



**St. Matthias Parish Office:**

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

**Mass Schedule (in person):**

Sat—5PM, Sun -- 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):** open M –Thur  
9:00-1:00. 732-828-1402 or 1540. 170 JFK Blvd.,  
Somerset, NJ 08873 [www.stmatthias.info](http://www.stmatthias.info)

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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Juan Diaz Flores, Custodian  
Leslie Guillen, Bulletin Editor, [lg Guillen](mailto:lg Guillen@stmatthias.net)  
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Julio Montero, Maintenance Supervisor  
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Ana V Kelly, Pastoral Associate for Marketing &  
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Mike Lanyi, Sacristan  
Dolores R. Nann, Pastoral Associate for Faith  
Formation, [dnann](mailto:dnann@stmatthias.net)  
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Deacon John Radvanski, [deaconjohn](mailto:deaconjohn@stmatthias.net)  
Joan Best Seamon, Pastoral Associate for Music  
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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)

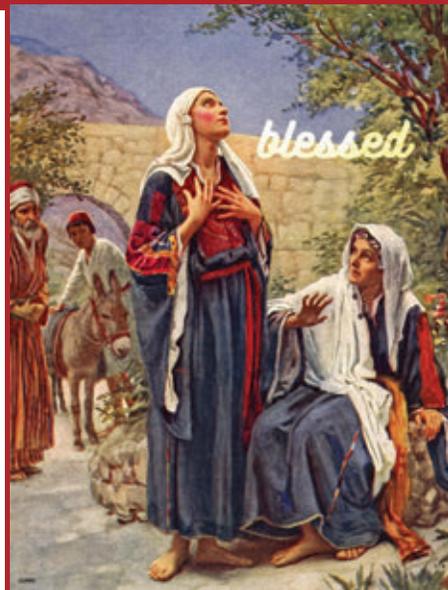
**St. Matthias School (add @stmatthiasnj.org)**

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

**THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS**  
**SUNDAY, AUG 15, 2021 –**  
**The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

**Highlights—This Week**

**Information from the Diocese regarding Fr. Doug’s sentencing:**  
Please go to our website, [www.stmatthias.net](http://www.stmatthias.net), to read the press release and the letter from Bishop Checchio regarding the recent court decisions.

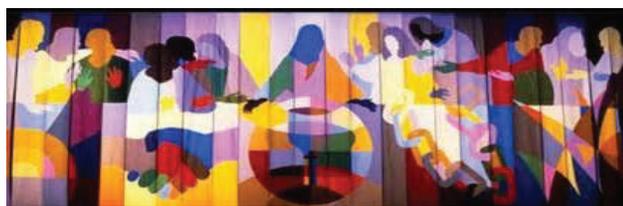


**Would you like your children to learn about Jesus on a daily basis in an environment filled with faith, caring, and excellence? Enroll today!**

We do still have some openings available for the 2021-2022 school year for PreK 3, PreK 4, and Kindergarten through grade 8. Before School and After School programs are available. ALL are welcome!



Explore our website, [www.stmatthias.info](http://www.stmatthias.info), and contact [mkosty@stmatthiasnj.org](mailto:mkosty@stmatthiasnj.org) to schedule an appointment.



**The Cafeteria will be closed for overflow Mass during the month of August.**

Expectations are that the cafeteria will reopen for overflow if needed in September. But *All Are Welcome* to worship in the church. We will continue to maintain socially distanced seating for those who require it in the front chairs of the church on either side of the altar and in the church balcony/loft.



If you shop on Amazon, please help us by starting at: [www.stmatthias.net/Amazon](http://www.stmatthias.net/Amazon)

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

- All Masses will be celebrated **in-person**.
- 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, Aug 15, 2021

### The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

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

## Monday, Aug 16, 2021

8:00AM	Mass	Church
8:30AM	Miraculous Medal Novena	Church

## Tuesday, Aug 17, 2021

8:00AM	Daily Mass	Church
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## Wednesday, Aug 18, 2021

8:00AM	Daily Mass	Church
9:30AM	Prayer Group-Holy Spirit	de Porres Rm

## Thursday, Aug 19, 2021

8:00AM	Daily Mass	Church
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## Friday, Aug 20, 2021

8:00AM	Daily Mass	Church
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## Saturday, Aug 21, 2021

10:00AM	Secular Franciscans Mtg.	de Porres Rm
		Church
3:30PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation	Church
5:00PM	Mass	Church

## Sunday, Aug 22, 2021

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 12 Noon, WEDNESDAY, 10 days before the intended issue (earlier for holiday weekends). Approved content is published on a space-available basis.

