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
Dolores A Kann, Faith Formation, dkann
Mary Beth Oria, Business Administrator, moria
Deacon John Radvanski, deaconjohn
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 Godet, Formation/Parish Support Sec.
Leslie Guillen Evening Receptionist/Bulletin Editor
Amy Hanna, Parish Support Secretary
Joan Jones, Evening Receptionist
Vinnie Natale, Bookkeeper
Denise Sawicki, Accountant
Trish Stumper, Parish Support Secretary

Maintenance Staff
Julo Montero, Maintenance Supervisor
Mario Brown, Custodian
Connoy Davis, Custodian
Juan Diaz Flores, Custodian
Silvia Nizama, Housekeeper
Mohamed Sisoko, Custodian

Parish News—When Are We Re-Opening Masses?

Read Bishop Checchio’s letter about how our diocese will re-start in phases, www.diometuchen.org/restoration-of-masses-with-a-congregation

As Fr. Abraham announced in last week’s St. Matthias Family Connect (SMFC) e-letter, the Parish Pastoral Council has created a Task Force to recommend the re-opening steps for St. Matthias.

We are happy to announce that we will begin “Drive-Thru Communion” next weekend, June 13 & 14.

Please read the upcoming issue of SMFC for the latest details. To subscribe, go to www.stmatthias.net/connect/SMFC, view the latest e-letter and then click on the blue button: “Join Our Email List”. Details will also be posted on our website.

Poet’s Corner: Spiritual Direction Prayers/Poems by Pat Leposa

America, America!

Land of the free,
Home of the brave,
Chaos rules
Red hot anger,
Long repressed
Explodes!
A city burns!
Cars set on fire,
Charcoal skeletons
Litter the streets.
George Floyd,
Our Black brother dies!
An unspeakable tragedy
Ignites the masses.
“I can’t breathe” the Mantra echoes from Coast to coast.
Protests, protests!
A nation mourns!
Father God, heal the Broken hearted!
May she become
The land of the free,
The home of the brave.
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

Visit our “UPLIFT” Facebook Group
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/UCwhok3XnuxxyCq5E1WJGA

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 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.

The Most Holy Trinity

From the Pastor & the Pastoral Staff

Next Level Virtual Ignition Retreat May 29-30

Over 77 people participated in the Center for Faith Justice (CFJ) Next Level “ignition” retreat, which included the 5 parishes involved in Year One and 6 additional parishes including St. Matthias in Year Two. All the youth had their first session on Friday and joined the adults on Saturday afternoon.

After the welcome by Stephanie Peddicord, President of CFJ, our first presentation included a video by a CFJ WorX alum, Cait O’Donnell, who spoke about her experience of discerning “vocation” or “life’s purpose/God’s calling”. Through telling her story of a life changing moment as a high school student, which ultimately [through her Mom’s insistence] led her to CFJ and their Justice WorX and LeaderWorX programs. She simply explained her view of “vocation”; “How do you know?” with these 3 points: 1. What do I love, am passionate about, energizes me; 2. What am I good at; 3. What does the world need from me. As a high school freshman, Cait had hoped to be a basketball star, play in high school, college and even perhaps professionally. Cait instead pursued studies and a career specialization in refugee and migrant services which has taken her all over the globe. Today, she is a social worker currently serving as the program manager of an organization that assists African and Caribbean immigrants in West Philadelphia.

The next presentation was by a member of the CFJ Advisory Board, Dr. Patrick Spranke, D.Min, Director of Youth Ministry, St. Louis Parish, Clarksville, MD, who spoke about key tools we use in ministry with youth: reminding them/us that we are sacramental people—how/where did you see Jesus today?; spirituality—God, others, rooted in actions for others; evangelizers—listening, willingness to confront others with care; How do parishes engage youth—empathize with today’s young people, take Jesus’ message seriously, prioritize young people and families everywhere, the importance of families in youth ministry today, be the best neighbors to people in need. We broke out into smaller groups to explore varied aspects and questions concerning the above points somewhat similar to the questions raised in our Next Level Parish Survey, which if you haven’t as yet completed, please do so today http://bit.ly/nextlevelparish. It is most important and will be used to develop the Passion Project with will involve the entire parish.

