While the Parish Office is closed, please contact staff directly at the following emails:

For all Parish emails, add @stmatthias.net
Pastor: Rev Abraham Orapankal, abraham
Parochial Vicar: Rev. Msgr. Joseph Curry, jcurry
Pastoral Staff
Deacon Russell Demkovitz, rdemkovitz
Ana V Kelly, Marketing & Development, akelly
Daleas R. Nam, Faith Formation, dnam
Deacon John Radwanski, deaconjohn
Denise Sawicki, Acting Business Manager and Accountant, denise
Joan Best Seamon, Music Ministry, jseamon
Sr Marie Therese Sherwood, OSF, Social Concerns, msherwood
Phyllis Stone, Liturgy/RCIA and Administrative Assistant to the Pastor, pstone

St. Matthias School (add @stmatthiasnj.org)
Eileen Brett, Principal, ebrett
Joseph Gidaro, Vice Principal, jgidaro

Parish Office Staff
Kelly Counts, Day Receptionist
Nathalie Godel, Formation/Parish Support Sec.
Leslie Guillen Evening Receptionist/Bulletin Editor
Amy Hanna, Parish Support Secretary
Joan Jones, Evening Receptionist
Vinnie Natale, Bookkeeper
Trish Stumper, Parish Support Secretary

Maintenance Staff
Julio Montero, Maintenance Supervisor
Mario Brown, Custodian
Conroy Davis, Custodian
Juan Diaz Flores, Custodian
Silvia Nizama, Housekeeper
Mohamed Sisaka, Custodian

The Catholic Community of St. Matthias
April 26, 2020 – Third Sunday of Easter

Sunday Mass:
Join us for Sunday Mass every week, via our YouTube channel:
www.youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ

Registration is Now Open for St. Matthias School:
Our parish school is currently processing applications for the 2020-2021 school year. We offer grades PreK-3 through 8th grade. See pg 7.

Stay Connected!
Sign up for “St. Matthias Family Connect” e-letter. Go to www.stmatthias.net/connect/SMFC, view the copy and join the e-letter.

Share Your Good News!
“I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.”
- Psalm 9:1

We invite you to share your good news with us in one of two ways:

1) What are you thankful for? Send an email with your answer to: thankful@stmatthias.net
Feel free to include your name or initials if you would like. Responses will be posted on our website at www.stmatthias.net/thankful, and may be edited.

2) If you have a Facebook account, share your good news by going to our Facebook “UPLIFT” group at: https://www.facebook.com/groups/1059598504399215

Don’t forget to check both sites often to read good news shared by others!

Subscribe to Our St. Matthias YouTube Channel

Please subscribe to our official St. Matthias YouTube Channel. We need to reach 1,000 subscribers to help with the filming of our Masses. Go to: www.youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ Thank you!
This Week at St. Matthias

Join Us for Mass Every Sunday:
Join us every Sunday on our YouTube channel:
www.youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ

View Our Calendar:
for the most up-to-date schedule of events/times —
www.stmatthias.net/connect/calendar

Read Our Bulletin Online Each Week:
http://www.stmatthias.net/connect/bulletin

Share “Good News” by email or via our “UPLIFT” Facebook Group
We would love to hear your Good News, and so would fellow parishioners. Share your good news via email for posting on our website, or via Facebook. For more details, go to: www.stmatthias.net/connect/node/3644

Listen to Our Music Ministers
Enjoy listening to music sung by our music ministers from their home, by visiting: www.youtube.com/channel/UCwhok3XnxutxyCq5E1LLJGA

Church Building
We invite you to pray and participate with us online. The church building is open for individual prayer as listed in our online Calendar (see above). If you are not feeling well, please stay home and join us in prayer remotely. If you decide to come, please follow ALL government guidelines (eg., social distancing, staying at least 6 feet away from others, wearing a face covering/mask, etc.) Also, bring hand wipes so you can wipe anything you touch — the pew where you sat, the top of the pew in front of you, the door handles, etc. It is not possible for us to do this in between personal visits. Thank you for helping to keep others safe.

