THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS
FEB 16, 2020 – Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

K of C Blood Drive—TODAY, Sunday, 8:30 am-2:30 pm, in the cafeteria.

Live Lent — Sign up for a group by THIS WEEKEND.

Black History Month Mass & Reception—TODAY, Sunday. See below.

Senior High Youth Group — TONIGHT, Sun. See pg. 9.

Spirits in Spirituality — Tues. Feb 18 at 7 PM. See below.

Seniors (55+) Listening Session — Saturday, Feb. 22. See below.

Shore Trip for Youth Groups — Next Sunday. See page 10. Register now.

The St. Martin de Porres Society Extends a Welcome to All for the Mass in Celebration of Black History Month

TODAY, Sunday, at 5:30 PM.
A reception will follow in the cafeteria.

Please join fellow parishioners for an evening of praise & fellowship. President: Fr. Alphonsus Kariuki, Pastor of St. John the Evangelist, Dunellen; Deacon: Enock Berluche, Sr, Praise Leaders - The St. Matthias Diversity Choir under the direction of Aaron Brown (Director of the St. Matthias Umoja Imani Gospel Choir) and Joan Best Seamon (Director Music Ministry at St. Matthias), and The Kenyan Catholic Worshippers - dance and song in the Kiswahili language.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Come to the Seniors Ministry Listening Session!

All parishioners ages 55+ are cordially invited to a Listening Session on Saturday, Feb. 22, 1-3 p.m. in the school cafeteria. Find out what the seniors ministry leaders have planned, and bring your own ideas as to what you want in this new ministry. Questions? Contact Sr. Marie Therese at msherwood@stmatthias.net or 732-828-1400. Refreshments will be served!

Spirits in Spirituality

Please come join us for the next Spirituality in Spirits (young adults 21-35) meeting this Tuesday, February 18th at 7 PM in the dePorres room of the Parish Office. We look forward to it being an exciting meeting discussing marriage in the church in the 21st century. What does it mean for those who are married and for those who are thinking of it for the future? If you have any questions please check the Facebook page or feel free to contact Caitlin Regan at teacherreganc@gmail.com Come join our group for a truly spiritual evening of fun discussion, drinks, and food!
**This Week at St. Matthias**

Please visit our website “Parish Calendar” for the most up-to-date information — www.stmatthias.net/connect/calendar

**Sunday, Feb 16, 2020** Masses 8AM, 10AM,12PM, 5:30PM

8:00AM Knights of Columbus Blood Drive Cafeteria
10:00AM Children’s Liturgy of Word John XXIII
10:30AM RCIA/RCIC Sessions de Porres & Ruiz Rms
11:15AM Praying of the Rosary Church
1:30PM Confirmation Prep 8, #1 John XXIII Rm
3:30PM Confirmation Prep 8, #2 John XXIII Rm
3:30PM Black History Celebration Mass & Reception Church & Cafeteria de Porres Rm
6:30PM SMY: Senior High Youth Group de Porres Rm

**Monday, Feb 17, 2020** No Mass, Presidents’ Day SMS & Parish Office Closed

**Tuesday, Feb 18, 2020** Mass 8:00AM
8:00AM Re-take Pictures, Gr. 8 & Club/Activities John XXIII Rm
7:00PM Spirit in Spirituality Young Adult Grp de Porres Rm
7:00PM Youth & Adult Handbell Rehearsal Church

**Wednesday, Feb 19, 2020** Mass 8:00AM
9:00AM Holy Spirit Prayer Grp. de Porres Rm
10:30AM Holy Trinity Faith Sharing Grp. Ruiz Rm
7:30PM AA Wednesday Cafeteria
7:30PM Folk Group Rehearsal Church

**Thursday, Feb 20, 2020** Mass 8:00AM
3:30PM Children’s Choir (3&4 gr.) Rehearsal Church
4:15PM Children’s Choir (5-8 gr.) Rehearsal Church
4:30PM K of C Officer’s Mtg. Sm. Lib. Mtg. Rm
7:00PM Prayer Shawl Ministry Mtg. Ruiz Rm
7:30PM Adult Choir Rehearsal Church

**Friday, Feb 21, 2020** Mass 8:00AM
7:00PM B.S. Troop 154 Cafeteria
8:00PM AA Friday Downstairs teachers Rm

**Saturday, Feb 22, 2020** Mass 5:00PM
11:00AM Sacrament of Reconciliation Church
1:00PM Senior Ministry Listening Session Cafeteria

**Sunday, Feb 23, 2020** Masses 8AM, 10AM,12PM, 5:30PM

10:00AM Children’s Liturgy of Word John XXIII
10:30AM First Eucharist Family Prep #1 Cafeteria & Clsrms

---

**Gift Cards (SCRIP) Are Available in the Parish Office**

**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).

---

**From the Pastoral Staff**

In today’s Gospel, Jesus urges his disciples to not simply live by the letter of the law, but to fulfill the law of love with their heartfelt thoughts and actions. When we strive to embrace the spirit of the Ten Commandments, then we can genuinely and thoughtfully be in right relationship with God and with everyone.

