



**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

**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**

Deacon Russell Demkovitz, [rdemkovitz](mailto:rdemkovitz@stmatthias.net)

Ana V Kelly, *Marketing & Development*, [akelly](mailto:akelly@stmatthias.net)

Dolores R. Nann, *Faith Formation*, [dnann](mailto:dnann@stmatthias.net)

Deacon John Radvanski, [deaconjohn](mailto:deaconjohn@stmatthias.net)

Joan Best Seamon, *Music Ministry* [jseamon](mailto:jseamon@stmatthias.net)

Sr Marie Therese Sherwood, *OSF, Social Concerns*, [msherwood](mailto:msherwood@stmatthias.net)

Phyllis Stone, *Liturgy/RCIA and Administrative Assistant to the Pastor*, [pstone](mailto:pstone@stmatthias.net)

**St. Matthias School (add @stmatthiasnj.org)**

Elena Malinconico, *Principal*, [emalinconico](mailto:emalinconico@stmatthiasnj.org)

Joseph Gidaro, *Vice Principal*, [jgidaro](mailto:jgidaro@stmatthiasnj.org)

**Parish Office Staff**

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 4, 2021 –**

**Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord**

**Holy Thursday - April 1st**

- 7:30 PM Mass

- Till 10:45 PM: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament - cafeteria

- 10:45 PM Night Prayer - cafeteria

**Good Friday - April 2nd**

- 8:30 AM Morning Prayer - cafeteria

- 2PM Outdoor Stations - School Parking Lot

- 7:30 PM Passion of the Lord

**Holy Saturday - April 3rd**

- 8:30 AM Morning Prayer-cafeteria

- 12 PM Blessing of Food - cafeteria

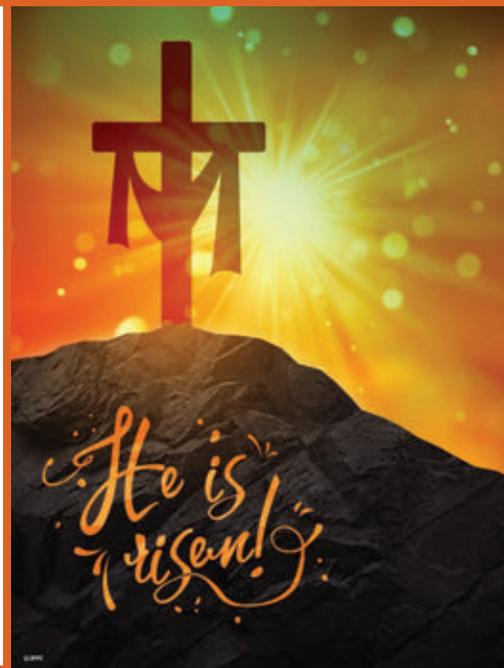
- 8 PM Great Easter Vigil

**Easter Sunday - April 4th**

- 8:00 AM Mass

- 10:00 AM Mass

- 12:00 PM Mass



**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.

What does this mean for you? We ask you to nominate fellow parishioners, representative of our community (in any/all ways), who you think would be great to have on 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.

**8:00 AM Sunday Mass**

We will continue the 8:00 AM Sunday Mass for the month of April, before making a decision about whether to reinstate it at this time or wait until a later date when more people begin attending Sunday Mass in-person.

## 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.)

### SMS Easter Recess All Week

#### Sunday, Apr 4, 2021 Easter Sunday

8:00AM	Mass	Church
8:30AM	Communion outside front doors	
10:00AM	Mass	Church
10:30AM	Communion outside front doors	
12:00PM	Mass	Church
12:30PM	Communion outside front doors	

