



ST. MATTHIAS CHURCH

All are Welcome

St. Matthias Parish Office:

Open Mon-Thu: 8:30-5:00PM; Fri: 8:30-4PM
168 JFK Boulevard, Somerset, NJ 08873
732-828-1400, fax: 732-828-0866
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

St. Matthias School (SMS):

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

For all Parish emails, add @stmatthias.net

Pastor: Rev Abraham Orapankal, [abraham](mailto:abraham@stmatthias.net)
Senior Priest: Msgr. Seamus Brennan, [sbrennan](mailto:sbrennan@stmatthias.net)
Mary Pat Burke-Grospin, Business Administrator
[mpburke-grospin](mailto:mpburke-grospin@stmatthias.net)

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Sr Marie Therese Sherwood, *OSF, Pastoral Assoc. for Social Concerns*, [msherwood](mailto:msherwood@stmatthias.net)
Phyllis Stone, *Pastoral Associate for Liturgy/RCIA & Admin. Assistant to the Pastor*, [pstone](mailto:pstone@stmatthias.net)
Trish Stumper, *Par. Support Secretary*, [tstumper](mailto:tstumper@stmatthias.net)

St. Matthias School (add @stmatthiasnj.org)

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

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS

**SUNDAY, APRIL 24, 2022 –
Sunday of Divine Mercy**

**Volunteers Needed
to Serve
on the Pastoral Council**

Terms for our outgoing Pastoral Council members end in May. We are still seeking additional volunteers to serve on next year's Council.

Rather than having elections, our parish uses a simple discernment process where interested individuals gather together for prayer and to learn more about the work of the PC and discern joining. This is modeled after the way Matthias joined the apostles to replace Judas.

Please consider this call. If this is not for you, please invite other parishioners to consider this ministry and tell them why you think they would be good for this ministry.

The Council meets monthly (currently via Zoom) on a night that is mutually convenient for members.

Contact our outgoing Co-Chairs for details:
Claudine Langrin
ClaudMLangrin@gmail.com
Mary Beth Vetter-Purcell
marybeth.vetter@gmail.com

WITNESS

All are welcome to pray the Mercy Rosary on Mercy Sunday after the 10:00 AM Mass with members of the St. Matthias Rosary Society and fellow parishioners. This will be followed by a diversity rosary for peace.

**St. Matthias School & Parish
YARD SALE**

Don't miss the Yard Sale **NEXT Saturday, April 30th, 2022**, from **10 am to 2 pm** in the rear parking lot. More details, including information about tech/electronic equipment that will be available for sale, on page 7.



**St. Matthias 60th Anniversary
Celebration!**



Our 60th Anniversary celebration is about to begin!
Save the date for our **Kick-off Weekend — May 14th and 15th.**
More information on page 8.



If you shop on Amazon, please help us by starting at:
www.stmatthias.net/Amazon

This Week at St. Matthias From the Pastor's Desk

Masses are also celebrated livestreamed on our YouTube channel: 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 24, 2022 Divine Mercy Sunday

8:00AM	Mass	Church
10:00AM	Mass	Church
10:30AM	RCIA	John XXIII Rm
12:00PM	Mass	Church

Monday, Apr 25, 2022 St. Mark the Evangelist, Martyr (Feast Day)

8:00AM	Mass/Miraculous Medal Novena	Church
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Tuesday, Apr 26, 2022 St. Anacletus, Pope

8:00AM	Mass	Church
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Wednesday, Apr 27, 2022 St. Zita, Patron Saint of Domestic Workers

8:00AM	Mass	Church
9:30AM	Prayer Grp 1 Holy Spirit	Zoom
7:30PM	Folk Group Rehearsal	Church

Thursday, Apr 28, 2022 St. Peter Chanel, Priest & Martyr

8:00AM	Mass	Church
3:30PM	Children's Choir Gr. 3 & 4	Church
4:15PM	Children's Choir Gr. 5-8	Church
7:30PM	Sunday 10AM Choir Rehearsal	Church
7:30PM	NeXt Level Mtg.	Zoom

Friday, Apr 29, 2022 St. Catherine of Siena, Doctor of the Church

8:00AM	Mass	Church
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Saturday, Apr 30, 2022 St. Pius V, Pope

10:00AM	SMS Yard Sale	Parking Lot
3:30PM	Reconciliation	Church
5:00PM	Mass	

Sunday May 1, 2022 Catholic Relief Services Collection

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

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 by 8 AM, **MONDAY, 6 before the bulletin date** (earlier for holiday weekends). Approved content is published on a space-available basis.