I recall a story about a grandfather telling his grandson “A fight is going on inside me,” he said to the boy. “It is a terrible fight and it is between two wolves. One is evil – he is anger, envy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego. The other is good – he is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion, and faith. The same fight is going on inside you – and inside every other person, too.” The grandson thought about it for a minute and then asked his grandfather, “Which wolf will win? The grandfather replied “The one you feed.”

We’re reminded in the first reading from the Book of Sirach that by our free will we have the power to choose – so which wolf are you choosing to feed? Are you obeying the letter of the traffic and tax laws, but easily become enraged when someone speeds past you, or doesn’t declare all their income? Are your thoughts and actions mostly consumed by the anticipated reward of a paycheck, recognition, or ambition? Have you ever stopped to think about how many of your activities are driven by your desire to “get by” or “get ahead”? Are your thoughts more often self-deprecating? Are you busy trying to meet someone’s expectations of who you should be at the detriment of your own self-worth? On the other hand, are you choosing to feed the wolf who thrives on compassion, truthfulness, justice, and love?

In the book “Awakening the Brain”, the author Dr. Charlotte Tomaino writes “The more we know about how the brain works, the more we can do to get it to work the way we want. These are the concepts that allow us to observe ourselves, make choices from among our experiences, and be aware of what we are doing … Anything you experience presents a choice for you to act on, or not. The story you tell about yourself is what you have chosen to become. A sum total of these stories and choices become your life.”

We can either choose to be life-giving or not! Pay attention to whatever you choose to consume most of your time. Are your acts of service motivated by genuine love – the spirit of the law- or are you trying to check another box? It’s been said the way to get things done is not to mind who gets the credit!

Serving others means that we look for ways to make someone’s life better. This week try to approach your interactions with your family, friends, coworkers, and neighbors not as opportunities for them to give you what you want, but rather as people who could be transformed by your Christ-like actions and words.

Whatever you choose – in thought or deed - may you be glorifying the Lord by your life!

Deacon John
Readings for the Week

Monday: Jas 1:1-11; Ps 119:67, 68, 71, 72, 75, 76; Mk 8:11-13
Tuesday: Jas 1:12-18; Ps 94:12-13a, 14-15, 18-19; Mk 8:14-21
Wednesday: Jas 1:19-27; Ps 15:2-3a, 3bc-4ab, 5; Mk 8:22-26
Thursday: Jas 2:1-9; Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7; Mk 8:27-33
Friday: Jas 2:14-24, 26; Ps 112:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Mk 8:34 — 9:1
Saturday: 1 Pt 5:1-4; Ps 23:1-3a, 4, 5, 6; Mt 16:13-19
Sunday: Lv 19:1-2, 17-18; Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8, 10, 12-13; 1 Cor 3:16-23; Mt 5:38-48

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, Feb 15 5:00PM Susan & James Shinners, by Mary
Sunday, Feb 16 8:00AM Intention of Parishioners
10:00AM Ida DeGeorge, by Somerset Friends
12:00PM Michele Siebenlist, by Eileen
5:30PM Mario Felipe, by Armand Limayo
Monday, Feb 17 8:00AM No Mass
Tuesday, Feb 18 8:00AM John Natale, by Vinnie & Joanne
Wednesday, Feb 19 8:00AM Jack Walter, by Connie & Anthony Rossi
Thursday, Feb 20 8:00AMSr. Margo Kavanaugh, RSM, by Marge, Barbara
Friday, Feb 21 8:00AM Lawrence Spozdzial, by The Spozdzial Family
Saturday, Feb 22 5:00PM John Pace, by Amy & Jim Bahr
Sunday, Feb 23 8:00AM Msg, Joseph Penna, by The Penna Family
10:00AM Intention of Parishioners
12:00PM Mary Ann Strosser, by Eileen King
5:30PM Birthday Blessings for Teresa Cassutt, by Jan Kusiak

Pray for those who are sick...

If you or a family member are sick, please call the Parish Office to add the name to this list. Names will be listed in the bulletin for 6 weeks. Please let us know when 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.

