



**St. Matthias Parish Office:**

Monday - Friday, 8:30 am - 4:00 pm.  
 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 - 8, 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 Blvd., Somerset, NJ 08873  
[www.stmatthias.info](http://www.stmatthias.info) 732-828-1402  
 School Office Hours, Mon-Fri 8AM to 3PM.

For all Parish emails, add @stmatthias.net

**Pastor:** Rev Abraham Orapankal, **abraham**  
**Senior Priest:** Msgr. Seamus Brennan, **sbrennan**  
 Mary Pat Burke-Grospin, Business Administrator  
**mpburke-grospin**

Deacon Ron Caimi, *Senior Deacon*  
 Kelly Counts, *Receptionist*, **kcounts**  
 Deacon Russell Demkovitz, **rdemkovitz**  
 Nathalie Godet, *Website Coordinator*, **ngodet**  
 Leslie Guillen, *Bulletin Editor*, **lguillen**  
 Amy Hanna, *Accountant/Databases*, **ahanna**  
 Mike Lanyi, *Sacristan*

Sue Lenczewski, *Youth Coordinator*, **SMYLE**  
 Mary Jo Loboda, *Parish Staff, Development*,  
**mjloboda**

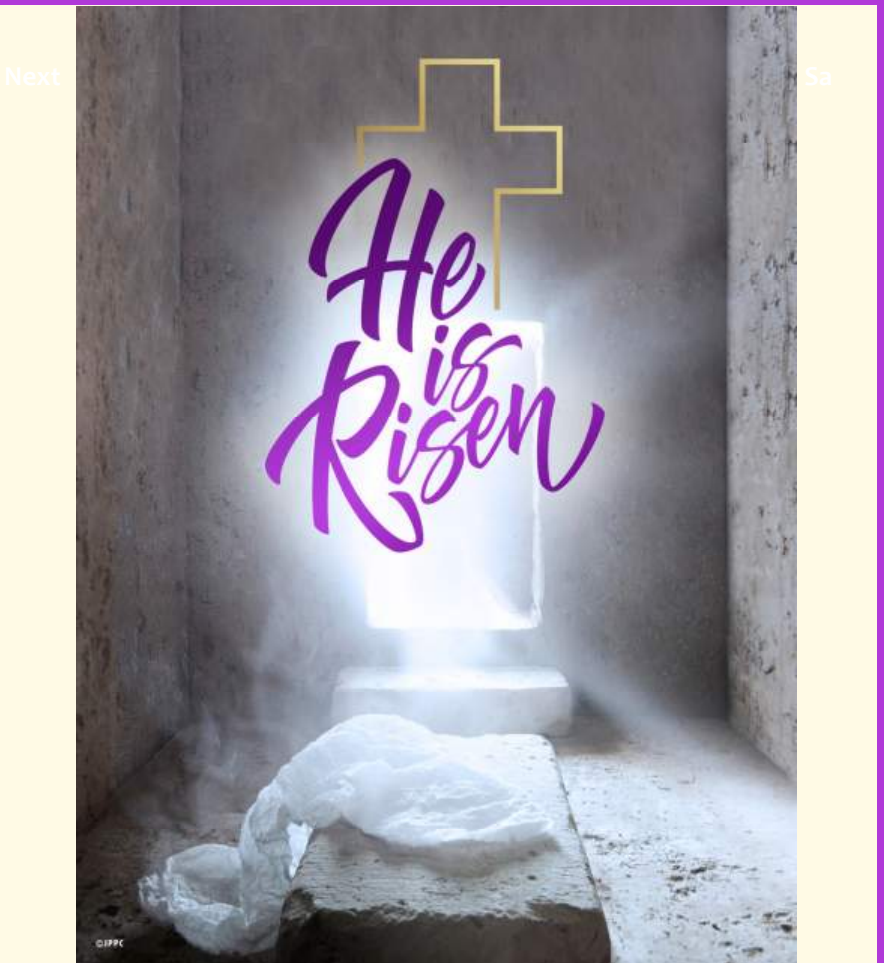
Julio Montero, *Maintenance Supervisor*  
 Dolores R. Nann, *Pastoral Associate for Faith Formation*, **dnann**  
 Vinnie Natale, *Bookkeeper*, **vnatale**  
 Silvia Nizama, *Housekeeper*  
 Deacon John Radvanski, **deaconjohn**  
 Joan Best Seamon, *Pastoral Associate for Music Ministry*, **jseamon**

Sr. Marie Therese Sherwood, *OSF, Pastoral Assoc. for Social Concerns*, **msherwood**  
 Trish Stumper, *Parish Support Secretary*,  
**tstumper**

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

Mary Lynch, *Principal*, **mlynch**  
 Joseph Gidaro, *Vice Principal*, **jgidaro**

**THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS**  
**SUNDAY, APRIL 9, 2023-**  
**Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of The Lord**



**Feast of Divine Mercy**

Join us on **Sunday, Apr. 16<sup>th</sup>**, before the **1200PM Mass (at 11:45AM)**. We will pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet on this Mercy Sunday. Don't know how to recite the chaplet? Come & Learn this special prayer that Jesus gave to St. Faustina, and also to us!  
**See page 8 for more information**



**HELP SPREAD THE WORD!**  
**SCHOOL YEAR 2023-2024**

**Saint Matthias School registration is open. We are enrolling students in PreK 3, PreK 4, Kindergarten and grades 1-8. Please help us spread the word about our school filled with faith, caring, and excellence to your relatives, friends, and neighbors. ALL are welcome! Thank you!**

# This Week @ St. Matthias From Our Pastor

Masses are also livestreamed on our YouTube channel: [youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ](https://www.youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ)

## The Church is open for individual prayer

Mon-Fri: 7:30 am to dusk, Sat: 9 am to 6pm, and Sun: 7:30 am to 1 pm, unless another service is taking place.