#### Monday, Apr 5, 2021

No Daily Mass on Easter Monday  
Parish Office is closed

#### Tuesday, Apr 6, 2021

8:00AM	Daily Mass	Church
7:30PM	Hand Bell rehearsal	Church
7:30PM	SVDP Mtg.	Zoom

#### Wednesday, Apr 7, 2021

8:00AM	Daily Mass	Church
8:30AM	St. Joseph's Intercession Prayer	Church

#### Thursday, Apr 8, 2021

8:00AM	Daily Mass	Church
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#### Friday, Apr 9, 2021

8:00AM	Daily Mass	Church
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#### Saturday, Apr 10, 2021

3:30PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation	Church
5:00PM	Mass	Church

#### Sunday, Apr 11, 2021

8:00AM	Mass	Church
10:00AM	Mass	Church
10:30AM	Communion outside front doors	
10:30AM	RCIA	Zoom
12:00PM	Mass	Church
12:30PM	Communion outside front doors	
2:00PM	RCIA	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 & the Pastoral Staff

Dear Friends,

Does the ongoing challenging situation make a difference in the way we say "Happy Easter!" this year? Do we heave a sigh of relief, "Lent is over, Alleluia!" or exclaim with a heartfelt joy, "He is Risen, Alleluia!?" Our pandemic experience was aptly described by Pope Francis: *"This disease has not only deprived us of human closeness, but also of the possibility of receiving in person the consolation that flows from the sacraments, particularly the Eucharist and Reconciliation. In many countries, it has not been possible to approach them, but the Lord has not left us alone! United in our prayer, we are convinced that he has laid his hand upon us (cf. Ps 138:5), firmly reassuring us: Do not be afraid, 'I have risen and I am with you still!'"*



We have been very fortunate to offer all the Church services both in person and online – thanks to our St. Matthias YouTube channel. Easter brings so many promises of God to us: life is stronger than death, love can overcome hate, goodness ultimately triumphs over evil, and eternal glory with God in Heaven is our destiny. Yes, we celebrate Easter with heartfelt joy.

The historical evidence for Jesus of Nazareth is both long-established and widespread. Besides the New Testament references, Jesus is mentioned by Jewish and Roman historians, as well as by dozens of Christian writings. These establish the historicity of Jesus beyond doubt. Compare that with, for example, King Arthur, who supposedly lived around AD 500. The major historical source for events of that time does not even mention Arthur, and he is first mentioned some 300 or 400 years after he is supposed to have lived. The evidence for Jesus is not limited to later folklore, as are accounts of Arthur. Hence any challenge to the reality of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus is not entertained in educated circles.

But the resurrection of Jesus from the dead is not simply a fact of history to be retold at Easter. The retelling we had these past days of Holy Week is meant to remind us that this happy mystery is to be lived everyday. How?

Like the first disciples, we, too, know that Jesus is not found among the dead but among the living. He lives among us whenever we gather in His name: not only for the Eucharist or for Lenten small groups, but also when we come together for every association or ministry meeting and whenever we organize any parish event – both of which are in abundance here at St. Matthias. He is present in our homes when we gather as a family not only for meals or prayer, but also for any family event. When we reach out to the less fortunate with help, we lift up the hand of Jesus. In these and many other ways, we give witness to the mystery of Jesus living among us. Indeed, we become the Body of Christ for the world.

Let us experience more of that Easter Joy!  
Easter Blessings to you and to your dear ones!

Your brother in Christ,  
Fr. Abraham Orpankal

## Readings for the Week

**Monday:** Acts 2:14, 22-33; Ps 16:1-2a, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11; Mt 28:8-15

**Tuesday:** Acts 2:36-41; Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22; Jn 20:11-18

**Wednesday:** Acts 3:1-10; Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9; Lk 24:13-35

**Thursday:** Acts 3:11-26; Ps 8:2ab, 5, 6-7, 8-9; Lk 24:35-48

**Friday:** Acts 4:1-12; Ps 118:1-2, 4, 22-24, 25-27a; Jn 21:1-14

**Saturday:** Acts 4:13-21; Ps 118:1, 14-15ab, 16-18, 19-21; Mk 16:9-15

**Sunday:** Acts 4:32-35; Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24; 1 Jn 5:1-6; Jn 20:19-31

Mass Intentions for the 8AM Mass will be combined with that at the 10AM Mass, and the 5:30PM intention will be combined with that at 12PM.