Eddie Banaag
Ronald Bianchini
Baby Genevieve Bonk
Timothy Brennan
Marie Brody
Baby Isla-Rose Callahan
Ellen Catalina
Frank Catalina
Darrie Christmas
Lisa & Marie DeFeo
Denise DeGeorge
Baby Ayonna Elizabeth
DeGraffenreid
Mary Dolan
Bill Dolphin
Dorothy Domenici
Mary Eads
Jeanette Etterre
Jane Fisher
Marianne Gerase
Emma Gergely
Rose Gessner
Mary Gidaro
John Gross
Fr. Doug Haefner
Paul Haucke
Sloopy Hoffman
Sally Hughes
Sandra Huseth
Merla Isabelo
Jack Kenefick
Ron Kermes
Michael Kirugi
The Litrakis Family
Kenneth Magat
Al Maglio
Susan Manansala
Christine Matthews
Elizabeth Miller
Lucy Memms
Eleanor Morehouse
Ursula Morgenberger
Dave Moynihan
Patricia Nese
Margaret O’Hare
Danny Onchangco
Bernadine Pasternak
Jim Pettit
Bill Plaskon
Brian Reyes
Maria Schwenzer
Sr. Mary Amata Shina, OSF
Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF
Michael Sithek
Dennis Stuewe
Christine Szczepanski
Fiorello Thomas
Jim Vance
Mona Wilson
Edward Yeager
...and for all who are homebound, elderly, in nursing care, or living with chronic illness

Pray for those who have died...

Sr. Geraldine Ann Kaspar, OSF
— His mercy endures forever.” Chronicles 6:34

Parish Leadership

Parish Pastoral Council, add @gmail.com:
Tom Phalen, Co-Chair, thomasephalen
Nicholas Grippo, Co-Chair, nickgripp
Tom Aussem
Denise Brown
Anthony Ekhaler
Lorraine Farr
Anne Marie Francis
Jeanne Kallmer
Claudine Langrin
Deborah Lesky
Joe Percoco
Marybeth Purcell
Lisa Robinson
Ana Kelly, Ex-Officio
Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio
Sr. Mary Amata Shina, OSF
Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF
Michael Sithek
Dennis Stuewe
Christine Szczepanski
Fiorello Thomas
Jim Vance
Mona Wilson
Edward Yeager
...and for all who are homebound, elderly, in nursing care, or living with chronic illness

Parish Finance Council:
Joe Porter, Chair financecouncil @stmatthias.net
Joe Porter, Chair
Parish Finance Council:
Joe Porter, Chair
financelcoun @stmatthias.net
Joe Porter, Chair
Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio
Susan Klimcsak
Barry Dusault
Gwen Orlovski
Audrey Francis
Kester Hector
Denise Sawicki, Ex-Officio
Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio
Sunday Reflections

**Why Do I Invite You to Join ‘LIVE LENT’?**

Dear Friends,

LENT is almost upon us! Most Catholics consider this as the best time to do something to renew themselves spiritually. Those who have chosen to join a LIVE LENT small group have found that they have benefited far more than they had hoped. In the survey the Organizing Team conducted, the responses were amazing! Here are some:

- “I really loved it and feel that it brought me closer to Jesus.”
- “I’m so glad that I had this opportunity to be in a small group and I can’t wait for the next session.”
- “This is a nice way to meet people in our parish, learn about their experiences as a Catholic and how the Gospel has influenced their life.”
- “Excellent place to learn and grow in our faith.”
- “I got more out of the Lenten bible sharing. Really enjoyed the small group dynamic.”

If you are still not convinced about joining LIVE LENT, read the following:

George Barna is a well known Christian pollster and religious sociologist. One of his recent surveys opened with this indictment, “Americans revere the Bible- but, by and large, they don’t read it. And because they don’t read it, they have become a nation of biblical illiterates.” Some of the data behind that summary is as follows: * Fewer than half of all adults can name the Four Gospels. * Sixty percent of Americans can’t name even five of the Ten Commandments. * Eighty-two percent believe that the proverb “God helps those who help themselves” is found in Scripture. For those who identify themselves as serious Christians, the percentage is only one percent better! * Twelve percent of adults think Joan of Arc was Noah’s wife! * Fifty percent of graduating high school seniors think Sodom and Gomorrah were husband and wife! [Quoted in R. Albert Mohler, “The Scandal of Biblical Illiteracy,” Southern Seminary: The Tie,” Spring 2006, Vol. 74, No. 1]

Do you consider yourself a Biblical literate or illiterate? LIVE LENT is an excellent way for us to be a little more familiar with the Word of God and to renew our spiritual energies which in turn will positively impact our family life. Why not give yourself a chance for that? You can still join these wonderful small groups.

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Orapankal

---

**Anger Destroyed His Life!**

Two great men were born in the year 1564 A.D. One man—Shakespeare lived to the age of fifty-two and became the greatest dramatist of the English language. The other—Christopher Marlow perished midway in his life at the age of twenty-nine, because of his anger. Christopher wrote some of the best tragic plays at a very young age. One of his best plays is “The Tragical Life of Dr. Faustus.” Had he lived longer he probably would have become greater than Shakespeare. He was a man given to anger. He picked up a quarrel with a man in a tavern. That man challenged him to a sword fight unto death. They both fought and Christopher was mortally wounded and later succumbed to his injuries. A great promise was terminated because of anger.

