



**St. Matthias Parish Office:**

Open 8:30-6:00PM Mon-Fri  
 168 JFK Boulevard, Somerset, NJ 08873,  
 732-828-1400, fax: 732-828-0866,  
[www.stmatthias.net](http://www.stmatthias.net)

**Mass Schedule (in person):**

Sat—5PM, Sun-10 AM & 12 noon  
 M/T/W/Th/F at 8:00AM

And also on our YouTube channel

[youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ](https://youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ)

**St. Matthias School (SMS):**

170 JFK Boulevard, Somerset, NJ 08873  
 732-828-1402; [www.stmatthias.info](http://www.stmatthias.info)

For all Parish emails, add [@stmatthias.net](mailto:@stmatthias.net)

**Pastor:** Rev Abraham Orapankal, [abraham](mailto:abraham@stmatthias.net)

**Parochial Vicar:** Rev. Msgr. Joseph Curry, [jcurry](mailto:jcurry@stmatthias.net)

**Priest-in-Residence:** Msgr. Seamus Brennan

**Pastoral Staff**

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Kelly Counts, *Receptionist*

Nathalie Godet, *Formation/Parish Support Sec.*

Leslie Guillen, *Bulletin Editor*

Amy Hanna, *Parish Support Secretary*

Vinnie Natale, *Bookkeeper*

Trish Stumper, *Parish Support Secretary*

Mike Lanyi, *Sacristan*

**Maintenance Staff**

Julio Montero, *Maintenance Supervisor*

Conroy Davis, *Custodian*

Juan Diaz Flores, *Custodian*

Silvia Nizama, *Housekeeper*

**THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS**

**SUNDAY, APR 11, 2021 –**

**Second Sunday of Easter/ Divine Mercy Sunday**

**Highlights—This Week**

**SMYLE Youth Group—**  
 meeting via Zoom **this**  
**evening, Sunday**, at 6:00PM

**SMYLE Parents Meeting—**  
 Wed., 4/14/at 7:00PM via  
 Zoom.

**Boy Scout Event—** Saturday,  
 4/17, at 11:00AM, Cafeteria



**Excerpt from Pope Francis' URBI ET ORBI MESSAGE**

Easter Sunday, 4 April, 2021

The complete text is available at: [http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/urbi/documents/papa-francesco\\_20210404\\_urbi-et-orbi-pasqua.html](http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/urbi/documents/papa-francesco_20210404_urbi-et-orbi-pasqua.html)

“Dear Brothers and Sisters, a good, happy and peaceful Easter!

“Today, throughout the world, the Church’s proclamation resounds: “Jesus, who was crucified, has risen as he said. Alleluia!”

“The Easter message does not offer us a mirage or reveal a magic formula. It does not point to an escape from the difficult situation we are experiencing. The pandemic is still spreading, while the social and economic crisis remains severe, especially for the poor. Nonetheless – and this is scandalous – armed conflicts have not ended and military arsenals are being strengthened. That is today’s scandal.

“In the face of, or better, in the midst of this complex reality, the Easter message speaks concisely of the event that gives us the hope that does not disappoint: “Jesus who was crucified has risen”. It speaks to us not about angels or ghosts, but about a man, a man of flesh and bone, with a face and a name: Jesus. The Gospel testifies that this Jesus, crucified under Pontius Pilate for claiming he was the Christ, the Son of God, rose on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, just as he had foretold to his disciples...

“The risen Christ is hope for all who continue to suffer from the pandemic, both the sick and those who have lost a loved one. May the Lord give them comfort and sustain the valiant efforts of doctors and nurses. Everyone, especially the most vulnerable among us, requires assistance and has the right to have access to necessary care. This is even more evident in these times

(cont’d on page 6)

## This Week at St. Matthias

- **All Masses** will be celebrated **in-person** (overflow in the cafeteria).
- **Masses** will also be **livestreamed on our YouTube channel: [youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ](https://www.youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ)**

The Church is open for **individual prayer** Sun-Fri from 7:30 am to 7pm & Sat from 9 am to 7pm, unless another event is taking place (Mass, Funeral, Wedding, etc.)

