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 R. Nann, Faith Formation, dnann
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
Julo Montero, Maintenance Supervisor
Maria Brown, Custodian
Conroy Davis, Custodian
Juan Diaz Flores, Custodian
Silvia Nizama, Housekeeper
Mohamed Sisoko, Custodian

St. Matthias Parish Office:
168 JFK Boulevard, Somerset, NJ 08873,
732-828-1400, fax: 732-828-0866,
www.stmatthias.net

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.

Youth Ministry Groups to Begin “Meeting” Again!
Fr. Joe and three of the Youth Ministry “adult advisors” met online recently to discuss re-starting the Youth Ministry gatherings.

We are happy to announce that we will begin having weekly meetings, starting on Sunday, June 7. The meetings will be held online on Sunday nights and youth will gather for 30 minutes as follows:

Junior High Youth from 6 to 6:30 pm
High School Youth from 7 to 7:30 pm

The gatherings may include ice breakers, topics for discussion, and just a chance to catch up and talk with each other. We plan to meet every Sunday in June. More details next week.

Two Masses Next Sunday, May 31, 2020

Next Sunday, we will celebrate two Masses online. Our regular weekend Mass will be available on our YouTube channel (see link at the top of the page), beginning on Saturday, May 30, at 5 PM and will continue to be available at a time of your choosing. Our Baccalaureate Mass for the St. Matthias School Class of 2020 will be celebrated on Sunday, May 31, at 10 AM.

You are invited to come pray and celebrate with us at either Mass. All are welcome!
Dear St. Matthias Family:

I pray that you are all well and safe! Through your prayers and God’s good grace, I am pretty much back to good health! It feels wonderful to be back again!

In such a short time -- a couple months -- our lives and our world have changed in ways that we could never have imagined. These things have challenged us and could make us very sad about what has changed. They have also reminded us how wonderful our families, our lives and our health are to us!

In the midst of the wide gap between these things, we can feel overwhelmed and torn and find it hard to not get drawn into all the sadness. I am a big Star Wars fan. In the oldest movie, Luke is facing overwhelming odds, as he looks to take on the death star, and he hears Obi Wan tell him, “The force will be with you always.” Luke places his total trust in the force and in his friends, and in this, he is able to overcome his challenges.

At the end of the Gospel this week, we hear Jesus say something similar to His disciples and to us! “I am with you always…” As we face all that the pandemic has presented, we need to hear these words of Jesus, “I am with you always!” If we can increasingly put our trust in Him, even in the midst of all the pandemic presents us with, we can see His face shining through! We can face anything that is presented to us.

In truth, we would so like all the things we are facing to just go away. The fact they do not, does not mean that God has left us. Maybe it is a way for us to rediscover the great gift we have in Him and in each other, and the great power of both to help us face and overcome anything!

May God Bless us and keep us!

Servus,

Fr. Joe
Readings for the Week

**Monday**: Acts 19:1-8; Ps 68:2-3ab, 4-5acd, 6-7ab; Jn 16:29-33

**Tuesday**: Acts 20:17-27; Ps 68:10-11, 20-21; Jn 17:1-11a

**Wednesday**: Acts 20:28-38; Ps 68:29-30, 33-35a, 35bc-36ab; Jn 17:11b-19


**Friday**: Acts 25:13b-21; Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20ab; Jn 21:15-19

**Saturday**: Acts 28:16-20, 30-31; Ps 11:4, 5, 7; Jn 21:20-25

**Sunday**: Vigil: Gn 11:1-9 or Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b or Ez 37:1-14 or J 3:1-5; Ps 104:1, 24, 35, 27-28, 29, 30; Rom 8:22-27; Jn 7:37-39

Day: Acts 2:1-11; Ps 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34; 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13; Jn 20:19-23

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**Mass Intentions for the Week***

