

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**

A ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

176 Lovers Lane – Mathews, Virginia 23109

March 16, 2025
Second Sunday of Lent

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: Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18: In a holy covenant, God promises Abram a homeland.

Psalms 27: “The Lord is my light and my salvation.”

Philippians 3:17-4:1: Christ will change our lowly body to conform with His glorified body.

Gospel: Luke 9:28b-36: His face changed in appearance and His clothes became dazzling white.

Two dramatic scenes are narrated to us today. First, God seals the covenant with Abram by appearing as smoke and fire and passing between the animals Abram had sacrificed as a sign of his covenant with God. In the Gospel, Jesus is transfigured in glory, His face and clothing changing in appearance and dazzling the three apostles who witnessed it. Adding to the drama, God the Father speaks from the cloud that envelops them all, saying, “This is my chosen Son; listen to him.” Let us now listen to the word of God.

This Week in the Liturgy of the Church

Tuesday, March 18, 9:00 a.m. Weekday Mass of the Second Sunday of Lent.

Friday, March 21, 9:00 a.m. Weekday Mass of the Second Sunday of Lent.

Serving This Week March 16, 2025:

Greeter: J. Miller

Ushers: J. Oliver / E. Chadwell

Lectors: M. Henig / P. Hyer

Eucharistic Ministers: M. Flaherty / C. Varone / M. McDonough

Counters: P. Noonan / J. Noonan

Serving Next Week March 23, 2025:

Greeter: P. Walsh

Ushers: J. Noonan / J. Walsh

Lectors: E. McNamee / S. Zheng

Eucharistic Ministers: M. Henig / S. Henig / S. Haas

Counters: P. Noonan / P. Noonan

FdS Parish Income – Expense Statement Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 [Through the end of February 2025 – 8-month]				
Year to Date	Budget	Actuals	Actual Less Budget	Percent Actual/ Budget
Offertory Collection	\$116,667	\$114,490	(-\$2,177)	(1.9%)
Total Income Year to Date [includes Fundraisers & Debt Reduction]	\$131,983	\$143,172 (Less Rectory Insurance reimbursement)	+\$11,189	+8.5%
Total Expense Year to Date	\$131,876	\$139,956 (Less Rectory Insurance covered expense)	+\$8,080	+6.1%
Income [includes Fundraisers & Debt Reduction] less Expense Year to Date	\$107	\$3,216		
THE AMOUNTS ABOVE DO NOT INCLUDE \$24,036 IN INSURANCE PROCEEDS RECEIVED OR \$27,544 IN EXPENSES INCURRED RELATED TO THE RECTORY WATER DAMAGE EVENT.				
INCOME FROM FUNDRAISERS AND DEBT REDUCTION / CAPITAL MAINTENANCE IS NEEDED TO PAY OPERATING EXPENSES.				
PLEASE CONSIDER INCREASING YOUR SUNDAY DONATIONS BY 10% SO WE CAN MEET OUR FUTURE OPERATING EXPENSES.				
THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR CONTINUED FINANCIAL SUPPORT.				

We welcome our visitors today.

We hope you have been fed in body & spirit. If you are Catholic & plan to make Francis de Sales your home, please see an usher or greeter for registration information. If you are not Catholic & would like to learn more, call the office at (804) 725-2776 to discuss our OCIA program.

PRAY FOR AN END TO ABORTION & POVERTY

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, 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 Haury, 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

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

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.**

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.

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

Our Announcements

The day-long spiritual retreat, “***Anchored in Christ***” is ***Saturday, March. 15th, 8:30am to 6:00 pm*** at the Church of the Visitation in Topping.

Hospitality Sunday is this Sunday, March 16th.

Easter Flower Envelopes will be put out on a table in the Commons area to collect donations to help decorate the altar in memory of loved ones.

The 5th Annual Ladies Tea is scheduled for ***Saturday, May 10, 2025 from 1:00 to 3:00 pm.*** Contact Helen Yacobucci at 804-815-7606 or email her at yacobuccihelen@gmail.com if you have any suggestions or questions about the Tea.

Hands Across Mathews continues to need our help with canned goods and boxed meals. Extra bins have been placed at the back of the church for your donations. Thank you!

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!

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Dear Fellow Parishioners,

The Mathews High School PTA After Prom Committee will be hosting the After Prom Mardi Gras Party on Saturday, April 26, 2025 from 10:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. at the high school. The After Prom Committee raises money, buys items and collects donated items all year long to provide a supervised, safe, drug-free and alcohol-free party! It's full of fun, music, food, games and prizes!

Nationwide, prom night has demonstrated an increase in fatalities and injuries that are directly related to substance abuse and driving. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, about 1,000 youth, under the age of 21, die each year in preventable tragedies while celebrating after their high school proms.