**Sunday, Apr 11, 2021 Divine Mercy Sunday**  
8:00AM Mass Church  
8:30AM Communion outside front doors Church  
10:00AM Mass Church  
10:30AM Communion outside front doors Church  
10:30AM RCIA Zoom  
12:00PM Mass Church  
12:30PM Communion outside front doors Church  
2:00PM RCIA Zoom  
6:00PM SMYLE Youth Session Zoom

**Monday, Apr 12, 2021 No School— Bishop's Holiday**  
8:00AM Daily Mass Church

**Tuesday, Apr 13, 2021 SMS Re-Opens**  
8:00AM Daily Mass Church  
6:30PM SAC Meeting Zoom  
7:30PM Hand Bell rehearsal Church

**Wednesday, Apr 14, 2021**  
8:00AM Daily Mass Church  
7:00PM RCIA Session Zoom  
7:00PM SMYLE Parents Mtg. Zoom

**Thursday, Apr 15, 2021**  
8:00AM Daily Mass Church  
3:30PM Children's Choir 3rd & 4th gr. Church  
4:15PM Children's Choir 5th-8th gr. Church

**Friday, Apr 16, 2021**  
8:00AM Daily Mass Church

**Saturday, Apr 17, 2021**  
11:00AM Scouting Event— 5th gr. Moving up Cafeteria  
3:30PM Sacrament of Reconciliation Church  
5:00PM Mass Church

**Sunday, Apr 18, 2021**  
8:00AM Mass Church  
8:30AM Communion outside front doors Church  
10:00AM Mass Church  
10:30AM Communion outside front doors Church  
12:00PM Mass Church  
12:30PM Communion outside front doors Church  
6:30PM SMYLE—Youth Grp. Zoom



### Bulletin Article Requests:

If you would like to send information to be included in our bulletin, please email it to [bulletin@stmatthias.net](mailto:bulletin@stmatthias.net) by **12 Noon, Thursday, 9 days before the intended issue** (earlier for holiday weekends). Approved content is published on a space-available basis.

## From the Pastor



Dear Friends,

By now it is well known that the Sunday after Easter is celebrated as *Divine Mercy Sunday*. *St. Faustina*, a poorly educated daughter of a humble Polish family, kept a 600-page diary of the apparitions she had of Jesus for years. Her entries focus on God's mercy, the call to accept God's mercy and to be merciful, the need for conversion, and the call to trust in Jesus. It had been Jesus' own wish, she wrote, to establish a feast day: "I [Jesus] desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls. . . . I am giving them the last hope of salvation; that is, the Feast of My Mercy." When St. John Paul II canonized her in 2000, he proclaimed the Second Sunday of Easter as *Divine Mercy Sunday*, thereby widely promoting the devotional practices associated with Faustina's visions, already popular in many communities.

Some have asked me: "Father, are we bound to believe in such revelations to individuals like St. Faustina?" Let me answer with a quote from the most authoritative document of the Church, *Catechism of the Catholic Church*: "Throughout the ages, there have been so-called 'private' revelations, some of which have been recognized by the authority of the Church. They do not belong, however, to the deposit of faith. It is not their role to improve or complete Christ's definitive Revelation, but to help live more fully by it in a certain period of history" (#67).

Thus the Church is very clear that the revelations experienced by Saint Faustina were of a private nature, which are not essential to anyone's acceptance of the Catholic faith. Yet, the Church promotes this popular devotion because God's loving mercy, the focus of *Divine Mercy Sunday*, is the very heart of the gospel. The devotion to *Divine Mercy* fosters the virtue of trust in God's mercy that finds its fulfillment in the liturgy of Reconciliation and the Holy Eucharist.

We know Pope Francis has been an ardent promoter of divine mercy. His first book as pope is titled: *The Name of God is Mercy*. This year is the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary (1931-2021) of the first apparition to St. Faustina. The Pope used this occasion to exhort all to "pass on the fire of Jesus' merciful love."

And yet, today's gospel is about doubting the resurrection of Jesus by one of his own disciples! Presenting the famous profession of Faith from Thomas, "My Lord and my God," the Gospel illustrates how Jesus showed his mercy to this doubting apostle and emphasizes the importance of faith and surrender. We are invited to be liberated from doubts and reservations about our faith, first by verbalizing our doubts and trying to get answers from those who know, and second by surrendering our lives to the Risen Lord of Mercy.

