



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

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

St. Matthias School (SMS):

170 JFK Boulevard, Somerset, NJ 08873
 732-828-1402; www.stmatthias.info

For all Parish emails, add @stmatthias.net

Pastor: Rev Abraham Orapankal, abraham
Parochial Vicar: Rev. Msgr. Joseph Curry, jcurry
Priest-in-Residence: Msgr. Seamus Brennan

Pastoral Staff

Deacon Russell Demkovitz, rдемkovitz
 Ana V Kelly, Marketing & Development, akelly
 Dolores R. Nann, Faith Formation, dnann
 Deacon John Radvanski, deaconjohn
 Joan Best Seamon, Music Ministry jseamon
 Sr Marie Therese Sherwood, OSF, Social
 Concerns, msherwood
 Phyllis Stone, Liturgy/RCIA and Administrative
 Assistant to the Pastor, pstone

St. Matthias School (add @stmatthiasnj.org)

Elena Malinconico, Principal, emalinconico
 Joseph Gidaro, Vice Principal, jgidaro

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

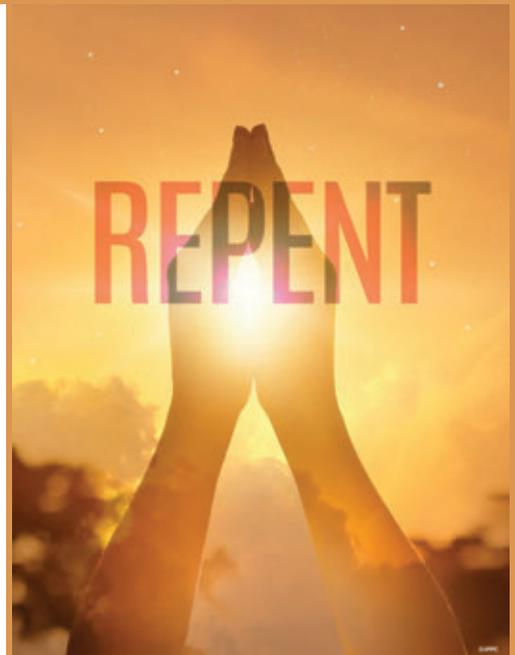
THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS
SUNDAY, APR 18, 2021 –
 Third Sunday of Easter

Highlights—This Week

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

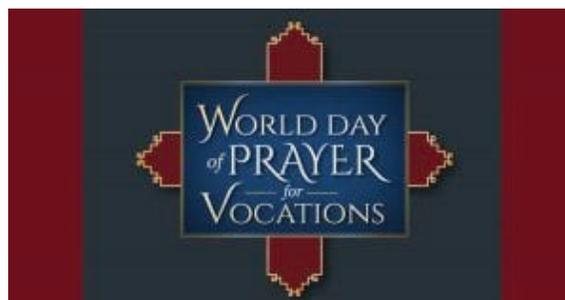
Bring your Old Eyeglasses Next
 Weekend—See page 9.

Catholic Relief Services
Collection is next Saturday &
 Sunday. See page 8.



Parish Vocations Committee

Often we have been praying for vocations as one of the Prayers of Petitions during Mass. While prayer is certainly important, it has to be realized through concrete actions from all of us. Promoting vocations is a community responsibility. For this reason, the Parish Pastoral Council has begun to establish a PARISH VOCATIONS COMMITTEE, with two of its members, Joe Percoco and Mary Beth Vetter, leading it. The purpose of the Parish Vocations Committee is to promote vocations by making the St. Matthias parish community aware that we, as a community, have a responsibility for fostering vocations and that vocation is ministry through married life, single life, ordained life of priests or deacons and consecrated life of religious men and women. Anyone who feels strongly about this goal is invited to contact either of these two leaders: Joe Percoco at: percoco@oit.rutgers.edu or Marybeth Vetter at marybeth.vetter@gmail.com



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 18, 2021

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	
6:30PM	SMYLE—Youth Grp.	Zoom

Monday, Apr 19, 2021

8:00AM	Daily Mass	Church
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Tuesday, Apr 20, 2021