The afternoon session broke us up according to parishes. We, with our youth delegates, were asked to first form together an agreement, to move youth ministry to the forefront of our community; commit to meeting weekly with our mentors and Next Level coordinators, likely using an app called GroupMeet; and, also, how to best accommodate leadership styles. The next step was to write a St. Matthias Next Level Mission Statement— we did so and Emily Chavez presented it to the large virtual group. Our Youth Delegates will present it to you in the near future. The day concluded with prayer. — Dee Nann

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: 1 Kgs 17:1-6; Ps 121:1bc-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8; Mt 5:1-12
Tuesday: 1 Kgs 17:7-16; Ps 4:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8; Mt 5:13-16
Wednesday: 1 Kgs 18:20-39; Ps 16:1b-2ab, 4, 5ab and 8, 11; Mt 5:17-19
Thursday: Acts 11:21b-26; 12:1-3; Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4, 5-6; Mt 5:17-19
Friday: 1 Kgs 19:9a, 11-16; Ps 27:7-8a, 8b-9abc, 13-14; Mt 5:27-32
Saturday: 1 Kgs 19:19-21; Ps 16:1b-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10; Mt 5:33-37
Sunday: Dt 8:2-3, 14b-16a; Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20; 1 Cor 10:16-17; Jn 6:51-58

Mass Intentions for the Week*

Saturday, Jun 6 5:00PM Joseph Doyle, by Isabelle & John Baker
Sunday, Jun 7 8:00AM Intention of Parishioners
10:00AM Dawn Boisvert, by Kevin Boisvert
12:00PM John Rochford, by Eileen Siebenlist
5:30PM Deceased Members of the Seewai & Ojo Families, by Helen Ojo
Monday, Jun 8 8:00AM Will Cuddeback, by Mom & Dad
Tuesday, Jun 9 8:00AM Mary Carcich, by Lou & Barb Carcich
Wednesday, Jun 10 8:00AM Mae Schunk, by John, Ellen, John Patrick, Valerie & Steven
Thursday, Jun 11 8:00AM Eternal Peace to Sr. Geraldine Ann Kaspar, by The OSF Community
Friday, Jun 12 8:00AM Health & Blessings for Maksha & The Nathan Family, by The Nathan Family
Saturday, Jun 13 5:00PM Frank & Leona Sciotto, by Lena & grandchildren
Sunday, Jun 14 8:00AM Antonio, Aldrin & Amiel Garcia, by Violy Garcia
10:00AM Intention of Parishioners
12:00PM John Rochford, by Cliff & Carol Rockwell
5:30PM Santiago Butler, by The Moro Family

*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.

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.

Elbren, Sr. & Natalia Agdeppo
Rosemary Albaugh
Rosemarie Aulino
Eddie Banaag
Ronald Bianchini
Genevieve Bonk
Clement Bottone
Dylan Braunstein
Timothy Brennan
Marie Brody
Baby Isla-Rose Callahan
Tara Capatosto
Ellen Catalina
Frank Catalina
Daria Cergnul
Mema Chambers
Darie Christmas
Ken Collins
Charles Connelly
Lourdes & Luzminda Costin
Lisa DeFeo
Nancy Diaz
Vanessa DiRocco
Mary Dolan
Bill Dolphin
Dorothy Domenici
Jaclyn, Ariana & Thomas Donlon
Anthony Driz & Family
Mary Eads
Briana Edwards
Emma Gergely
Rose Gessner
Mary Gidaro
Jeanne Gita
John Gross
Emma A. Himey
Sloopy Hoffman
Merla Isabelo
Pamela Kannaire
Michael Krugi
Milicent Kraft
Heman Krueger
Taylor LaCort
Alexander Luzius
The Litakis Family
Kenneth Magat
Monique Marie Mageot
Al Maglio
Patrick Mahoney
Michelina Malafonte
Susan Manansala
Lourdes Maniego
Elizabeth Miller
Lucy Mims
Marius Moran
Eleanor Morehouse
Ursula Morgenberger
Dave Moynihan
Patricia (Pat) Nese
Margaret O’Hare
Danny Onchangco
Julianne Opydike
Pace
Mafalda Paforiiti
Bemadine Pastemak
Elsa Peñag
Jim Pettit
Chris Retz
Angie & David Rind
Maria Schwenzer
Sr. Immanuela
Sr. Jessy, OSF
Sr. Mary Amata Shina, OSF
Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF
Dorothy Smith
Encarnacion (Gina) So
Dennis Stuewe
Roseann Szani
Christine Szczepanski
Juan Uelenio
Denise Urquhart
Mona Wilson
Mark T. Worthington
Edward Yeager
Everyone who is ill with Covid-19...and for all who are homebound, elderly, in nursing care, or living with chronic illness