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Orapankal

## Readings for the Week

**Monday:** Acts 4:23-31; Ps 2:1-3, 4-7a, 7b-9; Jn 3:1-8

**Tuesday:** Acts 4:32-37; Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5; Jn 3:7b-15

**Wednesday:** Acts 5:17-26; Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9; Jn 3:16-21

**Thursday:** Acts 5:27-33; Ps 34:2, 9, 17-18, 19-20; Jn 3:31-36

**Friday:** Acts 5:34-42; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Jn 6:1-5

**Saturday:** Acts 6:1-7; Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19; Jn 6:16-21

**Sunday:** Acts 3:13-15, 17-19; Ps 4:2, 4, 7-8, 9; 1 Jn 2:1-5a; Lk 24:35-48

## Mass Intentions for the Week

<b>Saturday, Apr 10</b>	5:00PM	Intention Of Parishioners
<b>Sunday, Apr 11</b>	8:00AM	Rose Marie LaTorre, by Helen Shanosky
	10:00AM	Lorraine Mascher, by Russ & Monica Demkovitz
	12:00PM	Arthur & Clelia Ronco, by daughter, Monica
	5:30PM	Mathai Joseph, by Ellin & Gil Ossandon
<b>Monday, Apr 12</b>	8:00AM	Elizabeth Haefner, by Dr. Powderly & Dr. Cimini
<b>Tuesday, Apr 13</b>	8:00AM	Timothy Brennan, by Sr. Marie Therese & Family
<b>Wednesday, Apr 14</b>	8:00AM	Health & Blessings for Heather Pardo, by Gale M. Dillman
<b>Thursday, Apr 15</b>	8:00AM	The Deceased Members of the Serdula Family, by Helen
<b>Friday, Apr 16</b>	8:00AM	Birthday Blessings for Leticia Roman, by Flora Sunga
<b>Saturday, Apr 17</b>	5:00PM	Mr. & Mrs. John Collins, by Marty Collins
<b>Sunday, Apr 18</b>	8:00AM	Elizabeth Candanedo, by Stephanie Carr
	10:00AM	Paul Hughes, by The Family
	12:00PM	Vincente Latorre, by Edna Yumang
	5:30PM	Intention of Parishioners

Mass Intentions for the 5:30PM intention will be combined with that at 12PM.

## Pray for those who are sick...

If you or a family member are sick, please **email Kelly Counts** at [kcounts@stmatthias.net](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.

Elbren, Sr. & Natalia Agdeppa	Mary Dolan	Elizabeth Miller	Elizondo Ruiz
Kristy Alexander	William Dolphin	Gail Miranda	Datius Rutashobya
Robert Bachman	Dorothy Domenici	Linda Misuraca	Maria Schwenzer
Carolyn Banghart	Josephine Geenty	Dave Moynihan	Sr. Mary Amata Shina, OSF
Maria Barreiro	Josephine Geenty	John Mulholland	Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF
Barbara Branham	Emma Gergely	Baby Ezran Natural	Encarnacion (Gina) So
Marie Brody	Rose Gessner	Patricia Nese	Alessandro Spagnolo
Maripearl Brooks	Mary Gidaro	Julianne Opydike	Dennis Stuewe
Baby Isla-Rose Callahan	Jeff Hentz	Maria Pennington	Fred & Carolyn Vanmiddlesworth
Sadie Callender	Emma Himey	Jim Pettit	Carmencita Ventura
Tara Capatosto	Michael Kirugi	Christina Pietrowiak	Eulalia Villanueva
Ellen Catalina	Taylor LaCort	Anthony & Andrew Referente	Al Wojciechowski
Frank Catalina	Al & Rose Larangeira	Kathleen & Mannix Referente	Leon Wojna
Wes Coddington	William Lecorchick	Samantha Renaud	Mark T. Worthington
Adoracion & Cenon DeGuzman	Pat Leposa	Chris Retz	Kenneth Yacavino
Mary Ellen Delaney	The Litrakis Family	Aubree Rezac	Everyone who is ill with Covid-19
Alaina Derecola	Al Maglio	Diane Rice	...and for all who are homebound,
Nancy Diaz	Sue Maglio-Alese	Nina Ripley	elderly, in nursing care, or living with
Jim Dolan	Shirley Mahoney	Ann Ritchick	chronic illness
	Margaret Menendez		

## Pray for those who have died...

Jorge Alfredo Calvimontes  
 Alfred and Helen Jago, parents of Lynne Finan —“His mercy endures forever.” *Chronicles*

# From the Pastoral Staff



Mercy is defined as showing compassion and forgiveness to someone whom it is in your power to punish. Divine Mercy is mercy from God Himself. Who has more power to punish than him? No one, but equally true (and one of the most beautiful characteristics of God) is that His mercy is infinite and as we heard in today's Psalm "His mercy endures forever." His mercy is timeless. He is always ready to show His mercy, as long as we ask for forgiveness and change our path away from sin. Even if we stumble, he shows His mercy again and again. The power God shows in his Mercy is not only timeless but it is boundless; it is bottomless; it is endless.

himself and he would share one percent with us; but in that one percent of mercy we all share, we are given the opportunity to bestow it on our family, friends, co-workers, and even strangers. The question is do we share it, and do we share it regularly, freely and with love and empathy? This is the challenge that we are faced with daily. Do I follow Jesus' living example of what God's mercy looks like or am I stingy with it?