8:00AM	Daily Mass	Church
7:30PM	Hand Bell rehearsal	Church

Wednesday, Apr 21, 2021

8:00AM	Daily Mass	Church
7:00PM	GIFT Live	Zoom

Thursday, Apr 22, 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 23, 2021

8:00AM	Daily Mass	Church
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Saturday, Apr 24, 2021 Catholic Relief Services Collection

3:30PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation	Church
4:30PM	SMYLE Youth Service Project—Eyeglasses Collection to support K of C	Cry Rm
5:00PM	Mass	Church

Sunday, Apr 25, 2021 Catholic Relief Services Collection

8:00AM	Mass	Church
8:00AM	SMYLE Youth Service Project—Eyeglasses Collection to support K of C	Cry Rm
8:30AM	Communion outside front doors	
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 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,

As you know, our 2021 RCIA class is very large with 25 adults. Thank you to those of you who picked up their names and prayed for them. Most of them were present at the Easter Vigil and received one or more of the Sacraments of Initiation. Those absent will receive on another day. “Congratulations to our neophytes.” Now, that is a word we don’t hear often. A “neophyte” (its Greek root means the newly planted) is a term used for those who have been initiated as full members of a religion like Christianity or Judaism or one who has joined a religious order. In our context, a neophyte is one who has been incorporated into the fullness of the life of the Church as the Body of Christ. Now these new members enter into the final phase of the RCIA process which is known as Mystagogy, which simply means learning about the mysteries. The RCIA instruction no.244 says: *“This is a time for the community and the neophytes together to grow in deepening their grasp of the paschal mystery and in making it part of their lives through meditation on the Gospel, sharing in the Eucharist, and doing the works of charity.”*

What is interesting is that the Church’s focus of the mystagogy is the Community into which these new members have been incorporated! **It means that mystagogy is a time for us all to grow in understanding the paschal mystery.** The entire purpose of the RCIA process is to lead the participants into a relationship of communion and intimacy with Jesus. As the community of St. Matthias, we are an important part of mystagogy.

Our RCIA process is coordinated by Phyllis Stone with her teammates Anne Marie Francis, Gondee Tibay, Mary-Frances Reavey, and Carmen Calvimontes. They have been doing an amazing job every year, but it has been very challenging this year due to the pandemic. And I wish to thank them sincerely for rising up to the challenges and carrying out this ministry of faith formation and evangelization of those who wish to be part of the community of faith in Jesus Christ. They are true models and torchbearers of faith.

But let us remember that we all are called to be models and torchbearers of Christian witness and experience to the neophytes as well as to all those we meet in our daily living. The Sunday Mass is key to a successful mystagogy because the three ways mentioned above – meditation on the Gospel and sharing in the Eucharist which leads us to the works of charity – are meant for the whole community’s full, conscious and active participation.

I have a request: you may know some adults who may be not be baptized, or who are baptized but not received Communion or Confirmation. Why not speak to them about receiving these Sacraments of Initiation? Why not invite them to join our RCIA process? That is another sign of you becoming a witness to Jesus.

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Orapankal

Readings for the Week

Monday: Acts 6:8-15; Ps 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30; Jn 6:22-29

Tuesday: Acts 7:51 — 8:1a; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 7b, 8a, 17, 21ab; Jn 6:30-35

Wednesday: Acts 8:1b-8; Ps 66:1-3a, 4-5, 6-7a; Jn 6:35-40

Thursday: Acts 8:26-40; Ps 66:8-9, 16-17, 20; Jn 6:44-51

Friday: Acts 9:1-20; Ps 117:1bc, 2; Jn 6:52-59

Saturday: Acts 9:31-42; Ps 116:12-13, 14-15, 16-17; Jn 6:60-69

Sunday: Acts 4:8-12; Ps 118:1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 28, 29; 1 Jn 3:1-2; Jn 10:11-18

