While the Parish Office is closed, please contact staff directly at the following emails:

For all Parish emails, add @stmatthias.net
Pastor: Rev Abraham Orapankal, abraham
Parochial Vicar: Rev. Msgr. Joseph Curry, jcurry
Pastoral Staff
Deacon Russell Demkovitz, rdemkovitz
Ana V Kelly, Marketing & Development, akelly
Dolores A. Kann, Faith Formation, dnam
Mary Beth Oria, Business Manager, moria
Deacon John Radvanski, deaconjohn
Denise Sawicki, Accountant, denise
Joan Best Seamon, Music Ministry jseamon
Sr Marie Therese Sherwood, OFS, Social Concerns, msherwood
Phyllis Stone, Liturgy/RCIA and Administrative Assistant to the Pastor, jstone

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
Connie Davis, Custodian
Juan Diaz Flores, Custodian
Silvia Nizama, Housekeeper
Mohamed Sisoko, Custodian

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.

We Need Your Feedback TODAY!
We need at least 60% of people in the parish (including grade-school children and everyone older) to complete a very short, 8 question survey indicating what you feel are the most important needs of our parish community. It will only take you 2 to 4 minutes to complete this survey online.

Use the camera on your phone to scan the QR code (just open the camera on your phone and pretend you are about to take a photo of the “box” on the left. Don’t snap the picture! Instead, you will notice that a message pops up on your phone screen with the website link. Touch that link on your phone screen and you will be at the beginning of the survey.)

If you are reading this bulletin online, you may instead click on the following link, http://bit.ly/nextlevelparish, to be taken to the survey.

As of May 27, we had 241 responses. We need many more! Please help us by completing the survey right now! To learn more about how your answers will help us, read the Next Level article on page 7.

St. Matthias E-Letters Merge
Starting this week, we have merged our two e-Letters, Mid-week Blast and St. Matthias Family Connect (SMFC) into one. Everyone who has been receiving the Mid-week Blast will now start receiving the St. Matthias Family Connect (SMFC). A million thanks to the dedicated team who has been producing the Mid-week Blast for 12 years — Sharon Kudelka, Chris Retz, Joyce Miller, Deacon Ron Caimi, John Galat, and Fr. Henry Hemmerling!

If you have not been receiving any e-letter from our parish, stay up-to-date on the latest news by signing up to receive SMFC. Go to www.stmatthias.net/connect/SMFC, view the copy and join the e-letter.
This Week at St. Matthias

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

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

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

Visit our “UPLIFT” Facebook Group
Go to: www.stmatthias.net/connect/node/3644

Listen to Our Music Ministers
Enjoy listening to music sung by our music ministers from
their home, by visiting: www.youtube.com/channel/
UCwhok3XnxutxyCq5E1WJGA

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.

Pentecost Sunday

From the Pastor & the Pastoral Staff

Dear Friends,

Happy Feast of Pentecost! A small body of
believers was empowered to be evangelizers as
the Holy Spirit filled them. Paul calls the
“church” “the body of Christ” and each of us
“individually members of it” (1 Corinthians 12.27-28)
and “to each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for
the common good” (1 Cor. 12.7). Various gifts of the Spirit,
given to individual members, are for promoting the health of
the whole Church — the body of Christ.

Each one of us has the flame of the Holy Spirit. We manifest
the presence of the Spirit in various ways as we use our gifts
for the mission and growth of the body of Christ here at St.
Matthias. Our different ministries and vibrant committees are
clear and visible signs of the active presence of the Spirit. You
will have noticed that almost all of these ministries are
functioning despite the lockdown – thanks to technology and
the internet.

Staying connected to the body of Christ here at St. Matthias,
in good times and in bad, is something that I am committed
to doing with the help of our wonderful Parish Staff. We felt
very fulfilled in making personal calls to our nearly 3000
families in our database and to speak with many of you or at
least to leave a voice mail if you were not available when we
called. Since we got quite a few “this-number-is-not-in-
service” responses, we request you to contact us if you did
not hear from us so that we can update your records and re-
establish regular communication with you, especially during
these challenging times.