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Sponsors</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Saturday, May 23</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>5:00PM</td>
<td>Lucille Loureiro, by Jane Fisher</td>
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<td><strong>Sunday, May 24</strong></td>
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<td>8:00AM</td>
<td>Michael Loree, by The Madison Family</td>
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<td></td>
<td>10:00AM</td>
<td>Floyd Krebs, Jr., by The Steltenkamp Family</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12:00PM</td>
<td>Francesca Gidaro &amp; Maria Covino, by grandson, Joseph</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5:30PM</td>
<td>Intention of Parishioners</td>
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<td><strong>Monday, May 25</strong></td>
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<td>8:00AM</td>
<td>No Mass (Memorial Day)</td>
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<td><strong>Tuesday, May 26</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>8:00AM</td>
<td>Robert Wohlhagen, by The Gleason Family</td>
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<td><strong>Wednesday, May 27</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>8:00AM</td>
<td>James Wheeler, by Msgr. Curry</td>
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<td><strong>Thursday, May 28</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>8:00AM</td>
<td>Marty Engelhardt, by Espy Del Rosario</td>
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<td><strong>Friday, May 29</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>8:00AM</td>
<td>Joseph Ganim, by, Carol</td>
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<td><strong>Saturday, May 30</strong></td>
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<td>Intention of Parishioners</td>
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<td><strong>Sunday, May 31</strong></td>
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<td>8:00AM</td>
<td>William Oberlander, by Maria Crisofulli</td>
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<td></td>
<td>10:00AM</td>
<td>Health &amp; Blessings for Francine Alvarez, by Mom</td>
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<td></td>
<td>12:00PM</td>
<td>John Rockford, by The Earth Angels Prayer Group</td>
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<td></td>
<td>5:30PM</td>
<td>Doreen Fereira, by Helen &amp; family</td>
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*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.

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**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 Blanchini**

**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 & Marie 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 Gesnner**

**Mary Gidaro**

**Jeanne Gita**

**John Gross**

**Paul Haucke**

**Emma A. Himey**

**Sloopy Hoffman**

**Merla Isabelo**

**Theresa Janeskis**

**Pamela Kanneire**

**Michael Kirugi**

**Milcent Kraft**

**Herman Krueger**

**Taylor LaCort**

**Alexander Lc ausi**

**The Litvakis Family**

---

**Kenneth Magat**

**Monique Marie Mageot**

**Al Maglio**

**Patrick Mahoney**

**Michelina Malafonte**

**Susan Manansala**

**Lourdes Maniego**

**Elizabeth Miller**

**Lucy Mimmns**

**Marius Moran**

**Eleanor Morehouse**

**Ursula Morgenberger**

**Dave Moynihan**

**Patricia (Pat) Nese**

**Margaret O’Hare**

**Danny Onchango**

**Jillian Opydike**

**Pace**

**Mafalda Parforiiti**

**Bemadine Pastemak**

**Elsa Peşgan**

**Jim Pettit**

**George Petruska**

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**Chris Retz**

**Angie & David Rind**

**Maria Schwenzer**

**Sr. Immanuela**

**Sr. Jesy, OSF**

**Sr. Mary Amata Shina, OSF**

**Sr. Rosaria (Shina), OSF**

**Dorothy Smith**

**Encamacion (Gina) So**

**Dennis Stuewe**

**Roseann Szani**

**Christine Szczepanski**

**Juan Ulerio**

**Denise Urquhart**

**Mona Wilson**

**Laura Wolf**

**Mark T. Worthington**

**Edward Yeager**

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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...**

**Paul Haucke**

**Dominic Minni**

**Ellie Morehouse**

**Charles Coffaro**

---

“His mercy endures forever.”  Chronicles
Parish News

**Invitation to Join the Parish Pastoral Council**

St. Matthias Church

The Parish Pastoral Council is the apex consultative body in the parish, advising the pastor on all matters of parish life. Currently the Council is seeking new members for the 2020/21 season. The Covenant provides for some members retiring and new members being added each year, as a continually evolving body. This helps to keep the Council fresh with new ideas and new eyes for the good of the community.

If you are interested in learning more, we invite you to observe the Council in session on Tuesday, May 26 at 7 pm (online). Please email Nick Grippo, nickgrippo@gmail.com, or Tom Phalen, thomasephalen@gmail.com, to RSVP.

**Sunday Reflections**

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**Marriage Tune-Up**

Memorial Day. To serve country, spouse, or God is to give your life because of your love. Dying for a good cause is a great sacrifice, but sacrificing time and spending energy in the service of your beloved also counts. Serve your spouse in an unexpected way today.

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**Parenting Tune-Up**

Ramadan, a Muslim season of abstaining from eating anything and drinking water from dawn till dusk, similar to the Christian Lent, ends this weekend with the Islamic festival of Eid ul Fitr. No matter what religion one is (or none), it's well to know how others approach the concept of God and faith. Don't let your child be ignorant.

