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. Nann, Faith Formation, dnnann
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 Guillen, Evening Receptionist/Bulletin Editor
Amy Hanna, Parish Support Secretary
Joan Jones, Evening Receptionist
Vinnie Natale, Bookkeeper
Trish Stumper, Parish Support Secretary

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

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):
170 JFK Boulevard, Somerset, NJ 08873
732-828-1402, www.stmatthias.info
School operating via distance learning.

Marian Prayer Service:
Saturday+ — see page 6.

Sunday Mass — Join us for Mass every week (5 pm Sat or later) at www.youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ

Registration is Now Open for St. Matthias School (PreK-3 through 8th grade): See pg 8.

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

Franklin Food Bank Update— See pg. 10.


Announcement from Fr. Abraham:

WE HAVE A NEW PRINCIPAL!

As you are aware, Ms. Eileen Brett our Principal is retiring. We formed a Search Committee who interviewed prospective candidates and they highly recommended to me Mrs. Elena Malinconico as the right person to be our next Principal. Accordingly, in consultation with the Diocesan Office of Schools, she was offered the position and she accepted it. She is currently the Principal of St. Stanislaus Kostka School in Sayreville. I wish to thank Rev. Ken Murphy, the Pastor of St. Stanislaus Kostka Community, who graciously accepted her decision and spoke to me very highly about her. I am very happy that she will succeed Eileen Brett who is retiring after a meritorious service as our Principal for the past three years. I am sure that Mrs. Malinconico will take our St. Matthias School forward, consolidating the initiatives and innovations put in place by Ms. Brett whose invaluable experience and nurturing leadership benefited the entire school community more than words can describe. A hearty welcome to Mrs. Elena Malinconico to our wonderful Catholic Community of St. Matthias!

We were able to find the right person in such a short time because we were fortunate to have a wonderful Search Committee co-chaired by Jackie Schneider and Msgr. Joe Curry. They worked hard despite the limitations imposed by the pandemic/lockdown and conducted video-interviews. I am immensely grateful to the entire Search Committee, consisting of: Jackie Schneider, Msgr. Joe Curry, Eileen Brett, Joe Gidaro, Mary Lynch, Laura Albanese and Nick Grippi. During this whole process, we had timely guidance from the Diocesan Office and I wish to thank Mr. Robert Lockwood, the Diocesan Superintendent of Schools, and Barbara Stevens, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, for all their assistance.

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

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

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

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

Listen to Our Music Ministers  
Enjoy listening to music sung by our music ministers from their home, by visiting: www.youtube.com/channel/UCwhok3XnxutxyCq5EIwJG A

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.

Dear Friends,  
How are we getting used to the new normal?  
Now that all schools will remain closed for the rest of the academic year, we know we are in for a longer haul. When we see states elsewhere in the country relaxing the lockdown, let us hope that our vigilance, precautions and social distancing will bring us the much longed for freedom after the pandemic and the lockdown. Today being Mother’s Day, we are certainly in a mood to celebrate our mothers. Almost all businesses are closed, but mother’s business is not closed. She is keeping the kitchen open 24/7 to feed us.

Don’t they get tired? Ask them and they will tell you that parental burnout is real. It is an understatement to say that most mothers feel overwhelmed and exhausted. Psychologists and labor experts agree that the coronavirus crisis is taking a greater toll on mothers than on fathers. As natural caregivers, mothers take upon themselves to make sure that everyone is happy. In addition to their regular stress before the coronavirus, now they have to help their kids slog through remote learning and lesson plans. One young mother told me, “I’m tired of keeping my cooped-up young ones occupied and fed, while being attentive to my aging mother. Very overwhelming! I pray things will improve at the earliest.”

I believe this is where Mother’s Day is to be re-evaluated. The tendency seems to be to pour onto the mother all the special attention and appreciation just one day a year and then go back to taking her for granted for the rest of the year! In fact, the way we honor mothers on Mother’s Day should be a reminder as to how we should be showing love and appreciation for her throughout the year. It is certainly encouraging to hear that many mothers are getting help from fathers and children who are more conscious of the mothers’ constant chores during this lockdown.