As I am grateful to every member of the Parish Staff as well as
a member of the Pastoral Council for completing these parish
-wide calls,

I am very happy to announce that I am filling an important
staff position that has been vacant for a while. As you all
know, Denise Sawicki was given the additional charge of
being the Acting Business Manager even before I came to St.
Matthias. I am relieving her of that extra duty as I have
appointed Mary Beth Oria as our Business Manager whose
appointment will be effective Monday, June 1, 2020. For
nearly two decades, Mary Beth has been the Director of
Business Operations, Finance & Publishing at RENEW
International, Plainfield, N J . I had the joy of collaborating with
her during my ministry at RENEW. She comes to us with her
strong Catholic faith culture, business management and
operational acumen. As I welcome Mary Beth to St. Matthias,
I wish to thank Denise who willingly did this double duty for
about two years despite many challenges.

May we be open to the gifts of the Holy Spirit on this
Pentecost!

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**: Gn 3:9-15, 20 or Acts 1:12-14; Ps 87:1-2, 3 and 5, 6-7; Jn 19:25-34  
**Tuesday**: 2 Pt 3:12-15a, 17-18; Ps 90:2, 3-4, 10, 14 and 16; Mk 12:13-17  
**Wednesday**: 2 Tm 1:1-3, 6-12; Ps 123:1b-2a, 2cdef; Mk 12:38-44  
**Thursday**: 2 Tm 2:8-15; Ps 119:157, 160, 161, 165, 166, 168; Mk 12:35-37  
**Friday**: 2 Tm 3:10-17; Ps 119:157, 160, 161, 165, 166, 168; Mk 12:35-37  
**Saturday**: Ex 34:4b-6, 8-9; Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56; 2 Cor 13:11-13; Jn 3:16-18

## Mass Intentions for the Week*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Intention</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Saturday, May 30</strong></td>
<td>5:00PM</td>
<td>Intention of Parishioners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday, May 31</strong></td>
<td>8:00AM</td>
<td>William Oberlander, by Maria Crisofull</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:00AM</td>
<td>Health &amp; Blessings for Francine Alvarez, by Mom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12:00PM</td>
<td>John Rochford, by The Earth Angels Prayer Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5:30PM</td>
<td>Doreen Ferreira, by Helen &amp; family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monday, Jun 1</strong></td>
<td>8:00AM</td>
<td>Patrice Hennessey, by Msgr. Cumy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday, Jun 2</strong></td>
<td>8:00AM</td>
<td>Marty Engelhardt, by Marty Collins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday, Jun 3</strong></td>
<td>8:00AM</td>
<td>Courtney Gonzalez, by Anne Marie Francis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday, Jun 4</strong></td>
<td>8:00AM</td>
<td>Lucrezia De Stefano, by Mr. &amp; Mrs. S. Matarrazzo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Friday, Jun 5</strong></td>
<td>8:00AM</td>
<td>Eternal Repose of the Soul of Jose Alomia, by The Capuno Family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Saturday, Jun 6</strong></td>
<td>5:00PM</td>
<td>Joseph Doyle, by Isabelle &amp; John Baker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday, Jun 7</strong></td>
<td>8:00AM</td>
<td>Intention of Parishioners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:00AM</td>
<td>Dawn Boisvert, by Kevin Boisvert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12:00PM</td>
<td>John Rochford, by Eileen Sebenist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5:30PM</td>
<td>Deceased Members of the Seewai &amp; Ojo Families, by Helen Opj</td>
</tr>
</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 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  
Memo Chambers  
Darrie 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 Gessner  
Mary Gidaro  
Jeanne Gia  
John Gross  
Paul Haucke  
Emma A. Himey  
Sloopy Hoffman  
Merla Isabelo  
Pamela Kanaare  
Michael Krugui  
Milentz Kraft  
Heman Krueger  
Taylor LaCort  
Alexander LiCausi  
The Liturakis Family  
Kenneth Magat  
Monique Marie Mageot  
Al Maglio  
Patrick Mahoney  
Michelina Malafonte  
Susan Manansala  
Lourdes Maniego  
Elizabeth Miller  
Lucy Mims  
Marius Moran  
Eleanor Morehouse  
Ursula Morgenberger  
Dave Moynihan  
Patricia (Pat) Nese  
Margaret O’Hare  
Danny Onchangco  
Julianne Opdyke  
Pace  
Mafalda Parafioriti  
Bemadine Pastemak  
Elsa Pesigan  
Jim Pettit  
Chris Retz  
Angie & David Rind  
Maria Schwenzer  
Sr. Immanuela  
Sr. Jesse, OSF  
Sr. Mary Amata Shina, OSF  
Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF  
Dorothy Smith  
Encamacion (Gina) So  
Dennis Suetwe  
Roseann Szani  
Christine Szczepanski  
Jian Uleri  
Denise Urquhart  
Mona Wilson  
Mark T. Worthington  
Edward Yeager  