Dear Friends,

It was very gratifying to see so many of our people returning to join the Church services in person. The Easter Masses saw the biggest crowds since the pandemic began. Thanks be to God for the greater sense of a return to normalcy. We continue to pray that the new life and new hope from the Risen Christ will bring more blessings and a total freedom from the pandemic even as we are conscious of the need to take reasonable precautions.



Do you know why Sundays after Easter are named 2nd Sunday of Easter, 3rd Sunday of Easter, etc.? Easter is such a foundational feast of our faith, which the Church continues to celebrate it for about seven weeks. The power of Easter has transformed the face of the earth as believers began to increase and Christianity began to spread all over the world. It is unbelievable but true that after the preaching of Peter: *“Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand persons were added that day.”* (Acts 2:41). Besides the preaching of the apostles, the early Christians themselves were the best missionaries to their own neighbors and friends, sharing the power of the Resurrected Jesus to bring about change in hearts. It still continues to happen in our own times.

We have a wonderful opportunity to refocus our call to be missionaries to our own people. Next month we will kick off the 60th anniversary celebrations of our parish with the 5 pm Mass on May 14, on the feast of St. Matthias, our patron. The Celebration Committee has been working hard to focus on some practical events to make this anniversary year fruitful in many ways, especially spiritually and socially. But I like to ask each one of us to consider how we can imitate the early Christians who were so enthusiastic about bringing others to Jesus.

How do we do that? We can follow the advice of Pope Francis, whose approach to mission might be characterized as a “missiology of attraction.” He wants us to draw people to Jesus by way of attraction, not by proselytizing, or imposing our faith. And he reminds us that the attractive message is contained in the merciful love of God. When the church makes the mercy of God real by becoming an inclusive church, a church where saints and sinners are welcome, then more people will be drawn to Jesus.

Today is Divine Mercy Sunday – a feast instituted by St. John Paul II, in order to realize the depth of the mercy of God for each one of us personally. Sister Faustina who had revelations about this desire from Jesus wrote the words of Jesus in her diary entry # 206: *“On the day of My feast, the Feast of Mercy, you will go through the whole world and bring fainting souls to the spring of My mercy. I shall heal and strengthen them”.*

May the Risen Lord help us experience God's mercy in ourselves and may He help us to offer the same mercy to others, thereby becoming true witnesses who will attract others to our church and our faith in Jesus Christ.

Your brother in Christ,
Fr. Abraham Orapankal

Readings for the Week

Monday: 1 Pt 5:5b-14; Ps 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17; Mk 16:15-20

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

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

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

Friday: Acts 5:34-42; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Jn 6:1-15

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

Sunday: Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41; Ps 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13; Rev 5:11-14; Jn 21:1-19 or 21:1-14

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, Apr 23	5:00PM	Jerry Edwin, by The Family
Sunday, Apr 24	8:00AM	Betty Nileski, by Jack & Sharon Murphy
	10:00AM	Susai Nathan, by The Nathan Family
	12:00PM	Ann Koruda, by The Aiello Family
	(5:30PM)	Intention of Parishioners (No Mass)
Monday, Apr 25	8:00AM	Honor Bongga, by Marie Maceren
Tuesday, Apr 26	8:00AM	Nena Quiamco, by The Bandong Family
Wednesday, Apr 27	8:00AM	Lillian Bartlett, by William Bartlett
Thursday, Apr 28	8:00AM	Angela Frigiola, by Loving Friends
Friday, Apr 29	8:00AM	Lou Carcich, by Maria & Jonathan Wood & Family
Saturday, Apr 30	5:00PM	Birthday blessings for Anne Marie Francis, by Karen, Patrick & Brandon
Sunday, May 1	8:00AM	Betty McCarthy, by Ellen & Paul Junas
	10:00AM	Theresa Kaiyoko, by Mother of Christiana John
	12:00PM	Helen & John Pricolo, by Diane & Robert Carbonaro
	(5:30PM)	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 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. *New people on our prayer list are noted in blue.*