### Sunday, Apr 9, 2023 Easter Sunday

8:00AM Easter Sunday Mass Church  
10:00AM Easter Sunday Mass— Interpreter Church  
12:00PM Easter Sunday Mass Church

### Monday, Apr 10, 2023 St. Fulbert of Chartres, Bishop

SMS on Easter Break & Parish Office Closed  
8:00AM No Mass

### Tuesday, Apr 11, 2023 St. Stanislaus, Bishop & Martyr

8:00AM Mass Church  
7:00PM Racial Justice Initiative Mtg. Zoom

### Wednesday, Apr 12, 2023 St. Zeno of Verona, Bishop & Martyr

8:00AM Mass—St. Joseph Novena Church  
9:30AM Prayer Group 1 Holy Spirit de Porres Rm  
2:00PM Alzheimer's Group Zoom  
7:00PM SMDP Mtg. Zoom

### Thursday, Apr 13, 2023 St. Martin I, Bishop & Martyr

8:00AM Mass Church

### Friday, Apr 14, 2023 St. Lidwina of Schiedam

8:00AM Mass Church

### Saturday, Apr 15, 2023 St. Paternus, Bishop

9:30AM Secular Franciscans de Porres Rm  
2:30PM 50th Anniversary Celebration, Dan & Norma Gonda Church  
3:30PM Reconciliation Church  
5:00PM Mass Church

### Sunday, Apr 16, 2023 Divine Mercy Sunday

8:00AM Mass Church  
10:00AM Mass Church  
12:00PM Mass Church



#### 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 8 AM, MONDAY, 5 business days before the needed bulletin date (earlier for holiday weekends). Approved content is published on a space-available basis.

Dear Friends,

Easter Blessings to you and your dear ones!

Father Basil Pennington, a Catholic monk, has written about an encounter he once had with a teacher of Zen. Pennington was at a retreat. As part of the retreat, each person met privately with this Zen teacher. Pennington says that at his meeting the Zen teacher sat there before him smiling from ear to ear and rocking gleefully back and forth. Finally, the teacher said: *"I like Christianity. But I would not like Christianity without the Resurrection. I want to see your resurrection!"* Pennington notes that, "With his directness, the teacher was saying what everyone else implicitly says to Christians: You are a Christian. You are risen with Christ. Show me (what this means for you in your life) and I will believe."

We observed the penitential season of Holy Lent; we participated faithfully in all the liturgical services of Holy Week. Today as we cap it all with the celebration of Easter, we ask ourselves this question: Does Easter impact how we live? Are we truly excited about our faith in the resurrection of Jesus who has the capacity to transform our lives with his grace?

The early Christians celebrated Easter with a tremendous sense of excitement. Throughout the entire Easter Season, the Angelus prayer is replaced by the joyous *Regina Coeli*, which begins, "Queen of Heaven rejoice, alleluia: For He whom you merited to bear, alleluia, Has risen as He said, alleluia." Unfortunately, for many Christians today, it is no longer obvious why Easter should be welcomed with such joy. Despite egg hunts and spring-themed decorations, Easter is treated as a second-class holiday, lacking the cheery traditions of Christmas and Thanksgiving (as well as their commercial importance).

Yes, the words of St. Augustine uttered 1500 years ago, repeated by St. John Paul II, Pope Benedict and Pope Francis, must be made our own: *"We are truly an Easter People, and Halleluiah is our song!"*

Happy Easter!

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Orapankal



## 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 2:42-47; Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24; 1 Pt 1:3-9; Jn 20:19-31

## Mass Intentions for the Week

<b>Saturday, Apr 8</b>	8:30AM	Morning Prayer (Church)
	12:00PM	Blessing of the Food (cafeteria)
	8:00PM	Easter Vigil Mass, Patty Lara, by The Maglio Family
<b>Sunday, Apr 9</b>	8:00AM	John Gleason, by Barbara Gleason
	10:00AM	Intention of Parishioners
	12:00PM	Theresa (Patty) Spinelli, by Ann Blaise & Carl Atoldite
<b>Monday, Apr 10</b>	8:00AM	<b>No Mass</b>
<b>Tuesday, Apr 11</b>	8:00AM	Lillian Bartlett, by William Bartlett
<b>Wednesday, Apr 12</b>	8:00AM	Deceased Members of the Shanasky Family, by The Family
<b>Thursday, Apr 13</b>	8:00AM	John Morrow, by Peggy Cszaszar
<b>Friday, Apr 14</b>	8:00AM	Duane Schultz, by The Weeden Family
<b>Saturday, Apr 15</b>	5:00PM	Dave Moynihan, by Bill & Pat Bellas
<b>Sunday, Apr 16</b>	8:00AM	Genevieve Nesbitt, by Paul & Luann New
	10:00AM	David Moynihan, by The Ivovich Family
	12:00PM	Intention of Parishioners

## Pray for those who are sick...

If you or a family member are sick, please call the Parish Office or **email Kelly Counts** at [kcoun@stmatthias.net](mailto:kcoun@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. *New people on our prayer list are noted in blue.*