---

**How to Prepare for Pentecost?**

If Christmas is the birth of Jesus, Pentecost is considered by many as the birthday of the Church, because it was from that first Pentecost, the church grew from Jerusalem into all the world. It is a Christian practice to prepare for this major feast. Christmas has Advent as preparation. Easter has Lent. But we do not hear about any such designated preparation period for Pentecost. And yet, we can and must prepare for this Feast which reminds us that the Holy Spirit brings life to the church. Many Catholics pray “The Pentecost Novena” for nine days. After Jesus’ Ascension into heaven, He commanded His disciples to come together in the upper room to devote themselves to constant prayer (Acts 1:14). They prayed for nine days before receiving the Holy Spirit on Pentecost.”

I propose three suggestions:

**First**, read the story of Pentecost from Acts 2:1-11. Be amazed that each person could hear about “God’s deeds of power” in their own language. It was like the “simultaneous translation” that goes on at the United Nations or other important international conferences.

**Second**, learn more about the symbols of the Holy Spirit. For example, the Spirit appears as the wind over the waters of creation (Genesis 1:2) and as a descending dove at Jesus’ baptism (Mark 1:10). Can you search for other symbols?

**Third**, most importantly, pray for a greater outpouring of the Holy Spirit in our hearts so that we will be guided by the Spirit of God. Here’s a short prayer we all can pray:

**Come O Holy Spirit!** Come and fill my heart. Help me to listen to your inspirations. Watch over me and guide me in all my thoughts so that I will follow your wisdom and make the right decisions in my life. Bless my family and dear ones with your grace and power. Amen.

---

**Smile with Your Family**

**The ascension mission to preach the gospel:** After attending a convention led by Billy Graham, a woman wrote to him. “Dear Sir, I feel that God is calling me to preach the gospel. But the trouble is that I have twelve children. What shall I do?” The televangelist replied: “Dear Madam, I am delighted to hear that God has called you to preach the Gospel. I am even more delighted to hear that He has already provided you with a congregation in your own home.”

**Ascension walk-out:** There was a long-winded pastor who preached salvation history from Genesis to Revelation in every sermon. On the feast of Ascension as he reached Isaiah, he remarked that the prophet said nothing about the ascension of Our Lord. He asked his audience, “What shall we do with him?” One old man in the front seat said, “He can have my seat, Father, I am leaving.”

**A corona smile:** Sign in front of a church: “Service cancelled; God making house calls.”

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**Parish News**

Sunday Re...
The “Vigil” in Milwaukee

“. . . I am with you always, until the end of the age . . .
“Matthew 28: 16-20

It's 2:30 in the morning. A police officer sees a light in the window of a Milwaukee church hall. He knocks on the door and a parishioner answers. "Everything OK?" "Yes, officer, we're just having our usual prayer vigil." That's not exactly true. The small church wanted to provide a warm, safe place for homeless people to stay on Milwaukee's cold winter nights, but there was no way the parish could afford to meet city code. So they decided to hold an "all-night prayer vigil" to which all were welcome. The vigil is now greatly appreciated by local police and neighbors, as well the homeless who take advantage of the "warm" vigil.

The genius of the ministry is that the guests have taken on the major role in managing the program. Parish "prayer leaders" have witnessed the amazing transformation of seemingly helpless people into competent managers of their own situation. They turn away people who are intoxicated or otherwise unable to cooperate. They determine the timing of smoking breaks. They keep the church clean. They "have each other's backs" as a community. One volunteer believes, "I think this is what Jesus had in mind when he called together the most unlikely people to be his disciples and support community - in other words, church." Maybe "prayer vigil" isn't such a stretch, after all.

Today we celebrate the Ascension of the Lord - postponed from the actual day of Thursday for this year.

Ascension is not the marking of a departure but the realization of a presence. Matthew's Gospel begins with the dawning of Emmanuel: "God is with us"; it concludes with Emmanuel's promise: "I am with you always, even to the end of time." It is not an abstract or distant presence; Christ is the center of our Church in word, in sacrament, in every moment of generosity and every act of compassion we perform and experience. Christ is in our midst in everything we do in his name: our Sunday Eucharist, a group of children learning the Lord's Prayer, a gathering of knitters each week to make prayer shawls for the sick, a legally-sanctioned "prayer vigil" for the homeless on a frigid winter night.

