668

ST. MATTHIAS CHURCH

All are Welcome

ST. MATTHIAS PARISH OFFICE


Parish Office Building: Currently closed. We are working remotely; use emails below or call our office and leave a message.

Mass Schedule: Every Sunday on our YouTube channel. (Private masses are also being celebrated)

ST. MATTHIAS SCHOOL (SMS):

School operating via distance learning.

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
Dailores R. Nunn, Faith Formation, dnunn
Deacon John Radvanski, 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 Godet, Formation/Parish Support Sec.
Leslie Guillet, 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 Sissoko, Custodian

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 8.

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.

For Your Reflection:

"Be patient toward all that is unsolved in your heart and try to love the questions themselves, like locked rooms and like books that are now written in a very foreign tongue. Do not now seek the answers, which cannot be given you because you would not be able to live them. And the point is, to live everything. Live the questions now. Perhaps you will then gradually, without noticing it, live along some distant day into the answer."

― Rainer Maria Rilke

The St. Matthias Employment Ministry

Are you looking for help with employment? Then please visit the St. Matthias Employment Ministry on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/groups/104569671048 This ministry was started in 2007 by Terry Seamon and Deacon John Radvanski and is still available to help anyone who is experiencing a job search or a career change. All are welcome!

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/connect/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!
His Voice of Love and Comfort

In today’s reading from Saint John, Jesus is presented to us as the Good Shepherd and as the Gate of the sheep who recognize His voice. How often are we attentive to the voice of Jesus, our Redeemer, in our daily lives? Do we listen to Him as often as we listen to other people in our lives? How comforting it is when we experience this one voice! Jesus’ voice can come to us at any time. All we need to do is be ready, be attentive to His calling and His message. Jesus’ voice is without equal! If we learn to discern it, He escorts us on the path of life until that day we are called home to Him.

As we live through our present day pandemic, being quarantined has allowed us time to reflect on the coronavirus: who is afflicted with it, who has died from it, and who recovers from it. This quarantine has enabled us to focus on our family and loved ones. For some families, this time together has been long overdue. We have been so busy that we barely have the time to listen to the voices of our family and friends. Maybe in our busyness we have been texting or emailing, but it is not the same as hearing the actual voice of whatever needed to be said, and most importantly saying the extraordinary words, “I love you.” How radically important these three words have become to our brothers and sisters dying from COVID19. How profoundly important these three words have become to the family members who were not allowed to be with their loved ones as they took their last breath.

Our faith supports us to believe that in a very special way the voice of Jesus was with them through the person of a nurse, doctor, any other health professional, or solely by Jesus Himself, whose voice of love and comfort came and was heard at a time most needed.

Let us remember during this week, and going forward, that Jesus’ voice manifests itself in many ways and circumstances. Foremost, it is in His words and in the time we share together with Him in meditation that we hear His voice. As His Church we pray to Him for all those who are ill and dying. We must be the voice for those who do not have the breath and voice to pray to Him.

As we begin this month of May dedicated to our Blessed Mother, let us pray to Mary to wrap her cloak of comfort and love around all those who are suffering from the coronavirus. May they find solace in her maternal care and our daily prayers.

Finally, do not forget to voice, “I love you,” to all those who hold a special place in your heart, for we do not know what tomorrow will bring.

Mr. Joseph C. Gidaro
Vice Principal

Bulletins 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 11:1-18; Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4; Jn 10:11-18
Tuesday: Acts 11:19-26; Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7; Jn 10:22-30
Wednesday: Acts 12:24 — 13:5a; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Jn 12:44-50
Friday: Acts 13:26-33; Ps 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11ab; Jn 14:1-6
Saturday: Acts 13:44-52; Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; Jn 14:7-12
Sunday: Acts 6:1-7; Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19; 1 Pf 2:4-9; Jn 14:1-12

*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*

Saturday, May 2
5:00PM Deceased Members of the Gatarz & Kohler Families, by Claire Gatarz