This weekend, we are having a Marian Prayer Service on our St. Matthias YouTube channel, www.youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ Please access it as a family to spend under half hour in praying the Holy Rosary and join the May Crowning of Mary, the mother of Jesus. She is a mother to all of us. Through Mary, the work of Motherhood is glorified and sanctified. Let us sing the beautiful song we sing on the Feast of the Presentation, “Gentle woman, peaceful dove, teach us wisdom, teach us love.”

It is said that every mother is like Moses. She does not enter the Promised Land. She prepares others to enter a world she will not see. Today we thank our mothers, pray for them and honor them. Please read the reflections, anecdotes and stories in this bulletin that is dedicated to all Mothers. Happy Mother’s Day!

Your brother in Christ,  
Fr. Abraham Orapankal

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

**Monday:** Acts 14:5-18; Ps 115:1-2, 3-4, 15-16; Jn 14:21-26  
**Tuesday:** Acts 14:19-28; Ps 115:1-2, 3-4, 15-16; Jn 14:21-26  
**Wednesday:** Acts 15:1-6; Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4c-5; Jn 15:1-8  
**Thursday:** Acts 1:15-17, 20-26; Ps 113:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8; Jn 15:9-17  
**Friday:** Acts 15:22-31; Ps 57:8-9, 10, 12; Jn 15:12-17  
**Saturday:** Acts 16:1-10; Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 5; Jn 15:18-21  
**Sunday:** Acts 8:5-8, 14-17; Ps 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16, 20; 1 Pt 3:15-18; Jn 14:15-21

### Mass Intentions for the Week*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Intentions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, May 9</td>
<td>5:00PM</td>
<td>Mother’s Day Intentions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, May 10</td>
<td>8:00AM</td>
<td>Mother’s Day Intentions</td>
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<td>10:00AM</td>
<td>Mother’s Day Intentions</td>
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<td></td>
<td>12:00PM</td>
<td>Mother’s Day Intentions</td>
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<td></td>
<td>5:30PM</td>
<td>Mother’s Day Intentions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, May 11</td>
<td>8:00AM</td>
<td>Marty Englehardt, by The Isola Family</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, May 12</td>
<td>8:00AM</td>
<td>Muriel T. Aussem, by Tom Aussem</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, May 13</td>
<td>8:00AM</td>
<td>Marty Englehardt, by Tom Fullerton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, May 14</td>
<td>8:00AM</td>
<td>Paul Hughes, by Sally &amp; children</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, May 15</td>
<td>8:00AM</td>
<td>Health &amp; Blessings for the Mayer Family, by Anne Marie Francis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, May 16</td>
<td>5:00PM</td>
<td>Susan &amp; James Shinners, by Mary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, May 17</td>
<td>8:00AM</td>
<td>Frank Olsson, by Carol &amp; Jeff Hentz</td>
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<td>10:00AM</td>
<td>William Philpotts, by Joan Philpotts</td>
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<td></td>
<td>12:00PM</td>
<td>Intention of Parishioners</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5:30PM</td>
<td>William Oberlander, by Joan Edgeworth</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*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](mailto: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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elbren, Sr. &amp; Natalia Agdeppo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rosemary Albaugh</td>
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<td>Rosemarie Aulino</td>
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<td>Eddie Banaag</td>
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<td>Ronald Bianchini</td>
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<td>Genevieve Bonk</td>
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<td>Clement Bottone</td>
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<td>Dylan Braunstein</td>
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<td>Timothy Brennan</td>
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<td>Marie Brody</td>
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<td>Baby Isla -Rose Callahan</td>
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<td>Tara Capatosto</td>
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<td>Ellen Catalina</td>
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<td>Frank Catalina</td>
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<td>Daria Cergnul</td>
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<td>Mema Chambers</td>
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<td>Darie Christmas</td>
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<td>Ken Collins</td>
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<td>Charles Connelly</td>
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<td>Lourdes &amp; Luzminda Costin</td>
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<td>Msgr. Joe Cuny</td>
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<td>Lisa &amp; Marie DeFeo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nancy Diaz</td>
<td>Vanessa DiRocco</td>
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<td>Mary Dolan</td>
<td>Bill Dolphin</td>
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<td>Dorothy Domenici</td>
<td>Jaclyn, Ariana &amp; Thomas</td>
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<td>Donlon</td>
<td>Anthony Driz &amp; Family</td>
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<td>Mary Eads</td>
<td>Briana Edwards</td>
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<td>Emma Gergely</td>
<td>Rose Gesner</td>
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<td>Rose Gessner</td>
<td>Mary Gidaro</td>
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<td>Jeanne Gita</td>
<td>John Gross</td>
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<td>Paul Haucke</td>
<td>Emma A. Himey</td>
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<td>Sloopy Hoffman</td>
<td>Merla Isabelo</td>
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<td>Pamela Kannahre</td>
<td>Michael Kinugi</td>
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<td>Milentia Kraft</td>
<td>Taylor LaCort</td>
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<td>The Litakris Family</td>
<td>Kenneth Magat</td>
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<tr>
<td>Al Maglio</td>
<td>Michelin Malafonte</td>
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<tr>
<td>Susan Manansala</td>
<td>Lourdes Maniego</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Miller</td>
<td>Lucy Mims</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marius Moran</td>
<td>Eleanor Morehouse</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ursula Morgenberger</td>
<td>Dave Moynihan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patricia (Pat) Nese</td>
<td>Margaret O’Hare</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pace</td>
<td>Danny Onchangco</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mafaalda Paraforiti</td>
<td>Benardine Pastemak</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elsa Pesigan</td>
<td>Jim Pettit</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chris Retz</td>
<td>Maria Schwenzer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sr. Immanuela</td>
<td>Sr. Jessy, OSF</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sr. Mary Amata Shina, OSF</td>
<td>Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dorothy Smith</td>
<td>Dennis Stuewe</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christine Szczechanski</td>
<td>Juan Ulerio</td>
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<tr>
<td>Denise Urquhart</td>
<td>Mona Wilson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laura Wolf</td>
<td>Mark T. Worthington</td>
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<tr>
<td>Edward Yeager</td>
<td>Everyone who is ill with Covid-19 ... and for all who are homebound, elderly, in nursing care, or living with chronic illness</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Pray for those who have died...