Dear Friends,

It was a joy to have our Confirmandi students present at the Sunday 10 am Mass on August 1<sup>st</sup>, as they were beginning their week-long “ServiceWorX” program. For the next five days, they were bused to different locations for experiencing a variety of community services. They went to various sites such as CAC Somerset County in New Brunswick, Middlesex County Conservation area, Grow a Row at Milford Farm, Raritan Valley YMCA and Ronald Mc Donald House in New Brunswick.



Each day they would return and process their experiences in the light of the Social Teachings of the church based on the Bible and the life of Jesus Christ in the Gospels. Here’s one of the emails we received after our students did a day of harvesting corn at the Milford farm (an hour by bus from here):

**“Hello Awesome Volunteers,**

**I want to thank you again for joining us at our Milford farm this morning to harvest corn. In the couple of hours you spent in the fields, your team harvested more than 8,000 pounds of corn. This will provide nearly 32,000 servings of fresh produce for so many of our neighbors struggling with food insecurity. We couldn't have done it without all your help! We hope you had a great time and we look forward to seeing you back in the fields.”**

This is the kind of immersion experiences that our students had, followed by reflection on them each day for a whole week. It was supervised by Dee Nann, our Parish Faith Formation Director, and conducted by leaders and volunteers from the Center for Faith Justice (CFJ), with whom St. Matthias has a long-standing partnership. I am very grateful to Arien Yeddapanally, a parishioner and SMS alumnus and sophomore at Seton Hall University working with CFJ for the summer, Liam Myers from Milwaukee area and an M. Div candidate at Union Theological Seminary in NY, Lauren Borowick, a staff at CFJ, and Liz, a recent graduate of Sacred Heart University, also with CFJ for the summer.

On their concluding day, the students and the organizers came to our church, and conducted a prayer service. Eight of our youth shared their experiences. It was a testimony that touched me as well as the parents of the Confirmandi who too were present. Their testimony showed me clearly that real life experience and processing that experience are vital for forming one’s faith. I am very grateful to the parents who supported and willingly paid for the expenses for this project which was partially subsidized by the parish.

I have asked our young people to write down their testimonies so that the rest of our parishioners can read about what they gained and feel happy and confident that these vibrant youth will carry forward our precious Faith and Tradition here at St. Matthias.

Happy Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary!

Your brother in Christ,  
Fr. Abraham Orapankal

## Readings for the Week

**Monday:** Jgs 2:11-19; Ps 106:34-35, 36-37, 39-40, 43ab, 44; Mt 19:16-22

**Tuesday:** Jgs 6:11-24a; Ps 85:9, 11-12, 13-14; Mt 19:23-30

**Wednesday:** Jgs 9:6-15; Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7; Mt 20:1-16

**Thursday:** Jgs 11:29-39a; Ps 40:5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10; Mt 22:1-14

**Friday:** Ru 1:1, 3-6, 14b-16, 22; Ps 146:5-6ab, 6c-7, 8-9a, 9bc-10; Mt 22:34-40

**Saturday:** Ru 2:1-3, 8-11; 4:13-17; Ps 128:1b-2, 3, 4, 5; Mt 23:1-12

**Sunday:** Jos 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b; Ps 34:2-3, 16-17, 18-19, 20-21; Eph 5:21-32 or 2a, 25-32; Jn 6:60-69