Pray for those who have died...

"His mercy endures forever.”
Chronicles
Dear Friends,

We hope you are doing well during this difficult pandemic. Please know that we and the Saint Matthias staff are praying for you and please feel free to reach out for help if needed.

First, a brief background. When the Finance Council was re-formed a little over a year ago, our parish faced challenges which included some substantial debt. We received a statement from the Diocese for three years of assessment and property and liability insurance premiums totaling $1,014,577. Some financial matters were “on hold” as we needed to wait for the Diocesan Audit and the prosecutor’s report to determine these. Unfortunately we are still waiting. We paid our bills, except for the mounting Diocesan payments. Thankfully, Fr. Abraham had already begun implementing programs to reduce spending which have continued. We also started planning for the longer term, so ministry programs and facility improvements could be undertaken. These efforts began to bear fruit and we began a plan and a schedule to pay current Diocesan debt of $367,962. In January and February payments were made totaling $122,654. Then the pandemic hit! This added challenges to our parish and we have temporarily suspended the monthly payments.

We do have some very good news. Saint Matthias applied for the Paycheck Protection Plan (Federal CARES Act) and while difficult to get, we received $468,951 on May 11, 2020. This is a low-interest loan which may be forgiven and we will work to achieve that goal. It will cover payroll expenses for the next eight weeks. Also, some unexpected income will result, thanks to the Carnival Leadership Team’s Appeal and a bequest from an estate.

The not so good news is the uncertainty of next year or beyond. When will we resume Sunday Mass with the entire congregation present? When will jobs and businesses be back to “normal”? We must plan for this to be a slow process. Meanwhile, monthly expenses continue at about $141,000, down about 8% from last year and down over 17% from the prior year. At the same time, weekend collections are down. Year-to-date weekend collections decreased over $185,000 or 14% from the comparable ten months of last year and the trend shows the gap continuing to widen. The last four weeks and the Easter collection are compared below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>2019</th>
<th>Easter 2020</th>
<th>Easter 2019</th>
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<tr>
<td>4/26-5/17, 2020</td>
<td>$105,586</td>
<td>$65,414</td>
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As we stated in the bulletin last month, the first couple weeks without Sunday Mass collections caused a severe impact on our finances. We are grateful that so many of you stepped up with mail-in envelopes and Parish Giving sign-ups. Your sacrifice to continue weekly donations is evident, and we understand that for many, this becomes difficult or even impossible. We must revise our budget but we don’t know yet if weekly collections will get back to “normal”. That said, anything you can contribute regularly is important.

Let us pray for our Parish and for each other with the hope to see each other in church again soon.

Barry Dusault, Audrey Francis, Kester Hector, Sue Klimcsak, Gwen Orlowski, Joe Porter
Saint Matthias Financial Council
Sunday Reflections

Marriage Tune-Up

Marriage is often made up of two “stiff-necked people.” (Exodus 34:9) What are you most stubborn about in your relationship? It’s natural to want to get one’s way. However, sometimes it’s better to give way as a sign of love.

Parenting Tune-Up

How do you teach our children that we must sacrifice our time, money, and ego for those we love? Ask your children to name the sacrifices they are making during this lockdown. Then ask them to name the sacrifices they see you making as parents for them.

“Trinity” is not in the Bible, but...