Alberto Lacerda – father of Maria Kosty  
Rita D’Alessio  
Ann Marie Delise  
Maureen Curtin  
Valery Long

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“His mercy endures forever.”  
Chronicles 6:34
How God Created the First Mom!

By the time the Lord made the woman he was into his sixth day of creation and working overtime. An angel approached and said, "Why are you spending so much time on this creature?" And the Lord answered and said, "I am making a woman who is to become the mother of all mankind. So she should have some special features: 1) Six pairs of hands, five of them invisible. 2) Three pairs of eyes, one visible pair in the front, the second and the third invisible pairs at the back and at the sides of her head. 3) A large and elastic heart. 4) A lap that can hold three children at one time and that disappears when she stands up. The angel said, "I can guess why a mom should have six pairs of hands and a large heart, but why three pairs of eyes?" God said, "One pair of invisible x-ray eyes at the sides to see through closed doors when she knocks at the door asks, "What are you kids doing?" And she already knows what is going on inside. The second invisible pair at the back of her head is to see what she is not supposed to see, but has to see as a responsible mother. And of course, the third pair of normal eyes in the front is to look at a child when he makes a mistake and say without uttering a word, "Dear, I understand you, I love you." "Any other specifications?" the angel asked. God said, "She should be able to run on black coffee and leftovers. She should have a kiss that can cure anything from a bruised leg to a broken heart from a disappointing love affair. She should be able to heal herself when she is sick. She should feed a family of six on one pound of hamburger, and finally she should have eyes that shed tears of joy and pride, tears of sadness, tears of disappointment and tears of old age aches and loneliness." The Angel was impressed. "You are a genius, Lord! This woman is amazing." Is this not the picture of your age aches and loneliness." The Angel was impressed. "You are a genius, joy and pride, tears of sadness, tears of disappointment and tears of old age aches and loneliness." The Angel was impressed. "You are a genius, Lord! This woman is amazing." Is this not the picture of your age aches and loneliness."

