau arrives and runs to his brother, weeping and embracing him. Jacob's happy surprise teaches him to trust in God's designs. He does not need to scheme and decide to obtain God's blessings. Jacob experiences the divine presence in both the love of God and the love of his brother. Here there is hope that forgiveness and reconciliation can prevail over the homicidal jealousy exemplified in Cain and Abel.

Journey Through the Bible Readings and Daily Prayer Points for January 26 through February 1, 2025

Sun, Jan 26	Bible Readings (Day 26): Genesis 49-50; Job 41-42; Psalm 17 Prayer Point: With thanksgiving that we are one body in Christ
Mon, Jan 27	Bible Readings (Day 27): Exodus 1-2; Leviticus 1; Psalm 44 Prayer Point: That God will grant strength and perseverance to all who care for others
Tue, Jan 28	Saint Thomas Aquinas Bible Readings (Day 28): Exodus 3; Leviticus 2-3; Psalm 45 Prayer Point: For the gifts of wisdom and understanding given through the Spirit of God
Wed, Jan 29	Bible Readings (Day 29): Exodus 4-5; Leviticus 4; Psalm 46 Prayer Point: That God will teach us to reverence all that your Word has brought into being
Thu, Jan 30	Bible Readings (Day 30): Exodus 6-7; Leviticus 5; Psalm 47 Prayer Point: That God will teach us to live according to your word
Fri, Jan 31	Bible Readings (Day 31): Exodus 8; Leviticus 6; Psalm 48 Prayer Point: That God will grant relief to the sick and aging who suffer
Sat, Feb 1	Bible Readings (Day 32): Exodus 9; Leviticus 7; Psalm 49 Prayer Point: For the young and those who form and educate them

OUR THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES FOR SUPPORTING OUR BULLETIN (Updated 12/30/24)



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YOUR AD CAN APPEAR HERE
 For Information Please Call
 The Parish Office: (804) 725-2776