Our teenagers earn play money and can "buy" things at our store, all evening. We have the drawings for the winners of the large and/or expensive prizes at the end of the night. The kids stay until the very end of the party and they are tired. Then, they safely go home!

If you'd like to donate to this important program, keeping our teenagers and our community safe, as we've been doing for about 30 years, please donate in our March 23rd envelope labeled, "After Prom Party." Anything that you can give, would be helpful! Checks can be made out to "MHS After Prom."

Thank you so much,

Julie Taylor, Parishioner and President of MHS PTA

Heather Sadeg, PTA After Prom Committee Chair

Lynne Hurst, PTA After Prom Committee Chair

Journey Through the Bible: The Final Testament of Moses (Deuteronomy 1-34)

This commentary is adapted from Little Rock Scripture Study’s “Panorama of the Old Testament.”

The final book of the Pentateuch is Deuteronomy. The setting is the plains of Moab across the Jordan River, with the Israelites encamped and on the verge of entering the Promised Land. Moses will not enter the land with them, but will die here. Most of the book takes the form of several eloquent speeches given by Moses to the people on the eve of his death. The book is a restatement, explanation, and further development of much of the Pentateuch. By reminding the Israelites of their past and preparing them for the future, he urges them to be faithful to the covenant.

In his first speech (Deuteronomy 1-4), Moses reviews the events of the past forty years, from Mount Sinai to the present moment. He tells the new generation of the important lessons learned from the experiences of their parents’ generation. The future well-being of God’s people will depend on loving and serving God from the heart.

The second address (Deuteronomy 5-28) is a restatement and expansion of God’s commandments with applications for their future in the land. Following in the way of the covenant is the way to love God with your whole being. The *Shema* forms their daily prayer.

“Hear, O Israel! The LORD is your God, the LORD alone! Therefore, you shall love the LORD, your God, with your whole heart, and with all your whole being, and with your whole strength.” (Deuteronomy 6:4)

In addressing the new generation, Moses urges them to “remember.” By remembering, God’s people form an identity. By remembering, the past becomes real in the present, and life can be lived more faithfully and genuinely. The moment that is most important for the book of Deuteronomy is not the past; it is “this day.” The critical time for every person is “today.”

“This day the LORD, your God, is commanding you to observe these statutes and ordinances. Be careful, then, to observe them with all your whole heart and with your whole being.” (Deuteronomy 26:16)

The final address of Moses before his death (Deuteronomy 29-33) presents the Israelites with the choice that will determine their future.

“I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. Choose life, then, that you and your descendants may live, by loving the LORD, your God, obeying His voice, and holding fast to Him.” (Deuteronomy 30:19)

After appointing Joshua as his successor, Moses goes up to Mount Nebo and looks out upon the Promised Land that he will not enter, knowing that a new generation will live in that land. Then Moses dies and is buried on the mountain. He was the leader of the people, a mediator before God, a wonderworker, teacher and Israel’s greatest prophet. The Torah, given to Israel through Moses, would form the foundation of Israel’s life through the centuries.

Journey Through the Bible Readings & Daily Prayer Points for March 16 through March 22, 2025	
Sun, Mar 16	Bible Readings (Day 75): Numbers 29-30; Deuteronomy 29; Psalm 113 Prayer Point: That this season of Lent will be a time of deeper conversion for our parish
Mon, Mar 17	Saint Patrick, Bishop Bible Readings (Day 76): Numbers 31; Deuteronomy 30; Psalm 116 Prayer Point: That the sinful will return to Christ
Tue, Mar 18	Bible Readings (Day 77): Numbers 32; Deuteronomy 31; Psalm 117 Prayer Point: Grant the gifts of humility and charity to those who judge their neighbors
Wed, Mar 19	Solemnity of Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary Bible Readings (Day 78): Numbers /33; Deuteronomy 32; Psalm 118 Prayer Point: For self-giving men leading their domestic churches
Thu, Mar 20	Bible Readings (Day 79): Numbers 34; Deuteronomy 33; Psalm 120 Prayer Point: Help us to love the unloved and unlovable
Fri, Mar 21	Bible Readings (Day 80): Numbers 35-36; Deuteronomy 34; Psalm 121 Prayer Point: For an end to war and mass killing
Sat, Mar 22	Bible Readings (Day 81): Joshua 1-4; Psalm 123 Prayer Point: For our young people, that they will remain close to Jesus

OUR THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES FOR SUPPORTING OUR
BULLETIN (Updated 2/19/25)

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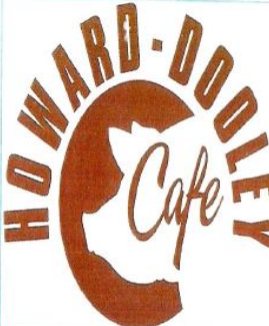
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 For Information Please Call
 The Parish Office: (804) 725-2776