## Mass Intentions for the Week

<b>Saturday, Apr 3</b>	8:30AM	Morning Prayer
	12:00PM	Blessing of Foods—Cafeteria
<b>Sunday, Apr 4</b>	8:00PM	Easter Vigil Mass—Nazim Ali, by The Seiwert Family
	8:00AM	Intention Of Parishioners
	10:00AM	Howard Stevenson, by The Caballero Family (church)
	10:00AM	Deceased Members of Sunga/Munar Families, by Flora Sunga
	12:00PM	Bud & Mary Renda, by Lena & Children
<b>Monday, Apr 5</b>	5:30PM	No Mass
	8:00AM	No Mass
<b>Tuesday, Apr 6</b>	8:00AM	Peter Korey, by The Lanyi & Kantor Families
<b>Wednesday, Apr 7</b>	8:00AM	Birthday Blessings for Sr. Amata, by Sr. Marie Theresa &
<b>Thursday, Apr 8</b>	8:00AM	Patty Lara, by The Maglio Family
<b>Friday, Apr 9</b>	8:00AM	Bob Dietz, by The Weeden Family
<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

## 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  
 Kristy Alexander  
 Robert Bachman  
 Barbara Branham  
 Marie Brody  
 Baby Isla-Rose Callahan  
 Sadie Callender  
 Tara Capatosto  
 Ellen Catalina  
 Frank Catalina  
 Wes Coddington  
 Adoracion & Cenon DeGuzman  
 Mary Ellen Delaney  
 Alaina Derecola  
 Nancy Diaz  
 Jim Dolan  
 Mary Dolan  
 William Dolphin  
 Dorothy Domenici

Josephine Geenty  
 Emma Gergely  
 Rose Gessner  
 Mary Gidaro  
 Jeff Hentz  
 Emma Himey  
 Michael Kirugi  
 Taylor LaCort  
 Al & Rose Larangeira  
 William Lecorchick  
 Pat Leposa  
 The Litrakis Family  
 Al Maglio  
 Sue Maglio-Alese  
 Shirley Mahoney  
 Margaret Menendez  
 Elizabeth Miller  
 Gail Miranda  
 Linda Misuraca

Dave Moynihan  
 John Mulholland  
 Baby Ezran Natural  
 Patricia Nese  
 Julianne Opydike  
 Jim Pettit  
 Christina Pietrowiak  
 Anthony & Andrew Referente  
 Kathleen & Mannix Referente  
 Samantha Renaud  
 Chris Retz  
 Aubree Rezac  
 Diane Rice  
 Nina Ripley  
 Ann Ritchick  
 Elizondo Ruiz  
 Datius Rutashobya  
 Maria Schwenzer  
 Sr. Mary Amata Shina, OSF

Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF  
 Encarnacion (Gina) So  
 Alessandro Spagnolo  
 Dennis Stuewe  
 Fred & Carolyn Vanmiddlesworth  
 Carmencita Ventura  
 Eulalia Villanueva  
 Al Wojciechowski  
 Leon Wojna  
 Mark T. Worthington  
 Kenneth Yacavino  
 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...

—“His mercy endures forever.” Chronicles

## Reflect



### Smile With Your Family



A Sunday school teacher had just finished telling her third graders about how Jesus was crucified and placed in a tomb with a great stone sealing the opening. Then, wanting to share the excitement of the resurrection, she asked: "And what do you think were Jesus' first words when He came bursting out of that tomb alive?" A hand shot up into the air from the rear of the classroom. Attached to it was the arm of a little girl. Leaping out of her chair she

shouted out excitedly "I know, I know!" "Good" said the teacher, "Tell us, what were Jesus first words?" And extending her arms high into the air she said: "TA-DA!" 😊

**"See what happens."** One lady wrote in to a question-and-answer forum. "Dear Sirs, Our preacher said on vc, that Jesus just swooned on the cross and that the disciples nursed Him back to health. What do you think? Sincerely,

Bewildered.

