



## Matthew Dennis

September 29, 2022

Matthew Joseph Dennis was born February 4, 2000, in Fort Collins, CO. He was blessed to live his first several years with foster parents Ian and Marilyn Wells who were devoted to Matthew and his sister Makayla with a deep level of commitment and love. Their dedication was instrumental in finding a forever family for both kids together. Matthew and his sister were adopted November 7, 2006, by Edward and Dawn Dennis of Loveland, CO. He grew up with his sisters Lauren (Dennis) McIntosh, Taryn Dennis, and Makayla Dennis. He had an unyielding sense of optimism and adventure, as well as a devotion to God and his relationship to Christ, where he was extensively involved in the youth group at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church. To strengthen his faith, he was blessed to attend World Youth Day in Poland and missions trips to New Mexico and Tanzania Africa. While at Loveland High School he loved music and marching band, soccer, and swimming on the LHS swim team. He qualified for the state swim competition his senior year, and he was very proud of his work helping start the LHS Peer Counseling program. Matthew loved cars and worked at various automotive dealerships in the area, as well as trying his hand at starting his own business in marketing. His last great adventure was to sell all his belongings to buy a sailboat in Massachusetts and “Sail Away” to eventually live on the boat in Florida. Matthew was last heard from on September 29, 2022, off the coast of Long Island, NY. After an extensive search by the USCG was concluded, his family and friends now believe Matthew sailed his last sunset into the arms of Jesus and we all

mourn his passing. He is survived by his parents and sisters, brother-in-law, grandmothers Shirley Tidd of Fort Collins, CO and Eileen Stuart of Beverly Hills, FL and many aunts, uncles, cousins, niece, and nephew. Matthew will forever be remembered by his last text; when asked if he was okay, despite his struggles, he replied, "Yes, alive and it's a beautiful sunset".

All are welcome to attend a Memorial Funeral Mass at 11:00 AM, Saturday, November 19, 2022, at St John the Evangelist Church 1730 W 12th Street, Loveland, CO 80537. A reception serving lunch will follow to all who wish to join.

# Previous Events

## Funeral Mass

NOV **19**. 11:00 AM (MT)

St. John the Evangelist Catholic Parish  
1730 West 12th Street  
Loveland, CO 80537  
<http://www.saintjohns.us/>

# Tribute Wall

JL

“ As my Freshman year roommate, I'm happy to have met this most charismatic and beautiful soul. You'll live on in plenty of hearts. Rest easy brother.

John L - February 01, 2023 at 10:28 PM

AG

“ Greatest goalkeeper back in high school. Rest his soul.

Alex Granados - January 14, 2023 at 03:26 AM

TF

“ Tyi Floyd lit a candle in memory of Matthew Dennis



Tyi Floyd - January 09, 2023 at 04:17 AM

SR

“ My favorite memory of Matthew was when we did a reenactment of the Crucifixion with the youth group at Saint John the Evangelist. He was the only person suited to play Jesus and I am confident that no one could've done a better job. I am so glad for the time I had getting to know Matthew.

My daily rosary had been dedicated to this amazing soul ever since I heard of his news. I have my family and friends praying for him and the whole Dennis family.

We love you so much, Matthew.

Selena Rael - November 19, 2022 at 09:30 PM

LS

“ *Lilli Swisher lit a candle in memory of Matthew Dennis*



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**Lilli Swisher** - November 18, 2022 at 11:38 PM

NI

“ *I wish I would have gotten to know you more, the times we did talk we had a lot in common. Life is crazy. You were such a hard worker, and told me I was one too. Ever since the news I think about you daily, and check the news to see if you're found on an island where you've successfully hypnotized all the animals to be self aware and civilized and can carry conversations. One day.*

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**nina** - November 14, 2022 at 12:16 AM

“ Matthew Matthew Matthew

*I sadly watched. Matthew was so obviously excited to sail away to to start his life on his terms. He was so ready for adulthood, equipped by Dawn and Ed, as every child would want, tooled up for adulthood, founded in his family with lived Christian Faith.*

*So keen to start, that he could not wait another day in harbour before setting sail.*

*I so wish Matthew had waited one more day.*

*He appeared so unstoppable, brashly looking forward to adventure, yet, so naive, as we too, have all been at that time.*

*Matthew should have been by now, regaling friends and family with tough seafaring and life lessons.*

*Through distance and time and prayer, I miss him so. The world so needed Matthew.*

*I pray for Dawn, Ed, Makayla, Taryn, Lauren who so filled Matthew's cup and kept it spilling over.*

*Matthew, Matthew, Matthew, So missed. I miss you.*

*Ian*

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*Matthew started with us as a quiet and still 2 year old. He grew into a curious and eager learner, very smart and so happy. We loved Matthew. God bless Matthew.*

*Marilyn*

*Ian and Marilyn Wells  
Christchurch New Zealand*

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**ian wells** - November 06, 2022 at 07:51 PM