## Mass Intentions for the Week

<b>Saturday, Aug 14</b>	5:00PM	Cora Gabriel, by The Chan & Gabriel Families
<b>Sunday, Aug 15</b>	8:00AM	Teofilo Bathan, by The Bathan Family
	10:00AM	Marlene & Tony Volpe, by Ed & Marcia Santucci
	12:00PM	In memory of Richard L. Curtis, by Frances & Daughters
	(5:30PM)	Intention of Parishioners
<b>Monday, Aug 16</b>	8:00AM	Leo Shanosky, by Helen
<b>Tuesday, Aug 17</b>	8:00AM	Sadie, Milton & Jean Callender, by Antoinette Surdo Palladino
<b>Wednesday, Aug 18</b>	8:00AM	Roberto Bandong, by The Bandong Family
<b>Thursday, Aug 19</b>	8:00AM	Jenny Connelly, by The Surot Family
<b>Friday, Aug 20</b>	8:00AM	Hildegard Scheurle, by Richard & Ellen Attanasio
<b>Saturday, Aug 21</b>	5:00PM	Marlene & Tony Volpe, by Ed & Marcia Santucci
<b>Sunday, Aug 22</b>	8:00AM	Teofilo & Nellie Bathan, by The Bathan Family
	10:00AM	Charles (Skip) Simons, by Bruce & Diane Negri
	12:00PM	Dominick Clementi, by Angela & David Burtenshaw
	(5:30PM)	Intention of Parishioners

## Pray for Those Getting Married...

Marta Matera and Travis Hellman—Sept. 4, 2021

## Pray for those who are sick...

*If you or a family member are sick, please call the Parish Office or email Kelly Counts at [kcunts@stmatthias.net](mailto:kcunts@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.*

Elbren, Sr. & Natalia Agdeppa  
Lucille Albani  
Carolyn Banghart  
Maria Barreiro  
Virginia Briggs  
Marie Brody  
Thomas Burns  
Baby Isla-Rose Callahan  
Tara Capatosto  
Ellen & Frank Catalina  
Sean Clancy  
Barbara Coan  
Tom Current  
[Joseph DeFrancesco](#)  
Cenon DeGuzman  
Mary Ellen Delaney  
Alaina Derecola  
Surya & Juliany Dharma  
Nancy Diaz

Jim Dolan  
Mary Dolan  
Marty Dolphin  
William Dolphin  
Dorothy Domenici  
Josephine Geenty  
Claudia Gemgnani  
Emma Gergely  
Rose Gessner  
Mary Gidaro  
Jill Gordon-Szabo  
Emma Himey  
Sloopy Hoffman  
Kathleen Lagenbacher  
Al & Rose Larangeira  
William Lecorchick  
The Litrakis Family  
Al Maglio  
Sue Maglio-Alese

Beatrice May  
Margaret Menendez  
Gail Miranda  
Dave Moynihan  
Baby Ezran Natural  
Patricia Nese  
Danny Ochangco  
Julianne Opydike  
Maria Pennington  
Jim Pettit  
Christina Pietrowiak  
Oscar Poisler  
Kevin Reavey  
Chris Retz  
Ann Ritchick  
Angela Romanek  
Datius Rutashobya  
Rudy Schaar  
Maria Schwenzer

Sr. Mary Amata Shina, OSF  
Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF  
Catherine Sloomaker  
Encarnacion (Gina) So  
Alessandro Spagnolo  
Dennis Stuewe  
Jeff Tami  
Madeline Tarantino  
Fred & Carolyn Vanmiddlesworth  
Eulalia Villanueva  
[Judi Wojna](#)  
Mark T. Worthington

Everyone who is ill with Covid-19  
...and for all who are homebound,  
elderly, in nursing care, or living with  
chronic illness

## Pray for those who have died...

—“His mercy endures forever.” Chronicles

Angela Frigiola—Assistant Director of the Children’s Choir

## From the Pastoral Staff



I think sometimes we might over complicate God's will or desires for us on a daily basis. Yes it's important to think long-term goals, but what is it right now that you feel called by God to do?

Often it's out of a sense of responsibility or obligation that we do certain tasks. What's next for you after you finish reading this article? Is it the most mundane or boring task that you dread doing? Is it something that you fear doing because you're afraid you might fail? Is it something that you've been looking forward to doing, but just can't get started? Are you really excited, but anxious that you might not know what to do?

These were my thoughts as I was pre-

paring to leave last Sunday and spend an entire week with our NeXt Level youth delegates whom we had prayed for last weekend. I must say God is Good and has blessed our community with many faith-filled teens who, while at times they expressed these same thoughts, they reminded me what it truly means to follow God's desires for us by ministering to and with God's people in Trenton. We learned how to put on a "Faith Justice Lens" by experiencing how faith and justice are deeply connected when we see others as God does. Everything we did was rooted in the tenets of Catholic Social Teaching. This weekend we celebrate the Assumption of The Blessed Virgin Mary. As a young teen, she too would have struggled with these same questions. Although Mary didn't understand totally what she had signed up to do for God, she remained faithful and trusted

in God's plan. It occurred to me that Mary's Magnificat echoes the principles of Catholic Social Teaching – Dignity, Solidarity, Common Good, Subsidiarity, Rights and Responsibilities, Option for the Poor, Stewardship, and Participation. Wow! We have much to learn from Mary as our model, Jesus her Son, and our Church Teachings to help us respond to God's call for us to radically live and love as we glorify God by our lives.