True, the term “Trinity is not in the Bible, but the doctrine of the Trinity is based fully in the Bible:

A) The Annunciation (Luke 1: 26-38), describes how God the Father sent the angel Gabriel to Mary to announce to her that God the Holy Spirit, would “come upon” her, that “the power the Most High will overshadow” her, that the Son would be made flesh in her womb: “Therefore, the Child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God.”

B) During the baptism of Jesus (Matthew 3: 16-17), the Holy Spirit was shown descending on Jesus in the form of a Dove, while the Voice of God the Father was heard from the clouds, saying, “You are My Beloved Son in Whom I am well pleased” (Luke 4:22).

C) John (Chapters 15 through 18), presents the detailed teaching of Jesus on the Persons of the Holy Trinity.

D) In the preaching mission given by the risen Lord to the disciples, Jesus commanded them to baptize people “in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” (Confer also Matthew 28:19; John 10:30).

Smile with Your Family

Zen Master Has A Hotdog: The Zen master steps up to the hot dog cart and says: "Make me one with everything." The hot dog vendor fixes a hot dog and hands it to the Zen master, who pays with a $20 bill. The hot dog vendor puts the bill in the cash drawer and closes the drawer. "Where’s my change?" asks the Zen master. The hot dog vendor responds: "Change must come from within." ☺

New Patient History: When the new patient was settled comfortably on the couch, the psychiatrist began his therapy session. "As you are a new patient with me, I do apologize, but I haven’t had time to review your case file and I’m not really aware of your problem." The psychiatrist said, "So perhaps, you should start at the very beginning." "But of course." Replied the patient, "In the beginning, I created the Heavens and the Earth ..." "

Church Signs during Coronavirus:
Three things you need to know:
1. This too shall pass;
2. You are loved;
3. Its Monday ...... or may be Saturday.
Wash your hands & say your prayers, cause Jesus and gems are everywhere!

Trinity is God within Us

Today’s feast invites us to live in the awareness of the presence of the Triune God within us: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. The mystery of the Holy Trinity, a doctrine enunciated by the ecumenical councils of Nicaea and Constantinople, is one of the fundamental doctrines of Christianity and the greatest mystery of our Faith, namely, that there are Three Divine Persons, sharing the same Divine nature in one God.

“There is one God, Who has three Persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Each Person is God, yet there is still only one God” (CCC #234, #253-256). We have the Father Who is the Creator, the Son the Redeemer and the Holy Spirit the Sanctifier and the Counselor. The doctrine of Three Persons in one God, co-equal and co-eternal in Divinity yet distinct in Person, is not explicitly spelt out in the Bible. Even the very word “Trinity” is not found in the Bible. But the doctrine of the Trinity underlies all major Christian feasts, including Christmas, the Epiphany, Good Friday, Easter, the Ascension and Pentecost. All the official prayers of the Church, including the Holy Mass and the Sacraments, begin with an address to the Holy Trinity: “In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” We are baptized, absolved of our sins and anointed in the name of the Blessed Trinity. Throughout the world, church bells can ring three times a day inviting Christians to pray to God the Father (the Provider); God the Son (the Savior); and God the Holy Spirit (the Sanctifier), giving glory to the Triune God for the Incarnation of the Son and our Redemption. We bless ourselves with the Sign of the Cross, invoking the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and we conclude our prayers glorifying the Holy Trinity, saying “Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.” Today’s readings convey the fundamental mystery that the Triune God reaches out to people with love, seeking the deepest communion with them.
And Jesus answering, said, "What?!

generated, in consideration of the various functions by which God is related to his creation, but only on the fact that Scrip-

Peter answered and said from the dead; others say Elias, or other of the old prophets. And Jesus answered and said, But whom do you say that I am?

Jesus said, Whom do men say that I am?  And his disciples answered and said, Some say you are John the Baptist returned

Hear this story!