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

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, Apr 17	5:00PM	Mr. & Mrs. John Collins, by Marty Collins
Sunday, Apr 18	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
Monday, Apr 19	8:00AM	Deceased Members of the Shanosky Family, by Helen
Tuesday, Apr 20	8:00AM	Rita D'Alessio, by The Enad Family
Wednesday, Apr 21	8:00AM	John Dzamba, by wife, Christine
Thursday, Apr 22	8:00AM	Mr. & Mrs. M. Lynch, by Marty Collins
Friday, Apr 23	8:00AM	Nicholas Hughes, by Daddy, Michael, Patrick & Brittany
Saturday, Apr 24	5:00PM	Jerry Edwin, by The Family
Sunday, Apr 25	8:00AM	Dot (Dorothy) Dugan, by The Stuewe Family
	10:00AM	Susainathan, by The Nathan Family
	12:00PM	Intention of Parishioners
	5:30PM	Richard Bonoan, by The Surot Family

Pray for those who are sick...

If you or a family member are sick, please **email Kelly Counts** at kcounts@stmatthias.net to add the name to this list. Names will be listed in the bulletin for 6 weeks. Please let us know if this time period needs to be extended. We want to know how you are doing and want to offer you the support of our prayers.

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

Pray for those who have died...

John Joseph Hauss

—“His mercy endures forever.” Chronicles

From the Pastoral Staff

“You are Witnesses of These Things”



What do you and I bear witness to in our everyday lives? Does your attitude and behavior witness to the Good News of Resurrection, or do you succumb to the dispiriting news of network TV and social media? To be a witness means to speak up even when others are ignoring an injustice - when people are shut-out, turned away, or denied basic human dignity.

Besides the basic human needs for food and shelter, all people have a need for security and to belong. After Jesus’ Resurrection, he addresses both of these desires of the heart. The disciples were filled with doubts and fear for their lives so they locked themselves in a room. Imagine yourself in this situation. Jesus appears before you and says the life-giving and forgiving words you never expected to hear! “Why are you troubled?” and “Peace Be with YOU!” *How do you respond?*

The disciples don’t know how to react to Jesus. Jesus senses their ambivalence. He refuses to judge them.

He offers them friendship and simply says “Come on, let’s eat!” Are we not challenged to do the same for others we meet in our *daily lives*?

Our faith builds on the Resurrection of Jesus. We are called by faith to live what we believe – even while we have doubts, questions, or fears. Our lives should look different because of the Resurrection. This means challenging what we think and do and who we include. We must move past our comfortable and privileged lives. It can be challenging to admit we have biases and prejudices that are not laudable. Do we trust the Resurrected Christ and bring the Good News to others, or do we sit in comfortable lives apart from the world and its needs? This can be a frightening thought because in our culture it’s been the fear of death that’s been the tool to oppress and threaten people to behave a certain way.

Last Sunday night, youth leaders of our parish youth group – SMYLE (St. Matthias Youth Living Evangelization) -

bore witness to me of the Resurrection. They worked very hard to plan a fun, enlightening, and life-giving event for their peers. They candidly shared about their doubts and their faith in Jesus. They named some of the struggles and problems caused by trying to fit in to a friend group or a world where it’s still okay to ignore bigger issues and social justice problems. The activity for the evening involved using Legos to build an image of self-expression that symbolized our connectedness in faith, and how we can bear witness through service. I learned that sometimes the best thing we can do when we have doubts about Jesus is to stop running away, and allow Him to catch up to us.

I pray that we can learn from our youth how to live the faith we believe by witnessing to the transformative power of the Resurrection.