Carolyn Banghart  
 Tammy Baskaran  
 Arthur & Regina Berlowitz  
 John Blum  
 Bishop Paul Bootkowski  
 Anthony Brandi  
 Barbara Butler  
 Bianca Canlas  
 Tara Capatosto  
 Ellen Catalina  
 Kyle Davidson  
 Lisa DeFeo  
 Ann Devlin  
 Michael DiMaggio  
 William Dolphin  
 Vivian Dong  
 Josephine Geenty  
 Claudia Gemgnani  
 Helen Geraghty

Emma Gergely  
 Carol Gryskiewicz  
 Sloopy & John Hoffman  
 Marilyn Horvath  
 Robert Kashinsky  
 Al Kepenis  
 Kathleen Langenbacher  
 Henrietta Lesiak  
 The Litrakis Family  
 Mary Lou Litrakis  
 John Litrakis  
 Joseph Lubrano  
 Jude Raymond Maceren  
 Aries Magali  
 Clarissa & Kevin Magat  
 Kenneth & Kelly Magat  
 Al Maglio  
 Susan, Tosh & King  
 Manansala

Christine Mathews  
 Anne McElwee  
 Margaret Menendez  
 Carol Millemann  
 Sabrina Moloney  
 Kathlyn Moore  
 Eleanor Nagy  
 Janice Navatkowski  
 Danny Ongchango  
 Paul & Doris Paetow  
 Jim Pettit  
 Christina Pietrowiak  
 Valerie Polci  
 Kim Price  
 Nathan Reavey  
 Caitlin Regan  
 Doris Regan  
 Gabriel Rivera  
 Jaxon Rivera

Arina Robinson  
 Arthur Robinson  
 Maria Schwenzer  
 Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF  
 Sr. Bernadine Marie  
 Stemnock  
 Jeff Sullivan  
 Tom Szabo  
 Nancy Whelan  
 Mark Worthington  
 Angie Yetyet

**And for all who are ill, homebound, elderly, in nursing care, or living with chronic illness, we pray.**

## Pray for those who have died...

— “His mercy endures forever.” Chronicles

Bernadine Pasternak





## 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!" 😊

One lady wrote in to a question-and-answer forum. "Dear Sirs, Our preacher said on Easter, that Jesus just swooned on the cross and that the disciples nursed Him back to health. What do you think?" Sincerely, Bewildered. She got this reply: "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. 😊

How does Easter end? With an "R"! 😊

How can you make Easter preparations go faster? Use the eggs-press lane! 😊

What should you do to prepare for all the Easter treats? Eggs-ercise! 😊

Therapist: What's been up lately? Chocolate bunny: I don't know Doc, I just feel so hollow inside 😊

364 days of the year parents say: Do NOT eat anything you find on the ground. But on Easter they say: Go and search in the dirt for candy a strange giant bunny left for you, kids! 😊



## Easter Reflection: "The Liberators"

*[The women] found the stone rolled away from the tomb; but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus . . . "Why do you seek the living among the*

*dead? He is not here, but he has been raised." Luke 24: 1-12*

In his book **The Liberators**, author Michael Hirsch details the stories, impressions and reactions of American soldiers who liberated the Nazi concentration camps as they chased the last remnants of the Nazi army in the final days of World War 11. Hirsch also includes in his book the recollection of one of those liberated. Coenraad Rood was a 24-year-old Dutch Jew who worked as a tailor. He was arrested in 1942 and spent three years imprisoned at a number of camps. In January 1945, he lay dying in a covered ditch in the camp at Ampfing when the 14th Armored Division liberated the camp. Rood remembers:

"Suddenly, I heard my friend Maupy. I heard him speaking English, saying [to someone] 'go in there. My friend is dying. He should know that he is free before he dies.' [The trapdoor to the ditch] opened up and there was an American soldier there . . . I was laying in the dark, in the dirt, and he told me, 'come, comrade, you are free now.' And then I started crying. I try to get to him, but I was, like paralyzed . . . I was crawling on the ground, trying to get to the door. And then he picked me up by the collar of my little jacket [and]

he was holding me. I remember I thought, 'Man, is the man strong!' . . . And he told me, 'You're free now. You understand? It's over.'" "As dirty and sick as I was, that soldier, that American soldier, kissed me. And I kissed him back, and he was holding me and took me [outside to ditch, into the light] and said, 'See? You are free now.' And he cried to." After the liberation, Coenraad Rood was reunited with his wife Bep, who survived the war in hiding. And they made a new life for themselves in the United States.

**You are free; it's over - the words of American soldiers to the victims of the Holocaust. Why do you seek the living among the dead? - the angels ask of the women who come to the tomb on Easter morning. Easter is God's never-ending invitation to freedom, his raising us up from "tombs" of selfishness and fear and anger and hatred. In the many manifestations of his compassion and mercy around us, God picks us up and carries us out of our prisons and ditches. And, in turn, we become "liberators" ourselves, picking up others from among the "dead" and restoring them to life and hope. In raising his son from the dead, God vindicates the Gospel of his Christ. In the light of Easter's empty tomb, every moment of forgiveness, every triumph of justice over persecution, every insistence of goodness in the face of horrendous evil, every act of compassion (no matter how simple or small) proclaims the good news that Christ is risen.**

## Reasons why we believe in the Resurrection of Jesus

- (1) Jesus himself testified to his Resurrection from the dead (Mark 8:31; Matthew 17:22; Luke 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 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, Acts 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. Anglican bishop and New Testament scholar N.T. Wright has commented incisively that if Jesus had not been raised bodily from the dead, Christianity would never have survived as a Messianic movement. Wright says that the clearest indication to a first-century Jew that someone was not the Messiah would be his death at the hands of the enemies of Israel. That the Church of Christ endured as a Messianic religion is possible only on the assumption that the Crucified One was, nevertheless, objectively alive.