God's will is always best for us - better than we ever imagined, better than we thought we were capable of doing. This week I earnestly prayed "not my will be done, but your will be done" - may this be your prayer too!

Deacon John

## Reflect



### Smile With Your Family —



A Catholic Sunday school teacher, had just finished explaining the feast of the Assumption to her class. "Now," she said, "let all those children who want to go to heaven to see their Heavenly Mother raise their hands." All the children raised their hands except little Marie in the front row. "Don't you want to go to Heaven, Marie?" asked the teacher. "I can't," said Marie tearfully. "My mother told me to come straight home after Sunday school."

Vegetable jokes: **Knock, knock.** Who's there? ....**Lettuce.**

.....Lettuce Who? **Lettuce in and you'll find out!**

**Why did the tomato blush?** ...because it saw the salad

dressing!

**What did the father tomato say to the baby tomato whilst on a family walk?** ...Ketchup

**Why shouldn't you tell secrets in a cornfield?** ...There are too many ears!

**Which vegetable did Noah refuse to take into the Ark?** ... Leeks

**Why did the carrot get embarrassed?** Because it saw the chick pea!... 😊



### Parenting Tune-Up

"Wisdom has built her house." (Proverbs 9:1) May your home be smarter than your phone. Sometimes children can teach us deep truths. What deeper truth have you learned from your child this week?

### Marriage Tune-Up



Two questions to consider when you disagree with your beloved: 1. Tell me about what you are seeing that you think I might be missing. 2. What are you most concerned about or worried might happen?



## Taj Mahal

The Taj Mahal has been described as a “love song in marble.” Completed in 1645, the magnificent marble mausoleum was built by Shah Jahan, India’s Mogul emperor, in memory of his favorite wife, Mumtaz Mahal (“the chosen one of the palace”). Her maiden name was Princess Arjumand. Shah Jahan loved her deeply, calling her his “Taj Mahal,” meaning “The Pearl of the Palace.” But Princess Mumtaz Mahal died giving birth to their fourteenth child, and the emperor was inconsolable. So he summoned a great architect from Persia to build the Taj Mahal, telling him that it must be “the one perfect memorial in the world.” Seventeen years were needed to build this enchanting edifice of gleaming white marble embroidered with flashing jewels. It is an enduring monument to love that still inspires tourists, artists and writers from all over the world.

***This beautiful love story gives us some idea of how much God must have loved Mary, the mother of Jesus. Today’s feast of her Assumption into Heaven is proof of this. By raising her from the dead and taking her into heaven – body and soul – God demonstrated His undying love for Mary. Like Shah Jahan, God could not bear the death of His beloved. However, God could do what no Indian emperor could do – raise His beloved from the dead and restore her to life even more beautiful than before. Moreover, God didn’t have to build a Taj Mahal to memorialize Mary. Her glorified body is itself a magnificent temple of the Holy Spirit.***

## Carl Jung on the Assumption



It was in 1950, that the famed Lutheran Swiss psychiatrist Carl Jung, an influential thinker and the founder of analytical psychology, remarked that the Papal announcement of the Assumption of Mary, in 1950, was “the most important religious event since the Reformation.” (Storr, p. 324). The Assumption means that, along with the glorified masculine body of Jesus in heaven, there is also a glorified feminine body of his mother, Mary. According to Jung, “bodily reception of the Virgin into Heaven” (Ibid.) meant that “the Heavenly bride was united with the Bridegroom,” (Ibid., p. 322) which union “signifies the hieros gamos” [the sacred marriage], (Ibid.) Acknowledging that the Assumption “is vouched for neither in Scripture nor in the tradition of the first five centuries of the Christian Church,” Jung observes that: “the Papal declaration made a reality of what had long been condoned. This irrevocable step beyond the confines of historical Christianity is the strongest proof of the autonomy of archetypal images.” (Storr, p. 297).