Trinity Not As Doctrine But As Model

God's Garden in Baltimore

"... God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him."  John 3: 16-18

A group of high school students organized to clean up an abandoned park in a Baltimore neighborhood. They picked up trash, repaired fences and converted old bookcases into raised gardening beds. They built up soil, dug holes, and carefully planted impatients and coleus. Some days the kids became frustrated, because the broken bottles, syringes, and wrappers that they had picked up would reappear. They felt their work was being disrespected. But they persisted - and as the months passed, the students saw their work grow exponentially. The flowers bloomed, and people donated additional plants and pitched in to help water them. A steady stream of people told the students they were glad that the little park hadn't remained abandoned.

The community leader who organized the students says: "Planting flowers goes against the culture of death and violence. It pushes back against the corrosive effects of much of everyday life . . . [The students] began to think about how they could improve the quality of the neighborhood where they live. They took pride in it." The team pursued beauty in the midst of neglect. They became aware of God's kingdom on that small patch of land.

God is present in the persistent, hard work of these students, in the beauty of the flowers that re-claims the baren park, in the Spirit of cooperation of the neighborhood to maintain the park. In today's Gospel, Jesus challenges Nicodemus to move beyond old, incomplete and "childlike" images of God in order to grow toward a more complete, "adult" faith that recognizes the God who works and moves from his Spirit of unfathomable love; the God who constantly takes the initiative to be reconciled with us, despite our failings; the God who is not removed from his creation but constantly present in every act of love and compassion and forgiveness.

Hear this story!

Jesus said, Whom do men say that I am?  And his disciples answered and said, Some say you are John the Baptist returned from the dead; others say Elias, or other of the old prophets. And Jesus answered and said, But whom do you say that I am?

Peter answered and said, "Thou art the Logos, existing in the Father as His rationality and then, by an act of His will, being generated, in consideration of the various functions by which God is related to his creation, but only on the fact that Scripture speaks of a Father, and a Son, and a Holy Spirit, each member of the Trinity being coequal with every other member, and each acting inseparably with and interpenetrating every other member, with only an economic subordination within God, but causing no division which would make the substance no longer simple."

And Jesus answering, said, "What?!

The concept of Trinity has developed into a doctrine that seems quite incomprehensible and meaningless. If Trinity has to have any relevance to us, we need to see the Trinity as the model for our Christian families. We are created in love -- to be a community of loving persons, just as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are united in love. From the day of our Baptism, we have belonged to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. How privileged we are to grow up in such a beautiful family! Hence, let us turn to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit in prayer every day. We belong to the family of the Triune God. The love, unity and joy in the relationship among the Father, Son and Holy Spirit should be the supreme model of our relationships within our Christian families.

Our families become truly Christian when we live in a relationship of love with God and with others.

We are called to become more like the Triune God through all our relationships. We are made in God's image and likeness. Just as God is God only in a Trinitarian relationship, so we can be fully human only as one member of a relationship of three partners. The self needs to be in a horizontal relationship with all other people and in a vertical relationship with God. In that way our life becomes Trinitarian like that of God.

Modern society follows the so-called "I-and-I" principle of unbonded individualism and the resulting consumerism. But the doctrine of the Blessed Trinity challenges us to adopt an "I-and-God-and-neighbor" principle. I am a Christian insofar as I live in a relationship of love with God and other people.

Like God the Father, we are called upon to be productive and creative persons by contributing to the building up of the fabric of our family, our Church, our community and our nation. Like God the Son, we are called upon to reconcile, to be peacemakers, to put back together that which has been broken, to restore what has been shattered. Like God the Holy Spirit, it is our task to uncover and teach truth and to dispel ignorance.
St Paul and the Holy Trinity

Today’s epistle from St. Paul contains the ancient apostolic blessing in the name of the Holy Trinity: “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.” Paul reminds the people of the Father’s love, the grace that comes through Jesus Christ and the fellowship or the unifying power of the Holy Spirit. The word “grace” in a theological context refers to Divine favor. In Christ, God has shown favor toward us humans, a special care for us and a desire that through Jesus’ life, death and Resurrection we might find and enjoy a right relationship with God. We often use the phrase “the love of God” to describe our response to God and our duty to love God. That is both correct and appropriate. But what comes first is God’s love for us. The Scriptures emphasize that God has loved us first and that our love for God is only a fitting response. And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit: The Holy Spirit shapes and animates the life of the Christian community. In other words, we live our Christian lives in the fellowship, or koinonia, formed by the Holy Spirit because it is He who guides, empowers and teaches in Christ’s place and brings us together in Faith, Love and Hope. In the story of salvation, we usually attribute creation to the Father, redemption to the Son and sanctification to the Holy Spirit. Nevertheless, though they are distinct as Persons, neither the Father nor the Son nor the Holy Spirit ever exists in separation or acts in isolation from the other Two Persons of the Godhead. The inner relationship of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit is such that each of them is fully God, yet They are not three Gods but one. This is not comprehensible by the human mind. It is a Mystery.