Lent prepared us through sacrifice, alms giving, and prayer to reach Easter Sunday. Today as we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday, let us take the opportunity to be practitioners of mercy and may our practice of mercy benefit all those that cross our path as God's mercy has benefitted us.

There is a comfort in knowing our Father has this infinite well of Mercy for all his children. If one could divide all the Mercy in the universe up, God would keep 99 percent for

In His Peace,  
Elena Malinconico  
Principal, St. Matthias School

## Reflect



### Smile With Your Family



Real Faith! The substitute teacher needed some supplies from a Sunday School cupboard that was seldom used and was secured with a lock. She didn't know the combination, but the pastor offered to give it a try. He placed his fingers on the lock's dial and raised his eyes heavenward for a moment. Then he confidently spun the dial and opened the lock. Seeing how impressed the new teacher was with this demonstration of faith, he smiled and confided, "The numbers are written on the ceiling." 😊 😊

Reason for mercy: A boy is about to be sentenced for killing his parents. He begs the judge to spare his life. The judge asks for one good reason why he should be shown any mercy. The boy replies, "I'm an orphan, your honor." 😊

Traffic cop's mercy: A priest was forced by a police officer to pull over for speeding. As the officer was about to write the ticket, the priest said to him, "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy." The police officer handed the priest the ticket, and said, "Go, and sin no more."



### Parenting Tune-Up

"Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them." (John 20:23) Confession need not be limited to a priest in the confessional. 'Confess' to your children a mistake you've made. Ask them who they may have hurt; invite them to ask forgiveness from them.



### Marriage Tune-Up

Easter: Lent is over, Alleluia! Yes, you can go back to eating sweets if that's what you gave up, BUT, don't go back to taking your "sweetie" for granted. Can you each treat the other to some favor today? Looking for the opportunity is half of the favor.

### St. Thomas Went to India?

Yes, the same "doubting Thomas" took the gospel of Christ to the subcontinent of India. Various historical records and traditions indicate that Thomas traveled by sea to India in AD 52. He was later martyred and buried there after witnessing to the Indian people. A poet, St. Ephrem, recorded in his hymns and poetry that Thomas worked miracles in the Malabar region of south India. Many other accounts and traditions mention Thomas in connection with India. The

tomb of St. Thomas is in Mylapore, Chennai, India. The Syrian Christians of India, which I myself was born into, are proud to call ourselves as 'St. Thomas Christians.' It is interesting to note that there are only three Cathedrals in the world that are built over the tomb of an apostle: St. Peter's in Rome, St. James in Campostella, Spain, and St. Thomas in India!

## Mercy Triumphs over Law!



*"Law vs Mercy"* In *Reader's Digest*, Jim Williams of Montana, writes: "I was driving too fast late one night when I saw the flashing lights of a police car in my rearview mirror. As I pulled over and rolled down my window of my station wagon, I tried to dream up an excuse for my haste. But when the patrolman reached the car, he said nothing. Instead, he merely shined his flashlight in my face, then on my seven-month-old in his car seat, then on our three other children, who were asleep, and lastly on the two dogs in the very back of the car. Returning the beam of light to my face, he then uttered the only words of the encounter. "'Son,' he said, 'you can't afford a ticket. Slow down.'" And with that, he returned to his car and drove away." Sometimes mercy triumphs over law. So it is for sinners who call out to Jesus."

**Let us accept God's invitation to celebrate and practice mercy. One way the Church celebrates God's mercy throughout the year is through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Finding time for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is another good way to receive Divine Mercy. The Gospel command, "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful," demands that we show mercy to our fellow human beings always and everywhere. We radiate God's mercy to others by our actions, our words, and our prayers. It is mainly through the corporal and spiritual works of mercy that we practice mercy in our daily lives and become eligible for God's merciful judgment.**

### **"That's What I'm Afraid of!"**

There is a story about a soldier brought before General Robert E. Lee. Accused of misconduct, the soldier was trembling. The general said to him, "Do not be afraid, son. Here you will receive justice." The soldier looked at the general and said, "Sir that is what I am afraid of."