Jesus explains that the fifth commandment means respecting life in all its stages by honoring others in words and deeds. This means that we are to refrain from murdering someone not only physically but also emotionally. Anger is a common way we can deeply hurt others and bring untold harm in society. We have to control our anger because it is the rawest, strongest and most destructive of human emotions. Describing three stages of anger and the punishment each deserves, Jesus advises his disciples not to get angry in such a way that they sin. 1) **Anger in the heart** (“brief stage of insanity” Cicero), has two forms: a) a sudden, blazing flame of anger which dies suddenly. b) a surge of anger which boils inside and lingers so that the heart seeks revenge and refuses to forgive or forget. Jesus prescribes trial and sentencing by the Village Court of Elders. 2) **Anger in speech:** Using words which are insulting (“raka”="fool"), or damaging to the reputation (“moros” meaning a person of loose morals). Jesus says that such an angry one should be sent to the Sanhedrin or Jewish religion’s Supreme Court for trial and sentencing. 3) **Anger in action:** Sudden outbursts of uncontrollable anger often result in physical assault or abuse. Jesus says that such anger deserves hellfire as its punishment. In short, Jesus teaches that long-lasting anger is bad, contemptuous speech or destroying someone’s reputation is worse and harming another physically is the worst.

---

**Smile with Your Family**

Bless my ex-sister. Two sisters spent the day fighting. That evening they prepared for bed, still mad at each other. As usual, each knelt by the side of her bed for their prayers. “Dear God,” the 8-year-old began, “Bless Daddy and Mommy, bless our cat and dog.” Then she stopped. Her mother gently prodded, “Didn’t you forget somebody?” She glared across the bed at her 6-year-old sister and added, “And, oh yes, God, bless my ex-sister.”

Morgan, age 11 says: “When your mom is mad at your dad, don’t let her brush your hair.”

“But if he is alive in the morning...” Little Johnny had a quarrel with his younger brother, Willy. Before he said his night prayers, Johnny’s mother said to him, “Now I want you to forgive your brother.” But Johnny was not in a forgiving mood, “No, I won’t forgive him.” So the mother tried persuasions of every motherly variety, but nothing worked. Finally, she said, “What if your brother were to die tonight? How would you feel if you knew that you hadn’t forgiven him?” Johnny gave in or so it seemed. “All right, I forgive him,” he said, “but if he is alive in the morning, I’ll get even with him.”
Dentist’s Mirror

Evangelist Fred Brown used three images to describe the purpose of the Law. First he likened it to a dentist’s little mirror, which he sticks into the patient’s mouth. With the mirror, he can detect any cavities. But he doesn’t drill with it or use it to pull teeth. It can show him the decayed area or other abnormality, but it can’t provide the solution. Brown then drew another analogy. He said that the law is also like a flashlight. If suddenly at night the lights go out, you use it to guide you down the darkened basement stairs to the electrical box. When you point it toward the fuses, it helps you see the one that is burned out. But after you’ve removed the bad fuse, you don’t try to insert the flashlight in its place. You put in a new fuse to restore the electricity. In his third image, Brown likened the law to a plumb line. When a builder wants to check his work, he uses a weighted string to see if it’s true to the vertical. But if he finds that he has made a mistake, he doesn’t use the plumbing to correct it. He gets out his hammer and saw. The law points out the problem of sin; it doesn’t provide a solution.

We need to obey God’s Law, appreciating its basic principles: In obeying God’s law and Church law, let us remember the two basic principles on which these laws are based, namely, the principle of reverence and the principle of respect. In the first four of the Ten Commandments, we are asked to reverence God, reverence His holy Name, reverence His holy day and reverence our father and mother. The next set of commandments instructs us to respect life, one’s personal integrity and good name, the legal system, another’s property and another’s spouse. Our obedience to these laws must be prompted by love of God and gratitude to God for His blessings.

Passion and Reason

The Greek philosopher, Plato, four hundred years before Christ, wrote of two horses in the human heart, Passion and Reason. Passion is the wild untamed horse with boundless strength and energy, but very hard to control and direct. Reason is the tamed horse, accustomed to the reins, disciplined in stride and responding to directions. A chariot hitched to a pair of Passions might go anywhere but would surely crash or overturn before long. However, a charioteer who selects a pair of Reasons will be too cautious and fearful to go anywhere worthwhile. But if Passion and Reason can be paired, then the powerful energy is harnessed and the journey of life can be enjoyed. – The teaching of Jesus strongly affirms the need of rules, but rules are to be understood as a means to the end, which is a life of spiritual strength and commitment. Sylvester O’Flynn in ‘The Good News of Mathew’s Year’

Stealing a Hammer Is No Big Deal…?