## 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.***

## Bright light in the "black holes" of life

Many of us must have heard of a "black hole." If you have ever watched movies or TV programs about travelling in outer space, like the TV series Star Trek, you will know what a black hole is. Roughly speaking, it is a spot in the vastness of space which astronomers believe is like a giant vacuum or whirlpool sucking everything around it into the hole. Using Newton's laws, scientists first theorized black holes in the 1790s but it wasn't until 1994 that the Hubble Space Telescope discovered a massive supersized black hole – fortunately a long way from our own galaxy. There is also a black hole in our galaxy, the Milky Way. What if scientists said that it was not beyond the realms of possibility that one day our sun and everything around it would be sucked into this "black hole," and everything would be gone?

***"Black holes" are symbols of hopelessness, and the message of Easter tells us that there is something beyond those "black holes". Maybe this "black hole" includes grief for a loved one, anxiety over a work situation or what is happening in our family. Maybe it is a "black hole" of depression and stress, and we feel there is nothing we can do***

## Reflect

### Bright light in the “black holes” of life (cont’d)

*to change what is happening. Maybe it's the "black hole" of sickness and pain. Maybe it's the "black hole" of guilt and failure. Whether those "black holes" are right here and now or show up at some time in the future, Easter tells us there is hope, there is a living Saviour and Friend who will help us when we feel as if we have been sucked into the deepest darkness. Easter tells us that there is nothing to fear. We have a risen Saviour who promises never to leave us, to love us always, always to brighten our darkest paths, and to guide us from death to eternal life in Heaven. Even when we are in the middle of something deep and dark, our risen Saviour will always be there with us. "I am the Living One! I was dead, but now I am alive forever and ever. I have authority over death and the world of the dead" (Revelation 1:8).*  
<http://science.nationalgeographic.com/science/space/universe/black-holes-article/>

### Resurrection Bay, Alaska



In the movie *The Hunt for Red October*, the opening scene was filmed in Resurrection Bay, Alaska. This dramatic setting received its name in 1792 when the Russian trader and explorer Alexander

Baranov was forced to find refuge there during a vicious storm on Easter Sunday. Resurrection Bay has the distinction of remaining ice-free even in the dead of winter. Even in squalls and storms, it provides safe harbor.

*As Christians, we anchor our souls in Resurrection Bay. The world may be caught in a thousand tempests, and storms may arise from all directions. But the empty tomb assures us of tranquility and a passageway to Heaven that will never ice over. Jesus died and rose again to give us peace with God and the peace of God -- life both eternal and abundant. We anchor our souls in the haven of rest because Easter is a feast which gives us hope and encouragement in this world of pain, sorrows and tears. It 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."*

### Many Infallible proofs

Albert L. Roper was a prominent Virginia attorney, a graduate of the University of Virginia and its law school, who eventually became mayor of the city of Norfolk. He once began a thorough legal investigation into the evidence

for the Resurrection of Christ, asking himself the question: "Can any intelligent person accept the Resurrection story?" After examining the evidence at length, he came away asking a different question: "Can any intelligent person deny the weight of this evidence?" Even those who traveled for three years with Jesus experienced disbelief over His Resurrection, but Jesus showed Himself alive by many infallible proofs.

**We don't base our faith on legends, myths, or fairy tales. The Resurrection of Jesus Christ is well-documented, and many critics have been silenced (and even converted) when they've carefully investigated the evidence (Albert L. Roper, *Did Jesus Rise From the Dead* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1965), foreword). We have a Risen Savior! He offers Himself to us today with many infallible proofs.**

*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!*

### “Which one would you ask which way to go?”

Dr. Seamands tells of a Muslim who became a Christian in Africa. Some of his friends asked him, “Why have you become a Christian?” The new convert answered, "Well, it's like this. Suppose you were going down the road and suddenly the road forked in two directions, and you didn't know which way to go, and there at the fork in the road were two men, one dead and one alive--which one would you ask which way to go?"

*The founder of no other religion has an empty tomb as Jesus has. Besides, the Jews or the Romans could not disprove Jesus' Resurrection by presenting the dead body of Jesus. Today's Gospel explains the empty-tomb-resurrection-experience of Mary Magdalene, Peter and John. Mary Magdalene proclaims her personal experience: "I have seen the Lord." The best proof of the Resurrection is each Christian who is on fire with this conviction.*





## From the Pastoral Staff

### Happy Easter, St. Matthias!

Last week I asked members of our St. Matthias Music Ministry to share their stories about what it has been like to prepare for Lent, Holy Week, the Triduum and Easter 2023. Maybe their stories will inspire you to join us- we would welcome you with Easter joy!

*This is a time of deep spirituality for me, working hard with my brothers and sisters, to prepare beautiful music for the Easter Triduum during the Holiest time of the year... .***Ralph Lecessi**

*Over the past 55 years, I have freely and happily donated my time, services, and God-given talents as a pastoral musician, in 8 parishes, in 4 states and the District of Columbia.... It's now 2023, and the weeks immediately preceding Easter have been hectic and demanding. And, thanks to Chris Rath's magnificent anthem "Rise," I have once again experienced that heavenly thrill of the fullness of God's grace.*

*God is Good... ..***Bill Isele**

*Those who sing pray twice. Being a choir member and especially during Lent and Holy Week is life changing for me - God is always closer when I sing with others....***Charlotte Placilla**