Sunday, May 3
8:00AM Msgr. Joseph Penna, by The Penna Family
10:00AM Intention of Parishioners
12:00PM Stanstawa & Waclaw Wrzalo, by Nawrot Family
5:30PM Kalman & Agnes Farkas, by Daughter

Monday, May 4
8:00AM Sr. Mary Thomas Aussem, by Tom Aussem

Tuesday, May 5
8:00AM Mary Wickes, by Marge Richards

Wednesday, May 6
8:00AM Deborah A. Robichaud, by James Dolan

Thursday, May 7
8:00AM Ashley Madly Egan, by Joanna Danile

Friday, May 8
8:00AM Salvatore & Angelina Colletti, by Alma Valdez

Saturday, May 9
5:00PM Mother’s Day Intentions

Sunday, May 10
8:00AM Mother’s Day Intentions
10:00AM Mother’s Day Intentions
12:00PM Mother’s Day Intentions
5:30PM Mother’s Day Intentions

*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.

Pray for those who have died...

Betty Edfort
Eloisa Benavidez
Sherry Stein
Peter Matarazzo
Dr. Roy Randolph
Fortuna Palanca

Rita D’Alessio, aunt of Fran Enad
Marie Boswell, mother-in-law of Douglas Jankowski

—"His mercy endures forever.”
Chronicles 6:34

Everyone who is ill with Covid-19 and for all who are homebound, elderly, in nursing care, or living with chronic illness
Parish News

From Pat Leposa: “We Say Farewell”

“Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.” (Psalms; 34)

It was twenty-four years ago that I began my ministry here at St. Matthias as your Spiritual Director. Coming to know and love the good people of this faith community has been my privilege. Now, I am excited to be moving on to the next chapter of my life. Even as my heart is filled with the joy and purpose that the last twenty-four years has blessed me with, I am deeply saddened at the prospect of leaving St. Matthias. As I go on to join my family in Montana, I am grateful for the countless ways that you, my St. Matthias family, have enriched me and strengthened my faith. It is through the experience of Spiritual Direction that I have been blessed to taste and see the goodness of the Lord. I will miss you.

If you are moved to draw closer to the God who loves you, and to seek out a new perspective in your life, then I urge you to consider Spiritual Direction. Inspired by the Spirit, it is through your visits with your spiritual advisor that you will become more aware of the many ways that God works in your life.

Your visits will open your eyes, and your heart to enable you to embrace His love. It will provide you with the spiritual perspective to celebrate God’s goodness, even as you meet the challenges in your life.

Your 1-hour Spiritual Direction visits, can be scheduled weekly or monthly. This investment in your spiritual health can be a life-changing experience. Contact the Parish Office (732-828-1400) for more information.

God Bless You,

Pat Leposa

We Remember Them

At the rising of the sun and it going down; We remember them.
In the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter; We remember them.
In the opening of the buds and in the rebirth of Spring; We remember them.
In the blueness of the skies and in the warmth of summer; We remember them.
In the rustling of the leaves and in the beauty of autumn; We remember them.
In the beginning of the year and when it ends; We remember them.
As long as we live, they too will live, for they are now a part of us as: We remember them.
When we are weary and in need of strength; We remember them.
When we are lost and sick at heart; We remember them.
When we have decisions that are difficult to make; We remember them.
When we have joy we crave to share; We remember them.
When we have achievements that are based on theirs; We remember them.
For as long as we live, they too will live, for they are now a part of us as; We remember them.

---Sylvan Kamens & Rabbi Jack Riemer
This reflection is used by the St. Matthias Bereavement Ministry.

Next Sunday is Mother’s Day! This year the celebration is going to look very different. It is going to be a very memorable one with the pandemic/lockdown! Still there are many creative ways to make our mothers know how much we love them, appreciate them and pray for God’s continued blessings upon them.

Sunday Reflections

Smile with Your Family

Marriage Tune-Up

Parents Tune-Up

This week, May 4-10, is 2020 Children’s Book Week. Even though we are in lockdown and the kids are on remote learning mode with their computers or chrome books, why not ask your child if they’d be willing to substitute a book for screen time? This applies to you parents also; you can model for them.