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

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## Pray for those who have died...

Charles Coffaro  
Theresa Janeski  
George Petruska  
Pat Toland  
-“His mercy endures forever.” Chronicles

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www.stmatthias.net  
May 31, 2020
Our pastor had a flair for the dramatic. He got the idea of having a pigeon released from the belfry on Pentecost just at the moment when, on the church steps in front of the procession of worshipers, he would say, “Come, Holy Spirit!” Pentecost came, and the sacristan put a pigeon in a bag, went upstairs to the belfry and waited. When the priest pronounced the words, nothing happened. A few seconds later, we heard a voice from the belfry, “It’s stifled!” ☺

A man’s prayer to the Holy Spirit: “Lord, controlling my tongue is no problem; it’s my face that needs deliverance!” ☺

Corona-related Church signs: 6 feet apart today is better than 6 feet under tomorrow.

Take care of each other, share toilet paper and pray. ☺

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**Sunday Reflections**

**Marriage Tune-Up**

( Pentecost) "There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit." (1 Cor. 12:4) What is one of your beloved’s strengths? OK, so we all have different sacred strengths, BUT do you have the “same Spirit”? Unite yourselves in the spirit of Forgiveness. Is there anything you find difficult to forgive?

**Parenting Tune-Up**

There are many ways to pass on the importance of Pentecost to children. One way is to have a dinnerable conversation about the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Ask everyone to share what he or she sees as a specific gift in each member of the family. This will be a time of fun, participation, appreciation as well as reinforcement for all.

**Pentecost Gospel Bombs!**

Some time ago now, Joseph Bailey wrote a book called the Gospel Blimp. It’s about the attempt of Christian neighbors reaching out to the community for Christ. The family purchased a hot air balloon to broadcast the Gospel to the community and dropped “bombs” on the town (These “bombs” were tracts wrapped in colored cellophane). In spite of the trouble and expense of this attempt at witnessing to Jesus, it failed miserably.

The point the writer was making is that there is no substitute for loving care and personal witness, even though this is slow, time-consuming, likely to cause anxiety and even likely to create some hostility. You have probably heard these sayings, “I’d rather see a sermon than hear one”, and “actions speak louder than words.” There is truth in these sayings, but there are still those times when words are necessary, and we must speak. The Gospel, by its very nature, needs to be shared. It isn’t something we keep to ourselves, but, by our words and deeds of love, the Gospel speaks to the lives of people about God’s love for them and His willingness to reach out and embrace everyone in his time of need.

When was the last time you talked with someone outside of your circle of Christian friends about Jesus? When was it that you last attempted to share your Faith with someone or at least invited someone to your Church on a Sunday? Are you aware of the Presence of the Holy Spirit?

**The Christian Pentecost**

Pentecost marks the end and the goal of the Easter season. For Christians, it is a memorial of the day the Holy Spirit descended on the apostles and the Virgin Mary in the form of fiery tongues, an event that took place fifty days after the resurrection of Jesus. The Paschal mystery of the Passion, the Death, the Resurrection, and the Ascension of Jesus culminates in the sending of the Holy Spirit by the Father at the request of His Son on Jesus’ disciples.

