



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 -- 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): open M –Thur
9:00-1:00. 732-828-1402 or 1540. 170 JFK Blvd.,
Somerset, NJ 08873 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
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Julio Montero, Maintenance Supervisor
Deacon Russell Demkovitz, [rdemkovitz](mailto:rdemkovitz@stmatthias.net)
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Dolores R. Nann, Pastoral Associate for Faith
Formation, [dnann](mailto:dnann@stmatthias.net)
Vinnie Natale, Bookkeeper, [vnatale](mailto:vnatale@stmatthias.net)
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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)

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THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS
SUNDAY, AUG 22, 2021 –
Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Highlights—This Week

RCIA Team Retreat—Wed.,
Aug . 25, 1:00PM. See page 8.

SAVE THE DATE!

Virtual Ministry Fair, Tuesday,
September 14, via Zoom!



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, and contact 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

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

- All are welcome to the Mass 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-7:30AM-1PM; Mon-Fri -7:30AM-7PM & Sat from 9 AM to 7PM, unless another event is taking place (Mass, Funeral, Wedding, etc.)

Sunday, Aug 22, 2021

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

Monday, Aug 23, 2021

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

Tuesday, Aug 24, 2021

8:00AM	Daily Mass	Church
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Wednesday, Aug 25, 2021

8:00AM	Daily Mass	Church
8:30AM	St. Joseph's Novena	Church
9:30AM	Prayer Group-Holy Spirit	de Porres Rm
1:00PM	RCIA Team Retreat	de Porres Rm
7:30PM	Parish Vocation Ministry Mtg.	Zoom

Thursday, Aug 26, 2021

8:00AM	Daily Mass	Church
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Friday, Aug 27, 2021

8:00AM	Daily Mass	Church
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Saturday, Aug 28, 2021

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

Sunday, Aug 29, 2021

8:00AM	Mass	Church
10:00AM	Mass	Church
11:00AM	RCIA Inquiry Session	Cafeteria
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 12 Noon, WEDNESDAY, 10 days before the intended issue (earlier for holiday weekends). Approved content is published on a space-available basis.



Dear Friends,

The Portuguese explorer, Ferdinand Magellan, leading a Spanish expedition, reached the Philippines on March 16, 1521 and planted Christianity there. 2021 marks the 500th anniversary of this event. Pope Francis kicked off the yearlong celebration with a festive Mass in the Vatican last March. The entrance procession of the papal Mass was led by a young woman carrying a statue of the Holy Child of Cebu and a young man holding a replica of the Magellan Cross that was first planted on Filipino soil, accompanied by Filipino women dancers, followed by the ministers, clergy, Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, other cardinals and the Pope.

The Filipino Apostolate of our Diocese, headed by Rev. Gerry Paderon, pastor of Queenship of Mary Church, Plainsboro, arranged to have a novena of Masses at different churches.

The venue for one Mass was here at St. Matthias, on Sunday, August 1, at 5 pm., and it was organized by Don & Gondee Tibay, Aida Santos, Emile Capuno, Jerry Tiongson, Carlo Hermino, Alma Valdez, and Menchie Ventura. They gave me the honor of presiding and preaching. Rev. Roberto Coruna, Pastor of the Annunciation Church in Bloomsbury, and our Msgr. Seamus Brennan concelebrated the Mass, assisted by Deacon Joey Perlas of St. Anthony of Padua Church in Port Reading and Deacon Roger Ladao of St. Francis Cabrini Church in Piscataway. We congratulate all the Filipino friends of our parish for organizing it and making it a meaningful celebration with beautiful singing in Tagalog and having a special 10-foot replica of the Magellan cross for the procession.

For the Philippines nation, the Catholic faith is part of the ethos of the people, etched deeply in their cultural and religious life. The Filipinos have carried their faith wherever they have immigrated. It was quite amusing to hear the comment of Pope Francis that the Filipino women were "smugglers of the faith," meaning they carried with them the "torch of faith" wherever they went. He encouraged all Filipinos to continue being "smugglers of faith."

One recent evidence of the Filipino witness to Catholicism was when the country's first-ever Olympic gold medalist, weightlifter Hidilyn Diaz, manifested her faith and devotion to Holy Mary for the whole world to see. Diaz's triumph came in the women's 55-kilogram weightlifting event on July 26. After completing her final lift in a very close competition, Diaz held her hands to her face, burst into tears and clutched at her Miraculous Medal of the Blessed Virgin Mary hanging from her neck. Later at the medals ceremony on the podium, Diaz pointed heavenward after singing the Philippine national anthem, then made the Sign of the Cross before stepping down and shouting "Mabuhay ang Pilipinas!" ("Long live the Philippines!")

As we appreciate our Filipino community who have the fire of the Faith in Jesus Christ and a great commitment to the Catholic Church, we pray that their example will continue to inspire us and make us greater witnesses of the Lord.