Office/School Buildings Closed, “Open” (remotely):
Our Parish Office and School are open “remotely”. You may reach us via email, or leave a phone message and we will return your call as soon as possible.

From the Pastor & the Pastoral Staff

Although we have experienced a very unusual Easter, liturgically we are still in the Easter season and will be until Pentecost.

Today’s Gospel story is one that we hear every year. The road to Emmaus.

It’s after the Resurrection. Jesus meets two men who don’t recognize the resurrected Jesus. It isn’t until they stop to rest and eat, and Jesus breaks bread, that they recognize Him.

It is in difficult times like this that we “recognize “Jesus — the Son of God who on Good Friday died for our sins, who at the Last Supper broke the bead and blessed the cup —the first Eucharist.

Since we must now attend Mass online and therefore cannot receive the Eucharist, we must receive the Lord into our hearts spiritually.

As many of you know from my homilies, I am a strong proponent of prayer. In my life I have seen the power of prayer literally move mountains.

Remember: Even in the most difficult times, we are not alone. Jesus is with us Always.

So unlike the men on the road to Emmaus who were downtrodden, we must rejoice because we recognize the Resurrected Christ in our lives. And He is with us.

So don’t let up on your prayers. They are needed.

My prayers are with you and your families during these difficult times.

I miss you and look forward to when we can be together again... In person!

The peace of Christ.

Stay safe and Well,

Deacon Russ

Bulletin Article Requests:
Please email proposed bulletin articles to bulletin@stmatthias.net by 6 pm, Wednesday, 10 days before the intended issue (earlier for holiday weekends).
Readings for the Week

**Monday:** Acts 6:8-15; Ps 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30; Jn 6:22-29

**Tuesday:** Acts 7:51 — 8:1a; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 7b, 8a, 17, 21ab; Jn 6:30-35

**Wednesday:** Acts 8:1b-8; Ps 66:1-3a, 4-5, 6-7a; Jn 6:35-40

**Thursday:** Acts 8:26-40; Ps 66:8-9, 16-17, 20; Jn 6:44-51

**Friday:** Acts 9:1-20; Ps 117:1bc, 2; Jn 6:52-59

**Saturday:** Acts 9:31-42; Ps 116:12-13, 14-15, 16-17; Jn 6:60-69

**Sunday:** Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Ps 23: 1-3a, 3b4, 5, 6; 1 Pt 2:20b-25; Jn 10:1-10

*The Mass intentions will be fulfilled by Fr. Abraham and Fr. Joe as they celebrate private masses for these intentions. Everyone is welcome to join us in spirit as we pray for these intentions.*

Mass Intentions for the Week*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Intention</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, Apr 25</td>
<td>5:00PM</td>
<td>Jack Sullivan, by Mary &amp; Family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, Apr 26</td>
<td>8:00AM</td>
<td>Intention of Parishioners</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:00AM</td>
<td>Regina Vidal, by Menchie Ventura</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12:00PM</td>
<td>Mae &amp; Alfred Schunk, by John, Ellen, John Patrick, Valerie &amp; Steven</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5:30PM</td>
<td>Jose &amp; Leonor Calimlim Anniversary Memorial (66 yrs.), by The Calimlim Family</td>
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<td>Monday, Apr 27</td>
<td>8:00AM</td>
<td>Vincent DiNicola, by Anne Marie Francis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, Apr 28</td>
<td>8:00AM</td>
<td>Nizam Ali, by The Selwert Family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, Apr 29</td>
<td>8:00AM</td>
<td>William Kempton, by wife, Doris Kempton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, Apr 30</td>
<td>8:00AM</td>
<td>Carmela Ambach &amp; Teresa DeCicco, by Joann Urban &amp; Lorraine Montemurro</td>
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<td>Friday, May 1</td>
<td>8:00AM</td>
<td>Blessings for Anne Marie Francis &amp; Violet Patrick, by The Family</td>
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<td>Saturday, May 2</td>
<td>5:00PM</td>
<td>Deceased Members of the Gatarz &amp; Kohler Families, by Claire Gatarz</td>
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<td>Sunday, May 3</td>
<td>8:00AM</td>
<td>Msgr. Joseph Penna, by The Penna Family</td>
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<td></td>
<td>10:00AM</td>
<td>Intention of Parishioners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12:00PM</td>
<td>Stanstawa &amp; Waclaw Wzala, by Nawrot Family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5:30PM</td>
<td>Kalman &amp; Agnes Farkas, by Daughter</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Pray for those who are sick...

