

## Hear what parishioners are saying:

"My first visit to the church with my family, everyone was very welcoming and concerned. That encouraged my family to stay."

"It's a great congregation...acceptance and the style of worship teach the youth and adults about the ways of God and the importance of life."

"I feel that I am part of a family, welcomed and supported."

"The most meaningful part of our worship is participating together in the service and sacrament of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

I knew St. Matthew's cared about me "when they went to visit a relative who has mental illness."

"When parishioners visited, did yard work, and sent cards after my husband's surgeries."

"The prayer book is important as a foundation but we are open to some experimentation."

St. Matthew's cares for others. "The Lenten collections are split 50/50 between world and local charities."

"The prayers show care and concern for our congregation. Parishioners care and support St. Matthew's by volunteering in various capacities, altar guild, reading group, knitting and crocheting, baking and SWNIC."

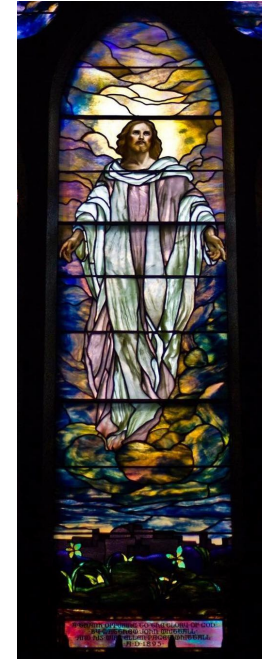
"I love the church in every form."



## About Worcester MA

- Located in Central Massachusetts, the second largest city in New England (pop. approx. 180,000); one hour drive from Boston, Providence, and Hartford and three hours from New York City.
- A city of immigrants and a point of entry for many, including Europeans, Latinos, Middle Easterners and more recently Brazilians, Vietnamese, and Africans.
- Home to nine institutions of higher education, including Holy Cross, Clark, WPI, Assumption, and Worcester State.
- Major industries: HealthCare and Biotechnology. Top employers: UMass Memorial Health Care, the University of Massachusetts Medical School, Reliant Medical Group, Saint Vincent Hospital, Saint-Gobain, WPI...
- Worcester firsts: first National Women's Rights Convention (1850); first liquid fuel rocket (Robert Goddard, WPI grad); first woman to serve in a President's cabinet (Frances Perkins, Franklin Roosevelt's Secretary of Labor); first Bible and first dictionary printed in the United States (Isaiah Thomas of Worcester)
- Places of interest: Worcester Art Museum, Worcester Historical Museum, Ecotarium, Hanover Theater, Mechanics Hall...
- Local sports: The Boston Red Sox chose Worcester as the location for a new stadium for their AAA team.

[www.discovercentralma.org](http://www.discovercentralma.org)



## St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

*I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? [Isaiah 43.19]*

St. Matthew's is here for you.

Are you called to be here with us?

695 Southbridge Street  
Worcester, Massachusetts 01610  
508-755-4433

[www.stmatthewsworcester.org](http://www.stmatthewsworcester.org)



### Who we are:

We are a community of people from different places in the world, with different faith experiences, joined to worship and serve God, learn, and build relationships. Rooted in the South Worcester neighborhood, our landmark building (1893) houses a beautiful sanctuary with historic Tiffany stained glass windows, a contemporary chapel and a newly refurbished kitchen designed for community meals. We welcome everyone: inquirers, life-long disciples, long-time residents, newcomers, immigrants, college students, children, youth and families, singles, and seekers.



We are a diverse, faithful, "Home and Hearth" community. "St Matthew's is high on the theological diversity scale and flexible with worship." We are traditional, stable, secure, dependable, clear "guardians" welcoming, and grounded. The open posture of the Prodigal Father best represents St. Matthew's. (*Holy Cow Survey*)

Learn more about St. Matthew's history on our website:

<https://www.stmatthewsworcester.org/about.html>



**Campaign 150** marks our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary (Sept. 21, 1871)

We are poised to continue building a worship community in newly renovated and welcoming spaces.



Re-designed Chapel worship space, kitchen facility, parish hall, parlor/meeting room.



### Ministries and Outreach.

Many groups meet within our parish walls: Deaf Seniors and several Recovery Groups.

Sunday community dinner on 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month.

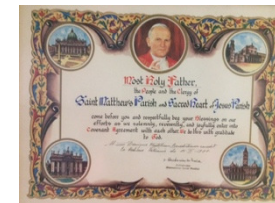
Active participation in the Diocesan Creation Care Initiative.

Other community partnerships: Walking Together and Laundry Love with the Rev. Meredyth Ward, the Diocesan Urban Missioner <https://www.sudsuplaundromat.com/laundry-love/>

The ministry of Rev. J. Edgar Freeman, the Diocesan Missioner to the African Community

Part of the Episcopal Church of Worcester (ECOW): "One Church with Five Altars."

A close association with the South Worcester Neighborhood Center, making weekly food and clothing donations, school supplies, and handmade knitted goods. (<http://www.swnic.net/>)



With our Covenant Parish, Sacred Heart/St. Catherine of Sweden Roman Catholic Church, a yearly joint Epiphany dinner served to the

neighborhood, a holiday music festival, and Stations of the Cross on Palm Sunday.