Dear Bewildered, Beat your preacher with a cat-of-nine-tails, nail him to a cross; hang him in the sun for 6 hours; run a spear through his side...put him in an airless tomb for 36 hours and see what happens." Sincerely, Charles. 😊

**Easter is the only time of year** when it is safe to put all your eggs in one basket 😊

**Egg hunts are proof** that your children can find things when they really want. 😊



**"You seek Jesus of Nazareth, the crucified. He has been raised; he is not here." Mark 16: 1-7**

He was a software engineer by profession - but music was his passion. An accomplished pianist, he composed marvelous pieces. He wrote his first song to impress a girl in his class. And she was impressed. They were 15. They married five years later and have been together 46 years. Then one day he sat down at the piano to play. He started a song, but stopped. How did it go? He couldn't remember. It happened again and again. It was the first sign that he had Alzheimer's disease. All those years, he never wrote or recorded any of his songs. Every note and phrase and chord progression were in his head. And soon it would be lost forever. Another piece of this husband and dad would be lost.

One day, his daughter confided to her best friend what was happening to her father. Her friend was an extraordinary musician and pianist: she possessed the rare gift of being able to hear a piece of music once and play it. She offered to work with her friend's father to reconstruct his music. After much prodding, the father agreed. Each time they met, he would play whatever notes he could remember and

she would play them back; she would suggest various paths and would begin reconstructing the piece. She immediately understood his music - she found hints of themes, counter themes, harmonies and rhythms. She found his music beautiful - and worth saving.

For two years they worked together every other week. With the help of some of her musician friends, they recorded a CD of his music. She also convinced him to compose one last song. With her help, he composed a piece called "Melancholy Flower." The Oregon Repertory Singers included it in their 2016 Christmas concert. For the first time, one of his songs would be performed in public. Despite all that Alzheimer's had taken from him, the music of his soul would live on.

**The compassion and dedication of a young musician helps preserve the music locked in the brain of its composer suffering from Alzheimer's. Her work is the work of Easter: to open tombs; to restore life to the lost, the despairing, the forgotten; to free the dead from the shackles of hopelessness. The empty tomb of Easter morning is God's vindication of his Son's life among us: that no tomb can contain the mercy and hope of God. May we be about the work of Easter: to unlock the music of God's peace in our lives that has for too long been entombed by fear, anger and hurt.**

### Easter Gives us Hope and Encouragement

In this world of pain, sorrows and tears, Easter reminds us that life is worth living. It is our belief in the Real Presence of the Risen Jesus in our souls, in His Church, in the Blessed Sacrament and in Heaven that gives meaning to our personal, as well as to our common, prayers. Our trust in the all-pervading presence of the Risen Lord gives us strength to fight against temptations and freedom from unnecessary worries and fears. The prayer of St. Patrick, the Apostle of Ireland, reads: "Christ before me, Christ beside me, Christ within me, never to part."

*"In the midst of our lives, of our freedom and our struggles, we have to make a radical, absolute decision. And we never know when lightning will strike us out of the blue. It may be when we least expect to be asked whether we have the absolute faith and trust to say yes."* — Karl Rahner

## Why do you believe in the Resurrection?



If someone challenges you to prove the resurrection of Jesus, here are TEN good answers:

(1) **Jesus himself testified to his Resurrection from the dead-** (Mark 8:31; Matthew 17:22; Lk 9:22)

(2) **The tomb was empty on Easter Sunday** (Luke 24:3). Although the guards claimed (Matthew 28:13) that the disciples of Jesus had stolen the body, every sensible Jew knew that it was impossible for the terrified disciples of Jesus to steal the body of Jesus from a tomb guarded by an armed, 16-member Temple Guard detachment.