*Being a member of the Folk Group for nearly 28 years, it has been my honor to be a part of a ministry so closely tied to the celebration of the Eucharist. ....I especially love the Easter Vigil. It begins in darkness and you can't see how many people are there. Once the congregational candles start to get lit you can see the love of Christ spread throughout the church... I firmly believe that music adds to and deepens everyone's prayerful celebration of the Eucharistic....***Deb Lanyi**

*To be a part of the Children's Choir and watch these girls and boys grow in the love of the Lord by sharing in His Lenten journey is a blessing to me... ..***Jo-Ann Piagentini**

*Since joining the handbell choir in 2009, I have felt much more a part of the St. Matthias community, which I like very*

*much. During the Lent and Easter seasons, participating in the music ministry is especially rewarding. I find that listening to the lyrics of our music gives the significance of the Triduum and Easter more meaning. The hymns stay with me after I leave church because I often end up humming the tunes to myself between Masses and between rehearsals! ...***Jocelyn Thomas**

*"I joined the Music Ministry of St. Matthias to lift up my spirit a couple of months after my mother passed away....Even though I don't read music or have a musical background I figured, "God will make a way." So I showed up at a choir practice because I had to work through my grief. The structure of the choir practices, the community and the music did help me tremendously to heal. ....*

**Florence Francis**

*When I was young, I used to wonder why we remembered Jesus' dying and rising every year. Now that I've been in the Folk Group for 40+ years, I have gradually become aware of my faith through the music that we make together and most importantly, the words that we sing. I definitely feel that we will have another life after we leave our lives on earth ....*

**Claire Gatarz**

*What a gift! God has blessed us with each other and by placing music in our hearts and the passion to share it with others. I pray that our parish community, through our combined voices and song, always experiences God's love, comfort and solace during tough times and all the glories of heaven....***Mary Albani**

*As a newcomer, what inspired me was the prayer before and after the rehearsal along with the friendliness, common purpose and overall dedication to sounding good for God and our congregation. And we DO! Makes me feel refreshed in both body and soul....***John Kurzel.**

*I always find the preparation of this holiest time of the year to be very emotional ... increasing the connection with God even more so. For all that may be*

*going on in my life, the ability to concentrate on the words of the music we prepare and sing during these special nights, is like a secondary prayer and provides great comfort ... especially this year being the first without my Dad....*

**Linda Piscadolo**

*To me, it means revisiting and singing the beautiful and meaningful Lenten hymns with my beloved choir family. Blessings....***Alice Richards**

*During the weeks before Holy Week our Music Ministry choirs have many practice sessions. I am amazed by the dedication of members of our combined choirs who seek to enhance our worship during this most holy week.... My favorite to sing is the Easter Vigil. ... To me, the Easter story is told with the beautiful music of the Triduum...**Pat Maglio***

*Being part of Music Ministry and being able to lead the congregation in song and prayer as a cantor is magnificent, especially during Lent and the Holy Week. It is even made more rewarding for me when I can minister with any of my kids... **Manny Moreno***

*Every year I feel I grow closer to Jesus during this time of intense preparation. I have sung these words for many years and having lost 2 loved ones this past year, I take great comfort walking with Jesus to the Cross and Resurrection ...*

**Annette Falk**

*Our Ministry hosting of Stations of the Cross was very moving for us. Preparing for the Triduum and Easter has brought us together in faith and music....*

**Corinne Blachier**

*Rehearsing the hymns for Holy Thursday and Good Friday are a spiritual preparation for me as they contain scriptural passages related to these two sacred days. Singing these hymns transports me back in time to the events of the Last Supper and Jesus' Way of the Cross and Crucifixion....*

**Sister Marie Therese Sherwood**



Continued on next page

April 9, 2023

## From the Pastoral Staff (continued)

The preparation for Easter is a life long journey. While the songs we sing have a familiar ring, I remember that two years ago Easter was a silent celebration. At that point in time I understood what was missed. Not just the preparation with other people but the past. The silence at the closing of Mass on Palm Sunday, the brief celebration of Holy Thursday

ending again in the silence and solemnity of Good Friday thru Holy Saturday to the Glorious breaking of the silence on Easter Sunday. Every year we remember this pivot point of faith.....**John Heimall**

The hours of preparation for Holy Week and Easter were so rewarding and prayerful and such a meaningful part of

my Lenten journey. Having moved away, I can't tell you how much I miss the energy and being a part of what makes St. Matthias so special..... **Lisa Robinson**

Wishing you Easter joy and Easter peace...He is Risen...

Joan Best Seamon, Pastoral Associate for Liturgical Music, St. Matthias Church

## Pray



### Only One Week to the Divine Mercy Sunday!

#### The Greatest Day of Grace of the Year!

Divine Mercy Sunday is the **1st Sunday after Easter**, The greatest day of grace of the year. Official Church teaching states that those who worthily receive the Eucharist\* with trust in God's mercy on this day and are merciful to others will obtain COMPLETE forgiveness of all sin and punishment. It is likened to a second baptism! In addition, Jesus promises, "ALL the divine floodgates through which grace flows are open." On this day, ask the Lord with trust for blessings, healings, reconciliations, etc.

Please join us in praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet next Sunday, Apr. 16 at 11:45AM, before 1200PM Mass.

- \* To receive the Eucharist in the Roman Catholic Church, one must be in a "state of grace", meaning one has not committed any "mortal sins" since last confessing.

To learn more go to [mercysundaymomentum.org](https://mercysundaymomentum.org).