The charge Jesus leaves to his disciples on the mountain of the Ascension is left to all of us two millennia later: we are called to teach, to witness and to heal in our own small corners of the world, from our kitchen tables to our community - even in this lockdown!

The Unfinished Painting

Leonardo da Vinci had started to work on a large canvas in his studio. For a while he worked at it - choosing the subject, planning the perspective, sketching the outline, applying the colors, with his own inimitable genius. Then suddenly he stopped working on it. Summoning one of his talented students, the master invited him to complete the work. The horrified student protested that he was both unworthy and unable of completing the great painting which his master had begun. But da Vinci silenced him. "Will not what I have done inspire you to do your best?"

Jesus our Master began to spread the Good News two thousand years ago, by what he said and did, and supremely by what he suffered. He illustrated his message and he has left us to finish the picture. Will his life not inspire us to finish the picture? Jesus taught us lessons of faith, hope, forgiveness, mercy, redemption and love. We cannot put these lessons on a shelf and ignore them. They stand before us in the person of Jesus. Although no longer visibly present in the world, He is present in his words. We must make his words real in our lives and in the lives of others. Christianity was meant to be a faith in which Jesus' followers would help and care for others, just as Jesus had done. But the spreading of the Good News to all nations is not a goal that can be attained by human might and craft. This is why Jesus promises to empower his messengers with His abiding presence and that of the Holy Spirit. The challenge of sharing the Good News with all mankind should, therefore, begin with our admission that we have often been arrogant and overbearing. We must learn to be humble and let the Holy Spirit lead the way. This is the message of the Ascension.

No Torpedo Evangelism, Please!

Rebecca Pippert, the author of Out of the Salt Shaker: Into the World, tells of a time she was sitting in her car at a traffic light with her window rolled down. As the light turned green a car drove by and its occupant threw something into her car hitting her on the cheek. It didn't hurt but she was so startled that she pulled over immediately. When she unrolled the paper, she discovered it was a gospel tract. She says she was the apparent victim of what she refers to as "torpedo evangelism." "I'm sure the "torpedo-er" meant well. At least I hope so, but he or she did the wrong thing for the right reason in the wrong way.

We can engage people in conversation about their faith and their relationship with God in a non-judgmental manner. We can encourage. We can invite. We can offer counsel. But we leave the hard work, the heart work, up to Jesus and the Holy Spirit. You see, we are not on some sort of spiritual mugging mission.
Celebrating Our Faith: Liturgy

St. Matthias School
Baccalaureate Mass
for the Class of 2020

Next Sunday, May 31, 2020, at 10 AM

Our St. Matthias School Baccalaureate Mass will take place “online” this year. So for the first time, we do not have limited seating. All are welcome to join us on our parish YouTube Channel for this Mass: www.youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ

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 may celebrate with us at any time after that. The resources for the Mass are available on our website at: www.stmatthias.net/connect/Resources

Subscribe to our YouTube channel if you haven’t already done so.

Marian Prayer Service

Our Marian Prayer Service, including the May Crowning, will continue to be available for your prayer on our YouTube channel, www.youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ throughout the month of May.

A Pandemic Poem

My God. My God
Why have You Forsaken Your People?

Locked down!
Stay at home!
Social distancing!
No touching!

Words scream
In my head!
Paralyzed by fear
I sit, I sit

Lord, save your people!

Buried in sadness
Mother Earth
Is helpless to save
Her children
Dying alone
No loved ones to say good-bye

Red hot tears
Stain the faces
Of the mourners,
Create furrows
Never to be erased.

A stoic nation
Falls to its knees.

My God. My God
Why have You Forsaken Your People?

Reflections/Questions to ask yourself:

1. Have you been touched by your sisters and brothers reaching out to you during the pandemic?

2. Can you, reach out to lighten the burdens, to make someone’s day a little lighter?

Discovering God: Formation

Some Stay-at-Home Faith Formation Ideas

Teaching Catholic Kids.com is an online resource offered by Our Sunday Visitor. As an example, this week’s email issue has a lesson on the Praying the Rosary with kids!

Here’s one of the ideas: Keep moving!

Who says the rosary can’t be fun? Take this idea of rosary hopscotch http://johnsonfamilytoday.blogspot.com/2012/09/rosary-hopscotch.html and make it your own. (I’m thinking of the old Twister mats I’ve seen floating around our playroom…) And talk about keeping the kids active while you pray...