Peace be with you!
Deacon John

Reflect

 **Smile With Your Family** 

☺ A pessimist, an optimist and an engineer were discussing a ½ glass of water. The pessimist says well, it’s half empty; the optimist says it’s half full; the engineer says the glass is twice as big as it needs to be.☺

Two Land Rovers almost collided at an African cross roads. One driver stuck his head out his window and shouted "Where are you going, for heaven’s sake?" Billy Graham was in the other Land Rover and he stuck his head out of the window and smilingly called back "I go everywhere for Heaven’s sake." ☺

A Recently Spotted Bumper Sticker: "God give me patience....And please make it quick!" ☺

 **Parenting Tune-Up**

Grandparents have access to history that can thrill and surprise their grandchildren. They can tell stories about how life used to be and shed some light on how the child's parent was a generation ago. They are the keepers of tradition. Don't lose the wisdom. Connect. (SusanVogt)

Marriage Tune-Up 

"Whoever fails to love does not know God, because God is love." (1 John 4:8)

Do you know anyone who claims to love God yet does not act lovingly toward a family member, a neighbor, creation? Don't let it be you.

The Ghost Story!

There is a true story in Ripley's *Believe It Or Not* about a judge in Yugoslavia who had an unfortunate accident. He was "electrocuted" when he reached up to turn on the light while standing in the bathtub. His wife found his body sprawled on the bathroom floor. She called for help. Friends and neighbors, police--everyone showed up. He was pronounced dead and taken to the funeral home. The local radio picked up the story and broadcast it all over the air. In the middle of the night, the judge regained consciousness. When he realized where he was, he rushed over to alert the night watchman, who promptly ran off, terrified. The first thought of the judge was to phone his wife and reassure her, using the funeral home phone. But he got no further than, "Hello darling, it's me," when she screamed and fainted. He tried calling a couple of the neighbors, but they all thought it was some sort of a sick prank. He even went so far as to go to the homes of several friends, but they were all sure he was a ghost and slammed the door in his face. Finally, he was able to call a friend in the next town who hadn't heard of his death. This friend was able to convince his family and other friends that he really was alive.

Today's Gospel tells us that *Jesus had to convince the disciples that he wasn't a ghost. He had to dispel their doubts and their fears. He showed them his hands and his feet. He invited them to touch him and see that he was real. And he even ate a piece of cooked fish with them--all to prove that he was alive and not a ghost or spirit. He stood there before them, as real and alive as he had been over the past three years.*

Bill's Last Gift, Best Gift

"... a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you can see I have." Luke 24: 35-48

Thirteen years ago, Tracy Grant's husband of 19 years was diagnosed with terminal brain cancer. Tracy became Bill's faithful caregiver. Over the course of seven months, her husband Bill "went from beating me silly at tennis to needing my help to go to the bathroom." It was a difficult, stressful and exhausting time, but Tracy, a deputy managing editor at The Washington Post, writes that those seven months were the time in her life when she felt "most alive." "I was 42 years old. I had become a respected professional, a responsible and, I hope, loving parent. But I had to discover the reason I was on this earth. During those seven months, I came to understand that whatever else I did in my life, nothing mattered more.

"I discovered that the petty grievances of an irksome coworker, a child with the sniffles, or a flat tire pales in comparison with the beauty of spontaneous laughter, the night sky, the smells of a bakery. There were moments of joy, laughter, and tenderness everyday - if I was willing to look hard enough. I found I could train myself to set my internal

barometer to be more compassionate than callous. "In the days following Bill's diagnosis and brain surgery, being his caregiver required me to be the best reporter I knew how to be. I found clinical trials and talked to oncologists in Texas, Pennsylvania, and New York. It gave me a sense of purpose, and it gave Bill comfort - and a few chuckles - to overhear me reading the riot act to some insurance rep who'd told me a treatment wouldn't be covered."

And now, 13 years after Bill's death, Tracy looks at those last seven months with gratitude. ". . . I haven't started a foundation to cure cancer. I haven't left the news business to get a medical degree. I work. I try to be there for my sons. I will never again have that high a purpose. But every day, I try again to be the person I became during those seven months. I try to be a little less judgmental, a little more forgiving and generous, a little more grateful for the small moments in my life. I am a better person for having been Bill's caregiver. It was his last, best give to me." **Wherever and whenever true love is present, resurrection is experienced. Tracy experiences that sense of resurrection in her caring for her husband - and it changes her in profound and beautiful ways. And, whether she realizes it or not, her loving generosity is a "witness" to the possibilities for such resurrection in her life and the lives of those she loves. In the compassion and peace we are able extend to those we love and who love us, we become "flesh and bone" signs of the hope and grace of Easter along the Emmaus roads we all walk.**

"We Will Raise You Up!"