### Silver & Gold Wedding Anniversary Celebration



You are cordially invited to celebrate your 25<sup>th</sup> or 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary with the Church of Metuchen and renew your marriage vows with Bishop James F. Checchio at a special Evening Prayer Service at the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi in Metuchen on **Sunday, October 22, 2023 at 3:30 PM**. Registration is required. Please register online at: <https://www.diometuchen.org/silver-and-gold-anniversary-celebration>. If you are unable to access, please contact the Family Life Office at 732-562-1543 or [amarshall@diometuchen.org](mailto:amarshall@diometuchen.org). Registration will close on October 6, 2023. Although no fee is required, in the past many Jubilarian couples have given a donation of gratitude to the Church in memory of this special occasion. Donations of Gratitude may be made online at <https://www.diometuchen.org/silver-and-gold-anniversary-celebration> or calling 732-562-1543.

## Give



### 2023 Bishop's Annual Appeal Renewed and Sent on Mission by the Eucharist

Thank you to those who have already responded to the Bishop's Annual Appeal. If you have yet to make your pledge to this year's Bishop's Annual Appeal, you can still do so. Please prayerfully consider a gift to the Bishop's Annual Appeal to help our parish reach its goal. If we can exceed our goal, 50% of the amount collected over goal will be returned to us in the form of a parish rebate. Every gift, no matter the size, is important and greatly appreciated. Thank you. There are Envelopes and cards in the pews that you can use. You can find the link to the Bishop's Annual Appeal at <https://diometuchen.org/BAA>

### Parish Updates

If you are now solely using a cell phone, have changed your phone number or address, please call the parish office, so we can update your records. We would also like to update our parish data base with e-mail addresses.

**Email Kelly at:** [kcounts@stmatthias.net](mailto:kcounts@stmatthias.net) to have your email address included or to update an email address. Thank you!

If you are moving, please notify the Parish Office so we can keep our parishioner records current. Thank you!



# Learn

## From the 60th Anniversary Fundraising Committee

Dear Fellow Parishioners and Friends.

The 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fundraising team and Father Abraham would like to express our sincere gratitude to all who have already donated to this special fundraiser to repair, renovate, and restore our church.

Some of the proposed projects are completed and planning for the rest is ongoing. A 'progress thermometer' is in the church vestibule. The funds raised to date will be noted on the progress thermometer each month. If you have not already

donated, donation envelopes and a fundraiser information letter are in the church vestibule. With your support, we are confident that we will raise the funds needed to complete these projects.

If you have any questions, please call Mary Jo Loboda at the parish office at 732-828-1400.



## Give (and Receive!)

Stewardship Totals for Fiscal Year July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023				Last Year's Total
Current Month	In-Pew/Mail	Parish Giving	Weekly Total	Weekly Total
Week 36 - Mar 5, 2023	\$12,602.00	\$20,070.75	<b>\$32,672.75</b>	\$36,094.75
Week 37 - Mar. 12, 2023	\$10,523.00	\$23,236.25	<b>\$33,759.25</b>	\$30,521.25
Week 38 - Mar. 19, 2023	\$8,700.00	\$12,795.82	<b>\$21,495.82</b>	\$24,352.25
Week 39 - Mar. 26, 2023	\$23,206.20	\$9,032.25	<b>\$32,238.45</b>	\$20,592.25
			<b>Month-to-date Total</b>	<b>Mar Total Last Yr</b>
			<b>\$120,166.27</b>	\$111,560.50
			<b>Current Year-to-date Total</b>	<b>Year-to-date as of Mar</b>
			<b>\$1,060,708.79</b>	\$1,008,537.07

### Stewardship Reflection Apr. 9, 2023 Easter Sunday

**“Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.” (Colossians 3:2)**

Do you put God first in all things? Possessions, money, power, ego can easily become gods to many of us. Do a quick check of what is important to you. Is God at the very top of the list? If not, your priorities need to be re-adjusted. Don't let earthly things become a god before God. This is also the first commandment – I am the Lord your God, you shall not have any strange gods before me.

### Reflexiónese Abril 9 de abril de 2023 – Domingo de Pascua

**Piensen en las cosas que están arriba, no en las cosas que están en la tierra (colosense 3:2)**

¿Pones a Dios primero en todas las cosas? Las posesiones, el dinero, el poder, el ego pueden convertirse fácilmente en dioses para muchos de nosotros. Haz una verificación rápida de lo que es importante para ti. ¿Está Dios a la cabeza de tu lista? Si no, tus prioridades deben ser reajustadas. No dejes que las cosas terrenales se conviertan en un dios ante Dios. Este es también el primer mandamiento: soy el Señor tu Dios, no tendrás dioses extraños delante de mí.

## Serve



The HSA is organizing its first Blood Drive! We have been asked to gather interest before booking a date and time, so please let us know if you would be interested in donating.

SMS families receive 1 hour toward their 4-hour commitment.

To register visit: [www.stmatthias.net/blooddrive2023](http://www.stmatthias.net/blooddrive2023)

## EUCCHARISTIC REVIVAL COMMITTEE:

As announced, the Diocese is asking every parish to form a Eucharistic Revival Committee.

Those who feel called to this ministry, please contact:  
Fr. Abraham or Msgr. Brennan.

## Connect with Our Local Community



### Senior Day at St. Francis Center for Renewal Saturday, May 13th, 10AM-3PM

Celebrating the Gift of Years, preceded by an opening prayer service and followed by lunch, discussion and sharing with other seniors, and a relaxing walk around our grounds. Share time with our Sisters as we pray together, share together and honor and celebrate our "gift of years."