The feast also commemorates the official inauguration of the Christian Church by the apostolic preaching of St. Peter which resulted in the conversion of 3000 Jews to the Christian faith. Pentecost is, thus, the official birthday of the Church. But years ago, This Rock Magazine reported that there are now 34,000 Protestant denominations which means that, on the average, more than sixty-nine new denominations had sprung up every year since the Reformation began in 1517. So whose birthday is it anyway? You could say, Pentecost is the birthday of the Church Jesus established nearly 2,000 years ago. Today’s Scripture readings remind us that Pentecost is an event of both the past and the present. The main theme of today’s readings is that the gift of the Holy Spirit is something to be shared with others. In other words, the readings remind us that the gift of the Holy Spirit moves its recipients to action and inspires them to share this gift with others.
“Oh, it sleeps about 100”

A family driving a large camper pulled up in front of a small church just as the pastor started toward home. Desiring to be friendly, the pastor introduced himself and expressed his admiration for the camper. The man of the family told him rather proudly: “This camper sleeps eight people.” Then he asked: “What is the capacity of your church, Pastor?” The beleaguered pastor replied rather glumly, “Oh, it sleeps about hundred.”

Inactive churches, decreasing numbers of church attendees, non-enthusiastic participation - all these go against the fruits of Pentecost. It is embarrassing sometimes how little the modern day churches resemble the Church at that first Pentecost: the sound of a wind-storm, tongues of fire, disciples speaking in different languages, thousands being added to the Church and lots of excitement - excitement everywhere!

Hence we need to permit the Holy Spirit to direct our lives: a) By constantly remembering and appreciating His Holy Presence within us, especially through the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation. b) By fortifying ourselves with the help of the Spirit against all types of temptations. c) By seeking the assistance of the Spirit in our thoughts, words, and deeds, and in the breaking of our evil habits. d) By listening to the voice of the Holy Spirit speaking to us through the Bible and through the good counsel of others e) By fervently praying for the gifts, fruits and charisms of the Holy Spirit. f) By renewing our lives through the anointing of the Holy Spirit. g) By living our lives in the Holy Spirit as lives of commitment, of sacrifice, and of joy. We are called to love as Jesus loved, not counting the cost. As Saint Paul exhorts us, “Walk by the Spirit, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit” (Galatians 5:16, 25).

“Well, Chippie Doesn’t Sing Anymore”

It happened in Galveston, TX. A woman was cleaning the bottom of the cage of her parrot Chippie with the canister vacuum cleaner. She was not using an attachment on the tube. When the telephone rang, she turned her head to pick it up, continuing to vacuum the cage as she said, “Hello,” into the phone. Then she heard the horrible noise of Chippie being sucked into the vacuum. Immediately she put down the phone, ripped open the vacuum bag, and found Chippie in there, stunned but still alive. Since the bird was covered with dust and dirt, she grabbed it, ran it into the bathroom, turned on the faucet, and held the bird under the water to clean it off. When she finished that, she saw the hair dryer on the bathroom sink. She turned it on and held the bird in front of the blast of hot air to dry him off. A few weeks later, a reporter from the newspaper that originally published the story went out to the house to ask the woman, “How’s Chippie doing now?” She said, “He just sort of sits and stares.”

Today’s Gospel tells us that it was what happened to the apostles. They all were traumatized by the arrest and crucifixion of their master and bewildered by his post-Resurrection appearances and his command to prepare for the coming of his Holy Spirit. Many of us can identify with Chippie and the apostles. Life has sucked us up, thrown cold water on us, and blown us away. Somewhere in the trauma, we have lost our song. Hence, we, too, need the daily anointing of the Holy Spirit to keep us singing songs of Christian witnessing through agape love. Choose some of your favorite Christian songs and listen and hum along.

High Tide of the Holy Spirit!

A ship strayed off course near San Diego some years back. It became stuck in a reef at low tide. Twelve tugboats were unsuccessful in their attempts to budge it. Finally, the captain instructed the tugs to go back home. He sighed, “I’ll just be patient and wait.” He waited until high tide. All of a sudden the ocean began to rise. What human power could not do, the rising tide of the Pacific Ocean did. It lifted that ship and put it back into the channel.