The priest ("poojary") of a small Hindu congregation in a tribal area in India was being proselytized by some energetic Christian missionaries. He listened for a while and then said to them: "Gentlemen, look. I have a proposal that will settle this. I have here a glass of *nux vomica*, a poison which I use to kill rats. If you will drink this poison and remain alive as your God Jesus Christ promised, I will join your religion - and not only myself, but my entire Hindu congregation. But if you won't drink the poison, well, then, I can only conclude that you are false ministers of the Gospel you preach because you do not trust that your Lord would not let you perish." This created a problem for the missionaries. Finally, they arrived at a plan of action. They came back, approached the Hindu priest and said, "Here is our plan. You drink the poison, and we'll raise you from the dead by the power of Jesus!"

Our Scripture for this third Sunday of Easter is about believers. But it is also about doubting and wondering and trying to figure things out. Jesus needs us as witnesses to continue his mission. Jesus needs Spirit-filled followers to be his eyes, ears, hands and feet so that we may bear witness to his love, mercy and for-

Reflect

giveness. The Church badly needs dedicated witnesses: priests, deacons, Brothers, Sisters, parents, teachers, doctors, and nurses – all of us. The essence of bearing witness is to testify by our lives that the power of the risen Jesus has touched and transformed us. In other words, Jesus is to speak to other people through us. In *Calcutta, a dying old woman with her head in the lap of Mother Teresa, looked at her for a long time, and, in a feeble voice, asked: "Are you the God Jesus who loves the*



The Power of Sharing a Story!

The grandfather of the Jewish philosopher Martin Buber was lame. One day they asked him to tell a story about his teacher, and he related how his master used to hop and dance while he prayed. The old man rose as he spoke and was so swept away by his story that he himself began to hop and dance to show how his master did it. From that moment he was cured of his lameness. When we tell the story of Christ, we achieve two things. We enable others to experience him and we ourselves experience his power even more.

We can see that happening in today's Gospel. Jesus wanted his disciples to be authentic witnesses to the reality of his life as their risen Lord with his glorified soul and body. By inviting them to look closely at him and touch him, Jesus removed any fear that they were seeing a ghost. He instilled confidence in them that He loved them by greeting them: "peace be with you." By eating a piece of fish before their eyes, he convinced them that they were not dreaming or having a mere vision or hallucination. They believed him. They were empowered by him. We know how they boldly preached him after Pentecost and were not afraid of being killed. They all, except John, became martyrs for Christ.

A Scientist who Prayed the Rosary!

A train was racing for Paris. In one of its compartments two men sat opposite each other. The first was a young medical research student who was bored by the long journey. The other was an old man reciting his rosary with closed eyes. The young researcher began to ridicule the old man for his superstitious beliefs. He then went on to tell of the wonders of medical science. The old man just nodded, smiled and continued his prayer in spite of the humiliating comments of his fellow passenger. When they reached the Paris station, the old man enquired where the youngster was going. The young man proudly announced that he was going to attend a lecture by the world-famous scientist, Louis Pasteur. The old man took out a visiting card from his pocket, gave it to the young man and bid him farewell. The card read: "Dr. Louis Pasteur, Academy of Science, Paris."



Pride and prejudice often blur our vision and occasionally blind us to reality, leading us to wrong judgments as it happened to the apostles in today's Gospel. The same Jesus who, in the Upper Room, prepared his disciples for their preaching and witnessing mission, is present with us in the Eucharistic celebration. He invites us to share in the "Liturgy of the Word of God" and in "The Liturgy of Bread and Wine." In the first part of the Mass, Jesus speaks to us through the "Word of God." In the second part, He becomes our spiritual food and drink. Thus, today's Gospel scene is repeated every Sunday on our parish altars. Like the early disciples, we come together to repent of our sins, express our thanks for the blessings we have received, listen to God's words and offer ourselves to God on the altar along with our gifts of bread and wine. We also share in the spiritual food Jesus supplies, and we are sent to share his message with the entire world.