Why is May the Month of Mary?

For centuries, the Catholic Church has set aside the entire month of May to honor Mary, Mother of God. Not just a day in May, mind you, but the entire month. In medieval times, secular society had customs centering on the practice of expelling winter, as May 1 was considered the start of new growth. During this period, the tradition of Tricesimum, or "Thirty-Day Devotion to Mary," came into being. Also called, "Lady Month," the event was held from August 15-September 14 and is still observed in some areas.

The idea of a month dedicated specifically to Mary can be traced back to baroque times (an era that started around 1600 and ended around 1750). Although it wasn’t always held during May, Mary Month included thirty daily spiritual exercises honoring Mary. It was in this era that Mary’s Month and May were combined, making May the Month of Mary with special devotions organized on each day throughout the month. This custom became especially widespread during the nineteenth century and remains in practice until today.

Today 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.

Today is Mother’s Day!

Marriage Tune-Up

Mother’s Day: “No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” (Jn 15: 13) In addition to Jesus, who has given his love for you? Perhaps it is your mother, or someone who has been like a mother to you. As a spouse, be mindful of laying down your life each day for your beloved.

Parenting Tune-Up

The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.” (1 Peter 2:7) Do you or your child ever feel rejected? Sooner or later everyone has this experience. It doesn't feel good but it's not the end of the world. When appropriate, share with your child a time that you felt rejected and how you grew from it. (Susan Vogt)
Sunday Reflections

**Thank you, God, for Our Mothers**

Thank you, dear Lord, for our mothers: who were brave enough to give us birth, who loved us through many growing-up years, who taught us about God and love and being good, who often got no thanks, whose ears could hear the slightest cry, whose eyes didn't miss much either, whose hands held and bathed and picked up, whose hearts were often broken, who always forgave and forgot, who encouraged us when things went badly, who always had time to listen to us, who worked so hard to make things go, who make the world so much better, who deserve our love on Mother's Day and every day even for eternity. Amen.

**A Christian has Two Mothers!**

On Mother's Day, let us Christians, acknowledge the truth that we have two mothers: our earthly mother and our Heavenly Mother, Mary, the mother of Jesus. The Catholic Church proclaims the great nobility of the Mother of Jesus, Mary most holy, and presents her as the supreme model for all mothers. Born into humble surroundings, she was called by God to be the mother of the Son of God. She affirmed her obedience to the call of God, and she lived her vocation throughout her entire life.

Mary, the Mother of Jesus, our Blessed Mother, is the true model of motherhood. “It can thus be said that women, by looking to Mary, find in her the secret of living their femininity with dignity and of achieving their own true advancement. In the light of Mary, the Church sees in the face of women the reflection of a beauty which mirrors the loftiest sentiments of which the human heart is capable: the self-offering totality of love; the strength that is capable of bearing the greatest sorrows; limitless fidelity and tireless devotion to work; the ability to combine penetrating intuition with words of support and encouragement” (Pope St. John Paul II, Redemptoris Mater).

The month of May is traditionally the month of Mary. Through Mary, the work of Motherhood is glorified and sanctified. On this Mother's Day, presenting all mothers on the altar, let us sing the beautiful song we sing on the Feast of the Presentation, “Gentle woman, peaceful dove, teach us wisdom, teach us love.”

**Mom is Selfless**

A teacher asked a boy this question: “Suppose your mother baked a pie and there were seven of you — your parents and five children. What part of the pie would you get?” “A sixth,” replied the boy. “I'm afraid you don't know your fractions,” said the teacher. “Remember, there are seven of you.” “Yes, teacher,” said the boy, “but you don't know my mother. Mother would say she didn't want any pie.”

**Mom, the Good Shepherd**

My mom is my shepherd; I shall not want. She makes me lie down under cool, downy comforters. She watches me play beside still waters. She restores my soul.