A man confessed to his pastor that he stole something, a hammer, from the steel mill where he worked. Everybody was doing it, he said. No big deal. His pastor, though, told him about a report in the newspapers that thefts at this particular mill averaged out to a thousand dollars a week. His hammer along with what others were taking was costing the company over $50,000 a year. “To make up for that loss,” his pastor noted, “the factory raises the price of steel. Consequently, everyone who buys a car, purchases an appliance, remodels his house, etc., has to pay the price for your hammer. You didn’t hurt the company,” his pastor assured him, “you hurt everybody in this city” [B.A. Botkin, ed., A Treasury of American Anecdotes (New York: Galahad Books), pp. 205-206].] And that’s true. We hurt the entire society when integrity is not maintained. It pays to be a person of integrity.

To Be or Not To Be: That Is The Question!

To some extent, every person is a split personality. There is a part of each person that is attracted to good, and a part that is attracted to evil. William Shakespeare presents this conflict beautifully in his play “Hamlet”. On a dark winter night, a ghost walked the ramparts of Elsinore Castle in Denmark. Discovered first by a pair of watchmen, then by the scholar Horatio, the ghost resembled the recently deceased King Hamlet, whose brother Claudius had inherited the throne and married the king’s widow, Queen Gertrude. When Horatio and the watchmen bring Prince Hamlet, the son of Gertrude and the dead king, to see the ghost, it spoke to him, declaring ominously that it was indeed his father’s spirit, and that he was murdered by none other than Claudius. Ordering Hamlet to seek revenge on the man who usurped his throne and married his wife, the ghost disappeared with the dawn. Prince Hamlet devoted himself to avenging his father’s death, but, because he was contemplative and thoughtful by nature, he delayed, entering into a deep melancholy and even apparent madness. He thought of taking his life: “To be, or not to be: that is the question”. Hamlet was unable to make a decision. One part of him instigated him to end everything in death. But the other part told him that it was against the commandment of God. We all experience this inner tension. So long as there is this inner tension, this inner conflict, life must be insecure. In such circumstances the only way to safety, is to eradicate the desire for the forbidden thing forever. The standard Jesus demands from us is not only our deeds but also our thoughts should be pure. So Jesus forbids forever the anger which broods, the anger which will not forget, the anger which refuses to be pacified, the anger which seeks revenge.

Parenting Tune-Up

Feel frustrated when the kids keep anger and are unwilling to forgive? Try this method: Ask your children how they would feel if they were the ones hurt. Would they want the one who hurt them to forgive? And how would they feel if the one who hurt them is unwilling to forgive?
Sunday Reflections

Secular Media on Why Marriage Matters!

"...We should provide the facts about the importance of marriage as a matter of child welfare and economic aspiration. As a society, we have launched highly effective public education campaigns on much less momentous issues, from smoking to recycling... For now, the decline of marriage is our most ignored national crisis...”
-- *Time Magazine.*

“National Marriage Week presents a chance to focus on rebuilding a culture of marriage for this generation.”
-- *Newsweek Magazine.*

“...The Brookings Institution says that if we had the marriage rate today that we had in 1970, there would be a 25 percent drop in poverty. The Heritage Foundation says that marriage drops the probability of a child living in poverty by 82 percent.” -- *Fox News*

Celebrating Our Faith—Liturgy

Beginning of Lent

Mark your calendars for **February 26th, the beginning of Lent.** Once again, St. Matthias will offer drive-through ashes come rain or shine, in addition to mass and prayer services on Wednesday, February 26th. Here is the schedule of services:

- **7:00 a.m.** - Mass with the distribution of ashes
- **9:00 a.m.** - School Prayer Service for the distribution of ashes
- **12:10 p.m.** - Mass with the distribution of ashes
- **4:00 - 5:30 p.m.** - Drive-through ashes distribution (between the school and parish office). Enter from JFK and follow the instructions of ground attendants. **If you would like to help distribute ashes for one or both shifts of the drive-through (3:45 - 4:45 or 4:45 to 5:45), please contact the Parish Office or email pstone@stmatthias.net.**
- **7:30 p.m.** - Prayer Service for the distribution of Ashes

**Lift Every Voice and Sing**

We are starting to rehearse our music for Lent, Holy Week and Easter— the most rewarding time of year for pastoral musicians!

- Saturday Night Folk Group?
- Sunday Morning Choir?
- Sunday Evening Revelation Choir?
- Sunday Evening Umoja Imani Gospel Choir?
- Adult Handbell Choir?
- Youth Handbell Choir?
- Children’s Choir - grades 3-8?

Are you an experienced singer who reads music well? Would you like to train for the Ministry of Cantor?

