

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 23, 2025
Third Sunday of Lent, Year C

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: Exodus 3:1-8a, 13-15: From a burning bush God promises redemption.

Psalms 103: “The Lord is kind and merciful.”

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12: Do not grumble as the Israelites did.

Gospel: Luke 13:1-9: The just may suffer. The fruitless may get a second chance.

“I am who am,” God proclaims to Moses from the burning bush. In saying this, God claims to be existence itself – as the one who simply is. Jesus further reveals His Father in the parable we hear in the Gospel: God is prepared to cut down the unfruitful fig tree but is also willing to give it another chance to bear fruit. We sing of this aspect of God in the responsorial psalm: “The Lord is kind and merciful.” Let this refrain comfort us as we hear of those who were unexpectedly and tragically struck down.

This Week in the Liturgy of the Church

Tuesday, March 25, 9:00 a.m. Weekday Mass of the Third Sunday of Lent.

Friday, March 28, 9:00 a.m. Weekday Mass of the Third Sunday of Lent.

Serving This 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

Serving Next Week March 30, 2025:

Greeter: K. Taylor

Ushers: C. Hall / L. Haas

Lectors: M. Flaherty / M. Walls

Eucharistic Ministers: K. DeForge / J. Dawson / M. Flaherty

Counters: H. Keitz / R. Engle

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.				

PRAY FOR AN END TO ABORTION

The promotion of the culture of life should be the highest priority in our societies. If the right to life is not defended decisively as a condition for all other rights of the person, all other references to human rights remain deceitful and illusory.

Pope John Paul II

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 & 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 Guerrette

Friends: Joy Long, William Scott Smith, Nan 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

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.

PRAY FOR AN END TO POVERTY

Our Announcements

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!

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.

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A Message from Pope Francis

Pope Francis has asked our parish to support the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, which helps Christians in the Holy Land, where they are now less than 2% of the population. Your support is essential to help the Church minister in parishes, provide Catholic schools, and offer religious education. The Pontifical Good Friday Collection also helps to preserve the sacred shrines of Christianity, including in Jerusalem, Nazareth, and Bethlehem, to name only a few.

The pandemic had hit Christians in the Holy Land particularly hard. Most of them depend on pilgrimages for work. The war made their situation even more dire. In these times of crisis, the Pontifical Good Friday Collection is necessary to meet the basic needs of the People of God still living in this land and to maintain a Christian presence where the Church was born.

When you contribute to the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, you join with Catholics around the world in solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land. PLEASE BE GENEROUS!

For more information about Christians in the Holy Land, visit: www.myfranciscan.org or www.custodia.org

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: Entering into the Land of God’s Promise (Joshua 1-24)

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

The books of Joshua, Judges, 1 and 2 Samuel, and 1 and 2 Kings are sometimes referred to as the Deuteronomic history. They cover over 600 years of history, beginning with the death of Moses to the destruction of Jerusalem in 587 BC. Together these books demonstrate the results of that fundamental option offered at the end of Deuteronomy - the choice between life and death, the blessing and the curse. When Israel chooses life and follows the covenant, the blessings promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob follow. But when Israel chooses death and turns away from the covenant with God, destruction and doom follow.

The book of Joshua is named after the hero of Israel’s period of conquest. Joshua succeeds Moses as leader of the Israelites and leads them in the struggle for possession of the land of Canaan. God says to Joshua, “As I was with Moses, I will be with you: I will not leave you nor forsake you” (Josh 1:5). Although the conquest of the land involves fighting battles, the narratives emphasize Israel’s dependence on the LORD for their success. As fulfillment of promises made to their ancestors, the land is God’s gift.

The crossing of the Jordan River into the Promised Land is presented as a liturgical procession. Just as Moses led God’s people across the sea, Joshua leads the next generation across the river into the next stage of their life. The first conquest, the siege of Jericho, is also recounted as a liturgical event. The priests carry the ark of the covenant and blow ram’s horns as they process around the walls of Jericho.

The purpose of this literary style is to demonstrate to every generation that God is faithful to the covenant in providing a homeland for the Israelites. Events that took place perhaps over many decades are condensed into a short period of time. The Deuteronomic author does not offer military details but desires to demonstrate how all the events of seizing land happen according to the covenant.

After Joshua and his army conquer Jericho, they then go on to conquer Ai, Bethel, and Gibeon. A rapid sweep of southern Canaan is followed by the conquest of northern Canaan. After this victorious invasion, the author summarizes the work of Joshua: “Thus Joshua took the whole land, just as the LORD had said to Moses. Joshua gave it to Israel as their heritage, apportioning it among the tribes. And the land had rest from war.” (Josh 11:23)

Following Joshua’s victories and the division of the land among the tribes of Israel, in his final farewell to the people, Joshua proclaims all the great deeds God has done on behalf of Israel, from the call of Abraham to the conquest of the land. Then he urges the people to commit themselves to the service of the LORD.

Journey Through the Bible Readings & Daily Prayer Points for March 23 through March 29, 2025	
Sun, Mar 23	Bible Readings (Day 82): Joshua 5-7; Psalm 125 Prayer Point: For an end to all war and persecution
Mon, Mar 24	Bible Readings (Day 83): Joshua 8-9; Psalm 126 Prayer Point: For the courage to apply our gifts of the Holy Spirit
Tue, Mar 25	The Annunciation of The Lord Bible Readings (Day 84): Joshua 10-11; Psalm 128 Prayer Point: For the protection of every human life, from conception to natural death
Wed, Mar 26	Bible Readings (Day 85): Joshua 12-14; Psalm 129 Prayer Point: To know and do the will of the Father
Thu, Mar 27	Bible Readings (Day 86): Joshua 15-18; Psalm 130 Prayer Point: For those suffering from mental illness
Fri, Mar 28	Bible Readings (Day 87): Joshua 19-21; Psalm 131 Prayer Point: With thanks for spring weather and the new life it brings
Sat, Mar 29	Bible Readings (Day 88): Joshua 22-24; Psalm 132 Prayer Point: That the unemployed will find meaningful work

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

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