All-Day Attendance (including lunch) — \$40 per person **Bring a Friend** (including lunch) — \$75 per pair

Online Via Zoom (Sister Marguerite's talk only) — \$20 per person. 395 Bridle Path Road, Bethlehem PA 18017



### Part-Time General Maintenance Person

St. Matthias is looking for a **part-time general maintenance person**. This employee will be responsible for maintaining the safety and cleanliness of the church/school. Please contact **Mary Pat Burke-Grospin** at:

[mpburke-grospin@stmatthias.net](mailto:mpburke-grospin@stmatthias.net) or (732) 828-1400 ext.121.

## Parish Leadership

### Parish Pastoral Council:

#### Co-Chairs:

Rose Peng, [rosepeng@optonline.net](mailto:rosepeng@optonline.net)  
John Taylor, [jptaylor1068@yahoo.com](mailto:jptaylor1068@yahoo.com)

### Co-Secretaries:

Frank Rees  
Marilyn Wegg  
Stephan Busono  
Anne Marie Francis  
Bill Isele  
Maria Tapia-Burch

Msgr. Seamus Brennan,  
Ex-Officio  
Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio

### Trustees:

Pearl Scott  
Marge Richards

### Parish Finance Council:

Kester Hector, Chair  
**Finance Council**  
[@stmatthias.net](mailto:@stmatthias.net)  
Carmen Driz-Melilli  
Barry Dusault  
Gwen Orłowski

Audrey Francis  
Joe Porter  
Joan Pritchard  
Mary Pat Burke-Grospin,  
Ex-Officio  
Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio

## About St. Matthias (please contact the staff members on the cover for up-to-date information)

**Parish Registration** — Welcome to St. Matthias! Please register on our website. [www.stmatthias.net/join-us](http://www.stmatthias.net/join-us), or visit the Parish Office.

**Marriage** — Registered parishioners should contact the parish office a year before the desired wedding date.

**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.

**Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)** - If you are interested in becoming a Catholic or completing the Sacraments of Initiation—Baptism/Confirmation/Eucharist, please call the Parish Office.



**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.



ARE  
THESE  
YOUR  
SIZE?



**MIDDLEBUSH  
VOLUNTEER  
FIRE DEPT.**

21 OLCOTT STREET  
**FIRE FIGHTERS NEEDED  
WE WILL TRAIN!**  
HELP@MIDDLEBUSHFIRE.COM  
www.middlebushfire.com



www.middlebushfire.com  
MIDDLEBUSH VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT



**Complete Kitchen &  
Bathroom Remodeling**  
Porcelain Marble  
Granite Countertops  
Heated Floors  
Backsplashes  
Shower Doors  
**732-514-1500**  
Lic # 13VH00782600  
(Parishioner)

EXCELLENCE GUARANTEED  
**Resta's Auto Care**  
732-873-8900  
Restas.com  
Trusted For 77 Years  
1873 Amwell Road • Somerset

**Morgan**  
basement waterproofing

In Our 4th Decade of Quality Service  
**French Drains • Foundation Repair • Mold Remediation**  
All Work Guaranteed  
**732-777-7888**  
www.morganbasementwaterproofing.com

**catholicmatch®**  
New Jersey



CatholicMatch.com/dateNJ



**RE-IMAGINE  
SENIOR LIVING**



An Assisted Living  
and Memory Care  
Community in your  
neighborhood.  
**SCHEDULE A  
TOUR TODAY!**  
**732.873.4800**  
473 Demott Lane  
Somerset, NJ 08873  
www.springhills.com

**PROTECTIVE  
PAVING**



**DRIVEWAYS  
PARKING LOTS**  
FULLY INSURED  
FREE ESTIMATES  
**732-828-4177**  
SOMERSET, NJ



**Diocese of Metuchen**  
Catholic Cemeteries  
and Crematory  
**800-943-8400**

Holy Cross Burial Park  
840 Cranbury-South River Rd.  
Jamesburg, NJ 08831  
Resurrection Burial Park  
Hoes Lane and Park Ave.  
Piscataway, NJ 08854  
www.diometuchen.org/cemeteries

Rutgers Dining Services

**join our team**

**Now Hiring full-time & part-time employees!**



Hiring events held Tuesdays at 10 am at 608 Bartholomew Rd., Piscataway, NJ 08854. To register for an upcoming session, call 848-932-3602 or email us at edofficeadmin@dining.rutgers.edu.

**event dates**

Apply online prior to an event for on-the-spot interviews!

**October 2022**  
Tuesday, 10/04  
Tuesday, 10/11  
Tuesday, 10/18  
Tuesday, 10/25

**November 2022**  
Tuesday, 11/01  
Tuesday, 11/08  
Tuesday, 11/15  
Tuesday, 11/29

**go.rutgers.edu/rudining**

**JOB OPENINGS**



**APPLY TODAY!**



**C & F PAINT & HARDWARE**  
 Benjamin Moore Paints  
 1075 Easton Ave., Suite 12A  
 Somerset, NJ 08873  
**732-764-8908**  
 www.candfpaint.com  
 Frank Del Tufo - Owner



**TOWNSHIP PHARMACY**  
 712 Hamilton Street, Somerset  
 SR. DISCOUNT • WE DELIVER  
**732-545-8800**

**RASPA JEWELERS**  
 4 N. 10th Ave.  
 Highland Park  
 732-572-0400  
 Diamond Specialists  
 www.raspajewelers.com

**Steve's Pizza & Restaurant**  
 900 Easton Ave. Somerset Village  
**732-247-0400**  
**\$1.50 Off Large 18" Pie**

**SOLD BARROOD**  
 Selling, Buying or Renting  
 Houses - Call us for help!  
 700 EASTON AVE., SOMERSET  
**732-846-1661**  
 Good people, great service, since 1940  
 PARISHIONER

