

Apr. 27	\$902
DPAA 24 Rebate	\$500

MASS SCHEDULE		
(L=Living, †=Deceased)		
THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER		
Sat. May 3	5:00 PM	For August NeCamp (L) [from Sarah Gripshover]
Sun. May 4	9:00 AM	For †Drew Kordenbrock [from Terri Straub]
Mon. May 5	XXXXXX	NO PUBLIC MASS
Tue. May 6	XXXXXX	NO MASS THIS WEEK
Wed. May 7	XXXXXX	NO MASS THIS WEEK
Thur. May 8	XXXXXX	NO MASS THIS WEEK
Fri. May 9	XXXXXX	NO MASS THIS WEEK
THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER		
Sat. May 10	5:00 PM	For †Ed and Genoa Scott [from Linda Menefee]
Sun. May 11	9:00 AM	For the Living and Deceased People of the Parish

**PRAYER LIST**—Jerry & Eileen Ehlman, Kate & Colton Sherold, Emmitt Thomas, Jeff suffering from Meniere's disease, Tony Bach, Bill Lemming, Dave Neuspickel, Andy Sper, Billie Huffman, Roger High, Cheryl Miller, Sher-ry Jackson, Sarah Gripshover, Bill Schneider (Dominion Assisted Living 4009 Seligman Dr. Florence, Room 215), Ree Wagner, John Jackson, Wanda Bach, Maverick Orth (3yrs old), Daniel Cahill, Pax Minch, Todd Kloentrup, Gina Cooper, Tom Breeze, Valetta Proctor, Ruth Elbert, Melba Hauser, Elbert Hauser, Larry Cappel, Mary Beth Feldmann, Griffin Cornell, and Nathan Thorwarth.

**BIRTHDAYS**—May 2-Kaitlyn Mason, May 3-Marian Messingschlager, May 6-Lillian Rose Eten, May 9-Bill Funke, May 11-Megan Cooper, May 14-Richard Messingschlager, May 16-Amelie Mason, May 17-Brenda Baker, May 18-Rosanne Rawe, May 19-Isaac Mason, May 28-Belle Mason, May 30-Mark Cooper, May 30-Ben Mason

**ANNIVERSARY**—May 3-Joe and Kathy Bach

*Please send any requests for prayers or memorials to the parish email or call to make a request. If anyone's birthday or anniversary is not listed, let Linda Fryman know.*



# SAINT MATTHEW CHURCH

Pastor: Rev. Jacob Straub – Cell (859) 445-2436  
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Parish Email: [stmatthew13782@gmail.com](mailto:stmatthew13782@gmail.com) – Bulletin submissions by Fri. afternoon  
Parish Website: [stmatthewskenton.org](http://stmatthewskenton.org)

Mass Schedule:

Saturdays – 5:00 PM	Sundays – 9:00 AM
Weekdays [Tue through Fri] – 8 AM	Holy Days– 8:00 AM and 7:00 PM

### Confession Times:

Saturdays – 4:00-4:50 PM                      Sundays – 8:00-8:50 AM

## Parish Staff and Volunteers

Religious Education – Lindsey Rawe (859) 250-7415  
 Bulletin/Prayer List – Linda Fryman (859) 240-2377  
 Parish History/Cemetery Info – Patty Neuspickel (859) 472-2508

## THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 4, 2025

**DPAA**—The new DPAA campaign has begun! Our parish’s goal for this year is \$13,400. As of Mar. 31, we have collected \$3,650. You should be receiving envelopes in the mail to make your pledge. There are also purple envelopes available near the collection box. Thank you for your contributions!

**CCD SNACKS**—Don’t forget to sign up to bring snacks, milk, and juice to share before classes begin each Sunday. There is a sign-up sheet in the front of church.

**FIRST COMMUNION & MAY CROWNING**—Next Sunday will be the First Holy Communion for 3 of our children: Shiloh Haley, August Mayleben, and Caroline Rawe. We will also have the May Crowning next week before Mass. Please keep these children in your prayers.