**Like that soldier, Peter would have reason to tremble. Peter had boasted about his bravery, how he would always stand by Jesus. Yet when Jesus needed him most, he nodded off. Perhaps one could forgive him for falling asleep, but later - when he was wide-awake - he denied Jesus. "I do not know the man." Some rock! In strict justice, Peter should have been punished - at the very least, removed as head of the Church. In Christ's passion, however, a deeper justice is at work. That is what we will discover this Divine Mercy Sunday. God's justice has a name - it is called the Divine Mercy.**

## "Enemy Lite!"

**"Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe." John 20: 19-31**

Anne Lamott writes with wit and salt about finding God in her struggles with addiction, pain and single-parenthood. In her book "Tender Mercies," she recounts her struggle with forgiveness. The target of her animosity was the mother of one of her son Sam's classmates. She was too perfect, too sweet, too pretty, too together. She was everything that Anne wanted to be as a mom and woman - but wasn't. And her son eclipsed Sam in every subject in second grade. Anne's interactions with this woman were strained at best. Anne saw every offer of help from her as patronizing and subtle criticism. The two women were on opposite ends of everything, from politics to housekeeping. In her book, Anne dubs the woman "Enemy Lite." Then one day, Sam is invited to play at Enemy Lite's house after school. When Anne goes to pick him up, Enemy Lite invites her inside and offers a cup of tea. At first, Anne refuses, wanting to get out of this House-and-Garden perfect home as quickly as she can. Anne writes about what happens next:

"Our boys appeared, and I got up to go. Sam's shoes were on the mat by the door, next to his friend's, and I went over to help him put them on. And as I loosened the laces on one shoe, without realizing what I was doing, I sneaked a look into the other boy's sneaker - to see what size shoe he wore. To see how my kid lined up in shoe size.

"And I finally got it. The veil dropped. I got that I was as mad as a hatter. I saw that I was the one worried that my child wasn't doing well enough in school. That I was the one who thought I was out of shape. And that I was trying to get her to carry all this for me because it hurt too much to carry it myself. I wanted to kiss her on both cheeks, apologize for all the self-contempt I'd been spewing out into the world, all the bad juju I'd been putting on her by thinking she was the one doing harm . . . "This was me," Anne realized. "Not her."

**In the light of Jesus' resurrection, we're able to see ourselves as we really are and confront our failings to be compassionate and our inability to forgive with hope and understanding. Anne Lamott came to realize that in her relationship with Enemy Lite; Thomas saw reason to let go of his doubt and skepticism in the person of the Risen Jesus. This Easter season, may we see our lives - both our gifts and failings, our certainties and doubts - in the light of Easter hope and grace, to embrace Christ's gift of peace enabling us to forgive and "let go" of our resentments and anger and disappointments in order to re-create our hearts and spirits in the living presence of the Risen One.**

## Reflect

### Divine Mercy Experience of Fr. James Alberione



The founder of the Pauline religious congregation is Rev. Fr. James Alberione. A holy man with a prophetic vision, he harnessed the pastoral potentiality of the modern means of communication at the service of evangelization. The Holy Father, Pope St. John Paul II, beatified him in 2003. Fr. Alberione founded five religious congregations, four aggregated Institutes, and the Association of Pauline Cooperators, all of which comprise the “Pauline Family”. In 1923, he was struck down with a serious illness that led him into a kind of crisis about the future of the religious family launched just a few years earlier. He needed some kind of assurance in the midst of uncertainties. He looked for confirmation in the most difficult moment of his life. The Divine Master kindly obliged by appearing to him in a dream, assuring him of His Divine assistance and presence.

In a subsequent dream, Jesus, the Master, said to him: “Fear not. I am with you. From here I will enlighten. Have a contrite heart.” The “from here” came forth from the tabernacle; and with power, such as to make one understand that from Him, the Master, must one receive all enlightenment. He spoke of this with his spiritual director, noting in what light the figure of the Master has been enveloped: “His reply to me was: “Be at peace; what was said is holy; make it a practical program of life and of light for yourself and for all members.” From that point on he became more and more oriented to and received all from the tabernacle.

**Indeed, the experience of Blessed James Alberione, a “true missionary of the Church” and a modern apostle for our times, is similar to that of the apostle Thomas, who experienced the compassion of the saving and merciful Lord as predilection.**

### President’s Mercy

Years after the death of President Calvin Coolidge, this story came to light. In the early days of his presidency, Coolidge awoke one morning in his hotel room to find a cat burglar going through his pockets. Coolidge spoke up, asking the burglar not to take his watch chain because it contained an engraved charm he wanted to keep. Coolidge then engaged the thief in quiet conversation and discovered he was a college student who had no money to pay his hotel bill or buy a ticket back to campus. Coolidge counted \$32 out of his wallet -- which he had also persuaded the dazed young man to give back! -- declared it to be a loan, and advised the young man to leave the way he had come so as to avoid the Secret Service! (Yes, the loan was paid back!)