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Sunday Reflections

Moses, the Good Shepherd-Leader

The Jews had a lovely legend to explain why God chose Moses to be the leader of His people. “When Moses was feeding the sheep of his father-in-law in the wilderness, a young lamb ran away. Moses followed it until it reached a ravine, where it found a well to drink from. When Moses got up to it, he said: ‘I did not know that you ran away because you were thirsty. Now you must be weary.’ He took the lamb on his shoulders and carried it back. Then God said: ‘Because you have shown pity in leading back one of a flock belonging to another man, you shall lead my flock Israel.’

We need to be good shepherds and good leaders. Everyone who is entrusted with the care of others is a shepherd. Hence, pastors, parents, teachers, doctors, nurses, government officials, caregivers, among others, are all shepherds. We become good shepherds by loving those entrusted to us, praying for them, spending our time, talents and blessings for their welfare, and guarding them from physical and spiritual dangers. Parents must be especially careful of their duties toward their children by giving them good example. Above all, parents should pray for their children and infuse into them sound Christian moral principles.

Jesus Knows All of Us by Name!

There have always been people with a good memory for names: Napoleon, “who knew thousands of his soldiers by name . . .” or James A. Farley, “who claimed he knew 50,000 people by their first name . . .” or Charles Schwab, “who knew the names of all 8,000 of his employees at Homestead Mill . . .” or Charles W. Eliot, “who, during his forty years as president of Harvard, earned the reputation of knowing all the students by name each year . . .” or Harry Lorayne, “who used to amaze his audiences by being introduced to hundreds of people, one after another, then giving the name of any person who stood up and requested it.” But can you imagine Christ knowing all his sheep by name? That’s millions and millions of people over 2,000 years. No wonder we call him Master, Lord, Savior – watching over his flock, calling each by name.

In Palestine, the word “shepherd” was a synonym for selfless love, sincerity, commitment and sacrificial service. Hence, Jesus selects it as the most fitting term to denote his life and mission (Mt 18:2, 9:36, 12:32, Mk 6:34, 14:27, Lk 15:4, 12:32, Heb 12:3). The prophets pointed out the main duties of the Good Shepherd: 1) The Good Shepherd leads the sheep to the pasture, provides them with food and water and protects them. In Palestine, the shepherd went in front and the sheep followed behind. 2) He guarded them, not allowing them to get lost in the desert or become victims of robbers and wild animals - preventive vigilance. 3) He went in search of the lost ones and healed their wounds. 4) He was ready to surrender his life for his sheep - redemptive vigilance.

Showing the Way!

In San Salvador on March 24, 1980, an assassin killed Archbishop Oscar Romero with a single shot to the heart while he was saying Mass. Only a few minutes before, Archbishop Romero had finished a hope-filled homily in which he urged the people to serve one another. Since Archbishop Romero was demanding human rights for his people under oppression, he knew that his life was in danger. Still he persisted in speaking out against tyranny and for freedom. He once told newspapermen that even if his enemies killed him, he would rise again among his people.

Today, good shepherds who lay down their lives are husbands and wives who can’t do enough for each other to demonstrate their commitment to each other; parents who make countless sacrifices for the good of their children; teachers who spend untold hours instructing the weak students; doctors and nurses who work untiringly to show they care for their patients; employers who share profits with their workers; politicians who unselfishly promote the common good of their voters and parishioners who generously support their parish community (Albert Cylwicki in ‘His Word Resounds’).

“I Only Know Them by Name!”

Tony Campolo loves to tell the story of a particular census taker who went to the home of a rather poor family in the mountains of West Virginia to gather information. He asked the mother how many dependents she had. She began, “Well, there is Rosie, and Billy, and Lewella, Susie, Harry, and Jeffrey, There’s Johnny, and Harvey, and our dog, Willie.” It was then that the census taker interrupted her aid said: “No, ma’am, that’s not necessary. I only need the humans.” “Ah,” she said. “Well, there is Rosie, and Billy, and Lewella, Susie, Harry, and Jeffrey, Johnny, and Harvey, and our dog, Willie.” But there once again, the census taker interrupted her. Slightly exasperated, he said, “No, ma’am, you don’t seem to understand. I don’t need their names, I just need the numbers.” But there once again, the census taker interrupted. “Ah,” she said, “No, ma’am, you don’t seem to understand. I don’t need their names, I just need the numbers.” To which the old woman replied, “But I don’t know them by numbers. I only know them by name.”