Beth & Jay Adams	Rose Gessner	Sabrina Moloney	Buddy Scott
Carolyn Banghart	Mary Gidaro	Dave Moynihan	Sr. Mary Amata Shina, OSF
Gladys Battle	Marie Godet	Eleanor Nagy	Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF
Marie Brody	Sloopy Hoffman	Jean Oberlander	Catherine Sloomaker
Thomas Burns	Baby Isla-Rose Huffman	Danny Ongchangco	Dennis Stuewe
Tara Capatosto	Al & Rose Larangeira	Paul & Doris Paetow	Jeff Sullivan
Ellen Catalina	Erlina Liem	Bernadine Pasternak	Susan Tami
Genon DeGuzman	The Littrakis Family	Jim Pettit	Jeaninne Tosh
Alaina Derecola	Kenneth & Kelly Magat	Christina Pietrowiak	Regina Wellman
Marlene DiMaggio	Al Maglio	Ruth Piscadlo	Mark T. Worthington
Jim Dolan	Sue Maglio-Alese	Chris Retz	
Mary Dolan	King Manansala	Jaxon Rivera	And for all who are ill,
William Dolphin	Christine L. Matthews	Jorge Rivera	homebound, elderly, in nursing
Josephine Geenty	Beatrice May	Barbara Ruziska	care, or living with chronic
Claudia Gemgnani	Margaret Menendez	Maria Schwenzer	illness, we pray.
Emma Gergely	Carol Millemann	Lena Sciotto	

Pray for those who have died...

— “His mercy endures forever.” Chronicles

Mary Patricia Reardon



Smile with Your Family



When a mother saw a thunderstorm forming in mid-afternoon, she worried about her seven-year-old daughter who would be walking the three blocks from school to home. Deciding to meet her, the mother saw her daughter walking nonchalantly along, stopping to smile whenever lightning flashed. Seeing her mother, the little girl ran to her, explaining happily, "All the way home, God's been taking my picture!" 😊

Saint Padre Pio Jokes: One day after hearing a priest preach a rather long homily, Padre Pio was asked by the

preacher what he thought of his sermon. He replied, "Good, but if you kept on much longer you'd be talking to yourself." 😊

When someone said they wished he would live another fifty years, Padre Pio said: "What harm have I ever done to you?" 😊

When they asked him what he thought about the tomb they were building for him, Padre Pio said: "I think that it's a bit smallish, and I will not have much air to breath." 😊

St. Faustina and the Image of the [Divine Mercy](#):



St. Faustina of Poland is the well-known apostle of Divine Mercy. On the 30th of April, 2000, the Second Sunday of Easter, His Holiness Pope St. John Paul II canonized Blessed Sister Faustina. The new Saint invites us by the witness of her life to keep our Faith and Hope fixed on God the Father, rich in

mercy, Who saved us by the precious Blood of His Son. During her short life, the Lord Jesus assigned to St. Faustina three basic tasks: 1. *to pray for souls, entrusting them to God's incomprehensible Mercy*; 2. *to tell the world about God's Generous Mercy*; 3. *to start a new movement in the Church focusing on God's Mercy*. Pope St. John Paul II said: "The cross, even after the Resurrection of the Son of God, speaks, and never ceases to speak, of God the Father, Who is absolutely faithful to His eternal love for man. ... Believing in this love means believing in mercy." "The Lord of Divine Mercy," a drawing of Jesus based on the vision given to St. Faustina, shows Jesus raising his right hand in a gesture of blessing, with his left hand on his heart from which gush forth two rays, one red and one white. The picture contains the message, "Jesus, I trust in You!" (*Jezu ufam Tobie*). The rays streaming out have symbolic meaning: red for the [Blood of Jesus](#), which is the life of souls and white for the Baptismal water which justifies souls. The whole image is symbolic of the mercy, forgiveness and love of God.

The Story of Oshea Israel and Mary Johnson

One of the stories of the "Forgiveness Project" that caught my attention was the story of Oshea Israel and Mary Johnson. Oshea had shot and killed Mary's son - a boy Oshea didn't even know. There was no way Oshea could pay Mary back for what he had taken from her. And Mary owed him nothing. It's not an easy story. As Mary said, "I hated everyone for a while." But over time Mary came to forgive Oshea. She visited him in prison. She helped him when he

Divine Mercy Sunday: April 24, 2022



"I shall sing forever the Lord's mercy." (Ps 89).

Divine Mercy Sunday, celebrated on the Sunday after Easter Sunday, is a relatively new addition to the Roman Catholic liturgical calendar. Celebrating the Divine Mercy of Jesus Christ, as revealed by Christ Himself to St. Faustina Kowalska. This feast was extended to the entire Catholic Church by Pope John Paul II on April 30, 2000, the day that he canonized Saint Faustina.