Something like that happened to the early Church on the Day of Pentecost. They were all together in one place - confused, unmotivated and fearful - when suddenly the tide of Holy Spirit rolled in. But first they had to wait until the Spirit came upon them. Spirit-filled people are people who allow themselves to be empowered by the Spirit. They allow the Spirit to change their lives through their daily reading of the Bible and the frequenting of the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist. Spirit-filled people speak words that heal, restore, make people happy and build people up instead of tearing them down. Spirit-filled people pass on the love of God to the people living around them by their acts of kindness, mercy and charity. Hence, let us pray for a spirit of love instead of hate, a spirit of helpfulness instead of non-cooperation, a spirit of generosity instead of greed and a spirit of gentleness instead of ruthless.

“Come Holy Spirit!  
Make our ears to hear your words.  
Make our eyes to see your presence.  
Make our mouths to speak your message.  
Make our hearts to seek your glory.  
Make our hands to reach out in service.  
And touch the world with your love.  AMEN.”
Celebrating Our Faith: Liturgy

Join Us for One of Two Sunday Masses This Weekend

- 5 pm Saturday (or later on-demand) or
- Sunday at 10:00am for the Baccalaureate Mass for Our Graduating SMS 8th Grade Students

Both Masses will be broadcast on our YouTube Channel: www.youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ Our regular 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.

Discovering God: Formation

Congratulations to the St. Matthias School Class of 2020!

Melody Adamski
Aidan Angeles
Lindsey Battaglino
Caithlyn Caballero
Emily Chavez
Anthony deLutio
Nicholas Drake
Periklis Drecolas
Liana Dudajek
Kayla Joly
Philip Frangie
Ashlee Freebern
Claudia Gaba
Liam Hanify
Aidan Jarvis
Joseph Kachurick
Jillian Kenny
John Kenny
Julia Kosiorèk
Gabriella Langrin
Trevor Lavelle
Morgan Lewis
Olivia Lewis
Adriana Liberti
Tehya Lim
Sophia Elisse Llaguno
Maya Mathews
Jon Moreno
Devin Nunez
Emily Nwele
Sophia Odunsi
Alexis Ogalo
Angelica Ordóñez
Julia Panczenko
Madison Phillips
Terrence Quinn
David Ryden
Daniel Sanchez
Madeline Schmidt
Madison Schuhrer
Daniel Sharma
Katherine Stevenson
Carissa Terhune
Matthew Tełyczka
Ryan Tracey
Samuel Villanueva
Loralei Wolf

Poet’s Corner:

Spiritual Direction
Prayers/Poems
by Pat Leposa

From a Distance

From a distance
The cries of
My brothers and sisters,
Sick and dying from Covid 19,
Unable to say Goodbye
Pierce the walls
Of this Sanctuary,
Shake the foundation,
Rattle my bones,
Steal my joy.
Sitting poolside
Absorbing Vitamin D
Poems, inspired by The Spirit
Swim through my head
Flow from my Pen.
Fervent prayer takes form
On the tear stained paper.
Spare us, Lord!
What can I do?
I, write!

___________

What can you do?
Spend time with Your Lord discerning
His desire for you.
Discovering God: Formation

Welcome and Thank You!
St. Matthias School Home School Association (HSA):

Please welcome our new HSA Board Members for next school year:
- Nina Donohue, Co-President
- Sarah Graham, Vice President
- Cesar Mosquera, Co-Treasurer
- Eileen Kline, Recording Secretary

They will be joining current members:
- Lisa Negvesky, Co-President
- Kristin Grey, Co-Treasurer
- Rachel Dupree, Corresponding Secretary

We appreciate these parents giving their time and talents to St. Matthias School.

A huge thank you to our outgoing members - Melissa Garlatti, Robert Quinn, Nicole Lewinski and Melissa Miller Rizzo for their time and dedication. Our goal has been to have a positive attitude with open communication and inclusion of everyone involved in the lives of our children at SMS.

St. Matthias Launches “Next Level”

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. Or, you may scan the QR code on the left with your smartphone to access the survey. We are hoping to have over 60% of our parish respond, so please complete the survey now.

Being Good Stewards

Stewardship Reflection May 31, 2020
Pentecost Sunday

“To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.” (1 Corinthians 12:7)

To receive the gift of the Holy Spirit you must open your heart and invite Him in! Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your thoughts, words, and actions every day! Be grateful for all the gifts God has given you! Regardless of our individual circumstances, God has given all of us many blessings. What we do with those gifts is our gift back to God! By generously sharing everything we have and everything we are, we become more “God-centered” and less “self-centered” and our lives truly reflect God’s light, love, and mercy.