**LECTOR**— May 4-Linda Fryman, May 11-Jesse Rawe

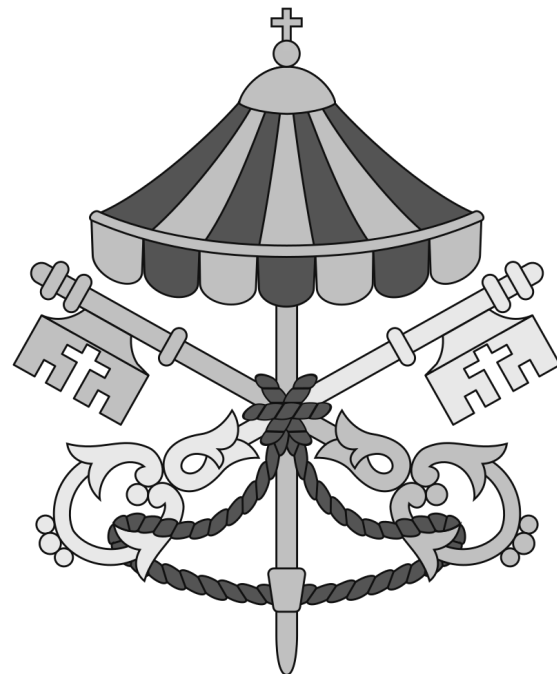
**CLEANING** – May-Lisa and Jeanne Cooper

### PRAYER FOR THE UPCOMING CONCLAVE

Come, Holy Spirit,  
Fill the hearts of your faithful,  
And kindle in them the fire of your love.  
Send forth your Spirit, and they shall be created.  
And you shall renew the face of the earth.

O God, eternal shepherd,  
who govern your flock with unfailing care,  
grant in your boundless fatherly love a pastor for your  
Church who will please you by his holiness and to us  
show watchful care.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives  
and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Saint Peter, pray for us!



## FROM THE PASTOR – THE PASCHAL CANDLE

Just as Christmas is more than just one day, so also Easter is more than just one day in the celebration of the Church. Last Sunday saw the conclusion of the Octave of Easter, in which we continued the immediate rejoicing over the Resurrection of Jesus for eight days, ending on Divine Mercy Sunday. We will continue to celebrate Easter over a total of 50 days. This length of time should remind us that we are meant more for joy than sorrow, as Lent was only 40 days yet Easter is longer.

The great symbol of the Easter season is the Paschal candle blessed and ignited at the Easter Vigil every year. There is a long history of having this particular candle signify the risen Savior as the Light of the world restoring “innocence to the fallen” as the Exsultet proclaims. This candle often has elaborate designs on it in celebration of Easter and calling us to consider He whom that candle symbolizes. This year’s candle is no different in the images that are painted on. I want to use this column to discuss the images seen on it and their significance.

Our candle was made by a woman named Gina Switzer who has been making paschal candles for years. This year’s design features 3 striking images: a peacock, a pomegranate, and an artichoke. Each of these images represents one of the theological virtues—the virtues infused into us by the Holy Spirit at our baptism so that we may believe (faith), trust (hope), and love (charity).

The peacock on the top is the symbol of faith, well-attested in the Church Fathers. The ancient pagans noted that the peacock did not rot when it died but merely dried out, remaining beautiful even in death. The early Christians took this as a symbol of eternal life and applied the peacock to the catacombs and sarcophagi. The peacock on our candle drinks from a font in recognition of the grace flowing from baptism that allows us to believe in all revealed by God through Jesus and disseminated through the Church.

The artichoke on the bottom is the symbol of hope. From Mrs. Switzer’s website: “The artichoke takes perseverance and Hope. Trim the thorns. Boil the globe. Peel away each leaf. Scrape away the nascent flower. Finally, the small tender heart is revealed and the hope for a tasty morsel is revealed. It’s a lot of work for little food and yet, in light of the Resurrection, it seems fitting to contemplate the hope of the transformation of a cursed thorny thistle into a delicacy, not unlike our own thorny selves becoming holy through the grace of Christ’s redeeming work on the Cross.”

Finally, the pomegranate in the middle of the cross is the symbol of charity. This fruit was seen as a symbol of fertility in many pagan cultures because of the multitude of seeds within it. St. Francis de Sales describes how charity “is oftentimes represented by the pomegranate, which, as it takes its properties from the pomegranate-tree, may be said to be the virtue of this tree; so again it seems to be its gift, which it offers to man by love; and it is its fruit, since it is eaten to please man's taste; and finally it is, so to speak, its glory and beatitude, since it bears the crown and diadem”.

We should reflect on these virtues in celebrating this season in which we renew our faith in the Resurrection, hope in the mercy won for us through the crucified and risen Lord, and love the Lamb slain for our sins. Let us practice these virtues well so that we may be worthy to have our faith relieved, hope answered, and love brought to fulfillment in eternity.

*Fr. Jacob Straub*