If you or a family member are sick, please email Kelly Counts at kcounts@stmatthias.net to add the name to this list. Names will be listed in the bulletin for 6 weeks. Please let us know if this time period needs to be extended. We want to know how you are doing and want to offer you the support of our prayers.

- Rosemarie Aulino
- Eddie Banaag
- Ronald Bianchini
- Geneviève Bonk
- Dylan Braunstein
- Timothy Brennan
- Marie Brody
- Baby Isla-Rose Callahan
- Tara Capatosto
- Ellen Catalina
- Frank Catalina
- Daria Cergnul
- Merna Chambers
- Darrie Christmas
- Charles Connelly
- Lourdes & Luzminda Costin
- Msgr. Joe Curry
- Lisa & Marie DeFeo
- Vanessa DiRocco
- Mary Dolan
- Bill Dolphin
- Dorothy Domenici
- Anthony Driz & Family
- Mary Eads
- Briana Edwards
- Emma Gergely
- Rose Gessner
- Mary Gidaro
- John Gross
- Fr. Doug Haefner
- Paul Haucke
- Emma A. Himey
- Sloopy Hoffman
- Merla Isobelo
- Pamela Kanneer
- Michael Kirugi
- Taylor LaCort
- The Litrakis Family
- Kenneth Magat
- Al Maglio
- Susan Manansala
- Lourdes Maniego
- Elizabeth Miller
- Lucy Mims
- Marius Moran
- Eleanor Morehouse
- Ursula Morgenberger
- Dave Moynihan
- Patricia (Pat) Nese
- Margaret O’Hare
- Danny Onchangco
- Mafalda Paraforiti
- Bernadine Pasternak
- Elsa Pesigan
- Jim Pettit
- Chris Retz
- Maria Schwenzer
- Sr. Immanuela
- Sr. Jessy, OSF
- Sr. Mary Amata Shina, OSF
- Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF
- Dennis Stuewe
- Christine Szczepanski
- Juan Ulerio
- Mona Wilson
- Mark T. Worthington
- Edward Yeager

Pray for those who have died...

- Dottie Dugan
- Edward Dugan
- Roseann Martinez
- Ada Galdi
- Jack T. Kenefick, father of Trish Stumper
- Betty Edfort

—“His mercy endures forever.” Chronicles 6:34
Parish News

Letter from Fr. Joe

Dear St. Matthias Family,

I pray that this note finds you well!

I would first like to say thank you for the great outpouring of loving support and the powerful prayers that you have offered for me over these past weeks! There is nothing that you could possibly have done that would make me feel more a part of the St. Matthias family and grateful for the great gift of my priesthood!

This past weekend was the weekend that I was supposed to run my half marathon. Little did I know the plans God would have for me! I would be running a very different race!

These past weeks have been frightening. There have been few times in my life that I have felt so powerless. Although I have been by myself, during the greatest amount of these days, I KNEW I was never alone! God has held me tightly though all of it!

I do not know where I would be without my families. My sisters, brother, my mother and all the gang who have done everything from making sure I had food to providing morale support. Fr. Abraham has been a very loving brother, who has checked in on me regularly. The Bishop, my brother priests, the Church and school staffs and so many other people have been with me in so many different ways. I have been running this very different race, but God has provided for me and my every need!

For any of you who are sick today, I offer a you a couple things that helped me:

- I would tell myself, any day I did not get worse, was a good day!
- Any day I felt better was a great day!
- The rosary, sometimes unprayed, but even just in my hands, gave me hope, because Mary knew what it was like to live life, holding onto trust and not control!