Celebrating Our Faith: Liturgy

Pope Francis on the Holy Trinity

Reflecting on the Holy Trinity, the Pope said: “He is God up there in heaven, but also down here on earth.” Underlining the closeness of “the God of Love who created the universe and generated a people, became flesh, died and rose for us” he said the Holy Spirit transforms all and leads to fullness. The Pope reflected on the reading of St. Paul who, he said, “personally experienced this transformation brought about by the God of Love.” He said Paul tells us of God’s wish to be called Father - “Daddy” - with the absolute trust of a child who abandons himself into the arms of He who gave him life.

Jesus told us to wait for the Holy Spirit who will guide us to understand the many things that Jesus himself still had to say (cf. Jn 16:12). This doesn’t refer to new or special doctrines, but to a full understanding of all that the Son has heard from the Father and has made known to the disciples (cf. v. 15). The Spirit guides us in new existential situations with a gaze fixed on Jesus and at the same time, open to events and to the future. He helps us to walk in history, firmly rooted in the Gospel and with dynamic fidelity to our traditions and customs.

But the mystery of the Trinity also speaks to us of ourselves, of our relationship with the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. In fact, through baptism, the Holy Spirit has placed us in the heart and the very life of God, who is a communion of love. God is a “family” of three Persons who love each other so much as to form a single whole. This “divine family” is not closed in on itself, but is open. It communicates itself in creation and in history has entered into the world of men to call everyone to form part of it. The trinitarian horizon of communion surrounds all of us and stimulates us to live in love and fraternal sharing, certain that where there is love, there is God.

Celebrating Our Senior Altar Servers

At Mass, they quietly go about their responsibilities. Maybe we even take them for granted. But Altar Servers are an indispensable part of the liturgy. And when they’re good, they make all the difference in the world for the Mass.

Our graduating Senior Altar Servers have a cumulative number of years of service well over 70 years in the ministry. Their ministry has been extraordinary - so extraordinary that parish office and school staff called them “dependable,” “lovely to work with,” and “counted on to step up in a big way whenever needed”.

To our outgoing Senior Altar Servers we say, “You will be missed, but the doors of St. Matthias are always open for you to serve any time you are around. We hope that wherever life takes you upon graduation, you will forever come to the table of the Lord as liturgical ministers in any capacity - singing, reading, and helping. “May God bless you and go with you wherever it may be.”

Joshua Aquillon
Krista Caasi
Andrew Lauan
Matthew Noneillada
Trish Olib

Gavin Rau
Austin Schuher
William Smith
Brett Subers
Bianca Villadolid

YouTube

Join Us for Sunday Mass Every Weekend
5 pm Saturday (or afterwards on-demand)

The Mass will be broadcast on our YouTube Channel:
www.youtube.com/c/STMatthiasSomersetNJ

The resources for the Mass are available on our website at:
www.stmatthias.net/connect/Resources.
Please subscribe to our YouTube channel.
The killing of George Floyd was senseless and brutal, a sin that cries out to heaven for justice. How is it possible that in America, a black man's life can be taken from him while calls for help are not answered, and his killing is recorded as it happens?

I am praying for George Floyd and his loved ones, and on behalf of my brother bishops, I share the outrage of the black community and those who stand with them in Minneapolis, Los Angeles, and across the country. The cruelty and violence he suffered does not reflect on the majority of good men and women in law enforcement, who carry out their duties with honor. We know that. And we trust that civil authorities will investigate his killing carefully and make sure those responsible are held accountable.