(3) The initial disbelief of Jesus' own disciples in His Resurrection, in spite of His repeated apparitions, serves as a strong proof of His Resurrection. Their initial disbelief explains why the Apostles started preaching the Risen Christ only after receiving the anointing of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost.

(4) The transformation of Jesus' disciples: Jesus' Resurrection and the anointing of the Holy Spirit **transformed men who were hopeless and fearful after the crucifixion** (Luke 24:21, John 20:19), **into men who now were confident and bold witnesses to the Resurrection** (Acts 2:24, 3:15, 4:2)

(5) Neither the Jews nor the Romans could disprove Jesus' Resurrection by presenting the dead body of Jesus.

(6) The Apostles and early Christians would not have faced martyrdom if they were not absolutely sure of Jesus' Resurrection.

(7) **The Apostle Paul's conversion from a persecutor of Christians to a zealous preacher of Jesus supports the truth of Jesus' Resurrection** (Galatians 1:11-17, Acts 9:1, 9:24-25, Acts 26:15-18).

(8) **The sheer existence of a thriving, empire-conquering early Christian Church, bravely facing and surviving three centuries of persecution, supports the truth of the Resurrection claim.**

(9) **The New Testament witnesses do not bear the stamp of dupes or deceivers. The Apostles and the early Christians were absolutely sure about the Resurrection of Jesus.**

(10) If Jesus had not been raised bodily from the dead, Christianity would never have survived as a Messianic movement on a lie!

## He is Risen Indeed!

We probably do not remember the name Nikolai Ivanovich Bukharin. Many years ago, he was one of the most powerful men on earth. A Russian Communist leader, he took part in the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917. He was the editor of the Soviet newspaper *Pravda* and was a full member of the Politburo. His works on economics and political science are still read today. There is a story told about a journey he took from Moscow to Kiev in 1930 to address a huge assembly of Communists. The subject was atheism. Addressing the crowd, he attacked Christianity, hurling insults and arguments against it. When he had finished, he looked out at the audience. "Are there any questions?" he demanded. Deafening silence filled the auditorium. Then one man stood up, approached the platform and mounted the lectern. After surveying the crowd, he shouted the ancient greeting of the Russian Orthodox Church: "CHRIST IS RISEN!" The crowd stood up and shouted in a thundering voice: "HE IS RISEN INDEED!" Amazed and dejected, Bukharin left the stage in silence. Finally, he had learned the lesson that Faith in Christ's Resurrection was deeply rooted in his Russian Orthodox Communist followers!

*We need to live without fear. We need to live new, disciplined lives in the Risen Jesus, no matter what. Our awareness of the all-pervading presence of the Risen Lord in and around us, and the strong conviction of our own coming resurrection, help us control our thoughts, desires, words and behavior. This salutary thought inspires us to honor our bodies, keeping them holy, pure and free from evil habits and addictions. Our conviction about the presence of the risen Lord in our neighbors, and in all those with whom we come into contact, should encourage us to respect them, and to render them loving, humble and selfless service.*

## Cape of Good Hope!

You may remember a geography lesson from elementary school in which you learned that the southernmost point of Africa is a point which for centuries has experienced tremendous storms. For many years no one knew what lay beyond that cape, for no ship attempting to round that point had ever returned to tell the tale. Among the ancients it was known as the "Cape of Storms," and for good reason. But then a Portuguese explorer in the sixteenth century, Vasco De Gama, successfully sailed East around that very point and found beyond the wild raging storms, a great calm sea, and beyond that, the shores of India. The name of that cape was changed from the Cape of Storms to the Cape of Good Hope.

Until Jesus Christ rose from the dead, death had been the "cape of storms" on which all hopes of life beyond had been wrecked. No one knew what lay beyond that point until, on Easter morning, Jesus arose. The ancient visions of Isaiah became the victory of Jesus over our last great enemy. Like those sixteenth century explorers, we can see beyond human death to the hope of Heaven and eternal life with the Father. More than that, we dare to believe that we shall experience in our own human lives exactly what the Son of God experienced in His, for the Risen Christ says to us, "Because I live, you shall live also." This is the heart of our Faith.