As I now begin to come out of quarantine, my race continues and I am most aware that, like from the very beginning, God is with me in every step. I look forward to where this new adventure will take us all! May God be with us all!

Thank you again for your loving support and prayers!

Servus,
Fr. Joe

Sunday Reflections

Questions…

“What does selfless and caring love mean?” asked the teacher. “When my grandmother got arthritis, she couldn’t bend over and paint her toenails anymore. So my grandfather does it for her all the time, even when his hands got arthritis too. That’s selfless and caring love.” (Rebecca- age 8).

Fasting: True fasting is “tearing one’s heart and returning to God” with true repentance for one’s sins (Jl 2:13). It is “breaking unjust fetters, freeing the oppressed, sharing one’s bread with the hungry, clothing with the naked and home with the homeless, and not turning away from the needy relatives” (Is 58:6-7).

Lent is how I gave up smoking. I knew I couldn’t get my brain around quitting forever, but I could quit for seven weeks. When Lent was over, I never went back.

For Jokes: from Reader’s Digest:

When my son, William, was young, we belonged to a small country church. On Communion day, deacons would pass around the “bread and juice.” On Easter Sunday, we attended a church out of town that was more formal. What our church called bread and juice, this one referred to as ‘elements,’ a word William didn’t understand. As Communion began, the pastor said, “If the deacons will come forward, the elements will pass among us.” William was suddenly excited and I didn’t know why. Then he leaned toward me, whispering something that caused me to burst out laughing. With all eyes on us, I took him by the hand and we made a hasty exit. All the way to the car, he protested. “Mom, we’re going to miss the circus. The pastor said the elephants were going to pass among us!”

- https://www.rd.com/jokes/diet-jokes/
Sunday Reflections

Risen Lord in the Train.

On her first train trip, a little girl was put into an upper berth by her mother. The mother then assured her that Jesus would watch over her during the night. As the lights were switched off the girl became alarmed and called out softly: “Mom, are you there?” “Yes dear,” her mother replied. A little later the child called in a louder voice: “Daddy, are you also there?” “Yes”, was the reply. After this had been repeated several times, one of the passengers lost patience and shouted: “We’re all here. Your father, your mother, your brothers and sisters, your uncles and aunts – all are here. Now go to sleep!” There was silence for a while. Then, in a hushed voice the child asked: “Mom, was that risen Jesus traveling with us?”

Hope in a Time of Uncertainty?

We do not like to feel powerless. And yet, situations like this help us come to terms with our limitations. We do not ultimately control the health and wellbeing of our loved ones, and we cannot fully predict the future of this virus or its impact on society. From a Christian perspective, there is an opportunity in this. When we come to the end of ourselves and our power, we encounter the mercy of God. We find permission to be afraid, dependent, and uncertain, because He is infinite, dependable and sure.

The Christian story allows us to access our vulnerability in the face of the unknown, but it also provides us with a source of true courage. Because God dignified humanity by taking on flesh in the person of Jesus, we can be confident that our physical bodies are of utmost importance to Him. And because God raised Jesus from the dead, we can be sure that our own suffering will not be the final word. He is the Lord of History, and He has already given Himself for the life of the world. We are now called to follow His example in the power of the Holy Spirit. (Hannah King, associate rector, Village Church, Greenville, South Carolina)

For points on hope during pandemic: https://www.dailysignal.com/2020/03/29/15-religious-leaders-share-how-to-hope-during-the-pandemic/

To Those Who Bring Small Children to Church:

There you are at church. Your baby or toddler is restless. Perhaps even a little boisterous. You try to silence them, and nothing. You try to pacify them with food or toys, and nothing. Eventually, you resort to the last thing you wanted to do: you pick them up, and before a watching audience, you make the march out of the church. All the while you’re a little embarrassed, maybe a little frustrated too. You might even think to yourself, “There’s no point in coming to church. I get nothing out of it because I have to constantly care for my kid.”