We should all understand that the protests we are seeing in our cities reflect the justified frustration and anger of millions of our brothers and sisters who even today experience humiliation, indignity, and unequal opportunity only because of their race or the color of their skin. It should not be this way in America. Racism has been tolerated for far too long in our way of life.

It is true what Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, that riots are the language of the unheard. We should be doing a lot of listening right now. This time, we should not fail to hear what people are saying through their pain. We need to finally root out the racial injustice that still infects too many areas of American society.

But the violence of recent nights is self-destructive and self-defeating. Nothing is gained by violence and so much is lost. Let us keep our eyes on the prize of true and lasting change.

Legitimate protests should not be exploited by persons who have different values and agendas. Burning and looting communities, ruining the livelihoods of our neighbors, does not advance the cause of racial equality and human dignity.

We should not let it be said that George Floyd died for no reason. We should honor the sacrifice of his life by removing racism and hate from our hearts and renewing our commitment to fulfill our nation's sacred promise — to be a beloved community of life, liberty, and equality for all.
Discovering God: Formation

Fill Out the Short, Survey Today!

Please respond to our Youth Delegates who request that EVERYONE in our Parish (all ages, even kids) answer a very short survey online at http://bit.ly/nextlevelparish. Or, you may scan the QR code on the left with your smartphone to access the survey.

We are hoping to have over 60% of our parish respond, so please complete the survey now.

Being Good Stewards

Stewardship Reflection Jun 7, 2020

The Most Holy Trinity

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son…” (John 3:16)

Is your love conditional? Is there a price others have to pay to receive your love and forgiveness? Are you generous with your time, skills, money, and possessions? If you give someone something, do you expect something in return? Do you give your time freely or do you “fit it in” when it’s convenient for you? God desires a personal relationship with us so much that He gave us His Son, unconditionally! Pray for a grateful and generous heart.

Sign up on the new user-friendly webpage: https://www.parishgiving.org/index?e=0740DF6212A3A840460F81F516842EF35963AE3BE292

If you have any questions or difficulties, call Parish Giving at 866-307-7140 and they will happily stay on the phone with you and verbally guide you as you enter the information online. Thank you!

Reflexiones — 7 de junio de 2020

Santísima Trinidad

“Porque tanto amó Dios al mundo que le dio a su único Hijo…” (JUAN 3:16)

¿Es tu amor condicional? ¿Hay algún precio que otros tengan que pagar para recibir tu amor y perdón? ¿Eres generoso con tu tiempo, habilidades, dinero y posesiones? Si le das algo a alguien, ¿esperas algo a cambio? ¿Dedicas tu tiempo libremente o lo “encajas” cuando es conveniente para ti? ¡Dios desea tanto una relación personal con nosotros que nos dio a su Hijo incondicionalmente! Ora por un corazón agradecido y generoso.

Join Our PARISHIONERS who have registered for Parish Giving!

If you have any questions or difficulties, call Parish Giving at 866-307-7140 and they will happily stay on the phone with you and verbally guide you as you enter the information online. Thank you!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Month</th>
<th>Checks</th>
<th>Parish Giving</th>
<th>Weekly Total</th>
<th>2019-Last Year’s</th>
<th>Weekly Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 3, 2020</td>
<td>$8,128.00</td>
<td>$10,242.70</td>
<td>$18,370.70</td>
<td>$30,721.36</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 10, 2020</td>
<td>$9,571.00</td>
<td>$10,597.70</td>
<td>$20,168.70</td>
<td>$27,166.36</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 17, 2020</td>
<td>$7,447.00</td>
<td>$11,329.70</td>
<td>$18,776.70</td>
<td>$27,014.36</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 24, 2020</td>
<td>$9,756.50</td>
<td>$11,199.70</td>
<td>$20,956.20</td>
<td>$26,457.36</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 31, 2020</td>
<td>$6,863.00</td>
<td>$11,429.70</td>
<td>$18,292.70</td>
<td>$26,890.79</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Parish Giving donations may be given on a weekly or monthly basis. Once we receive the monthly donations, we record them across all of the weeks for that month. The weekly donations are added each week, as they are received.