**Today’s Gospel vividly reminds us of how Jesus instituted the Sacrament of Reconciliation, a sacrament of Divine Mercy. The Risen Lord gave his apostles the power to forgive sins with the words, “Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained” (John 20: 19-23).**

### They Were Able to Forgive!

Mary and her husband suffered the tragic loss of their son, and it was her understanding of Divine Mercy that helped her and her family forgive those that took his life during a robbery.



Mary tells us how her attendance at a Mother of Mercy Messengers (MOMM) Divine Mercy Program helped her overcome great obstacles and allowed her to forgive and even to pray for them. Knowing that as long as there is life, there is hope, the family did not seek the death penalty for his murderers. How differently does the person filled with God’s mercy see and react to the world.

## Pray

### Excerpt from Pope Francis’ URBI ET ORBI MESSAGE (cont’d from the cover)

when all of us are called to combat the pandemic. Vaccines are an essential tool in this fight. I urge the entire international community, in a spirit of global responsibility, to commit to overcoming delays in the distribution of vaccines and to facilitate their distribution, especially in the poorest countries.

“The crucified and risen Lord is comfort for those who have lost their jobs or

experience serious economic difficulties and lack adequate social protection...

“The poor of every kind must begin once more to hope”. [Saint John Paul II](#) spoke these words during [his visit to Haiti](#). It is precisely to the beloved Haitian people that my thoughts turn in these days. I urge them not to be overwhelmed by difficulties, but to look to the future with confidence and hope...

“The risen Jesus is also hope for all those young people forced to go long periods without attending school or university, or spending time with their friends. Experiencing real human relationships, not just virtual relationships, is something that everyone needs, especially at an age when a person’s character and personality is being formed...”

## All About Faith Formation

We're about to begin our second spring, finding ourselves still in a world of pandemic realities. Our Faith Formation **GIFT** theme for this past year was **Faith, Hope and Love in Anxious Times**. The norm of in-person instruction and gatherings went to monthly virtual learning and Zoom this past fall. We are grateful that we made this all work relatively well.



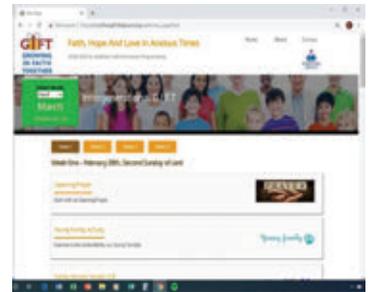
At St Matthias our **Small Groups** became comfortable on Zoom-two seasons for 20 **Live Lent** and **Fall into Faith** groups sharing faith and reflecting on Scripture- all thanks to technology!

Our Youth Group, **SMYLE**, began meeting on Zoom each month with a Youth, parent session and service project each month. Thus far, four service projects have supported Unity Square, New Brunswick; Pregnancy Aid and Resource Center, Raritan; Ministry to Teen Mom's, New Brunswick; and hygiene and snack food bags for Elijah's Promise and other local charities. Thank you to all who so generously supported these efforts.

**Sacramental Preparation** also continued online, Baptism Prep on Zoom and Reconciliation/First Eucharist Prep and Confirmation 7 & 8 prep online with posted online at home sessions. YouTube videos and live streaming have become second nature.



In the past few weeks, **Confirmation 4** met in person for their **ServiceWorx** make-up sessions and also for a powerful **Retreat** in Church with parent and candidate led by an outstanding presenter/facilitator, Colleen Kelly-Raynor.



### Attention all Youth in Junior High & High School – Grades 6-12<sup>th</sup> Grades

ARE YOU LOOKING TO "BELONG" – "TO GET CONNECTED"  
to our **SMYLE** Youth Group?



**This Saturday and Sunday**, stop by the Cry Room to pick-up your own bag of LEGOS! Please take one per student.

During our Virtual SMYLE event on ZOOM starting **tonight, April 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30**, our Youth Leadership Team will give you something to think about while you're "building" something using Legos and "connecting" with others.

Any questions, please contact Fr. Joe or Deacon John (More information on next page)



## Learn



### APRIL SMYLE SCHEDULE

**Youth Session: Sunday, April 11, 2021 - 6:30 - 7:30pm**

**Topic: Fitting in/Belonging**

**Parent Session: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 - 7:00 - 8:00 pm**

**Topic: I used to think I was pretty smart...**

**Service Opportunity: April 24-25, 2021 Cry Room**

**[Used Eyeglasses collection for the Knights of Columbus]**

**Zoom links will be sent closer to each date!**

## Connect

### National Merit Scholarship Finalist / National African American Scholar and National Hispanic Scholar

Elizabeth Williams, a senior from Franklin Township, was recently selected as a National Merit Scholarship Finalist. She made history at Thomas Edison EnergySmart Charter School as the only Finalist in their first-ever graduating class. The 17-year-old was chosen as one of 16,000 Finalists from over 1.5 million students nationwide who took the PSAT in 2019. In the pool of less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors, Elizabeth will continue in the competition for one of 7,600 National Merit Scholarships and to earn the title of Merit Scholar.