I want you - mothers and/or fathers - to know just how encouraging you are to so many. The elderly woman who often feels alone beams with a smile at the sight of you wrestling with your little one. She’s been there before. She knows how hard it can be, but she smiles because to hear that brings back precious memories. Seeing young parents and their small children brighten her day; she may have just received bad news about her health but seeing the vitality of young ones removes - if but for a moment - her fears. The older man who always seems to be grouchy notices you too. He’s always talking about how children in this day have no respect or sense of goodness. But he sees you - a young family - in church every week. Like clockwork, he can depend on the sight of you and your young family. You give him hope that maybe the Church isn’t doomed after all, because there are still young parents who love God enough to bring their restless children to church.

Bring your children to church! If we don’t hear crying, the church is dying. As hard as it might be for you as a parent who’s half-asleep, keep on doing what you’re doing. You are an encouragement, and you’re starting off your children’s lives as you should. - Author unknown

What We Grab also Grabs Us!

Once there was an eagle which hovered over a lake and suddenly swooped down and caught a two-foot long fish in its talons. Slowly, the bird rose with its ten-pound catch, but when it reached about 1,000 feet, it began to descend, until it splashed into the water. Later, both the bird and fish were found dead. Apparently, the fish was too heavy for the eagle, but it could not let go, for its talons were embedded in the flesh of the fish.

The truth is that what we grab, grabs us. When we grab alcohol, drugs, or sex, it grabs us and brings us down to death.

www.stmatthias.net
Their 81-year-old mother suffers from dementia. Every day her five daughters see her slipping away more and more. In the beginning, Mom was brilliant at faking it, compensating her memory loss with skill and grace. But her daughters knew the time would come when she would no longer recognize them. That day came a few days after Thanksgiving.

The youngest sister took their mother to dinner with her in-laws. They were seated next to each other when Mom turned to her daughter and said, “So, remind me, how did we meet?” Taken aback, the daughter replied, “Mom, you gave birth to me.” Mom then said hesitantly, “Well, then, why didn’t I raise you?” “You did, Mom.” Trying to hide her distress, the daughter excused herself from the table, not wanting her mother to see how upset she was.

Mom followed her into the kitchen. When they were alone, Mom took her hands. “Don’t cry, please. Are you crying because you think I don’t love you?” “No,” her daughter said, “I know you love me.” “Are you crying for me?” The daughter said nothing. Mom took her hand and held it tightly.

“This is me getting old. It is neither easy nor pleasant. But if I can get through this, so can you. Please know that I love you. And brace yourself, because this is who I am now. ‘It’s not that I don’t love you. I love you absolutely. It’s just that you have slipped from my mind. These things happen. And this thing, this thing will happen again and again, but I love you. I love you so much.

“Honey, I don’t know your name right now, but you must trust that I will always know exactly who you are. So do this for me: Tell me everything. I want to know every last detail - where you were born, where you went to high school and college, what you do for a living, if you are married. Do you have children? Come back to the table and sit down next to me and tell me all of it.”

A mother’s love finds its bearings through the haze of dementia and gives her family a way forward. Her love for her daughters enables her to dig deep and find her “brightness.” When we are driven by such love, we’re able to confront who we are, accept our challenges and failings, and find a way to move forward. In her encounter with Jesus, the woman at the well is able to see herself and her life as it is and realize, despite her circumstances, the compassion of God in her midst. The grace to start over again is ours if we are honest enough to confront our lapses of memory and judgment and focus on God’s constant presence and invitation to re-center our lives in his love and grace.
Discovering God: Formation

Is A Catholic Education Important for Your Child? ... For your Grandchild?

As we spend so much time at home and rethink our priorities, we discover or re-discover how important our faith is. Are your children and grandchildren supported and nurtured in their discovery of God’s presence in their lives? Are they growing, not just physically and intellectually, but also spiritually and morally? Learn how our wonderful parish school helps to form our world’s future faith-filled leaders.

St. Matthias School (Pre-K through 8th grade) is now accepting applications for new students for Fall 2020. Contact Maria Kosty at mkosty@stmatthiasnj.org. Check our website at: www.stmatthias.info. Listen to what our school parents say:

“We have been a Saint Matthias School family for four years, and it has been the best decision we’ve made for our two sons. They are receiving an excellent education in a Christ-centered environment. SMS is true to their motto of Faith, Caring and Excellence. We love the teachers and opportunities our children have outside of the classroom. We are grateful for the positive values our children are learning that will carry them throughout their lifetime. This is truly a community where all are welcome. Thank you Saint Matthias.”