***Jung remarks that “the Protestant standpoint . . . is obviously out of touch with the tremendous archetypal happenings in the psyche of the individual and the masses, and with the symbols which are intended to compensate the truly apocalyptic world situation today.” (Ibid., pp. 322-323) Jung added: “Protestantism has obviously not given sufficient attention to the signs of the times which point to the equality of women. But this equality requires to be metaphysically anchored in the figure of a ‘divine’ woman. . . . The feminine, like the masculine, demands an equally personal representation.” (Ibid., p. 325) [Quotes from : Jung, C. G. Modern Man in Search of a Soul; translated by W. S. Dell and C. F. Baynes. (Princeton, New Jersey: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich Publishers, San Diego. 1933); and Storr, Anthony (Ed.). The Essential Jung. (Princeton University Press, 1983).]***

## Is Assumption Biblical?

Although there is no direct reference to Mary’s death and Assumption in the New Testament, two cases of assumption are mentioned in the Old Testament, namely, those of Enoch (Genesis 5: 24) and Elijah (2 Kings 2:1). These references support the possibility of Mary’s Assumption. The possibility of bodily assumption is also indirectly suggested by Matthew 27: 52-53 and I Cor. 15: 23-24. In his official declaration of the dogma, Pope Pius XII also cites the scriptural verses Ps 131:8, Cant 3:6, Rev 12, Is 61:13 and Cant 8:5. “Although the New Testament does not explicitly affirm Mary’s Assumption, it offers a basis for it because it

strongly emphasized the Blessed Virgin’s perfect union with Jesus’ destiny. This union, which is manifested, from the time of the Savior’s miraculous conception, in the Mother’s participation in her Son’s mission and especially in her association with his redemptive sacrifice, cannot fail to require a continuation after death. Perfectly united with the life and saving work of Jesus, Mary shares his heavenly destiny in body and soul. There are, thus, passages in Scripture that resonate with the Assumption, even though they do not spell it out.

# Reflect

## Why believe in the dogma of the Assumption?

- 1) The uninterrupted tradition about Mary's death and Assumption starting from the first century.
- 2) The belief expressed in all the ancient liturgies of the Church.
- 3) The negative evidence of the absence and veneration of a tomb of Mary while most of the apostles have their tombs.
- 4) The possibility of bodily assumption warranted in the Old Testament in the cases of Enoch (Gen. 5:24), perhaps Moses (Deut. 34:5), and especially Elijah (II Kg. 2:1).

### Four Theological Reasons



In his decree on the Dogma of the Assumption, Pope Pius XII gives four theological reasons to support this traditional belief.

#1: The degeneration or decay of the body after death is the result of original sin. However, since, through a special intervention of God, Mary was born without original sin, it is not proper that God would permit her body to degenerate in the tomb.

#2: Since Mary was given the fullness of grace, Heaven is the proper place for this sinless mother of Jesus.

#3: Mary was our *co-redeemer*, or *fellow-redeemer*, with Christ in a unique sense. Hence, her rightful place is with Christ our redeemer in heavenly glory. (The term *co-redeemer* or *co-redemptrix* means "cooperator with the Redeemer." This is what St. Paul meant when he said *! We are God's co-workers* I Cor. 7:3.). Hence, it is "fitting" that she should be given the full effects of the Redemption, the glorification of the soul and the body.

#4: In the Old Testament, we read that the prophet Elijah was taken into heaven in a fiery chariot. Thus, it appears natural and possible that the mother of Jesus would also be taken into Heaven.

## Tradition on Mary's Assumption

The first trace of belief in the Virgin's Assumption can be found in the apocryphal accounts entitled *Transitus Mariae* [Latin, "The Crossing Over of Mary"], whose origin dates to the second and third centuries. These are popular and sometimes romanticized depictions, which in this case, however, pick up an intuition of faith on the part of God's People. (Pope John Paul II). The fact of Mary's death is generally accepted by the Church Fathers and theologians and is expressly affirmed in the liturgy of the Church. Origen (died AD 253), St. Jerome (died AD 419) and St. Augustine (died AD 430), among others, argue that Mary's death was not a punishment for sin, but only the result of her being a descendant of Adam and Eve. In May 1946, with the Encyclical *Deiparae Virginis Mariae*, Pius XII called for a broad consultation, inquiring among the Bishops and, through them, among the clergy and the People of God as to the possibility and opportuneness of defining the bodily assumption of Mary as a dogma of faith. The result was extremely positive: only six answers out of 1,181 showed any reservations about the revealed character of this truth. (Pope John II). When Pope Pius XII made the proclamation on November 1, 1950, he put into words a belief held by the faithful for over 1500 years. 'Way back in AD 325, the Council of Nicaea spoke of the Assumption of Mary. Writing in AD 457, the Bishop of Jerusalem said that when Mary's tomb was opened, it was "found empty. The apostles judged her body had been taken into heaven."