A steady flow of new musicians is what keeps our Music Ministry at St. Matthias alive and well. We especially need tenors and basses, but all voice parts are welcome, especially those of you who have previous choir experience.

Call the Music Office 732-828-1400 or email Music Director Joan Best Seamon jseamon@atmatthias.net.

**The Way of the Cross**

The Stations of the Cross will be prayed on **each Friday of Lent at 7:00 p.m. in the church.** We anticipate that a different St. Matthias ministry will lead the Stations each Friday - the Pastoral Council, The Music Ministry, Lectors, G.I.F.T., Youth Ministry and Rosary Altar Society. Each ministry will focus on a different but equally powerful theme: Praying the Stations With Faith and Courage, for Seniors, for the Suffering, Ill and Disabled, With Children, With Teens, and Mary’s Way of the Cross. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for the schedule.

**Contribution Envelopes**

We are still experiencing issues with the delivery of our contribution envelopes. If you have not yet received your envelopes, please let us know. You may also use a check and include your envelope number on the check, or place cash in a regular envelope and include your name, address and envelope number on the outside.

**The Universal Prayer**

The Universal Prayer (Prayer of the Faithful) call and response leading up to Lent will be:

**CALL:** LORD IN YOUR MERCY...
**RESPONSE:** GRACIOUSLY HEAR US.

**February Baptism**

We at St. Matthias welcome to our parish community **Mikael Alexandros Vassiliou** who was baptized in February. We pray for him & his parents to raise him in God’s grace.
**St. Matthias School Happenings**

There are two events scheduled at the Franklin Library to celebrate Black History Month and our students are invited to participate in both. There will be a Black History Jeopardy Night at the Franklin Library for Middle School students on Monday, February 24 at 7 PM. There will be an art display of original work done by black Franklin residents (ages 3+) at the library on Wednesday, February 26.

Once again, thanks to all who made Night of Winners such a success. A huge thanks to Christine Lavelle and Danielle Hanily for their leadership in this endeavor. It was an amazing night.

We are so looking forward to expanding our school family in the future. Encourage your friends to make a call and schedule an appointment to learn more about SMS. New students are encouraged to spend a day with us to get a feel for what makes us a unique family of learners.

---

**Dr. Mark Dean**

Dean co-invented the personal computer, dramatically changing the way people work.

**Background:** Dean was born in Jefferson City, Tennessee in 1957. From an early age, Dean showed a love for building things. As a young boy, Dean constructed a tractor from scratch with the help of his father, a supervisor at the Tennessee Valley Authority. Dean also excelled in many different areas, standing out as a gifted athlete and an extremely smart student who graduated with straight A’s from Jefferson City High School. In 1979, he graduated at the top of his class at the University of Tennessee, where he studied engineering.

**Invention:** After college, Dean worked for IBM as a computer scientist. He was one of the original inventors of the IBM personal computer and the color PC monitor. He is also responsible for creating the technology that allows devices, such as keyboards, mice, and printers, to be plugged into a computer and communicate with each other. Dean also managed the team that created the one-gigahertz processor chip. Dean continued to further his own education, pursuing a master’s degree and eventually a doctorate from Stanford University. In all, Dean holds three of IBM’s original nine patents and, in total, has 20 more patents associated with his name.

---

**2020-2021 Tuition Assistance from the Diocese**

Families interested in applying for tuition assistance to attend an eligible Diocese of Metuchen elementary or high school may apply online now through FACTS Grant & Aid Assessment at https://online.factsmgt.com/aid.

Online applications must be completed (including all required documentation) by no later than March 31, 2020. Applications are available in English and Spanish.

Families that need assistance completing the online application or need access to a computer to apply should contact their school.

---

**The Night of Winners 2020 Committee would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of the parish and school families who supported St. Matthias School’s BIGGEST annual fundraiser!**

The total Super 50/50 amount was $15,235.00. The winner of half the amount was Amy Walsh.

---

**2020-2021 Asistencia de Matrícula de la Diócesis**

Las familias interesadas en solicitar asistencia con la matrícula para acudir a una escuela primaria o secundaria elegible de la Diócesis de Metuchen, pueden presentar su solicitud en línea ahora a través FACTS Grant & Aid Assessment en la dirección electrónica https://online.factsmgt.com/aid. Las solicitudes en línea deben completarse (incluida toda la documentación requerida) antes del 31 de Marzo de 2020. Las solicitudes están disponibles en inglés y en español.

Las familias que necesiten ayuda para completar la solicitud en línea o necesiten acceso a una computadora para postularse deben comunicarse directamente con su escuela.
...In these years, the World Economic Forum has offered an opportunity for the engagement of diverse stakeholders to explore innovative and effective ways of building a better world. It has also provided an arena where political will and mutual cooperation can be guided and strengthened in overcoming the isolationism, individualism and ideological colonization that sadly characterizes too much contemporary debate.