Context of Today's First Reading!

Acts 3: 13-15, 17-19: Saint Luke wrote for an audience of cosmopolitan, middle-class Gentiles, living in a skeptical society, yet attracted to a religion with long, historic Jewish roots. This new religion reached out to all humankind. To tell that story, to ground his audience in their adopted religious heritage, and to keep them focused on the new religion's mission, Luke needed to tell the story of Jesus anew in a second book, the Acts of the Apostles. Today's lesson is the second of five discourses preached by Peter. Today's episode from the Acts of the Apostles reports

Peter's forceful address to the astonished crowd gathered at the Portico of Solomon in the Jerusalem Temple after a healing miracle. This reading tells us about the Jewish heritage of Christianity – how the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob sent His Son Jesus as the Messiah to save the world and how his chosen people rejected him and conspired with the Romans to execute him. It also tells us how Jesus was raised from the dead and fulfilled all the Messianic prophecies. The sermon concludes with the admonition to the Jews to repent of their sins and be con-

verted. "Repent, therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be wiped away" (Acts 3:19).

Although we were not part of that crowd demanding his death, it was our sins that Christ carried to the cross, and it was for those sins that Christ asked the Father's forgiveness from the cross. Hence, we are the ones who need to reform our lives and turn to God with repentant hearts. If we believe that Christ has forgiven our sins, we must forgive the sins of others.

Reflect

Learn from the Story of Luigi Tarisio!

Luigi Tarisio, some years ago was found dead one morning with hardly any creature comforts in his home, except the presence of 246 exquisite violins. He had been collecting them all his life. They were all stored in the attic. The best violins were found in the bottom drawer of an old rickety bureau. The greatest of his collection, a Stradivarius, when it was finally played, had had 147 speechless years. In his very devotion to the violin, he had robbed the world of all that exquisite music. How many

of Christ's people are like old Tarisio? In our very love of the Church we fail to give the glad tidings to the world; in our zeal for the truth we forget to publish it. When shall we all learn that the Good News needs not just to be cherished, but needs to be told? Don't bury God's Good News of Easter at the bottom of a rickety old bureau. Let the people hear the great sound of the music: He is Risen!

To tell people about this good news, we need to know more: This apparition of Jesus

took place on Easter evening, after Jesus had appeared to the two disciples of Emmaus. The two disciples to whom Our Lord appeared on their way to Emmaus returned hurriedly to Jerusalem to report the glad news that they had met him in the person of the stranger who had explained to them the Sacred Scriptures and whom they had recognized in the breaking of the bread. They discovered that the apostles were convinced, by that time, of the resurrection of Jesus because Simon also had seen

him. While they were discussing these things Jesus appeared in their midst, surprising and terrifying them. This story was told and retold and recorded by Luke for at least three reasons: (1) Jesus' death and Resurrection fit God's purpose as revealed in Scripture; (2) the risen Jesus is present in the breaking of bread; and (3) the risen Jesus is also physically absent from the disciples.

Pray



Dear God,

Just a simple thank-you doesn't come close expressing the grati-

tude in my heart for the many hours our liturgical ministers give to make sure the celebration of liturgy at St. Matthias serves as a foundation for us all to be truly Easter People to one another and to the world. I have spoken to you about this gratitude many times in my private prayer, but Fr. James Martin, a Jesuit priest and author, says that writing a letter to You can help more precisely capture the way I am feeling after such an uplifting Holy Week and Easter.

First and foremost, I am grateful that our liturgical ministers understand that our Eucharistic liturgy is the "source and summit of our life of faith" as disciples of Jesus. So, week after week our

A Letter to God About St. Matthias Liturgical Ministers as Easter People

Hospitality Ministers show up ready to greet worshipers and to make us feel welcome. Our Eucharistic Ministers take seriously their roles as givers of the Bread of Life and therefore ARE the Bread of Life in their work that seeks to nourish us and draw us more closely to Your mission for us. Our ministers of the WORD know well that You speak to us through them - their reading, their proclamation of the scripture. Our musicians and our intercession writers understand the vital importance of prayer (both said and sung) in our thanksgiving and praise. And even those who quietly go about their work behind the scenes, (including those who sanitize our worship space Mass after Mass), to ensure that the altar linens are crisp and fresh, and our environment is safe for all reflective of a sanctuary fitting for You.