Pope Pius XII based his declaration of the Assumption on both tradition and theology. The uninterrupted tradition in the Eastern Churches starting from the first century, the apocryphal first century book, *Transitus Mariae*, and the writings of the early Fathers of the Church, such as St. Gregory and St. John Damascene, supported and promoted the popular belief in the Assumption of Mary. There is a tomb at the foot of the Mt. of Olives where ancient tradition says that Mary was laid. But there is nothing inside. There are no relics, as with the other saints. This is acceptable negative evidence of Mary's Assumption. Besides, credible apparitions of Mary, though not recorded in the New Testament, have been recorded from the 3<sup>rd</sup> century till today.

### The "Bowing Procession!"



In a small town in the hills surrounding Rome, the Feast of the Assumption is celebrated with what's called the "bowing procession." From one end of the town, the townspeople process, carrying a statue of the Virgin Mary. From the other end of the town, another group of townspeople march into town, carrying a statue of Jesus. Mary's Son comes to rendezvous with His Mother. In front of the parish church, the two groups meet. A ton of flowers decorates the church. Jesus and His Mother solemnly bow to each other. The villagers carry the statues of Mary and her Son side by side into the church. It's God the Son leading his Mother to her throne in heaven.

## Reflect

### Assumption: Life Lessons for us

#1: Mary's Assumption gives us the assurance and hope of our own resurrection and assumption into heaven on the day of our Last Judgment. It is a sign to us that someday, through God's grace and our good life, we, too, will join the Blessed Mother in giving glory to God. It points the way for all followers of Christ who imitate Mary's fidelity and obedience to God's will.

#2: Since Mary's Assumption was a reward for her saintly life, this feast reminds us that we, too, must be pure and holy in body and soul, since our bodies will be glorified on the day of our resurrection. St. Paul tells us that our bodies are the temples of God because the Holy Spirit dwells within us. He also reminds us that our bodies are members (parts) of the Body of Christ.

#3: This feast also gives us the message of total liberation. Jesus tells us in John 8: 34 that every one who sins is a slave of sin, and St. Paul reminds us (Gal. 5: 1), that, since Christ has set us free, we should be slaves of sin no more. Thus, the Assumption encourages us to work with God to be liberated from the bondage of evil: from impure, unjust and uncharitable thoughts and habits, and from the bonds of jealousy, envy and hatred.

#4: Finally, it is always an inspiring thought in our moments of temptation and despair to remember that we have a powerful heavenly Mother, constantly interceding for us before her son, Jesus, in Heaven. The feast of Mary's Assumption challenges us to imitate her self-sacrificing love, her indestructible faith and her perfect obedience.

*Therefore, on this feast day of our heavenly Mother, let us offer ourselves on the altar and pray for her special care and loving protection in helping us lead a purer and holier life.*

### God values our bodies!

Today's feast also shows us that God values our bodies. They are not only important to him. They are sacred! There are two extremes of thought in regard to our bodies. One considers the body as our number one treasure. Ads and commercials usually feature people with exceptional looks. To be successful, accepted, and loved, they tell us, depends upon how we look. We are to watch our weight, keep in shape, and smell just right. If we don't pamper our bodies and treat them royally, we'll be social, business, and sexual flops. Nobody will want us around. As for the importance of our soul and our spiritual life? Forget it! They consider such things nonexistent and absurd. The other extreme of thought about the body is to look upon it as merely a machine for us to operate in this world. Its value is only its usefulness. To enhance it with cosmetics and perfume, to dress it up and make it look attractive, to diet, exercise, and look at it in the mirror - all that is not only a waste of time, but sinful. The soul and its spiritual condition are all that is important for us. We are to think of our body only when necessity requires. But God is telling us on this feast of the Assumption that to Him, both are important - our body and our soul. They are both to be valued, and they are to be given the attention and honor due them.