I demand from you deeds of mercy, which are to arise out of love for Me. You are to show mercy to your neighbors always and everywhere. You must not shrink from this or try to excuse or absolve yourself from it." Words from Jesus to St. Faustina.

The National Shrine of Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Mass., holds annual celebrations. When you combine the estimates of 15,000 to 20,000 pilgrims and the 500 to 600 volunteers to serve them, you get the makings of another memorable Divine Mercy Sunday Weekend there. Though this year, due to the pandemic, they have changed the format with the events streamlined with certain restrictions, including preregistration. More information is available at www.shrineofdivinemercury.org

May Jesus, who is our life and hope, pour out His Divine Mercy upon us and on the whole world.

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was released. In the process they both changed.

Mary gave Oshea the one gift he needed to begin his healing: total forgiveness. Mercy doesn't undercut justice but surprises it! It is the linchpin that supports forgiveness and compassion. Mercy is the force that reawakens us to new life and instills in us the courage to look to the future with hope. We might think of mercy as the grace for conversion.

Reflect



The Work of Peace

Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you."

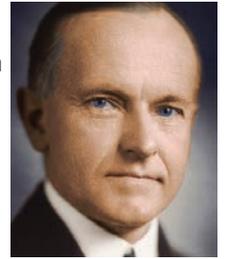
Story one: When their father was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, the family was devastated. But the kids immediately rallied around their mother and, together, talked through the difficult road that lay ahead. Mom realized she couldn't do this alone - and appreciated the fact that this was not only her husband but their father, too, and that they should be part of his care. And her children were adamant that, no matter what the difficulties and challenges they faced, their love for their dad was total and unwavering. With humility and gratitude and grace, they worked as one, consulting with doctors, arranging for help and care, and dividing up responsibilities. There were no "turf wars" or hurt feelings. This was about Mom and Dad and enabling them to live their final days with dignity and happiness. Despite the painful "long goodbye" they would experience in caring for their husband and father, this family was at **peace**.

Story two: The graffiti was discovered by the janitor on Monday morning, scrawled on one of the school's restrooms. The racist words and images were ugly and vicious. Of course, no one admitted to the vandalism. The students who were the targets of the graffiti were outraged and were ready to shut the school down; but the majority of students dismissed the graffiti as a stupid, insensitive prank and that everyone was taking it way too seriously. Before tensions escalated any further and outsiders could make things worse, the principal and teachers went to work. They organized small-group listening sessions where students of different races and ethnic backgrounds could talk about the disrespect and indignities they experience; similar meetings were held for parents, as well. It was eye-opening - and difficult to listen to; but, over time, students and teachers came to understand the pain and struggles experienced by many minority students in their school. A big step forward: the following weekend, a group of students organized on their own to remove the graffiti and repaint the restroom. Much work remained to be done to heal the school, but they managed to carry on in **peace**.

On Easter night, Jesus greets his terrified disciples with "Peace." But the peace of the Risen Christ is more than just the absence of conflict, more than just the quiet, unchallenged acceptance of another's heartless behavior or selfish expectations. Christ's peace is the hard work of loving when it is most difficult to love, of putting aside one's own disappointments and doubts for the sake of the common good, of forgiving when we are too angry or disappointed, of reaching out even when we are sure we will be rebuffed or rejected. The Risen One's gift of peace is centered in no less than Christ himself: to imitate his selflessness, his compassion, his joys in our own homes and hearts.

President's Mercy!

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



The first part of today's Gospel (verses 19-23), describes how Jesus entrusted to his apostles his mission of preaching the "Good News" of God's love, mercy, forgiveness and salvation. This portion of the reading teaches us that Jesus uses the Church as the earthly means of continuing His mission. It also teaches us that the Church needs Jesus as its source of power and authority and that it becomes Christ's true messenger only when it perfectly loves and obeys Him. The Risen Lord gives the apostles the authority to forgive sins in His Name. He gives the apostles the power of imparting God's mercy to the sinner, the gift of forgiving sins from God's treasury of mercy. In the liturgy, the Church has proclaimed the mercy of God for centuries through the Word of God and the Sacrament of the Body and Blood of Christ. The Gospel text also reminds us that the clearest way of expressing our belief in the presence of the Risen Jesus among us is through our own forgiveness of others. We can't form a lasting Christian community without such forgiveness. Unless we forgive others, our celebration of the Eucharist is just an exercise in liturgical rubrics.