## Jesus is Unique!

**E.P. Sanders** (Jewish NT scholar, professor at Duke): “On a spring morning in about the year 30 C.E., three men were executed by the Roman authorities in Judea. Two were ‘brigands’... the third was executed as another type of political criminal. He had not robbed, pillaged, murdered, or even stored arms. He was convicted, however, of having claimed to be ‘king of the Jews’—a political title. Those who looked on... doubtless thought that... the world would little note what happened that spring morning... it turned out, of course, that the third man, Jesus of Nazareth, would become one of the most important figures in human history.” [The Historical Figure of Jesus, Penguin Books, 5339]



**We are to be a Resurrection people: Easter, the feast of the Resurrection, gives us the joyful message that we are a “Resurrection people.” This means that we are not supposed to lie buried in the tomb of our sins, evil habits and dangerous addictions. It gives us the Good News that no tomb can hold us down anymore - not the tomb of despair, discouragement or doubt, nor that of death. Instead, we are expected to live a joyful and peaceful life, constantly experiencing the real presence of the Risen Lord in all the events of our lives. “This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad” (Psalm 118:24).**

## What Easter Means to These Men and Women!

**St. John Paul II:** “Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and hallelujah is our song.”

**Martin Luther King Jr:** “Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime.”

**Mahatma Gandhi:** “A man who was completely innocent, offered himself as a sacrifice for the good of others, including his enemies, and became the ransom of the world. It was a perfect act.”

**Deepak Chopra:** “The symbolic language of the crucifixion is the death of the old paradigm; resurrection is a leap into a whole new way of thinking.”

**Dwight L. Moody:** “A rule I have had for years is: to treat the Lord Jesus Christ as a personal friend. His is not a creed, a mere doctrine, but it is He Himself we have.”

**Kate McGahan:** The very first Easter taught us this: that life never ends and love never dies.

**C.S. Lewis:** I believe in Christ, like I believe in the sun - not because I can see it, but by it I can see everything else.

**Janine di Giovanni:** Easter is meant to be a symbol of hope, renewal and new life.

**Reba McEntire:** Easter is very important to me. It's a second chance.

**Roma Downey:** “People come together with their families to celebrate Easter. What better way to celebrate than to spend a few hours going on the journey of Christ's life.”

**Rick Warren:** Easter celebrates an event that proved Jesus was who he claimed to be. He was God in the flesh, and he came to Earth to save us. And that meant he had to die for us.

## Doctors of Death vs Lord of Life

Dr. Jayant Patel, an Indo-American was dubbed ‘doctor of death’ because he faced charges of manslaughter in over 800 cases in the USA and Australia. Dr. Patel allegedly lied about his medical qualifications and performed operations causing innumerable deaths. He was convicted of three counts of manslaughter and one case of grievous bodily harm. Dr. Christopher Dustsch, a maniac neurosurgeon in Texas, intentionally maimed his patients. He purposely severed an artery in a female patient’s spine, causing her to bleed to death. He was convicted of murdering two patients, suspected of purposely maiming 33 patients and is now serving a life sentence. Sadly, history abounds with such ‘doctors of death’ besides leaders like Hitler and the so-called ‘butcher of the Balkans’ Slobodan Milosevic.