She leads me in paths of respect, responsibility, and goodness, for I am her namesake!

Yea, even though I walk past monsters in the dark, I will not be scared, because my mom is always near me. Her hands and her voice, they comfort me. Mama sets the table and cheerfully calls me to dinner even in front of big, mean bullies. She anoints my skinned knees and broken heart with kisses. She smiles and throws me a towel when my cup runneth over. Surely God's peace, power, and mercy shall uphold me all the days of my life, for my Mother taught me to dwell in the house of God forever.

Source: Christian Education 101: A Child Learns to Trust by Laurie Hays Coffman

“A mother is she who can take the place of all others
But whose place no one else can take.”

- Cardinal Mermillod

**In Her Footsteps**

It was a busy day in Costa Mesa, a California home. But then, with ten children and one on the way, every day was a bit hectic for Davida Dalton. On this particular day, however, she was having trouble doing even the routine chores — all because of one little boy, Len, who was three at that time, was on her heels no matter where she went. Whenever she stopped to do something and turned back around, she would trip over him. Several times, she patiently suggested fun activities to keep him occupied “Wouldn’t you like to play on the swing set?” she asked him. But he simply smiled an innocent smile and said, “Oh, that’s all right, Mommy. I’d rather be in here with you.” Then he continued to bounce happily along behind her. After stepping on his toes for the fifth time, she began to lose her patience. When she angrily asked him why he was acting this way, he looked up at her with sweet green eyes and said, “Well, Mummy, in Sunday school my teacher told me to walk in Jesus’ footsteps. But I can’t see him, so I’m walking in yours.” She gathered him in her arms and held him close. Tears of love and humility spilled over from the prayer that grew in her heart, a prayer of thanks for the simple, yet beautiful perspective of a three-year-old boy.
Service in Community:  
The Early Christians Show the Way

Today’s First Reading from Acts 6:1-7 shows how and why the early Church developed social institutions and Church offices to keep Jesus’ memory alive. It tells us how the apostles and early Christians, as a Church community, prayerfully and amicably solved a community problem.

It is the famous account of the selection of the first deacons in the church. The Greek-speaking widows complained that the Aramaic-speaking food-ministers were short-changing them at meals in favor of the Aramaic-speaking widows. The apostles solved the problem by convening a meeting of “the whole community of the disciples” and informing them that they should be the ones to work through their problem. Their task: “Select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to the task” of distributing the food (6:3). Note the names of the chosen seven: “Stephen, Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas and Nicolaus of Antioch.” Everyone is a Greek!

Luke tells us that the Church believed that if the Greeks in the community had a problem, then the Greeks in the community were important and gifted enough to solve their problem. The apostles ratified the choice of these community servants by praying over them and laying hands on them. The apostles’ choice to solemnize the choosing by the ancient ritual of the imposition of hands on those chosen suggests something very interesting about service in the church. The Apostles seem to be saying that the role of the community servant is worthy of what would become known as “ordination.” That is, service is so important in the life of the Church, that we cannot be the Church of Christ Jesus if we’re without mutual service. Service constitutes the Church, as do Word and Sacrament.

Prayer of Intercession through Mary

(Prayer Pope Francis composed for protection from coronavirus pandemic)

O Mary, you always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and of hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the cross took part in Jesus’ pain, keeping your faith firm. You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need, and we are sure you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee, we may return to joy and to feasting after this time of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who has taken upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows to lead us, through the cross, to the joy of the resurrection. Amen.

Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the entreaties of we who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

Celebrating Our Faith: Liturgy

Marian Prayer Service and May Crowning

Join us online beginning at 10 am on Saturday, May 9 (or at a later day/time of your choosing) for our Marian Prayer Service and May Crowning. The service will be broadcast “on demand” from our YouTube channel:

www.youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ

The Prayer Service will include songs, scripture, reflection, the praying of the 5 Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary, the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and will end with the crowning of Mary.