Cure for Sorrow



There is an old Chinese tale about a woman whose only son died. In her grief, she went to the holy man and said, "What prayers, what magical incantations do you have to bring my son back to life?" Instead of sending her away or reasoning with her, he said to her, "Fetch me a mustard seed from a home that has never known sorrow. We will use it to drive the sorrow out of your life." The woman went off at once in search of that magical mustard seed.

Cont'd on next page

Reflect

Cure for Sorrow (continued)

She came first to a splendid mansion, knocked at the door, and said, "I am looking for a home that has never known sorrow. Is this such a place? It is very important to me."

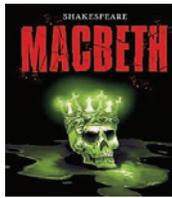
They told her, "You've certainly come to the wrong place," and began to describe all the tragic things that recently had befallen them. The woman said to herself, "Who is better able to help these poor, unfortunate people than I, who have had misfortune of my own?" She stayed to comfort them, then went on in search of a home that had never known sorrow. But wherever she turned, in hovels and in other places, she found one tale after another of sadness and misfortune. She became so involved in ministering to other people's grief that ultimately she forgot about her quest for the magical mustard seed, never realizing that it had, in fact, driven the sorrow out of her life.

"Sir, that is what I am afraid of!"

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

Like that soldier, Peter would have reason to tremble. Peter had boasted about his bravery, how he would always stand by Jesus. Yet when Jesus needed him most, he nodded off. Perhaps one could forgive him for falling asleep, but later - when he was wide-awake - he denied Jesus. "I do not know the man." Some rock! In strict justice, Peter should have been punished - at the very least, removed as head of the Church. In Christ's passion, however, a deeper justice is at work. That is what we will discover this Divine Mercy Sunday. God's justice has a name - it is called the Divine Mercy. Let us accept God's invitation to celebrate and practice mercy. One way the Church celebrates God's mercy throughout the year is through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Finding time for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is another good way to receive Divine Mercy. The Gospel command, "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful," demands that we show mercy to our fellow human beings always and everywhere. We radiate God's mercy to others by our actions, our words, and our prayers. It is mainly through the corporal and spiritual works of mercy that we practice mercy in our daily lives and become eligible for God's merciful judgment.

Macbeth never had Peace in his life!



One of the famous tragedies of William Shakespeare is *Macbeth*. When Macbeth was returning after a victory, he was met by three witches. The first witch greeted him, "Thane of Glamis". The second witch greeted him "Thane of Cawdor", and the third witch greeted him, "King hereafter". As they disappeared, messengers reached Macbeth with the good news that he was appointed as the Thane of Glamis and Thane of Cawdor. Macbeth went home and shared this strange experience with his wife. She enkindled his hopes, and persuaded him to murder Duncan, the king, who had come to his house as his guest. As Macbeth thrust the dagger into the heart of Duncan he heard a voice cry out, "Sleep no more. Macbeth does murder sleep! ... Macbeth shall sleep no more." Thereafter Macbeth never had peace in his life. His life became miserable. In his frantic attempt to get peace he committed murder again and again. When Macbeth sinned against the king, he lost his peace.

Jesus was aware that sins destroy the peace of man. So when he gave his apostles his "peace," he also granted them the power to destroy sin. To destroy a powerful enemy, we need a powerful weapon. Jesus put this weapon in the hands of the Church when He gave to his Apostles the power to forgive sins through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Jesus said to the apostles: "Those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven. Those whose sins you retain, they are retained."

Forgive and be Forgiven!

Some time ago, a woman wrote a letter to Ann Landers describing the terrible relationship that once existed between her and her brother. It took the death of their father to get her to forgive him and to treat him as a brother again. Sometime after their reconciliation, her brother had a heart attack and died in her arms. She ends her letter with this moving paragraph. "I am grateful for the years we had together, but I could scream when I think of all the years we missed because we were too bull-headed and short sighted to try to get along. Now he is gone and I am heartsick."

Today's readings are an invitation to review the relationships in our lives and to bring them into line with Jesus' teachings



Pastoral Staff

THE ONE WORD THAT SAYS IT ALL!

Happy Easter!