**Of course we are not killers like them. But we too, consciously or unconsciously – promote death rather than life, when we kill truth, when we kill the good name of someone, when we refuse to stand up for justice. Easter reminds us that life is more powerful than death. We are to be bearers of the Good News of Resurrection power. Resurrection is Good News, but at the same time, it's sometimes painful because it involves death. Before the power of the Resurrection can take hold in our own lives, we're called to die to sin, to die to self. We may even have to die to our own dreams, so that God can do what He wants to do with our lives. Resurrection is about seeing our world in a new way. Early that Easter morning, Mary did not find what she was looking for, the dead body of Jesus. But she found something better than she could have imagined: the Risen Jesus. Sometimes, the things we think we want most are not granted to us. What we get instead is an experience of God's new ways of working in the world. That's the power of the Resurrection. When those moments come, we must spread the news—just as Mary did: We have seen the Lord!**

# Learn about St. Matthias School

## Ready for September?

Registration is now open at **St. Matthias School** for **Pre-K3** through **grade 8** for 2021-2022.



Award-winning and fully accredited school. Class sizes allow for individualized attention. Loving, caring, and faith-filled environment.

Don't miss this opportunity to discover the difference that a Catholic education can make in the life of your child and your family.

Give the gift of a loving, caring, faith-filled, and academically excellent education to your child. The benefits will last a lifetime!

To learn more about St. Matthias School or to schedule a tour, call 732-828-1402. Also visit our website at [www.stmatthias.info](http://www.stmatthias.info)



St. Matthias School students place in the top 15% nationally on National Standardized Testing.

Before and after-school care available. Competitive tuition and financial aid assistance.



1:1 Chromebooks for our Kindergarten through eighth grades.



99% of SMS graduates attend college and beyond.

### Ethnicity of SMS Students (2020-2021)

- 16% Asian
- 9% Black
- 16% Hispanic and Latino
- 10% Multiracial
- 49% White



# St. Matthias School Thanks YOU!



On this page are messages written by some of our students expressing their gratitude to all of you who have already donated to our

## St. Matthias School Annual Fund for 2020-2021.

Without your generous support, the wonderful education and formation that we provide to our next generation would not be possible. The Annual Fund provides the largest source of “unrestricted” funds for current use in the areas that the school needs it most — from academic initiatives to arts and athletic supplies, to professional development for our faculty, to building and grounds maintenance, to community service activities. Know that you are truly making a profound difference in the lives of our students and teachers.



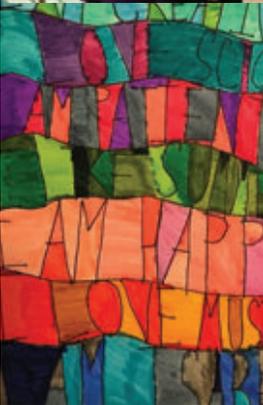
*Dear Donors,*

*Thank you for your generosity by supporting our school. We are praying for you.*

**If you have not yet made a donation to the SMS Annual Fund, we invite you to do so now.** Our Catholic school is an integral part of the ministry of our Church. You may make your gift by check, payable to “**St. Matthias School Annual Fund**” (mail it to: St. Matthias, 168 John F. Kennedy Blvd., Somerset, NJ 08873 or place it in the collection basket during Mass), or you may donate online at [www.ParishGiving.org](http://www.ParishGiving.org).



As we celebrate Easter, we are profoundly aware of the importance of having a strong faith, especially during times such as what we have experienced this past year. Thank you for making it possible to help our youth grow in their faith. We are filled with Easter hope for the future!

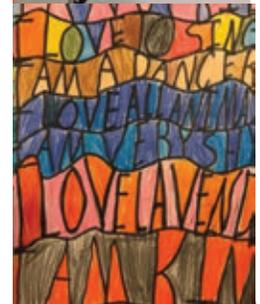


*Dear Benefactor,*

*Thank you for donating to my school. I really appreciate it. It helps my classmates and I grow as students. Thank you so much for donating to my school.*

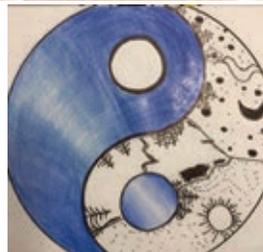
*Dear Donors of Saint Matthias School,*

*Thank you so much for your generous donations that have gone into helping to make our school a better learning environment for its students. We truly appreciate everything that you have done for our parish community. Especially in these difficult times in our world, your donations are greatly appreciated. Thank you so very much! God bless you and your families! Stay safe and healthy. Go Mustangs!*