Due to her excellent performance on the PSAT, she was also recognized as a National African American Scholar and a National Hispanic Scholar.

Elizabeth intends to major in neuroscience, music, and international relations in college.

We are proud that she is one of our parishioners and a member of our music ministry accompanying on violin. We wish her God's blessings in her life and plans.

### Congratulations to St. Matthias Grad's at Immaculata High School

Congratulations to the following St. Matthias Graduates who have been inducted into the Immaculata High School's chapter of The National Honor Society:

*Haley Chan*

*Philip Enad*

*Dylan Hayes*

*Marissa Melllyn*

*Giovanna Pechilio*

*Katherine Tami*

*Asha Tozek*

### Need Help Scheduling Your Covid Vaccine?

If you are **65 or older, or a teacher/staff**, and need help with booking a vaccine appointment, contact parishioner Maribeth Llaguno **THIS WEEK** and she will help. Contact her at:

[mabeth70@yahoo.com](mailto:mabeth70@yahoo.com)

Book your appointment **before** everyone 16+ is eligible.

### Pastoral Council Outreach — Help Us Connect with Each Other!



Are you aware of any parishioners who might be feeling disconnected from the St Matthias Parish Family? Do you feel they may welcome a call from a fellow parishioner? With covid-19 continuing into 2021, some may feel estranged if attending Mass in person is not a comfortable option for them or if viewing Mass online or reading the bulletin requires technical equipment or knowledge not available to them. This past year may have been and might contin-

ue to be particularly isolating for some parish members. Any persons come to mind?

The Pastoral Council would like to reach out and help parishioners stay connected during this difficult time.

Please email Pastoral Council member, Lorraine Farr, [Lvfarr7@gmail.com](mailto:Lvfarr7@gmail.com), or call the Parish Office, 732-828-1400, with those individuals' names and phone number. Please help re-connect friends, family, neighbors to our St Matthias Family!

2021 Bishop's Annual Appeal



A vocation to the priesthood is both challenging and rewarding. A priest is called to be a witness of Christ. He is a minister of the sacraments, proclaimer of the word, teacher of the faith, and steward of the Church. He accompanies the faithful through this world, leading the way to the eternal kingdom of heaven.

Discernment of a vocation to the priesthood requires specialized guidance to navigate the spiritual formation and academic demands of the seminary. While the Diocese of Metuchen has been blessed with an increase in the number of men studying for the priesthood –currently 24. The expense of educating and preparing our future priests is also rising. Your gift to the Bishop's Annual Appeal will help provide men with the opportunity to successfully complete their journey through the seminary and ensure the future of our Church. Please give as generously as your means allow.



Hungry for Popcorn?

Whether this is a treat for yourself or a gift for a friend or neighbor, buy some popcorn today and a portion of the sale will go to St. Matthias School.

- 1) Go to [www.supportmyfundraiser.org](http://www.supportmyfundraiser.org)
- 2) Click on "Online Store" at the top.
- 3) Enter 713917 for the "seller number" and have fun shopping!

Please be sure to select "Ship to Home". Share this info with friends and family. Thank you!



Stewardship Reflection Apr 11, 2021  
2nd Sunday of Easter/ Divine Mercy Sunday

*"The community of believers was of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own..." - ACTS 4:32*

All that we are and all that we have is a gift from God! Think of your family, your friends, your life, your talents and your money – these are all gifts from God! We aren't really owners of anything, we are merely "stewards" of the gifts God has blessed us with. We are called to be grateful and generous with all of our gifts for the benefit of others.

Reflexiónese — 11 de abril de 2021  
Domingo de la Divina Misericordia

*"La comunidad de creyentes era una en corazón y mente, todo lo que tenían lo compartían entre ellos, y nadie se sentía dueño de nada..." - HECHOS 4:32*

¡Todo lo que somos y todo lo que tenemos es un regalo de Dios! Piense sobre su familia, sus amigos, su vida, sus talentos y su dinero - ¡son todos regalos de Dios! Realmente no somos dueños de nada, somos simples "administradores" de los dones con los que Dios nos ha bendecido. Somos llamados a ser agradecidos y generosos con todos nuestros dones para beneficiar a los demás.