I know, Easter Sunday was last week, but the remarkable thing about Easter is that it lasts for 7 weeks! Each Sunday after Easter is another Easter and must be celebrated with the same joy and the same spirit we had last week the first Easter Morning.

Once, one of our St. Matthias cantors counted how many times we sang ALLELUIA on Easter Sunday. I just checked our music today, the Second Sunday of Easter. If we sing all the verses as planned, we will sing ALLELUIA approximately 76 times!

Composers throughout history have

written beautiful settings of this word, all the way from Handel's Hallelujah Chorus to Leonard Cohen's *Hallelujah*. There's the Randall Thompson "Alleluia", Mozart's "Alleluia Exultate", Beethoven's "Hallelujah Mount of Olives." The list is endlessly exhilarating.

The word itself derives from a Hebrew word that means "Praise the Lord". For 6 weeks of Lent, we have refrained from singing this joyful word (although our choirs have been practicing it, rest assured). When we finally unleash the first Alleluia before the Gospel at the Easter Vigil, it is such a rush of emotion, as if the entire world is resonating with the joy of the Resurrection. Just try to

sing it or say it without smiling!

So on this Divine Mercy Sunday, we sing many "Alleluias" for "Mercy so great that no mind, be it of (Hu)man or of angel, will be able to fathom it throughout all eternity... We will not have peace until we turn to the Fount of Jesus' Divine Mercy." (Jesus' words to St. Faustina)

And, in the words of Saint Augustine, "We are an Easter people, and Alleluia is our song."

Joan Best Seamon
Pastoral Associate for Liturgical Music



Connect

June 8, 2022



SMS Golf Classic— Wednesday, June 8, 2022 Royce Brook Golf Club, Hillsborough Township, NJ

Register now for this great, community-building event to benefit our very own St. Matthias School. Registration includes Golf, Breakfast, and a Luncheon with a two-hour open bar. Each golfer will receive a swag bag containing a personalized bag tag, sleeve of golf balls and gift cards. \$10,000 Hole in One Contest, Closest to the Pin and Longest Drive

Contests. Raffle and Silent Auction to close the day.

Sponsorship opportunities available. Donations of golf items, sports memorabilia, gift certificates, etc., for the Silent Auction are welcome.

SMS is an excellent place for children in Pre-K through 8th grade. Our challenging academics, outstanding faculty and engaging learning environment provides children with the opportunity to grow and mature. Proceeds from the SMS Golf Classic will be used to support the school's commitment to education, equipment, and special events.

To register and for more information, visit (*right-click the link if you are reading this bulletin online*):

<https://events.golfstatus.com/event/d853f253-3deb-4f9c-bc2b-ce3911c971ef/details/registration-details>

St. Matthias School & Parish YARD SALE

Don't miss the Yard Sale **NEXT Saturday, April 30th, 2022**, from **10 am to 2 pm** in the rear parking lot.

Many school families and parishioners will be selling items during the event. In addition, the School will be selling older **tech equipment** that we no longer have use or space for, at bargain prices:

Apple iPads (4th gen), Hitachi projectors, Dell 22 in LCD monitors, Dell monochrome Laser Printers, and other computer accessories and freebies. All items are out-of-warranty but in working condition, and priced to sell (\$20 to \$40).



Connect

St. Matthias 60th Anniversary Celebration!

Mark your calendars now for the **Kick-off Celebration** for St. Matthias' 60th Anniversary the weekend of **May 14th and 15th** - celebrating the Feast of St. Matthias.

We will begin at the **5 pm Saturday Mass**, with Msgr. Celano as the Presider. Mass will be followed by an **Evening Reception**. We will

continue the celebration at the Sunday morning Masses.

On **June 26**, we will have the official celebration of the 60th Anniversary at the **12 Noon Mass**, with Bishop Checchio as the Presider.

Stay tuned for more events to celebrate this great milestone of our parish!

First Families

This is the Last Call for "First Families". If your family was a part of St. Matthias in 1962, please contact **Anne Marie Francis** at alfrancis.30@gmail.com or **Jeff Hentz** at chjco1@msn.com as soon as possible. We would love to recognize our pioneers who were here from the beginning! Thank you!

Statewide Catholic Youth Rally at Six Flags Great Adventure Sunday, May 15, 2022

For details and to purchase tickets, visit: <https://diometuchen.org/youth-rally> before the **May 6th deadline**. Questions? Contact: mvantslot@diometuchen.org



Pray

Catholic Relief Services Collection Will Be NEXT WEEKEND, April 30-May 1, at all Masses

In the interest of full transparency, the following explains how funds for this collection are distributed.