*Dear Benefactor,*

*Thank you for giving us the money we needed during this pandemic. Hope you are doing well during this pandemic, too! My entire school and I would all like to thank you for helping us out! Again, thank you!*



## Connect

### Need Help Scheduling Your Covid Vaccine?

If you are eligible, but need help with booking an appointment, parishioner Maribeth Llaguno is willing to help. Contact her at: [mabeth70@yahoo.com](mailto:mabeth70@yahoo.com)



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

Are you aware of some 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 continue to be particularly isolating for some parish mem-

bers. 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!

## Give



### 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 4, 2021 Easter Sunday

*"Think of what is above, not of what is on earth."  
- COLOSSIANS 3:2*

On this day we thank God for His Son, Jesus, who died, rose and opened the gates of heaven for us. We celebrate and sing "Alleluia." Let's try to keep the joy of this Easter season in our hearts throughout the year! Pray daily and listen for how God is calling each of us to joyfully use our gifts to fulfill His salvation plan.

### Reflexiónese — 4 de abril de 2021 Domingo de Pascua

*"Piensen en las cosas del cielo, no en las cosas terrenales."  
- COLOSENSES 3:2*

En este día le damos gracias a Dios por Su Hijo, Jesús, que murió, resucitó y nos abrió las puertas del cielo. Celebraremos y cantemos "Aleluia". ¡Tratemos de mantener la alegría de esta temporada de Pascua en nuestros corazones a través del todo el año! Oremos diariamente y escuchemos como Dios nos llama a cada uno de nosotros a utilizar con alegría nuestros dones para cumplir con Su plan de salvación.



### Shop on Amazon?

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



## Serve

### 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.

**DATE:** SATURDAY, May 1st

**TIME:** 10am - 11 noon

**PLACE:** 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 inter-

### Thank You, Parishioners!



Dear Parishioners,

It is with heartfelt gratitude that we thank all of you who responded to our video request, inviting you to consider contributing financial or scrip card donations to Elijah's Promise Soup Kitchen or the Franklin Food Bank during National Sisters Week, March 8-14.

Elijah's Promise Soup Kitchen received \$946 in donations from St. Matthias parishioners.

The Franklin Food Bank was not able to identify donations directly related to our video request, but did receive substantial contributions during that week.

Both organizations are very grateful for the generosity of our parishioners in the ongoing support of their ministries.

Once again, in the name of our Sisters from the United States Province, thank you for joining us in this Corporal Work of Mercy of feeding the hungry.

Gratefully Yours,  
Sisters Marie Therese and Maria

## Local Community

### Covid-19 Crisis Counseling

Have you or someone you know been impacted by Covid-19?

**NJ Hope & Healing Crisis Counseling Program (CCP)**, 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 Email: [hopeandhealing@ccdom.org](mailto:hopeandhealing@ccdom.org).

## Parish Leadership

### Parish Pastoral Council:

**Chair:** Nick Grippo

[nickgrippo@gmail.com](mailto:nickgrippo@gmail.com)

**Co-Chair:** Lisa Robinson

[lar0504@comcast.net](mailto:lar0504@comcast.net)

**Secretary:** Tom Aussem

### Co-Secretary:

Denise Brown

Lorraine Farr

Anne Marie Francis

Claudine Langrin

Joe Percoco

Rose Peng

Marybeth Purcell

John Taylor

Ana Kelly, Ex-Officio

Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio

### Parish Finance Council:

Joe Porter, Chair

[FinanceCouncil](http://FinanceCouncil)

[@stmatthias.net](http://@stmatthias.net)

Susan Klimcsak

Barry Dusault

Gwen Orłowski

Audrey Francis

Kester Hector

Joan Pritchard

Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio

### Trustees:

Isaac Peng

Marge Richards

## 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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