In today’s Gospel Jesus the Good Shepherd says that he knows his sheep by name. The first part of today’s Gospel contrasts Jesus, the true Shepherd, with fake shepherds, thieves and robbers. Jesus gives us warning against false shepherds and false teachers in his Church. Jesus’ love and concern for each of us must be accepted with trust and serenity because he alone is our Shepherd, and no one else deserves our undivided commitment. As a true Shepherd, he leads his sheep, giving them the food and protection only Jesus, the Good Shepherd, can provide, and he protects us and leads us to true happiness.
May is for Honoring Mary!

‘May Crowning’ may be, for many of us, our first “Catholic” memory! Images of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Infant Jesus have been revered by Christians from ancient times. The reverence for the image is directed to the persons represented, and so it is NOT idol worship as some would accuse us of! Crowning a statue of the Lord’s Mother is symbolic of the honor we give her as the one chosen by God to bear His Son. It recognizes Mary as queen of heaven and earth. To a person of any age, this is a mighty big title. But to a child of five or six or seven, it expands to enchanting, magical proportions. How many queens does one get a chance to meet in a lifetime, much less crown? Unfortunately the lockdown this year deprives our students of this simple ceremony, which would have given them a lasting memory of this unique Catholic practice.

But devotion to Mary is the most misunderstood and the most maligned Catholic practice among many Protestant and Non-Denominational Churches. But educated and open-minded Protestants understand the role of Mary. I read an article titled: “Protestants and Marian Devotion -- What about Mary?” The author is Protestant Pastor Jason Byassee (pastor of Shady Grove United Methodist Church in Providence, NC). He writes: “Recently there has been a flurry of publications by Protestants on Mary, works that suggest she could be an ecumenical bridge -- or at least that the Protestant aversion to Marian devotion is eroding. Beverly Roberts Gaventa, a biblical scholar at Princeton Theological Seminary, has led the charge with Mary; Glimpses of the Mother of Jesus (1995) and with a collection of essays she coedited called Blessed One: Protestant Perspectives on Mary (2002). Meanwhile, Robert Jenson’s monumental two-volume Systematic Theology (1997 and 1999) and another collection of coedited essays, Mary; Mother of God (2004), has given a certain pride of place to the Mother of God.

Church historians of all stripes have long granted that Marian teaching and devotion dates from the earliest days of the church. And they grant that devotion to Mary was not discarded even by the leading Reformation figures Luther, Calvin and Zwingli. The fruit of ecumenical labor on this topic can be seen in such balanced and helpful resources as Mary in the Plan of God and in the Communion of the Saints (1999), a product of years of dialogue between French Catholics and Protestants that calls for both Catholic and Protestant “conversions” on the subject.”

Isn’t it interesting? You can read the full article at: http://www.religion-online.org/showarticle.asp?title=3156. Let us continue our devotion to Mary because her only desire for us is what she told the servants at the Marriage feast of Cana: “Do what He tells you” (John 2:5).

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 well-being 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)

Images are Highly Influential!

They become emblazoned on the wall of our minds, and they evoke a wide range of responses. Millions of people will remember the fireman carrying the baby out of the ruins of the Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City. World War II veterans, particularly the ones who served in the South Pacific, will always remember Mount Surabachi and the Marines who raised an American flag at its summit, as well as the image of General MacArthur returning to the Philippines. Neil Armstrong taking that first step on the moon in 1969 is frozen in many memories, too. If you were old enough to watch and understand television in 1963, you probably remember young John F. Kennedy, Jr., at the casket of his father Jack. Much closer to our own time, many of us will long retain the image of students running out of Columbine High School with their hands over their heads. Some images are immensely powerful and have a tenacity that is tireless and timeless. If there is one image associated with the Christian faith which, more than any other, has found an enduring place within the collective life of the Christian church, it is the image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd.