Most importantly I am grateful that our liturgical ministers understand the

transformative power of good liturgy, and as such, they set about their work to ensure that all within our assembly, whether in person or at home, leave our worship on a mission to do Your work. They understand what the US bishops said in *Sing to the Lord* that "Good celebrations can foster and nourish faith..." and that poor celebrations can weaken it. Through their service as greeters, hospitality ministers, eucharistic ministers, lectors, intercession writers, musicians, and preparers of the environment through altar linen laundering, decorating and even "worship space cleaners", they prove themselves to understand the connection between celebrating liturgy together as a community and celebrating liturgy in our daily lives when we leave one another. They model the joy of the Gospel spilling over from hearts, making it possible to encounter Your Son, Jesus more deeply.

(continued on next page)

Pray



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They epitomize something I have learned more recently - what it means to live liturgy "beyond the sanctuary." Furthermore, they understand all too well that through the outpouring of their love as liturgical ministers, worshipers experience the world differently when we leave liturgy vs. when I come into the liturgy.

My prayer is that they know the gratitude in my heart. May

they also know that without them, there would be no Church, no liturgy, no foundation for what it means to be resurrected Easter People. Take care of them, bless them, and help them remain as Your disciples, growing in their faith and in their love for St. Matthias.

Your daughter, Phyllis

The Catholic Relief Services Collection will take place at All Masses Next Weekend, April 24/25

To learn more about this collection, visit:

<https://www.usccb.org/resources/crs-2021-bulletin-insert.pdf>

In families striving to stay intact through adversity, Let us see Christ.

In the poor and lowly of the world, Let us see Christ.

In those forced to leave their homes because of war or famine, Let us see Christ.

In children who go to bed hungry and who cannot attend school, Let us see Christ.

In those who are living with HIV/AIDS and other diseases, Let us see Christ.

In immigrants and refugees seeking freedom and hope, Let us see Christ.

In those who are orphaned or abandoned, Let us see Christ.

In the elderly who are forgotten, Let us see Christ.

In those who struggle to find meaningful work, Let us see Christ.

In those who work for justice and peace for all people, Let us see Christ.



Welcome to Our Newly Initiated Catholics!

This Easter, we celebrate all adults receiving their sacraments through the 2020-2021 RCIA program. Thank you to everyone in our community who prayed for them, and continue to pray for them on the journey of building their faith and becoming devoted Disciples of Christ Jesus. Most received their sacraments at the Easter Vigil. Congratulations to the following RCIA members who received their sacraments at the Easter Vigil:

Elect (new baptized into the Catholic faith) - Josalyn Montero, Danielle Gille and Da'Shawn Durden

Full Communion - Luis Cuevas, Loren Long, Shannon Long, Nicholas Chodl

Confirmation - Michael Chodl, Udenna Okonkwo, Dominique Marchie, Michael Marchie, Vanessa Di-Rocco, Michael Di'Rocco, Kristen Camerino, Giancarlo Gamboa, Phiorella Gamboa, Jodie Scanlon

Throughout the Easter Season, others who will receive their sacraments are:

Elect (to be baptized) - Nalini Mailk

Full Communion (to receive communion and confirmation) - Rosanna Garon, Waid Barfield, and Ava Ortan

Confirmation (to receive the sacrament at Pentecost) - Helena Cassutt, Natalie Ortman, Nicholas Recine

Connect

A Letter from Our Parishioner

Dear Fr. Abraham and Fr. Joe,

I am bringing bulletins home for my older neighbors that are not attending mass in person as they have issues. They found out it was me leaving the bulletin and were so grateful; I was trying to do good and disappear as the nuns used to tell us in school, but I got caught one day. Hope my story brought a smile to your face and reassures you we do listen to the sermons and do what we can to spread some

good! I had a catholic education and I would not trade those years for the world. Of course on looking back I can appreciate it all the more now; at the time it just seemed like what I did, but as I got older I realized just how diverse our programs were and the wealth of knowledge in all subjects that we received.