## Pray



### Interested in being a part of the St. Matthias RCIA Team???

Our team members will participate in an RCIA Team retreat to get ourselves spiritually ready for bringing new members into the Church through the

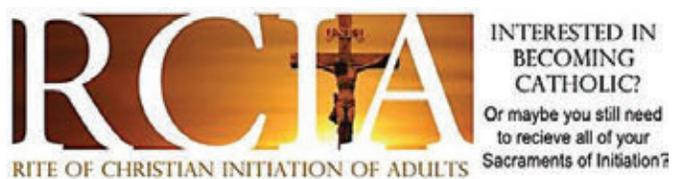
RCIA program.

If you want to know more about us, call Phyllis Stone in the Parish Office or better yet...come to our retreat

**Wednesday, August 25th**

**1 PM to 4 PM**

**Parish Office - St. Martin de Porres Room**



### Join us for an RCIA Inquiry Session

**Sunday, August 29<sup>th</sup>**

**after 10:00AM Mass until 12:00PM**

**School Cafeteria**

# Learn



## First Eucharist Preparation for ALL 2nd grade Families (GIFT+SMS)

Register online NOW, at [www.stmatthias.net/first-eucharist-first-reconciliation](http://www.stmatthias.net/first-eucharist-first-reconciliation)

In-person sessions will be held on certain Sunday mornings, 10:30-11:30 AM, for the 2nd graders with at least one parent.

Questions? Please email Dee Nann at [dnann@stmatthias.net](mailto:dnann@stmatthias.net), or call or email Faith Formation Assistant, Nathalie Godet at 732-828-1400 or [ngodet@stmatthias.net](mailto:ngodet@stmatthias.net)



## Confirmation Preparation for ALL 7th & 8th graders (GIFT & SMS)

Register online NOW, at [www.stmatthias.net/confirmation](http://www.stmatthias.net/confirmation)

A 7th grade parent meeting will be held in October/November.



## GIFT Registration — for K-8 Religious Ed for all children, K-8th grade not attending a Catholic school.

Register online NOW, at [www.stmatthias.net/faith-formation](http://www.stmatthias.net/faith-formation)

In-person monthly sessions for families will be offered at 6:30 PM on Tuesdays & Wednesdays, and at 2 PM on Sundays. No meals this year due to Covid.

### \*\* New Job Opening \*\*

St. Matthias School is in need of a bookkeeper/office assistant. This is a full-time position, Monday - Friday 8:00am - 4:00pm. If you are interested, please call Mary Pat Burke-Grospin, Business Administrator, at (732) 828-1400 ext 121, [mpburkegrospin@stmatthias.net](mailto:mpburkegrospin@stmatthias.net)



Our parish August week of ServiceWorX camp ended on Friday, August 6. These rising 8<sup>th</sup> graders were most enthusiastic and seemed engaged in not only their daily service but also in the follow up faith connection activities planned by the CFJ leaders. The week concluded with a prayer service with families present.

Ronald Mc Donald House in New Brunswick, CAC Childcare Center in New Brunswick, the YMCA and America's Grow a Row at Milford farm, included some of the service sites for the week.

Below is a thank you from the farm [please note that the young people picked 8,000 pounds of corn!]:

August 3, 2021

Hello Awesome Volunteers,

I want to thank you again for joining us at our **Milford farm** this morning to harvest corn. In the couple of hours you spent in the fields, **your team harvested more than 8,000 pounds of corn. This will provide nearly 32,000 servings of fresh produce for so many of our neighbors struggling with food insecurity.** We couldn't have done it without all your help!

We hope you had a great time and we look forward to seeing you back in the fields.

Best,  
Jess Huber  
[America's Grow-a-Row](#)  
Program/Administrative Assistant



*Cont. on next page*



The Service WorX Team from St. Matthias



Give

**Stewardship Reflection Aug 15, 2021  
The Assumption Of the Virgin Mary**

**“And Mary said, “My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior.” Luke 1: 46**

After Jesus, we look to Mary as our model of stewardship. Her entire life was lived in obedience to God’s will. Just as the moon reflects the light of the sun, Mary reflects the light of Christ. Like Mary, we too are called to reflect Christ to the world. We do this by living grateful and generous lives. We do this by putting other’s needs before our wants.