“This is our second year at this school, being in 4th grade now. She loves the community, teachers, clubs, activities etc. She loves the Advanced Reading program, Chess club, Band and so much more. Thank you for all teachers, staff, parents and classmates to create a fun filled school environment!”

“My son loves his new school! He is PreK 4 and all the students get along, and so do the parents. I am a working mom and still feel engaged with all the activities. I have also seen growth in my son in just 3 months. He’s excited to read, loves to pray at night and is excited to walk out the door for school!”

“I highly recommend St. Matthias School. My children are currently students here and we feel it’s the best environment for them to grow intellectually and spiritually. SMS provides tools and resources for our children to be successful at the high school and college level. They come out confident and prepared for what’s next. Last but not least, the friendships and support we experienced here is extraordinary. We love SMS.”

“Throughout my years at SMS we have had a wonderful experience. The school community is amazing, we look out for each other like family. I have 3 children who attend SMS and we have all made friends we will cherish for a lifetime. The teachers are knowledgeable and dedicated educators who work hard to bring out the best in our children. I have no doubt my children will be ready for what awaits them after 8th grade. SMS was the best decision we could have made for our family.”
Discovering God: Formation

Excerpt from Pope Francis' Homily Last Sunday—April 19, 2020

The complete text is available at: http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/homilies/2020/documents/papa-francesco_20200419_omelia-divinamisericordia.html

Last Sunday we celebrated the Lord’s resurrection; today we witness the resurrection of his disciple. It has already been a week, a week since the disciples had seen the Risen Lord, but in spite of this, they remained fearful, cringing behind “closed doors”, unable even to convince Thomas, the only one absent, of the resurrection. What does Jesus do in the face of this timorous lack of belief? He returns and, standing in the same place, “in the midst” of the disciples, he repeats his greeting: “Peace be with you!” (Jn 20:19, 26). He starts all over. The resurrection of his disciple begins here, from this faithful and patient mercy, from the discovery that God never tires of reaching out to lift us up when we fall. He wants us to see him, not as a taskmaster with whom we have to settle accounts, but as our Father who always raises us up. In life we have to suffer various trials, yet each time his father puts him up again, yet each time his father puts him back on our feet is mercy: God knows that without mercy we will remain on the ground, that in order to keep walking, we need to be put back on our feet.

...Dear brothers and sisters, in the time of trial that we are presently undergoing, we too, like Thomas, with our fears and our doubts, have experienced our frailty. We need the Lord, who sees beyond that frailty an irrepressible beauty. With him we rediscover how precious we are even in our vulnerability. We discover that we are like beautiful crystals, fragile and at the same time precious. And if, like crystal, we are transparent before him, his light – the light of mercy – will shine in us and through us in the world. As the Letter of Peter said, this is a reason for being “filled with joy, though now for a little while you may have to suffer various trials.

...The most beautiful message comes from Thomas, the disciple who arrived late; he was the only one missing. But the Lord waited for Thomas. Mercy does not abandon those who stay behind. Now, while we are looking forward to a slow and arduous recovery from the pandemic, there is a danger that we will forget those who are left behind. The risk is that we may then be struck by an even worse virus, that of selfish indifference. A virus spread by the thought that life is better if it is better for me, and that everything will be fine if it is fine for me. It begins there and ends up selecting one person over another, discarding the poor, and sacrificing those left behind on the altar of progress. The present pandemic, however, reminds us that there are no differences or borders between those who suffer. We are all frail, all equal, all precious. May we be profoundly shaken by what is happening all around us: the time has come to eliminate inequalities, to heal the injustice that is undermining the health of the entire human family! ...

Like the apostle Thomas, let us accept mercy, the salvation of the world. And let us show mercy to those who are most vulnerable; for only in this way will we build a new world.