Again, thank you for all you do for us.

Sincerely, Corinne Blachier

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	\$29,480.25	\$16,325.28
Week 41 - Apr. 11, 2021	\$11,359.00	\$26,609.75	\$37,968.75	\$49,137.78
Week 42 - Apr. 18, 2021			\$0.00	\$16,326.28
Week 43 - Apr. 25, 2021			\$0.00	\$23,796.78
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.			Month-to-date Total	Apr Total Last Yr
			\$67,449.00	\$105,586.12
			Current Year-to-date	Year-to-date as of Apr 30,
			\$1,046,734.43	\$1,159,837.66

Stewardship Reflection Apr 18, 2021 3rd Sunday of Easter

“Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, ‘Peace be with you.’ But they were startled and frightened...” - LUKE 24:36-37

Throughout the day we have many opportunities to “see the face of Jesus” in others and to “be the face of Jesus” to others. Do we take that opportunity to provide “peace” to those we encounter or are we afraid of what others will think of us and do nothing? Pray for the strength and courage to live a “God-centered” life and not a “self-centered” life.

Reflexiónese — 18de abril de 2021 3er. Domingo de Pascua

“Jesús se presentó entre ellos y les dijo, ‘La paz sea con ustedes’, pero ellos estaban asustados y aterrorizados...” - LUCAS 24:36-37

Durante el día tenemos muchas oportunidades para “ver la cara de Jesús” en los demás y para “ser la cara de Jesús” para otros. ¿Aprovechamos la oportunidad de dar “paz” a aquellos que nos encontramos o estamos temerosos de lo que otros puedan pensar de nosotros y no hacemos nada? Rece para pedir fuerza y coraje para vivir una vida “centrada en Dios” y no una vida “centrada en sí mismo”

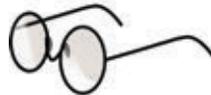
Serve




APRIL SMYLE SCHEDULE

Zoom links will be sent closer to each date!

Service Opportunity: April 24-25, 2021 Cry Room



Have you purchased new prescription glasses? Do you have your old pair(s) sitting around the house collecting dust?

All parishioners are invited to bring in old prescription glasses that you no longer use and donate them for our youth service project. Our SMYLE youth will be collaborating with the Knights of Columbus on this project. Please bring your glasses to the Cry Room next weekend, April 24-25.








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 or Sister Marie Therese: mshewood@stmatthias.net, 732-828-1400 for Zoom details if you are interested in joining us.

Serve

Can You Sew? Do you have a sewing machine?

We need more volunteers to help us sew baptismal bibs which are given to the youngest members of our community when they are baptized. Fabric, ribbon and thread supplied.

Contact Mary Ann Vetter at 732-247-9237 to volunteer or learn more.



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, or Lisa Robinson, 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.

Local Community

Life-Giving Wounds Virtual Retreat

The Diocese of Metuchen's Office of Family Life will sponsor a Life-Giving Wounds retreat, **designed for anyone over the age of 18 whose parents are no longer together.** The **virtual retreat** will be conducted over the course of 3 Saturdays: **April 17th, April 24th and May 1st.** On the first 2 Saturdays, participants will attend via Zoom from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and on the 3rd Saturday, a Mass will be celebrated for all adult children of divorce.

People of all backgrounds attend, but together they have one key thing in common: they have lost the love of their parents together. Topics will include discussing anxiety, anger, sin, temptation and forgiveness.

For more information and to register, please visit: www.diometuchen.org/adult-children-of-divorce

Parish Leadership

Parish Pastoral Council:

Chair: Nick Grippo
nickgrippo@gmail.com

Co-Chair: Lisa Robinson
laro504@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
Finance Council

@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.



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