Two Apps from Renew International to Try—
https://pages.renewintl.org/apps

Pray the Gospels
Based on Lectio Divina. Delve deeper into the Gospels and explore the Word of God. Using lectio divina, meditate on the Scriptures, and discover how quiet contemplation helps your spiritual life.

Pray 2gether
This app offers military families or ‘staying at home’ families an opportunity to connect and build their relationship with God and each other through prayer. Participants can read and reflect on a selection of Scripture or an aspect of the Catholic faith and share their reflection with the other members of the family.
Discovering God: Formation

St. Matthias Launches “Next Level”

At last Sunday’s Mass on Sunday, May 17, two of our youth, Emily Chavez & Brandon Barbarite spoke at our Mass and introduced our Next Level program.

This exciting new program is sponsored by the Center for Faith Justice with funding from the Lilly Endowment. (The Center for Faith Justice also sponsors ServiceWorX which involves a week-long summer service & reflection program for our Confirmation candidates)

The goal of Next Level is to offer a new approach to youth ministry designed to strengthen the entire Catholic parish. Our youth take the lead in creating and implementing a “passion” project designed to engage members of our parish across generations. We are excited to announce our 5 Youth Delegates, Melody Adamski, Brandon Barbarite, Emily Chavez, Samantha Hanlon and Michael Trovato. You will be meeting all of them over the next few weeks. We have our Youth Delegates to thank for the signs outside our church and on our property!

At this time, our Youth Delegates request that EVERYONE in our Parish (all ages, even kids) answer a very short survey online at http://bit.ly/nextlevelparish. We are hoping to have over 60% of our parish respond, so please complete the survey now.

We wish to also thank two adult mentors, Debbie Evanou and Mary Lynch, who have agreed to support and empower these teens as they create something new in our parish, navigate challenges, and strengthen the inter-generational community at St. Matthias. Our parish staff (Msgr. Joe Curry, Dee Nann and Deacon John Radvanski), CFJ Next Level Coordinators (Catherine D’Angelo and Susan Oldroyd-Miller), and the parents of these youth will be offering support and encouragement throughout the process.

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.

Being Good Stewards

Stewardship Reflection May 24, 2020
7th Sunday of Easter Ascension of the Lord

“I am praying for them...” (John 17:9)

Prayer is the foundation of our Faith and the foundation of Stewardship. Pray in good times and in bad. Prayer is always the first best option in any situation, not just the last resort. Pray for friends and family and for those that don’t treat you very well. Pray to give praise, to thank, and to ask God for help. Pray to see what God wants you to do with the gifts He has given you.

Reflexiones — 24 de mayo de 2020
7º domingo de Pascua (Ascensión del Señor)

"Estoy orando por ellos...” (JUAN 17:9)

La oración es el fundamento de nuestra fe y el fundamento de la administración. Ora en los buenos y en los malos momentos. La oración es siempre la primera mejor opción en cualquier situación, no solo el último recurso. Ora por amigos y familiares y por aquellos que no te tratan muy bien. Ora para alabar, agradecer y pedirle ayuda a Dios. Ora para ver qué quiere Dios que hagas con los dones que te ha dado.
Buy Gift Cards Online Before You Shop — and Help SMS

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: LE24F89388. 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!

Bishop’s Annual Appeal
To date, the Diocese of Metuchen has received pledges totaling $144,277.73 and payments totaling $132,124.41 from 294 parishioners. This represents 83.9% of our $172,000.00 goal. Thank you for your efforts.

CARES Act: Donor Tax Incentives for Charitable Giving
For 2020, all taxpayers can deduct up to $300 in charitable contributions whether they itemize or use the standard deduction.

The existing cap for those who itemize has been raised from 60% to 100% of adjusted gross income.

Details at: https://diometuchen.org/cares-act

Parish Giving
Online giving, through the “Parish Giving” platform is easy and helps our parish immensely since donations are deposited directly. You have total control over your donations and can make changes at any time.

Sign up on the new user-friendly webpage: https://www.parishgiving.org/index?e=0740DF6212A3A840460F81F43F516B42EF35963AEE38BE292

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!
Building Community:

Letter to Parishioners from the St. Matthias Carnival Leadership Team

May 14, 2020
Feast of St. Matthias

Dear Friends in Christ,

As the feast of St. Matthias is upon us, we realize that the carnival is a happy memory of past years. The smell of funnel cakes and the bright lights of the Ferris wheel are very much missed as we continue to stay home and stay safe. All of us realize that the loss of the carnival presents a significant financial loss for the parish as our largest fundraiser, during a time when it is imperative we keep our church able to continue the many ministries that benefit all of us.