The Diocese of Metuchen has designated this "Catholic Relief Services" collection to benefit both the "USCCB-Catholic Relief Services Collection" and the "Native and Black American Collection".

This year's USCCB- Catholic Relief Services Collection is an opportunity to reveal Christ's love to victims of war and natural disasters, refugees and migrants displaced by persecution, and others who experience hardship and loss. Your participation in the collection supports Catholic Relief Services in its efforts to give emergency aid to victims of war in Ukraine and elsewhere, as well as five other Church organizations that help refugees find safety, provide legal aid to immigrants seeking to become naturalized U.S. citizens, and minister to the special pastoral needs of seafarers and travelers.

Details of the other 5 organizations are available at:

<https://usccb.givecatholictogether.org/organizations/usccb-the-catholic-relief-services-program>

To help all of the above, please write "Catholic Relief Services" on your check or donate via ParishGiving.

If you would prefer to donate directly to one (or more) of the specific organizations that benefit from this overall collection, you may do so at:

- **Catholic Relief Services**, www.crs.org/ways-to-give
- **Native and Black American Collection**, <https://www.usccb.org/events/2021/black-indian-missions-collection>; this link will take you to the Black and Indian Mission Office at: <https://blackandindianmission.org>
- **Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC)** (for immigration legal services): <https://cliniclegal.org/civcrm/contribute/transact?reset=1&id=4>

For the following ministries:

- **USCCB Department of Migration and Refugee** (for refugee resettlement)
- **USCCB Department of Justice, Peace, and Human Development** (for advocacy and social justice education and outreach)
- **USCCB Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church** (for evangelization and ministry)
- **The Holy Father's Relief Fund** (for emergency relief worldwide)

Donations by check should be made payable to "USCCB-Name of Program" (e.g. USCCB-Migration-and-Refugee) and sent to:

Office of National Collections
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)
P. O. Box 96278
Washington DC 20090-6278

Give (and Receive!)

Stewardship Totals for Fiscal Year July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022				Last Year's Total
Current Month	In-Pew/Mail	Parish Giving	Weekly Total	Weekly Total
Week 40 - Apr. 3, 2022	\$12,072.00	\$14,632.25	\$26,704.25	\$29,480.25
Week 41 - Apr. 10, 2022	\$20,952.52	\$24,798.75	\$45,751.27	\$37,968.75
Week 42 - Apr. 17, 2022	\$26,546.00	\$12,116.25	\$38,662.25	\$24,162.25
			Month-to-date Total	Apr Total Last Yr
			\$111,117.77	\$114,069.75
			Current Year-to-date Total	Year-to-date as of Apr 30, 2021
			\$1,119,654.84	\$1,093,355.20

Stewardship Reflection Apr 24, 2022

Sunday of Divine Mercy

“Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.’” (JOHN 20:21)

Peace – the first gift of the risen Lord. Just as Jesus sent the apostles out into the world, so too, He sends us. As disciples of Jesus, we are called to be compassionate and merciful; and not with just those who are our friends, but also with our “enemies.” Think of someone in your life who you need to reconcile with. Call them right now or better yet, go visit them.

Reflexiones — 24 de abril de 2022

Domingo de la Divina Misericordia

“Jesús les dijo nuevamente, ‘La paz sea con ustedes. Como el Padre me ha enviado, así los envío yo’.” (Juan 20:21)

La paz - el primer don del Señor resucitado. Así como Jesús envió a los discípulos al mundo, así también nos envía a nosotros. Como discípulos de Jesús, somos llamados a ser compasivos y misericordiosos; no sólo con nuestros amigos sino también con nuestros “enemigos”. Piense de alguien en su vida con quien necesite reconciliarse. Llámelo inmediatamente o mejor aún, vaya a visitarlo.

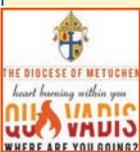
Bishop’s Annual Appeal — Thank You!

Thank you to the **478 parishioners** who have donated or pledged \$175,143.60 to the Bishop’s Annual Appeal. This places us just over our parish’s target amount. **For all future donations, St. Matthias will receive 50% of the donation** and the diocese will receive 50%.

If you have not yet donated, you may do so by check by returning the card you in the mail, or online by going to: <https://diometuchen.org/donate> Be sure to select “Somerset—St. Matthias Parish” in the drop-down menu. Thank you for your generosity!