Join Us for Our Sunday Mass Every Weekend

Join us every weekend for our Sunday Mass, via our YouTube channel:

www.youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ

Our Mass will begin at 5 pm on Saturday evening, and you can also celebrate with us on Sunday (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 924 subscribers. So please go to our channel and click on “Subscribe”. www.youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ

Thank you!
Celebrating Our Faith: Liturgy

St. Matthias Music Ministry Stays in Touch

Many members of our St. Matthias Music Ministry have been staying in touch via a daily e-mail from Music Director Joan Best Seamon. We exchange prayer requests, reflections on the saints of the day or reflections on the upcoming Sunday scriptures. We pass along music videos and memories of particular times we have sung together. And we share good news, like birthdays and 2 quarantine engagements!

Folk Group Chaplain Claire Gatarz writes a prayer for us all every Wednesday, and Sunday 10:00 Mass Choir Chaplain Pat Maglio does the same for us on Thursdays. Their words never fail to inspire us and give us the courage and the hope we need to get through this challenging time, alone but together.

Some of our members have recorded videos of our favorite sacred music. They are posted to the St. Matthias Music Ministry YouTube Channel which now has over 100 subscribers. If you have not checked it out yet, you are in for a real treat (see page 2.) Beautiful recordings of I Am the Bread of Life, In every Age, How Can I Keep from Singing, Shelter Me O God, etc. are there for your listening pleasure. You do not have to be in one of our choirs to contribute. Just send your video to stmatthiasmm@gmail.com for consideration.

Our various choir directors, including Sandy Hayes Licitra, Director of our Handbell Choirs and Jill Szabo, Director of Revelation, have been “zooming” regularly with our choirs. It’s been great to “see” each other and check out new longer hairstyles and even beards! We cannot sing or ring together on Zoom (don’t even try!), but we have shared what particular pieces of music have brought us comfort, and what we look forward to most when we can all get back together again.

On our most recent Children’s Choir Zoom, our 3rd -8th grade choir members shared good news about new baby brothers and sisters on the way, 100% on a Math quiz, and a socially distant driveway picnic with grandparents. Assistant Children’s Choir Director Angela Frigiola even told us all how her grandchildren called her up one night and read her a bedtime story!

An Upcoming Zoom topic will be how each of us got started in Music Ministry. We’ll generate lots of good recruiting ideas and suggestions for how we can minister even better to you, our assembly, to make our worship together more prayerful, more spirited and more welcoming. Stay tuned………!

P.S. St. Matthias Music Ministry wishes all of our moms at St. Matthias a Happy Mother’s Day. Sing your mom her favorite song today. She deserves it!

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

Isolation

This Isolation
Ain’t no vacation!
No place to go
Nothing to do
No one to chat with
No one to laugh with
HELP!

Standing at attention
In oversized pots
Lemon yellow Sunflowers
Guard the perimeter of
Pristine pool,
Smile at me
Basking. In Monday Sun,
Send messages of hope.
Steak and potatoes
For dinner.
Love is served
In my house.
I lift my head
Walk on with "The Son!"

Reflection and/or Questions

1. Look around, find a bright spot in your day.
2. Take a quiet moment to reflect on the Goodness of Your God.
Welcome to Our New Families Who Have Joined St. Matthias School for 2020/2021!

St. Matthias School (SMS) 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 Ms. Brett, ebrett@stmatthiasnj.org.

We are very excited to welcome our new families who have already enrolled their children for the coming year. If you are wondering if SMS is a good fit for your child, please contact us as soon as possible. We do still have some openings and would be happy to discuss the benefits of an SMS education with you.

Share Your Good News!

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

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

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

2) If you have a Facebook account, share your good news by going to our Facebook “UPLIFT” group at: https://www.facebook.com/groups/105958504399215. Don’t forget to check both sites often to read good news shared by others!

Being Good Stewards

Stewardship Reflection May 10, 2020
5th Sunday of Easter

“The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.” (1 Peter 2:7)

Every person has been given gifts from the Holy Spirit. These are called “charisms” and they are used to build God’s kingdom on earth. While many people are able to recognize their natural talents and abilities, they may be unsure of their charisms. If you know someone who is struggling for a direction in life, give them a little encouragement. Help them discern their charisms and how God is calling them to use them. Remember - no gift is too small or insignificant in God’s salvation plan.