**Reflexiónese — 15de agosto de 2021**

**La Asunción de la Bendecida Virgen María**

**” Y María dijo, Mi alma proclama la grandeza del Señor; mi espíritu se regocija en Dios mi salvador.” LUCAS 1:46**

Después de Jesús, miramos a María como nuestro modelo de corresponsabilidad. Su vida entera la vivió en obediencia de la voluntad de Dios. Así como la luna refleja la luz del sol, María refleja la luz de Cristo. Como María, nosotros también somos llamados a reflejar a Cristo al mundo. Lo hacemos viviendo una vida generosa y agradecida. Lo hacemos poniendo las necesidades de los demás antes que nuestros deseos.

Stewardship Totals for Fiscal Year July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022				Last Year's
Current Month	In-Pew/Mail	Parish Giving	Weekly Total	Weekly Total
Week 5 - August 1, 2021	\$11,320.00	\$10,197.25	\$21,517.25	\$20,250.70
Week 6 - August 8, 2021	\$8,445.90	\$24,483.75	\$32,929.65	\$21,258.75
Week 7 - August 15, 2021	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$27,441.80
Week 8 - August 22, 2021	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$21,636.70
Week 9 - August 29, 2021	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$21,117.70
			<b>Month-to-date Total</b>	<b>Aug Total Last</b>
			<b>\$54,446.90</b>	<b>\$111,705.65</b>
			<b>Current Year-to-date Total</b>	<b>Year-to-date as</b>
			<b>\$155,023.34</b>	<b>\$203,847.42</b>

## Serve

### Vocations Ministry - Called to Build God's Kingdom — Aug 15, 2021

Pope Francis in "Gaudete et Exsultate" on the call to holiness in today's world says:

"At times, life presents great challenges. Through them, the Lord calls us anew to a conversion that can make his grace more evident in our lives, "in order that we may share his holiness" (Heb 56:54). At other times, we need only find a more perfect way of doing what we are already doing:

"There are inspirations that tend solely to perfect in an extraordinary way the ordinary things we do in life".[15] When Cardinal François-Xavier Nguyễn van Thuân was imprisoned, he refused to waste time waiting for the day he would be set free. Instead, he chose "to live the present moment, filling it to the brim with love". He decided: "I will seize the occasions that present themselves every day; I will accomplish ordinary actions in an extraordinary way".

Sometimes challenges bring out the best in us. Yes, we go through a diffi-

cult phase when we are faced by challenges. However if we press on and stay focused, these situations bring a new shape to our life. It gives us a new direction and perspective. It helps us to become strong enough to look beyond oneself, identifying our strengths and to help make our life and this world a better place through service, creativity, leadership and bringing God's people closer to him.



## Local Community

### Going to Rutgers in New Brunswick?

The Catholic Student Assoc. at The Catholic Center at Rutgers, located at 84 Somerset Street on College Avenue Campus, welcomes you! Please join us: [www.rutgerscatholic.org](http://www.rutgerscatholic.org), [www.stpeternewbrunswick.org](http://www.stpeternewbrunswick.org)

#### Sunday Masses:

8 am, 10 am, 12 noon, 6 pm at St. Peter's Church, 94 Somerset St.

12 noon also at Busch Student Center (starting 9/26)

Note: St. Peter's Church is between the Catholic Center and Barnes & Noble)

### Loyola Jesuit Center

161 James St., Morristown, NJ 07960

973-539-0740, e-mail - [\\_retreathouse@loyola.org](mailto:_retreathouse@loyola.org).



**10/1 - 10/3 - Co-Ed Weekend Retreat**

"Making the Eucharist Matter"

Traditionally sponsored by: Women's September Retreat, Mount Manresa (Men & Women), Jesuit Alumni #1 Retreat director - Fr. Kirk Reynolds, S.J.

**To register for these or any event at the center, contact the above telephone number or e-mail.**

## Parish Leadership

#### Parish Pastoral Council:

Rose Peng

Frank Rees

#### Co-Chairs:

Claudine Langrin

Mary Beth Vetter-Purcell

#### Co-Secretaries:

Lorraine Farr

Anne Marie Francis

#### Trustees:

Isaac Peng

Marge Richards

#### Parish Finance Council:

Joe Porter, Chair

**FinanceCouncil**

**@stmatthias.net**

Susan Klimcsak

Barry Dusault

Gwen Orłowski

Audrey Francis

Kester Hector

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.



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