Serve

Quo Vadis Days — Young men ages 14-17! — July 19-22, 2022



You’re invited to spend a few days living, praying and interacting with priests, seminarians and faith-filled teens your own age. The days will include dynamic talks, a visit from Bishop Checchio, sports and activities, prayer, small group discussion and so much more. For more information, please email quovadis@diometuchen.org

Local Community



2nd Annual Luncheon & Spring Market
To Benefit The Center for Great Expectations
Bridgewater Manor
1251 Route 202/206, Bridgewater Township, NJ 08807

Friday, April 29, 2022, 12:00–2:00 pm
Doors open at 11:00 am for shopping.

For Tickets or Sponsorships, Please call Laurie at 732-247-7003 x336.



ST. FRANCIS CENTER FOR RENEWAL 12th Annual Gala & Silent Auction

Saturday, May 7, 2022
7 PM to 9:30 PM

Mullen Hall, 395 Bridle Path Road, Bethlehem, PA

For details and to register, visit:

<https://www.stfrancisctr.org/upcoming-events/gala-2022>

Local Community



The St. Matthias Seniors Ministry invites you to...

**Aging Gracefully:
Senior Day
at St. Francis Center for Renewal**

**Wednesday, May 4, 2022
10:00 am-3:00 pm**



Presenter: Sister Marguerite Stewart, OSF.

To register, visit: <https://www.stfrancisctr.org/sfcr-store/p/senior-day>

You have seniority and you've earned your own special day of prayer, sharing, reflection and time to enjoy the inviting surroundings of St. Francis Center for Renewal! Join Sister Marguerite Stewart and the SFCR team for a special program on *Aging with Grace*, 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 find grace as we age.

Registration is now open. Options are:

- Full-day in-person attendance — \$40 per person
- Bring a Friend (full-day in-person attendance for two) - \$75 per pair (spouse, friend, sibling, etc.)
- Online attendance of prayer service and Sister Marguerite's talk — \$20 per person

Carpooling from St. Matthias will be available if there is interest.

Questions about the St. Matthias Seniors Ministry? Contact Sr. Marie Therese at msherwood@stmatthias.net



Loyola Jesuit Center
161 James Street, Morristown, NJ
Register at: www.loyola.org
retreathouse@loyola.org
973-539-0740



**Day of Prayer — “Let Him Easter in Us”
Tuesday, April 26, 2022, 9:00 AM**

Retreat Leader: Judith Schiavo — We may need a resurrection of our ideas and attitudes towards other groups of people; how the two-year reign of Covid has changed our lives; how our experiences have affected who God is for us.

Day of Prayer— “Finding God in All Things: Celebrating the Life of St. Ignatius” — Sunday, May 1, 2022, 10 AM—3 PM

Retreat Leaders: Marie Santana & Kirk Renyonlds, SJ — This retreat is about the life of St. Ignatius of Loyola, and how his legacy invites us to see the world with open eyes to be able to discern God's path for our life, just like Ignatius experienced during his pilgrimage in Manresa.



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**SACRED TIME, SACRED SPACE
Thursday and Friday, May 19, 2022
9:30 AM — 3 PM**

\$20-\$30 *as you are able*

A personal, quiet day to enjoy God's presence.
Day begins with communal prayer. Bring bag lunch.

Mount Saint Mary House of Prayer, 1651 US Highway 22, Watchung, NJ. Information and Registration for all offerings can be found on our website: www.msmhope.org. You may also call us at 908-753-2091 or email us at msmhope@msmhope.org.

Parish Leadership

Parish Pastoral Council:

@gmail.com

John Taylor

Parish Finance Council:

Joe Porter

Co-Chairs:

Co-Secretaries:

Marilyn Wegg

Kester Hector, Chair

Joan Pritchard

Claudine Langrin

Lorraine Farr and

Ana Kelly, Ex-Officio

Finance Council

Mary Pat Burke-Grospin,

ClaudMLangrin@gmail.com and

Anne Marie Francis

Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio

@stmatthias.net

Ex-Officio

marybeth.vetter@gmail.com and

Rose Peng

Trustees:

Barry Dusault

Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio

Mary Beth Vetter-Purcell

Frank Rees

Isaac Peng

Gwen Orlovski

marybeth.vetter@gmail.com

Maria Tapia-Burch

Marge Richards

Audrey Francis

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, 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.



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