Reflexiones — 10 de mayo de 2020
5º domingo de Pascua

“La piedra que los constructores rechazaron se ha convertido en la piedra angular” (1 PEDRO 2:7)

Cada persona ha recibido dones del Espíritu Santo. Estos se llaman “carismas” y se utilizan para construir el reino de Dios en la tierra. Si bien muchas personas pueden reconocer sus talentos y habilidades naturales, pueden no estar seguros de sus carismas. Si conoces a alguien que está luchando por una dirección en la vida, dale un poco de aliento. Ayúdalos a discernir sus carismas y cómo Dios los está llamando a usarlos. Recuerde: ningún regalo es demasiado pequeño o insignificante en el plan de salvación de Dios.
Are You Shopping Online These Days?

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 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.

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!

Our Parishioners Lead “FLAG” During Covid-19

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 $33,000 from over 550+ donations!

FLAG of Somerset has arranged for more than 2,900 meal deliveries to 2 New Brunswick hospitals, and has ordered from 33 local restaurants in just over a month!

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

Follow us on Facebook at FLAG of Somerset or on Instagram at FLAG_Somerset
Donations are accepted via Venmo at Flagofsomersetcovid19 or PayPal.me/flagofsomerset
Please email flagofsomersetcovid19@gmail.com for more information or if you would like to donate by check.

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 Governor's executive orders.

And remember the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is here to help as well. Either call our Help Line at 732-828-1400 ext 120, or through our website at www.SVDPatSM.org. Donations can be made on this website as well.

Parish Leadership

Parish Pastoral Council:
Co-Chairs: Tom Phalen, nickgrippo@gmail.com
Nick Grippo: nickgrippo@gmail.com
Tom Aussem
Denise Brown
Anthony Ehlera
Lorraine Farr
Gunam Felix
Anne Marie Francis
Liz Kiesch
J Jeanne Kollmer
Claudine Langrin
Deborah Lesky
Joe Percoco
Marybeth Purcell
Wina Reeyes-Bruce
Lisa Robinson
Ana Kelly, Ex-Officio
Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio

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

Press: Joe Porter, Chair

defensive Football

Parish Finance Council:

Joe Porte, Chair

finance@stmatthias.net

Parish Finance Council:

Joe Porter, Chair

finance@stmatthias.net

Parish Finance Council:

Sister Mary Vertucci Scholarship Tea Committee

Dear Supporters and Friends,

Thank you for all your help in the past 10 years in maintaining our scholarships for the Emusoi students. This year is a very different year. We’re asking for support even though we’re not able to gather for delicious food and excellent entertainment.

Pat Lawyer reached out to Sister Mary Vertucci to see how things were in Arusha. These are a couple of quotes:

“As far as I know we are all fine here. Tanzania had its first case of the virus in March. Right after the announcement Tanzania closed all the schools and all students had to go home. “We sent everyone home. The cost of bus fare was tremendous as we paid for the girls to come from school and then to go home.”

“I’m not so afraid of the girls getting the virus since it seems to be mainly in the city of Dar es Salaam and Zanzibar. But I wonder how many will get pregnant or parents will push them to get pregnant so they can leave school. Others will be married off. We told the girls if they meet trouble, they should contact us and ask for help.” “The whole world has been turned upside down.”

(As you can see, help and prayers are needed. We’re reaching out with this “Lunchless Luncheon” to see if we can generate a little help. Normally, we would contribute food and money to the Scholarship Luncheon/Tea. If at all possible, please consider contributing a free will donation the way you would if you were donating food or attending the luncheon or both.)

Sincerely, Adelaide Vertucci Scholarship Tea Committee

All donations are to be made payable to “Maryknoll Sisters” & sent to: Maryknoll Sisters P.O. Box 317, Maryknoll, NY 10545

Write “For Emusoi on Memo line.”

(Do not make the check for Sr. Mary – no way to cash them. And do not make it out to the Rosary Altar Society.) Thank you.

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).