Being Good Stewards

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<td>Holy Thursday /SVDP</td>
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Stewardship Reflection Apr 26, 2020

“How did our hearts burn within us while He talked to us on the road, while He opened to us the scriptures?” (Luke 24:32)

How often do we take the time to discern what Jesus wants from us? Are our prayers always petitions, asking Jesus to do things for us? If so, that’s a one-sided relationship. Living our faith means developing a personal relationship with Jesus. Just like any friendship, there is give and take, each side listening to each other and helping each other out. Take time in silence to listen to what Jesus is asking of you.

Reflexiones — 26 de abr de 2020

¿No ardían nuestros corazones mientras nos hablaba en el camino, mientras nos explicaba las Escrituras?” (Lucas 24:32)

¿Con qué frecuencia nos tomamos el tiempo para discernir lo que Jesús quiere de nosotros? ¿Nuestras oraciones son siempre peticiónes, pidiéndole a Jesús que haga cosas por nosotros? Si es así, esa es una relación unilateral. Vivir nuestra fe significa desarrollar una relación personal con Jesús. Al igual que en cualquier amistad, hay que dar y recibir, cada lado escuchándose y ayudándose mutuamente. Tomense el tiempo en silencio para escuchar lo que Jesús le está pidiendo.

Page 8 www.stmatthias.net Apr 26, 2020 668
Are You Shopping Online These Days?

Many of us are ordering food and supplies online and either having the items shipped or are doing a drive-by pick-up or take-out. Why not use this opportunity to help our school, by purchasing online Scrip cards before you place your shopping order? You will receive the gift card code online and then can type in the code to pay for your items on the store/restaurant’s website. We have cards for 275 venues!

Even if you plan to physically visit a grocery store or drugstore or big box store, you can print out the gift card at home. Then when you make your purchase, just hold up the sheet of paper and the cashier can scan it. No need for the cashier to touch your credit card nor to hand you cash back as change. Or you can view the code on your phone, and just hold up the phone for the cashier to scan.

We have many different gift cards available online. To purchase them, here are the steps:

1. Go to www.MyScripWallet.com
2. Click on “Create An Account”
3. Type in the following Enrollment Code: LE2E4FB9388. Then follow the prompts. (You only need to enter the information that has an * next to it.)
4. Once you register, you will be able to purchase any cards you choose, and St. Matthias School will receive a rebate. Be sure to select “Scrip Now eCard” instead of “Physical card” so you receive the code online! (We are unable to deliver any physical cards at this time.) Thank you!

FLAG of Somerset

There are many stories of hope during this pandemic. Here is one that our own parishioners are spearheading, FLAG of Somerset (Front Line Appreciation Group) was founded by Kathleen (McGrath) Foley, a local nurse who has witnessed the tremendous work and dire need of our healthcare workers. With three of her friends - Sue Kachurick, Christine Lavelle, and Denise (Stuewe) Quenault – joining this noble cause, they mobilized more than 1,200 Somerset community members to fund and deliver fresh meals for our healthcare workers during the COVID-19 pandemic while supporting local restaurants who have been negatively impacted by the crisis.

Hours after creating their Facebook page, the Somerset chapter gained immense momentum, raising close to $2,000. The funding – which has now crossed $20,000.00 - is then used to purchase meals. FLAG has arranged for over 900 meals to be delivered to 2 New Brunswick hospitals since its inception on March 25, 2020, including a special Easter Dinner delivery.

Inspired by the example and passion of these four women of St. Matthias, some local restaurants are offering discounted meals and matching donations, amplifying the community’s desire to support our healthcare workers. Some restaurants have even donated 100 percent of the meals on behalf of the group. “It’s really great to know that even though our mission is to support the local restaurants, so many of them want to support our mission and support the frontline workers in exchange,” Christine Lavelle said. “Everybody keeps giving, and it’s just wonderful to see.”

The Parish of St. Matthias is very proud of these four women and support and promote their exemplary example and spirit.

You can support FLAG of Somerset with any size donation via Venmo at venmo.com/flagofsomersetcovid19 or PayPal at PayPal.me/flagofsomerset. Please email flagofsomersetcovid19@gmail.com for more information if you prefer to pay by check.