**Waterstone WEALTH ADVISORS, LLC**  
**John C. Moynihan, CFP®**  
 Certified Financial Planner™, practitioner  
 Somerset, NJ  
**732.873.0433 • www.wwallc.net**  
 Practical Solutions for Managing Wealth

**Rosie Rose**  
 Florist & Event Design • 732-769-6181  
 901 Joyce Kilmer Ave., North Brunswick  
 www.RosieRoseFlowers.com

**AJS PAINTING**  
 TONY SCHINELLA, PARISHIONER  
 Friendly, Courteous Service  
 Owner Operated, Free Proposals  
 Meticulous, Guaranteed Work  
 Highest Quality, Affordable Price  
 No Job Too Small • Since 2001  
**732-873-8477**

**Dolan** since 1949  
 Kitchen & Bath Remodeling  
 American Standard HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING  
 Plumbing, Heating, Cooling, Electric  
**732-247-2763**  
 696 Franklin Blvd., Somerset, NJ 08873  
 www.jackdolanandsons.com info@jackdolanandsons.com

**BRIGHT VIEW POWERWASHING & PAINTING**  
 Greg Dente, Owner/Operator  
 Somerset & surrounding areas  
 Friendly & Reliable Services  
 Free estimates • Guaranteed work  
 We keep our promises • No job too small  
**POWERWASHING & SMALL PAINTING WORK**  
**908.812.2061**

**GLEASON FUNERAL HOME**  
 AT NEED CARE • PRE-NEED • MONUMENTS  
 PARISHIONER OWNED  
 William K. Gleason, Mgr., N.J. Lic. No. 4489  
 1360 HAMILTON STREET • SOMERSET, NJ  
**732-545-0700**  
 www.GLEASONFUNERALHOME.COM

**Tom's Auto Repair**  
 Domestic & Foreign  
 O: 732-846-4675  
 C: 908-500-8728  
 TPduffy1216@gmail.com  
 1376 Hamilton St., Somerset, NJ 08873

**WE'RE HIRING!**  
 Substitute Teachers & Support Staff throughout New Jersey  
 Apply today at SOURCE4TEACHERS.com

**D'Angiolillo Chiropractic Center**  
 Find out more about us and how we can help you!  
 Visit Our Website @  
**www.DrJoeD.com**  
**(732) 873-2222**  
 PROFESSIONAL CENTER AT SOMERSET  
 11 Clyde Road, Suite 103  
 Somerset, NJ 08873  
 Serving Our Community Since 1985

**BRUNSWICK FURNITURE OUTLET, LLC**  
 330 Townsend St., New Brunswick, NJ  
**Rafael Se Habla Español**  
**732-354-4420**

**April Tarantino**  
 Broker Associate  
 Direct: (732) 735-3511  
 apriltarantino@hotmail.com  
 www.apriltarantino.com  
**31 Years Experience - Somerset Specialist**

**Parker** Somerset | New Brunswick  
 Highland Pk | Piscataway  
 Monroe Twp  
**We're Accepting New Residents**  
 Nursing, Memory & Post-acute Care  
 Assisted Living  
**732-902-4200**  
 Parkerlife.org

**RAIKE'S Home Improvement LLC**  
**732-249-7113**  
 Fully Insured Lic. 13VH06498900 www.raikeshomeimprovement.com  
 We Install & Construct  
 • Windows • Finished Basements • Siding  
 • Doors • Kitchens • Roofing  
 • Decks • Baths • Custom Interior Woodwork  
 Power Washing  
 Homes • Decks • Sidewalks • Driveways • Stoops • Etc.  
 No Job Too Small! Cabinet Refacing Parishioner

**AJS Landscaping & Hardscaping, LLC**  
 Pavers • Stone • Mulch  
 Specialize In Custom Projects  
 Contact Anthony Schinella, Parishioner  
 609-751-6514 • www.ajslandscapingpro.com

**DALTON**  
 QUALITY PROFESSIONAL SERVICE  
 Serving Central NJ Since 1986  
 RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL SALES/SERVICE  
 All Major Credit Cards Accepted  
 P. Lic. #12425 • E. Lic. #9526  
 NJ Reg #13VH02047500 • HVAC Lic. 1510

**FRANKLIN ELECTRIC MAINTENANCE CO. INC.** Lic. #18219  
**GENERAC SALES & SERVICE DEALER**  
 -SALES  
 -SERVICE  
 -INSTALLATION  
**732-249-1359**  
 www.FranklinElectricNJ.com  
**DON'T BE LEFT IN THE DARK!**

**ELECTRIC, PLUMBING HEATING & COOLING**  
 NOW HIRING QUALIFIED TEAM MEMBERS  
 1186 LIVINGSTON AVENUE, NORTH BRUNSWICK, NJ  
**732-247-7390 • www.DaltonElectricCo.com**

**FIND YOUR NEW BEST FRIEND.**  
 \$60 adoption fee | animals are spayed/neutered, micro-chipped & up-to-date on shots  
**Franklin Township Animal Shelter**  
 475 DeMott Lane, Somerset, NJ 08873  
 732.873.2500 x6255 | Tue-Fri 12-3 & Sat 12-6  
 Ad sponsored by Second Chance For Animals

**BOYLAN Funeral Home**  
 188 Easton Avenue  
 New Brunswick, NJ 08901  
**732-545-4040**

**Robert Fox, Manager**  
 N.J. License No. 4371  
**www.BoylanFH.com**  
 Family owned and operated since 1958  
 10 Wooding Avenue  
 Edison, NJ 08817  
**732-572-0076**