In light of the ever growing and interrelated challenges affecting our world (cf. *Laudato Si’*, 138 ff.), the theme you have chosen to consider this year – Stakeholders for a Coherent and Sustainable World – points to the need for a greater engagement at all levels in order to address more effectively the diverse issues facing humanity. Throughout the past five decades, we have witnessed geopolitical transformations and significant changes, from the economy and labor markets to digital technology and the environment. Many of these developments have benefited humanity, while others have had adverse effects and created significant development lacunae. While today’s challenges are not the same as those of half a century ago, a number of features remain relevant as we begin a new decade.

The overriding consideration, never to be forgotten, is that we are all members of the one human family. The moral obligation to care for one another flows from this fact, as does the correlative principle of placing the human person, rather than the mere pursuit of power or profit, at the very centre of public policy. This duty, moreover, is incumbent upon business sectors and governments alike, and is indispensable in the search for equitable solutions to the challenges we face. As a result it is necessary to move beyond short-term technological or economic approaches and to give full consideration to the ethical dimension in seeking resolutions to present problems or proposing initiatives for the future.

All too often materialistic or utilitarian visions, sometimes hidden, sometimes celebrated, lead to practices and structures motivated largely, or even solely, by self-interest. This typically views others as a means to an end and entails a lack of solidarity and charity, which in turn gives rise to real injustice, whereas a truly integral human development can only flourish when all members of the human family are included in, and contribute to, pursuing the common good. In seeking genuine progress, let us not forget that to trample upon the dignity of another person is in fact to weaken one’s own worth.

In my Encyclical Letter *Laudato Si’*, I drew attention to the importance of an “integral ecology” that takes into account the full implications of the complexity and interconnectedness of our common home. Such a renewed and integrated ethical approach calls for “a humanism capable of bringing together the different fields of knowledge, including economics, in the service of a more integral and integrating vision” (*ibid.*, 141).

In acknowledging the achievements of the past fifty years, it is my hope that the participants in today’s Forum, and those to be held in the future, will keep in mind the high moral responsibility each of us has to seek the integral development of all our brothers and sisters, including those of future generations. May your deliberations lead to a growth in solidarity, especially with those most in need, who experience social and economic injustice and whose very existence is even threatened...

Have you signed up yet? Don’t miss this wonderful opportunity to build community in a small group this Lent!

Sign up by THIS WEEKEND for a Live Lent group. Groups start week of Feb. 23.

To sign up, scan the code to the left, or go to: www.stmatthias.net/connect/LiveLent2020

Being Good Stewards

2020 Bishop’s Annual Appeal Stepping Forward in Faith: Grace in Action

Please watch your mailbox for a letter from Bishop Checchio coming to you this week announcing the 2020 Bishop’s Annual Appeal. The campaign will again be conducted during Lent and our parish can earn a rebate of 50% of the amount collected over goal.

Through your support of the Bishop’s Annual Appeal you help those in our diocese whose needs are the greatest—the poor, the homeless, and those struggling with illness or grief. Among other needed pastoral ministries, your gift also supports the formation of seminarians and enhances the work of campus ministry through the Catholic Center at Rutgers University. The many pastoral, educational and charitable ministries of the Diocese of Metuchen would not be possible without a generous contribution from every household. Please be as generous as your means allow.
Order Gertrude Hawk Chocolates
40% of Your Purchase Will Benefit St. Matthias School
Chocolates will arrive at the school for pickup around April 3, just in time for the Easter holiday. Place your order online by going to: &nbsp;https://www.gertrudehawkchocolates.com/fundraising and enter Group Number 119391. Questions? Contact: Melissa Garlatti, melissa.garlatti@gmail.com

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stewardship Totals for Fiscal Year 2019-2020</th>
<th>Faith Direct for this Month</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current Month</td>
<td>Monthly-to-date Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-Pew Collection</td>
<td>Year-to-date Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faith Direct*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekly Total</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 2, 2020 $16,511</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$16,511.00</td>
<td>$34,386.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 9, 2020 $17,875</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$17,875.00</td>
<td>$872,381.08</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Stewardship Reflection — Feb 16, 2020:
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
“For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.” MATTHEW 5:20

The scribes and Pharisees lived according to the letter of the law and they used this to elevate themselves above the other people. Jesus is clear—it’s the love that you have in your heart that will get you to heaven. Simply following church rules out of obligation, not love, does not put you on the path to heaven. Attending Mass on Sunday and then gossiping about a fellow parishioner on the parking lot is an example of a modern day Pharisee.

