

**Pulpit Announcements for
First Sunday of Lent
February 22, 2026**

**Welcome to all who are here today as we celebrate the
First Sunday of Lent.**

**Whoever you are or wherever you find yourself on the journey,
know that here at St. Matthias, ALL ARE WELCOME!**

- **Lenten Spiritual Talks with Fr. Choy: Join us on Mondays during Lent at 7:00 p.m. for a series of talks led by Fr. Choy Ramos, held during Eucharistic Adoration.**
- **The Stations of the Cross are offered in prayer every Friday at 7:00 pm during Lent.**
- **Follow us on Facebook! Keep up with upcoming events at St. Matthias, Fr. Tom's spiritual videos, and much more. Search St. Matthias Church, Somerset.**

Music for Our Assembly

February 22, 2026

First Sunday of Lent

*When he calls on me, I will answer him, I will deliver him, and give him glory,
I will grant him length of days... Psalm 91*

Gathering Hymn – In These Days of Lenten Journey

In these days of Lenten journey
we have seen and we have heard
the call to sow justice
in the lives of those we serve.

1. We reach out to those who are homeless,
to those who live without warmth.

In the coolness of evening we'll shelter their dreams;
we will clothe them in mercy and peace.

2. We open our eyes to the hungry,
and see the faces of Christ.

As we nourish all people who hunger for food,
may their faith in our God be renewed.

Prayer of the Faithful

First Sunday of Lent

February 22, 2026

Our response is: “Lord, in your compassion, we pray.”

1. For Pope Leo, all clergy, and ministers in the Church . . . give them strong voices as they call us all to conversion and renewal during Lent, we pray. . .
2. For global, national, and civic leaders, especially those of our own country . . . help them to reject the temptations of power and wealth, in favor of unselfish service to your people, we pray . . .
3. For this intentional faith community of St. Matthias . . . during these forty days of Lent, teach us to confront our own temptations and weaknesses and learn to live on the word of God, we pray . . .
4. For our catechumens and elect who are preparing for full participation in the sacraments . . . may they use this holy season to grow in faith and to discern what God is asking of them, we pray . . .
5. For those who suffer illness of body, mind, or spirit; for those who feel lost or neglected . . . strengthen them with the knowledge that they are never alone in their trials, we pray . . .
6. For all who have died, especially ***Kathleen Murphy***, having been tested and found worthy, prepare a place for them in your heavenly kingdom, we pray...
7. For _____ (***see list below***), for whom our Mass is offered, we pray . . .
8. For the silent intentions we hold deep in our hearts today, we pray . .

5 PM: MAJ. Jack Sirotniak, USMC

8 AM: Mariano & Luisa Verzosa

10 AM: Alma Valdez

12 PM: Intention of Parishioners

Preparation of the Gifts - The Cross of Jesus

1. Come, O God, renew your people,
We who long to see your face.
Strengthen hearts that have grown feeble;
Fill our lives with truth and grace.
Only you can win our freedom;
Only you can bring us peace.
Only in the cross of Jesus
Will the captives find release.

2. Deep within create a new heart;
Melt away the winter chill.
Help us now to make a new start;
Help us now to know your will.
Washed in waters of forgiveness,
Cleansed in waters of new birth,
Lead us to the cross of Jesus,
Bringing life to all the earth.

3. In the darkness that surrounds us
We have lost you from our sight.
Even though your love has found us,
We embrace the pow'rs of night.
Scatter now our deepest darkness;
Guide our hearts into the light.
Join us to the cross of Jesus.
Help us set our living right.

4. Call us forth to walk in justice;
Rescue us from sin and grave.
Through the power of your Spirit,
Breathe in us the breath that saves.
Strengthen us in our communion,
One in Word and cup and bread.
Here within the cross of Jesus
All who hunger will be fed.

Text: Francis Patrick O'Brien, b.1958

Tune: TREMONT, 8 7 8 7 D; Francis Patrick O'Brien, b.1958

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Communion Hymn – On Eagles Wings

1. You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,
who abide in his shadow for life,
say to the Lord: “My refuge,
my rock in whom I trust!”

Refrain

**And he will raise you up on eagle’s wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of his hand.**

2. The snare of the fowler will never capture you,
and famine will bring you no fear:
under his wings your refuge,
his faithfulness your shield.

3. You need not fear the terror of the night,
nor the arrow that flies by day;
though thousands fall about you,
near you it shall not come.

4. For to his angels he’s given a command
to guard you in all of your ways;
upon their hands they will bear you up,
lest you dash your foot against a stone.

And he will raise you up on eagle’s wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of his hand.
And hold you, hold you in the palm of his hand.

Closing Hymn – Led By the Spirit

1. Led by the Spirit of our God, we go to fast and pray
With Christ into the wilderness; we join his paschal way.
“Rend not your garments, rend your hearts. Turn back your lives to me.”

Thus says our kind and gracious God, whose reign is liberty.

2. Led by the Spirit, we confront temptation face to face,
And know full well we must rely on God’s redeeming grace.
On bread alone we cannot live, but nourished by the Word
We seek the will of God to do: this is our drink and food.

3. Led by the Spirit, now draw near the waters of rebirth
With hearts that long to worship God in spirit and in truth.
“Whoever drinks the drink I give shall never thirst again.”
Thus says the Lord who died for us, our Savior, kin and friend.

4. Led by the Spirit, now sing praise to God the Trinity:
The Source of Life, the living Word made flesh to set us free,
The Spirit blowing where it will to make us friends of God:
This myst’ry far beyond our reach, yet near in healing love.

*Text: CMD; based on Joel 2:12–13; Matthew 4:1–4; Mark 1:12–15; John 4:5–42; Bob Hurd, © 1996, Bob Hurd.
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adapt. by Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958*

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Responsorial Psalm – Psalm 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 17

Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Have mercy on me, O God, in your goodness;
in the greatness of your compassion wipe out my offense.
Thoroughly wash me from my guilt
and of my sin cleanse me..

For I acknowledge my offense,
and my sin is before me always:
“Against you only have I sinned,
and done what is evil in your sight.”

A clean heart create for me, O God,
and a steadfast spirit renew within me.
Cast me not out from your presence,
and your Holy Spirit take not from me..

Give me back the joy of your salvation,
and a willing spirit sustain in me.
O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.