MS

*I was thinking of Matthew again this morning checking if there was any new information on him or if his boat was found. His story has been heavy on my heart. We had the same exact boat as Matthew ( a Pearson 28 sailboat and our first season too) and left Salem Ma on the same day but headed north. So I felt this connection with him and enjoyed watching his videos he posted and seeing his excitement. I'm so sorry for this huge loss and wish I was still watching his adventures! I'm so happy to know he loved Jesus and realize that was another connection we had as brothers and sisters in Christ. I imagine him enjoying a never ending adventure surrounded in beauty even more captivating than the last sunset he spoke of. Prayers and my deepest sympathy to his family and friends 🙏❤️*

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**Melissa Smith** - December 29, 2022 at 08:34 AM

KW

*“ My favorite memory of Matthew was the first time he showed me his room in his house. He showed me all of his nicknacks and where he got them. I was so in love with him then, he could have showed me the spice cabinet, and I would have listened and been thrilled to be there. I am extremely great full for the time I got to spend with him and the side of him he showed me. He was kind, bold, and exceptionally smart. Dennis family, I am so sorry for your loss.*

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**Kate Wullink** - November 04, 2022 at 11:59 PM

KW

“ My favorite memory of Matthew was the first time he showed me his room in his house. He showed me all of his nicknacks and where he got them. I was so in love with him then, he could have showed me the spice cabinet and I would have listened and been thrilled to be there. I am extremely great full for the time I got to spend with him and the side of him he showed me. He was kind, bold, and exceptionally smart. Dennis family, I am so sorry for your loss.

Kate Wullink - November 04, 2022 at 11:56 PM

VM

“ Matthew and I worked together at Loveland ford. Once he decided to leave the dealership and work full time on starting his company, i texted him letting him know that he was a hard worker and I enjoyed working with him to which he replied 'likewise. For everything life has thrown at you I couldn't help but be impressed' Matthew had such a drive to be successful that not very many people have. I know not only me but everyone at my dealership will miss him.



Vittoria Malara - November 03, 2022 at 05:20 PM



“ Joshua Feller lit a candle in memory of Matthew Dennis



Joshua Feller - November 03, 2022 at 02:13 PM



“ Aaron Eidson lit a candle in memory of Matthew Dennis



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Aaron Eidson - November 03, 2022 at 01:50 AM

TF

“ The Family lit a candle in memory of Matthew Dennis



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The Fleischer Family - November 02, 2022 at 05:26 PM

N/

“ Happy to have kept our letters. I've always looked back with love 💕



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n/a - November 01, 2022 at 10:01 PM

BB

“ Mathew what a sweet soul. I miss you so much! I miss our talks. God has a special Angel!

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Barbara Butters - November 01, 2022 at 04:22 PM

MR

“ *Mindy And Rolando lit a candle in memory of Matthew Dennis*



**Mindy and Rolando** - October 29, 2022 at 01:45 PM

LF

“ *I've been teaching high school for a decade, and Matt was one of my favorite students ever. He had ambition and confidence to spare, and he really worked to make the world a better place. What others merely thought about or talked about, Matt did. We'll miss you, Matt. Thank you for inspiring me.*

**Lee Freeman** - October 28, 2022 at 09:05 PM

PN

“ *Loving thoughts and prayers for the repose of the soul of Matthew, and for each member of his family. Rest In Peace Matthew.*



**Peg and Jerry Nelson** - October 28, 2022 at 06:55 PM

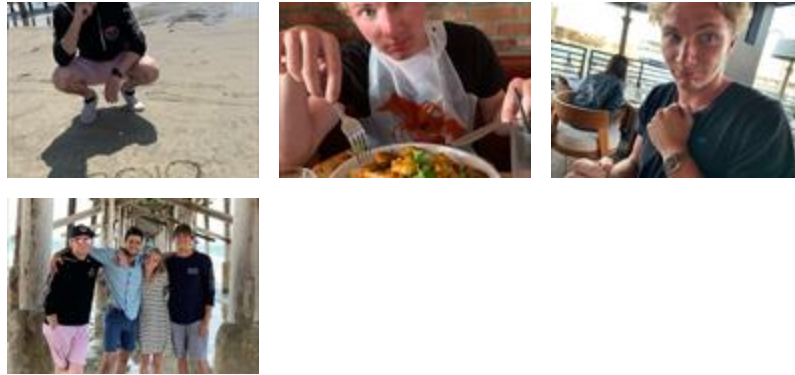
NW

“ *Matthew was such a huge part of our office the year he was a Peer Counselor. He brought humor, compassion, and a way of thinking outside of the box that was truly unique and amazing. He will be fondly remembered by many*

**Niki Weitzel** - October 28, 2022 at 03:01 PM



“ Here is beautiful memory of when Matt came out on a trip to Newport Beach, California! We surfed, ate amazing food, gawked at super cars, and laughed nonstop! You will be missed my friend!



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**Caleb Martin** - October 27, 2022 at 08:56 PM

TK

“ Terez Kramer lit a candle in memory of Matthew Dennis



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**Terez Kramer** - October 27, 2022 at 06:17 PM

MH

“ Mary Hawkins lit a candle in memory of Matthew Dennis



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**Mary Hawkins** - October 27, 2022 at 03:35 PM

GE

*Matt was very bright and had great potential. It's disappointing to not be able to watch him achieve his goals. We'll miss you, Matt. Rest in God's loving arms.*

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**Grandma Eileen** - October 29, 2022 at 02:41 PM