Our Parishioners Lead “FLAG” During Covid-19

Caring for Others:
Caring for Others

A Message from Our St. Vincent de Paul Society (SDVP)

While this Stay at home order exists, people can call our SDVP Hotline number (732-828-1400, extension 120) if they need help purchasing food for themselves and their families. With many people out of work, we are here to help with food since PSE&G and Rent delays are covered by the Governors executive orders.

If you or someone you know needs:

- Assistance with food, remember the Franklin Food Bank who serves residents of Franklin Township (www.FranklinFoodBank.org)
- Help getting to an appointment, getting groceries into the house, or finding someone to help run an errand, there are volunteers in Franklin Township willing to help (https://residentshelpingre.wixsite.com/mysite)

And remember the Society of St Vincent de Paul is here to help as well. Either call our Help Line at 732-828-1400 ext 120, or through our website

We Hope to Be Talking with You Soon!

Our parish staff and some of our Pastoral Council members have started calling our 2,849 registered parishioner households to see how you are doing and to ask if there is anything our parish can help you with at this difficult time.

Parish Leadership

Parish Pastoral Council:
- Co-Chairs: Tom Phalen, thomasephalen@gmail.com, Nick Grippo nickgrippo@gmail.com
- Chairs: Tom Phalen, Tom Aussem

Parish Finance Council:
- Chair: Joe Porter, Chair financecouncil@stmatthias.net

Parish Registration — Welcome new members! Please register by calling the Parish

Baptism — Baptismal Preparation Sessions are held four times a year for registered parishioners. Please contact the parish office before the baby is born. The sacrament of Baptism is celebrated on the second and fourth Sunday of each month, except during Lent.

Marriage — Registered parishioners should contact the parish office a year before the desired wedding date.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults
The RCIA process is an opportunity for instruction and spiritual transformation for any adult seeking a deeper understanding of the Catholic tradition or full incorporation into the Catholic Church. If you are interested in becoming a Catholic or completing the Sacraments of Initiation—Baptism/Confirmation/Eucharist, please call the Parish Office.

Stewardship
Stewardship is a way of life, a way of thanking God for all our blessings by returning a portion of the time, talent and treasure allotted to us. Whether it is clothes for the poor, food for the hungry, outreach to youth, in education, in worship, or simply arms stretched out to someone who is lonely, the Catholic Community of St. Matthias encourages everyone to become stewards of the gifts they have been given by God, returning a portion in gratitude to God for the work of ministry here at St. Matthias and beyond our local community.

Franklin Township
“Residents Helping Residents”

’Resident Helping Residents’ is a grassroots bipartisan effort to support Franklin township residents who are most vulnerable to the COVID-19 outbreak. The website allows people to reach out if they have a particular need and can’t/shouldn’t get out because of their medical history, while at the same time, helping other residents volunteer to help their neighbors. Visit: https://residentshelpingre.wixsite.com/mysite

State of New Jersey Job Portal

Do you need a temporary job? Visit: https://jobs.covid19.nj.gov
This website currently lists 65,516 jobs at 743 companies across the state of New Jersey that have immediate openings.

Community Love—Pop-Up Drive-thru Food Pantry

The SALT Foundation and Somerset Community Action Program have held 5 Pop-Up Drive-thru Food Pantry events, the last one being on Wednesday, April 22. This is open to people struggling to provide food for family needs. Volunteers place bags of food in the vehicle’s trunk as cars drive-thru. Keep checking their website for future dates: www.thesaltfoundationinc.org

About St. Matthias (please contact the staff members on the cover for up-to-date information)

St. Matthias School is a PreK3 through 8th grade school rooted in faith, inspired by love, and dedicated to academic excellence. Before and After School Care Programs are available. Come visit! Contact 732-828-1402 to schedule a tour.

Bulletin Article Requests
Please email proposed bulletin articles to bulletin@stmatthias.net by 6 pm, Wednesday, 10 days before the intended issue (earlier for holiday weekends).