Reflexiones—16 de febrero de 2020
6° domingo del Tiempo Ordinario
“Porque les digo que, a menos que su justicia sea superior a la de los escribas y fariseos, nunca entrarán en el reino de los cielos”. (MATEO 5:20)
Los escribas y fariseos vivían de acuerdo con la letra de la ley y usaron esto para elevarse por encima de las otras personas. Jesús es claro: es el amor que tienes en tu corazón lo que te llevará al cielo. Simplemente seguir las reglas de la iglesia por obligación, no por amor, no te pone en el camino al cielo. Asistir a misa el domingo y luego cotillear sobre un compañero feligrés en el estacionamiento es un ejemplo de un fariseo moderno.

Caring for Others

St. Matthias Meal Brigade for Fr. Abraham
If you would be willing to prepare a dinner meal for Fr. Abraham, please sign up by going to our website, www.stmatthias.net/connect/meals and click on the link. Meals should be placed in the Cooler on the Rectory porch. The Rectory — 166 JFK Blvd. — is the house next door to the Parish Office. Fr. Abraham has no dietary restrictions. Anything you prepare will be greatly appreciated!

Building Community

Senior High Youth Group (9th-12th graders) - Seven Reasons to Use Your Phone MORE This Lent!
THIS EVENING, 6:30 pm, dePorres Rm (Parish Office)
Sacrifice is good, and fasting is absolutely necessary. However, if we don’t learn to use things for the good of the Kingdom of God, we might be missing the boat. It’s the same with using your humor to glorify God, or using your body to glorify God, or using your music to glorify God – we can use our phones the same way.
These might sound basic, but we will discuss suggestions of how to use your phone to do good this Lent. Warning: side effects may include deepening of friendships, growing in holiness, and seeing God in places you don’t usually notice Him. There will be activities and snacks. All senior high students are welcome.
Building Community

February 23, 2020 12:00 - 6:00 pm General Youth Group (6th - 12th grade) Trip to Seaside Heights Boardwalk. Walk on the beach, play in Lucky Leo Arcade and then pizza to follow. Students will receive $25 arcade gift card to use. A generous family has underwritten this. There will be only a $5/person charge. Students will be transported by school bus (Fr. Joe driving) There is a limit of 40 people, so it will be based on a first-come first-served basis.

Registration form is available at: www.stmatthias.net/connect/BeachTrip and available in both School and Parish Offices. Return completed form and money to Parish Office. Students can bring extra money for extra time in arcade and ice cream, if they would like. All else will be covered.

A Special Retirement Announcement
S. Anita Kuchera and S. Barbara DeStefano have officially retired from the Center’s main office operations. Although they no longer report to work every day, it’s important to note that they are both still involved in the Center’s activities. We thank them for their years of service to our parish.

Their years of commitment and dedication to the Center and its mission have positioned them as eternally beloved by all who know them. It’s heartening to know that the Center, and those who travel to us, will still be blessed by their presence and love.

Additionally, they will be specially acknowledged at this year’s Gala ~ COMING TO AMERICA ~ on May 30, 2020. Mark your calendars and get your tickets to the event!
(For ticket information, please call Jan at 610.867.8890 ext:1035 or email her at stfranciscenter@gmail.com)

Lenten Taize
Mar. 31, 2020
6:00PM-9:00PM
(Retreat Center Chapel)
Freewill Offering Welcomed
A special service to calm our minds & gentle our spirit.
Led by:
Sr. Barbara DeStefano & Sr. Anita Kuchera
St. Francis Center for Renewal, 395 Bridle Path Road Bethlehem PA 18017 610.867.8890 www.stfrancisctr.org

Connecting with Our Local Community

Italy & Sicily: Pilgrimage
With Fr. David Kosmoski from St. Andrew’s Church, 244 Avenel St., Avenel, NJ 07001
Nov. 2-13, 2020 $3479.00 (includes air/land/tour plus gov’t taxes/airline charges from both gateways). Tour includes a Papal audience. Call St. Andrew’s for details & brochure, 732-634-4355

Prison Ministry – Volunteers Needed
For: “Middlesex Cty Adult Corrections” facility North Brunswick, NJ (off Rt. 130)
Meet once a week on Tuesdays from 10:00 to 11:00am
Call Paul Dwyer for details: 732-794-3069
Many thx - if you have any further questions, pls. call me at: 732-213-0242 Fredericka Lupino  *This ministry is affiliated with the Diocese.

About St. Matthias

Parish Registration — Welcome new members! Please register in the Parish Office during business hours — 9 AM—9 PM Mon-Thurs, 9AM –6PM Fri., and 9 AM - 1 PM Sat.

Homebound/Hospital Visitations — We visit St. Peter’s & Robert Wood Johnson Hospital several times. If you have a family member in any area hospital, please call the parish office to let us know.

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.

Monthly Food Collection
On the first Sunday of each month parishioners are asked to bring food items for the Franklin Food Bank.

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).