Cheryl Cassiday was regarded as a nurse. One afternoon, she arrived at an Arts Center to pick her daughter Rachel from her dance lesson. She usually used to run another errand before picking up her daughter - procure milk. On that day as she turned that corner, she changed her mind and did not go to the milk booth. This decision saved her daughter’s life and eight other lives. Instead of waiting in the car as she usually did, that day she went into the dance studio. There she found her daughter along with eight others overcome by carbon-monoxide poisoning. With the help of the family across the street she was able to pull out each one from the building and revive them. Later referring to the watchfulness of God, Cheryl very finely concluded: “Somebody was watching over these girls besides me!” It was Jesus our Good Shepherd.
Join Us for Our Sunday Mass

Join us every weekend for our Sunday Mass, via our YouTube channel, www.youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ, beginning at 5 pm on Saturday evening. The Mass will be available “on demand” after that time, so you may celebrate with us at any time you choose. The readings for the day may be found on the USCCB website: http://usccb.org/bible/readings

Please also subscribe to our YouTube channel. We need 1,000 subscribers to make the “livestreaming” easier to produce. We already have 829 subscribers. So please go to our channel and click on “Subscribe”. Thank you!

Children’s Choir News

On the Monday of Holy Week, the St. Matthias Children’s Choir joined together for their very first Holy Week Zoom. 36 choir members participated, along with Choir Director Joan Best Seamon, Assistant Choir Director Angela Frigiola, Cantor Track coordinator Rosemary Tricarico Choir Parent Yoli McGuire, and Choir Accompanist Alyssa Santillian.

Some of the children asked if they might sing a favorite song as one of our “Choir Stars.” (Unfortunately, it’s really hard to sing together on Zoom.) Mrs. Tricarico demonstrated some singing and breathing warm-ups so the children can keep their voices in shape. We even played a few rounds of Holy Week Trivia—i.e. “What day did Jesus ride into Jerusalem?” and “What day did Jesus wash the feet of his disciples?”

We asked our choir members what they were most thankful for over the past few weeks. Here are some of their responses...

- My family...
- doctors who are taking care of everyone...being able to talk to family and friends......that Msgr. Joe is ok.....being able to play outside in their backyard.....that everyone is safe.....and my favorite, that they could watch Mass on TV.

We ended our Choir Zoom with a Prayer of the Faithful, led by Alyssa Santillian. (At least I think that is how it ended—my computer froze for the last 5 minutes, but Mrs. Frigiola and Mrs. McGuire kept everyone together!)

We were so happy to connect with our children— we miss their smiling faces and their spirited voices. We will Zoom again...

Joan Best Seamon, Pastoral Associate for Liturgical Music

Blessings Abound

Everyday,
My son
Asks
“Mom
Do you need anything?”
Everyday
My response is the same. No, thank you!
I am fine! I am happy!

Our world is in turmoil!
The Virus lurks
Around every corner.
Still I am fine!
Loved, Cared for!

Reflection Questions for “Blessings Abound”

1) In the midst of today’s chaos are you able to count your blessings, to find the presence of God in this “mess”?

2) Take a moment to express your gratitude for even the littlest blessing.

Pray for Vocations!

On this Good Shepherd Sunday of prayer for vocations, the Church reminds us of our call to become good shepherds of God’s flock and good sheep of His parishes, and invites us to pray for vocations to the priesthood, the diaconate, the consecrated life, family life and single life. The Church rightly calls the Sacraments of Holy Orders and Holy Matrimony as sacraments of leadership and service.
Discovering God: Formation

St. Matthias School Update

St. Matthias School is a caring, faith-filled, dynamic learning environment, which continues to be a superior choice for the education of our children. The school office staff continues to correspond with parents who are interested in enrolling their children at St. Matthias. We are not standing still, but rather moving ahead. The work of planning for a vibrant and productive 2020-2021 school year is happening now. If you know of someone thinking about enrolling their child, encourage them to reach out to Mrs. Kosty, mkosty@stmatthiasnj.org, and/or Miss Brett, ebrett@stmatthiasnj.org. We are very excited to welcome new families!