**Shop on Amazon?**  
Please start by clicking on the link at:  
[www.stmatthias.net/amazon](http://www.stmatthias.net/amazon) Thank you!

Stewardship Totals for Fiscal Year July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021 (updated)				Last Year's Total
Current Month	In-Pew/Mail	Parish Giving	Weekly Total	Weekly Total
Week 36 - Mar. 7, 2021	\$12,433.50	\$24,165.75	\$36,599.25	\$25,211.09
Week 37- Mar 14, 2021	\$13,068.50	\$20,060.25	\$33,128.75	\$18,973.09
Week 38 - Mar. 21, 2021	\$6,201.00	\$13,206.25	\$19,407.25	\$12,376.09
Week 39- Mar. 28, 2021	\$11,245.00	\$8,204.25	\$19,449.25	\$20,566.09
			<b>Month-to-date Total</b>	<b>Mar Total Last Yr</b>
			\$108,584.50	\$77,126.36
			<b>Current Year-to-date</b>	<b>Year-to-date as of Mar 31,2020</b>
			\$979,285.43	\$1,054,251.54

**Note:** The online Parish Giving amount varies week-to-week since some parishioners donate once a month and the full amount is recorded the week it arrives.

## Give

Stewardship Totals for Fiscal Year July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021				Last Year's Total
Current Month	In-Pew/Mail	Parish Giving	Weekly Total	Weekly Total
Week 40 - Apr.4, 2021	\$15,252.00	\$14,228.25	<b>\$29,480.25</b>	\$16,325.28

## Serve

### Pastoral Council Seeks New Members

The Pastoral Council is the primary advisory body for the Pastor. As we continue to recruit new members, we would like to invite everyone in our parish to help make this leadership body more representative of our entire parish community. We ask you to nominate fellow parishioners, representative of our community (in any/all ways), for the Pastoral Council. Speak with these parishioners directly and encourage them to prayerfully consider this ministry. Email their names to either Nick Grippo, [nickgrippo@gmail.com](mailto:nickgrippo@gmail.com), or Lisa Robinson, [laro504@comcast.net](mailto:laro504@comcast.net). Please also ask them to contact Nick or Lisa who will be able to answer any questions. Everyone who is prayerfully considering this ministry is invited to observe a Pastoral Council meeting. The next Pastoral Council meeting (via Zoom) will be on **Tuesday, April 27, at 7 pm**. And if you have been considering this ministry on your own, don't be shy. Please contact Nick or Lisa and then please come to observe the next meeting.



### Caregiver/Care Support Ministry Zoom

We'd like to invite parishioners who are caring for ill loved ones, or are coping with chronic illness themselves, and in need of spiritual and emotional support, to join us for discussion and prayer via Zoom.

**SATURDAY, May 1st, 10am - 11 noon, Via Zoom**

Please contact: Donna Kahora: [friendsofnikki@comcast.net](mailto:friendsofnikki@comcast.net) or Sister Marie Therese: [msherwood@stmatthias.net](mailto:msherwood@stmatthias.net), 732-828-1400 for Zoom details if you are interested in joining us.

## Local Community

### Covid-19 Crisis Counseling

Have you or someone you know been impacted by Covid-19? **NJ Hope & Healing Crisis Counseling Program**, offered by Catholic Charities is available to assist you. Services include: **Stress Management, Emotional Support, Links to Resources, Daily Zoom calls, Motivational Quotes, and Drop-in Zoom sessions**. Contact: 732-204-6510, [hopeandhealing@ccdom.org](mailto:hopeandhealing@ccdom.org).

## Parish Leadership

<b>Parish Pastoral Council:</b>	<b>Co-Secretary:</b>	Marybeth Purcell	<a href="mailto:@stmatthias.net">@stmatthias.net</a>	Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio
<b>Chair:</b> Nick Grippo <a href="mailto:nickgrippo@gmail.com">nickgrippo@gmail.com</a>	Denise Brown	John Taylor	Susan Klimcsak	<b>Trustees:</b>
<b>Co-Chair:</b> Lisa Robinson <a href="mailto:laro504@comcast.net">laro504@comcast.net</a>	Lorraine Farr	Ana Kelly, Ex-Officio	Barry Dusault	Isaac Peng
<b>Secretary:</b> Tom Aussem	Anne Marie Francis	Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio	Gwen Orłowski	Marge Richards
	Claudine Langrin	<b>Parish Finance Council:</b>	Audrey Francis	
	Joe Percoco	Joe Porter, Chair	Kester Hector	
	Rose Peng	<b>Finance Council</b>	Joan Pritchard	

## 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 Office.

**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 8<sup>th</sup> 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.



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