Buy Gift Cards Online Before You Shop — and Help St. Matthias School

Help our school, by purchasing online Scrip cards before you shop (in person or online). 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, or hold up the code for the cashier to scan in person. We have cards for 275 venues!

1. Go to www.MyScripWallet.com, Click on “Create An Account”
2. Type in the following Enrollment Code: LE254F89388. Then follow the prompts. 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” (We are unable to deliver any physical cards at this time.)
Building Community:

**Stay Connected! Don’t Miss the Latest News**

Sign up to receive our e-letter, [St. Matthias Family Connect (SMFC)](http://www.stmatthias.net/connect/SMFC). Go to [www.stmatthias.net/connect/SMFC](http://www.stmatthias.net/connect/SMFC), view the copy and join the e-letter.

**From Our Local Community:**

**Do You Need Help? Can You Offer Help?**

Visit our parish website: [www.stmatthias.net/connect/NeedHelpandOfferHelp](http://www.stmatthias.net/connect/NeedHelpandOfferHelp)

**FLAG of Somerset Thanks All Supporters!**

The final results are in:
- 5,619 meals delivered to our Front Line in New Brunswick
- $1,000+ to our Franklin Food Bank
- $35,351 spent at our local restaurants
- 655 donations received.

**St. Francis Center for Renewal**

**Star Struck Quilt 2020**

Created and donated by Sharon Rehrig. Valued at $1000, this stunning masterpiece fits a King Size bed! Tickets are available: $5 per ticket, 5 tickets for $20.

Draw for the quilt will take place on **August 29, 2020**, at the **10th ANNUAL STAR STRUCK GALA**.

Ticket holders do not have to be present at Gala to win. To purchase raffle tickets: Send check made out to St. Francis Center for Renewal to: St. Francis Center for Renewal, Attention JAN GOUGH 395 Bridle Path Road, Bethlehem PA, 18017

Please indicate on memo line of check: [Star Struck Quilt Raffle](http://www.franklinfoodbank.org).

Parish Leadership

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parish Pastoral Council, Co-Chairs</th>
<th>Parish Finance Council:</th>
<th>Trustees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tom Phalen, <a href="mailto:thomasephalen@gmail.com">thomasephalen@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Joe Porter, Chair <a href="mailto:financecouncil@stmatthias.net">financecouncil@stmatthias.net</a></td>
<td>Isaac Peng</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nick Grippo, <a href="mailto:nickgrippo@gmail.com">nickgrippo@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Joe Porter, Chair <a href="mailto:sm@stmatthias.net">sm@stmatthias.net</a></td>
<td>Marge Richards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tom Aussem</td>
<td>Ana Kelly, Ex-Officio Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Liz Kiesche</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Jeanne Kollmer</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Claudine Langrin</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Deborah Lesky</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jee Percoco</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Marybeth Purcell</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Wina Reyes-Brue</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lisa Robinson</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ana Kelly, Ex-Officio</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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.

**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](mailto:bulletin@stmatthias.net) by 6 pm, Wednesday, 10 days before the intended issue (earlier for holiday weekends).
To all those essential workers keeping us safe,
your service is invaluable & appreciated.

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Catherine Cimini, PhD
Licensed Acupuncturist Medical Physiologist

32 WORLD’S FAIR DR.
SUITE 201
SOMERSET, NJ 08873
732-356-1266
Fax: 732-356-1196

The #WHATSMYNAME Movement asks everyone to simply ask drivers “What’s my name?” before entering their vehicle to make sure it is the car they are supposed to enter.

www.redcross.org/Volunteer

What’s My Name?
In Remembrance of Samantha Josephson

Build Your Community - Shop Local -

Mallory’s Army Foundation
United Together In The Fight Against Bullying…
Don’t Just Teach Kindness… BE KINDNESS!
www.MallorysArmy.com
(973) 440-8657 • info@mallorysarmy.org
It’s easy to join our mailing list! Just send your email address by text message:
Text MALLORYSARMY to 22828 to get started.

I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD
THE GOOD SHEPHERD
LAYS DOWN HIS LIFE FOR THE SHEEP.
JOHN 10:11

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