This brings us to the point. We would like to appeal to our parishioners to consider making a financial contribution in the name of the Carnival. We realize that for many parishioners this is not possible at this time as you see to the needs of your families. This appeal is addressed to those of us who could make a contribution comfortably. A $100 gift to our church would help greatly to defer our operating costs during this unprecedented time. Of course, a gift of any amount would be greatly appreciated. If you can see your way clear to contribute in lieu of what you might or might not have spent at this event, you will be celebrating our great parish in our time of need.

Blessings to all of you,

Bill Cullen, Pat Cullen, Vickie Bartizal, Jo-Ann Piagentini
The Carnival Leadership Team

Please note: if you would like to make a one-time “Carnival” donation electronically, go to Parish Giving (link on page 8.) Then either sign-in or create a “New Member” sign-up. Then follow these steps:
1. Click on the “Pay Now” tab.
2. Select “Fundraising” category
3. Select “Church Gift Carnival”
Then follow the prompts to complete the donation.

Donations by check may be dropped off or mailed to the Parish Office (see page 1). Please write “Carnival” on the memo line. Thank you.

“Matthias Matters”

The Pastoral staff of St. Matthias remains committed to continue offering ways to help us stay connected as a parish community during this time of pandemic.

The newest opportunity is Matthias Matters. This is a brief video, offered weekly on Facebook to share information or to answer people’s questions.

The first Matthias Matters took place on the feast of St. Matthias, Thursday, May 14. Msgr. Curry asked parishioners to share their memories of our Carnival via email. He then shared them this past Thursday along with explaining some of the many ways that are available to remain connected as a parish community.

Join Msgr. Curry on Thursday, May 28, at 1 pm on our St. Matthias Facebook (Uplift) group page: https://www.facebook.com/groups/STMatthiasUplift08873

We will be discussing ways that we will be implementing both Governor Murphy’s and Bishop Checchio’s guidelines, as we move forward towards reopening.

If you have questions about this, please email them, by Wednesday, to: MatthiasMatters@stmatthias.net. See you on Thursday!
Parish Staff Is Almost Finished Calling Every Registered Parishioner

If you have not received a call from a member of the Parish Staff or a Pastoral Council member, please let us know and provide us with your updated phone and contact information. Just call the Parish Office at 732-828-1400 and leave a message for Amy Hanna, or send an email to Fr. Abraham at abraham@stmatthias.net. Thank you!

From Our Local Community:

FRANKLIN FOOD BANK
Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Donating Food to the Franklin Food Bank

Due to the logistics of having to quarantine all food donations, the Food Bank is asking parishioners NOT to donate food at this time. Instead, they are accepting monetary donations. Visit www.franklinfoodbank.org for details.

Do You Need Help? Can You Offer Help?

Visit our parish website: www.stmatthias.net/connect/NeedHelpandOfferHelp

Franklin Township
“Residents Helping Residents”

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

Visit: https://residentshelpingre.wixsite.com/mysite

State of New Jersey Job Portal


Parish Leadership

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

Council Members:
Denise Brown
Anthony Ethelar
Lorraine Fiar
Gunsar Felix
Anne Marie Francis
Liz Kiesche
Jeanne Kollmer
Claudine Langrin
Deborah Lesky
Joe Percoco
Marybeth Purcell
Wina Reyes-Brice
Lisa Robinson
Ana Kelly, Ex-Officio
Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio

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

Council Members:
Joe Porter, Chair
Susan Klimcsak
Barry Dusault
Audrey Francis
Kester Hector
Denise Sawicki, Ex-Officio
Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio
Deborah Lesky, Ex-Officio

Parish Trustees:
Isaac Peng
Marge Richards
Denise Brown
Anthony Ethelar
Lorraine Fiar
Gunsar Felix
Anne Marie Francis
Liz Kiesche
Jeanne Kollmer
Claudine Langrin
Deborah Lesky
Joe Percoco
Marybeth Purcell
Wina Reyes-Brice
Lisa Robinson
Ana Kelly, Ex-Officio
Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio

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. Call Fr. Abraham at 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).
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