Reflexiones — 31 de mayo de 2020
Domingo de Pentecostés

"A cada uno se le da la manifestación del Espíritu para el bien común". (1 CORINTIOS 12:7)

¡Para recibir el don del Espíritu Santo, debes abrir tu corazón e invitarlo a entrar! ¡Pídele al Espíritu Santo que guíe tus pensamientos, palabras y acciones todos los días! ¡Agradece todos los regalos que Dios te ha dado! Independientemente de nuestras circunstancias individuales, Dios nos ha dado muchas bendiciones. ¡Lo que hacemos con esos regalos es nuestro regalo a Dios! Al compartir generosamente todo lo que tenemos y todo lo que somos, nos volvemos más “céntricos en Dios” y menos “egoénticos”, y nuestras vidas realmente reflejan la luz, el amor y la misericordia de Dios.
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!

1. Go to www.MyScripWallet.com, Click on “Create An Account”
2. Type in the following Enrollment Code: LE2E4F89388. Then follow the prompts.
Once you register, you will be able to purchase any cards you choose, and St. Matthias School will receive a rebate. Be sure to select “Scrip Now eCard” instead of “Physical card” (We are unable to deliver any physical cards at this time.)

Thank You Letter from FRANKLIN FOOD BANK Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Dear Father Abraham,

On behalf of the clients we serve, our staff, volunteers, and Board of Trustees, thank you so much for your donation in the amount of $7,600 made on 3/26/2020. In this time of great need, your generosity is incredibly meaningful. We are humbled by the dedication of St. Matthias parishioners to helping their neighbors.

The COVID-19 pandemic has forced us to rethink our program in order to create a safe environment for everyone at the food bank. We excused all 60+ regular volunteers. We are running with a skeleton crew. The food that once stocked our shelves is evaporating. We are still here because our clients need us.

The Franklin Food Bank receives 95% of our funding from the community. People like YOU keep our doors open for this community. Due to the pandemic, we were forced to cancel two major fundraisers, Empty Bowls and the Tour de Franklin, which were projected to raise over $100,000 for the food bank.

Without your generosity, we would not be able to continue our vitally important work. Thank you for joining us in the fight against hunger at a time of great uncertainty.

Sincerely,
Frank Hasner Executive Director

The Franklin Food Bank is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization registered with the IRS under the EIN 22-2406472.

PO Box 333, 224 CHURCH HILL AVENUE, SOMERSET, NJ 08875-0333.
TEL: (732) 246-0009 • WEBSITE: WWW.FRANKLINFOODBANK.ORG
E-MAIL: AO BRIEN@FTFB.US, MR OSSI@FTFB.US
**Building Community:**

**Youth Ministry Groups to Begin “Meeting” Again!**

Fr. Joe and three of the Youth Ministry “adult advisors” met recently to discuss restarting the Youth Ministry gatherings. We are happy to announce that we will begin having weekly meetings, starting next **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. Contact Fr. Joe at jcuny@stmatthias.net for online access information.

**“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!

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**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.

**Join Our 394 PARISHIONERS who have registered for 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=0740DF6212A3A840460F81F43F516842EF35963AEE3BE292

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!

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**Make a One-Time Carnival Donation**

If you would like to make a one-time “Carnival” donation electronically, go to Parish Giving (see above.) 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.

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

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See you on Thursday!
Parish Staff Has 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**

**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](http://www.franklinfoodbank.org) for details.

**Parish Leadership**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parish Pastoral Council, Co-Chairs</th>
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**About St. Matthias** (please contact the staff members on the cover for up-to-date information)

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<th>Parish Registration — Welcome new members! Please register by calling the Parish</th>
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<td><strong>Baptism</strong> — 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.</td>
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<td><strong>Marriage</strong> — Registered parishioners should contact the parish office a year before the desired wedding date.</td>
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<td><strong>Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults</strong> 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.</td>
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<td><strong>Stewardship</strong> 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.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>St. Matthias School</strong> 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.</td>
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www.stmatthias.net

May 31, 2020

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