Being Good Stewards

Parish Sunday Collection Information

Please note that beginning with this issue of the bulletin, we will be including historical information from last year’s collection.

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<th>Stewardship Totals for Fiscal Year 2019 - 2020</th>
<th>2020</th>
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*Note: Easter 2020 was on April 12. Easter 2019 was a week later (April 21).
**Year-to-date Total includes the March Parish Giving amount of $2,304 that was processed in April.

Stewardship Reflection May 3, 2020

4th Sunday of Easter

“...And Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ...’” (Acts 2:38)

The word “repent” means to turn from sin, to change our actions. Change that is permanent comes from within. It requires prayer, discipline, and perseverance. Change is also hard. We have to recognize that we are broken and need help. The good news - we are not alone in our journey. Ask Jesus daily for guidance and patiently listen for his response.

Reflexiones — 3 de mayo de 2020

40 domingo de Pascua

"Y Pedro les dijo: Arrepéntanse y háganse bautizar, cada uno de ustedes, en el Nombre de Jesucristo ..."” (HECHOS 2:38)

La palabra “arrepentirse” significa apartarse del pecado, cambiar nuestras acciones. El cambio que es permanente viene de adentro. Requiere oración, disciplina y perseverancia. El cambio también es difícil. Tenemos que reconocer que estamos rotos y que necesitamos ayuda. La buena noticia es que no estamos solos en nuestro viaje. Pidale a Jesús diariamente orientación y escuche pacientemente su respuesta.
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: LE2E4F89388. 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!

Caring for Others:

The Front Line Appreciation Group of Somerset (FLAG) was founded by SMS mom and alum Kathleen (McGrath) Foley, to support local restaurants and keep the Front Line fueled during the COVID-19 pandemic. With the aid of fellow SMS alum Denise (Stuewe) Quenault, and SMS moms Sue Kachurick and Christine Lavelle, FLAG of Somerset has raised over $29,000 from over 500 donations!

FLAG of Somerset has arranged for more than 2,000 meal deliveries to 2 New Brunswick hospitals, and has ordered from 27 local restaurants in just over a month!

**Check out our NEW website FLAGofSomerset.org for the latest information about FLAG of Somerset.**

**National Nurse’s Day is Wednesday, May 6. FLAG of Somerset is planning a special meal delivery for these amazing men and women. Please consider a $10 donation to support our nurses on the Front Line.** Be sure to make a notation regarding Nurse’s Day on whatever payment method you choose.

**FLAG of Somerset is also excited to announce Virtual “Pop-Up” Fitness Classes to continue our fundraising efforts. Local fitness experts have offered to donate their time and talent to help keep you active in body, mind, and spirit. Our first LYT yoga class will be on Monday, May 4, at 6:30pm, and will be led by former SMS faculty member Nicole Printon, of Nicole Printon Fitness.**

You can donate to FLAG of Somerset 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. Your heartfelt generosity in any way, shape, or form can make a HUGE difference!

Any leftover monies will be donated to the Franklin Food Bank at the conclusion of the COVID-19 pandemic, which we are all praying will end soon.
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 visit our website at www.SVDPatSM.org. Donations can be made on this website as well.

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

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<th>Parish Pastoral Council, Co-Chairs:</th>
<th>Parish Finance Council:</th>
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<td>Tom Phalen, thomase@<a href="mailto:phalen@gmail.com">phalen@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Joe Porter, Chair joeporter, Chair <a href="mailto:financecouncil@stmatthias.net">financecouncil@stmatthias.net</a></td>
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<td>Nick Grippo</td>
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State of New Jersey Job Portal

Do you need a temporary job?
Visit: https://jobs.covid19.nj.gov
This website currently lists 56,692 jobs at 801 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)

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 by 6 pm, Wednesday, 10 days before the intended issue (earlier for holiday weekends).