Your brother in Christ,
Fr. Abraham Orapankal

Readings for the Week

Monday: 1 Thes 1:1-5, 8b-10; Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a, 9b; Mt 23:13-22

Tuesday: Rv 21:9b-14; Ps 145:10-11, 12-13, 17-18; Jn 1:45-51

Wednesday: 1 Thes 2:9-13; Ps 139:7-8, 9-10, 11-12ab; Mt 23:27-32

Thursday: 1 Thes 3:7-13; Ps 90:3-5a, 12-13, 14, 17; Mt 24:42-51

Friday: 1 Thes 4:1-8; Ps 97:1, 2b, 5-6, 10-12; Mt 25:1-13

Saturday: 1 Thes 4:9-11; Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9; Mt 25:14-30

Sunday: Dt 4:1-2, 6-8; Ps 15:2-3, 3-4, 4-5; Jas 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27; Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, Aug 21	5:00PM	Marlene & Tony Volpe, by Ed & Marcia Santucci
Sunday, Aug 22	8:00AM	Teofilo 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
Monday, Aug 23	8:00AM	Cora Ann Casey, by Betsy, Eric & Mackenzie Smith
Tuesday, Aug 24	8:00AM	Charles Simons, by Bruce & Diane Negri
Wednesday, Aug 25	8:00AM	Paul & Sally Hughes, by The Family
Thursday, Aug 26	8:00AM	Spiritual Intentions of John & Claire Kreiger, by Ruth & Frank Kreiger
Friday, Aug 27	8:00AM	Thanksgiving Mass for Williamson Family, by The Williamson Family
Saturday, Aug 28	5:00PM	Manfred Ganzer, by Patricia Stanley
Sunday, Aug 29	8:00AM	Annie Massimine, by The Grammatico Family
	10:00AM	Marlene & Tony Volpe, by Ed & Maria Santucci
	12:00PM	Skip Simons, by Patricia Stanley
	(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 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.](#)

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
 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*

Emma Himey, Mother of Pat Cullen

His Goodness Prepares Us for All Things



Quite a few people have been saying that it is so difficult to believe that we are at the end of August. Traditionally, Labor Day marks the close of the “summer season.” Yet the official end of summer is not until the third week of September. This last full week in August, however, is the final week for preparations for the new school year. Here at Saint Matthias School we are getting everything ready to welcome our returning students and new students alike. We have an exciting year complete with academic rigor and fun-filled activities awaiting our children throughout all the grades.

The school building looks stunning. One can literally eat off our floors! Painting and annual touch ups have been completed. Additionally, we have new interactive Promethean boards in all of our classrooms. Meetings, schedules, ordering materials and textbooks, interviewing new staff and students, clerical work, etc. are tasks

keeping all of us busy. Likewise, our dedicated teachers are coming into the building getting their classrooms ready for our students. Our SMS parents are busy purchasing uniforms, new supplies, backpacks, etc. all with very happy grins on their faces, I am sure. Finally and most importantly, we can only imagine how our children will be making the most out of this last full week of free time. Isn't this all good news? Saint Matthias Parish should be proud of all the efforts made on their part as they support our school monetarily and with their prayers.

Our responsorial psalm this Sunday reminds us of the goodness of the Lord. Through our baptism and our weekly Eucharistic celebration, we are urged as Christians to share the goodness of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. As we go out in the community, we want to be seen as sincere disciples sharing the very gift of Jesus. However, it is not necessarily easy for us to accomplish this task on our own. We need to be prepared. Preparation is probably the most important aspect of spreading the

Good News. Look to the examples found in Scripture and taught to us by Jesus our Teacher. In addition to faith instruction in the home, a solid Catholic school or religious education program enables us to be better bearers. As we know, our Christian formation does not stop after Confirmation. As Christian adults, it is then our responsibility to continue learning, reading, praying, attending conferences, participating in a retreat, etc.; whatever it takes to nourish our spiritual fortitude. It is our responsibility to keep preparing ourselves in His persona and goodness so that we can continue to rely on Him who has, “the words of eternal life (and is) the Holy One of God.”

So as we come to the end of August, let us make a concentrated effort to continue the preparations we need for this school year and our spiritual development as bearers of the Good News. Without a doubt, being prepared makes us the best bearers of the Risen Lord we can ever be!

Joseph C. Gidaro
Saint Matthias School
Vice Principal / Development Director

Reflect



Smile With Your Family —



A woman was pulled over for rolling through a stop sign. The Officer recognized her as his former English Teacher in school. He said, “Mrs. Brown, those stop signs are periods, not commas!” 😊

The summer holiday was over and young Jack returned to school. Only two days later his teacher phoned his mother to tell her that Jack was misbehaving. 'Wait a minute,' mother said. 'I had Jack with me for six weeks and I never called you once when he misbehaved.' 😊

Wondered at these? 😊

- ◊ How is it that we put man on the moon before we figured out it would be a good idea to put wheels on luggage? 😊
- ◊ Why is it that people say they 'slept like a baby' when babies wake up like every two hours? 😊
- ◊ Why do people pay to go up tall buildings and then put money in binoculars to look at things on the ground? 😊
- ◊ Why do doctors leave the room while you change? ◊



Parenting Tune-Up

The kind of adults my children are now is directly related to the kind of children I continually told them they were. What about you? Do you say the same to your children?



Marriage Tune-Up

What does equality mean in marriage? Does it mean one is the boss and the other is the follower? Of course not. It means recognizing each other's talents. Sometimes leading, sometimes following but always honoring the essence of the other. It's not a zero sum game that if one wins, the other loses. Win/win solutions work best.

Tough Teaching without Compromise



"This teaching is difficult. Who can accept it?" It was Jesus' disciples who made this complaint. They were offended by Jesus' language -- his imagery -- the metaphors he used in his Eucharistic discourse. It was Jesus' dramatic way of saying that we must accept him totally, without any conditions or reservations.

His thoughts and attitudes, his values, his life-view must become totally ours. Above all we are to identify with him in the offering of his Flesh and the pouring out of his Blood on the cross, the symbol of God's unutterable love for us. But without giving any further explanation, Jesus simply challenges them, and us, to open ourselves to the gift of Faith that God is offering us: **"No one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father"** (v. 65). Jesus tries to help his remaining followers to make a leap of Faith, because it is only with Faith that they will be able to see and grasp the triple mystery which has been revealed to them, namely, (1) the Incarnation (*I am the Bread that came down from Heaven, 0:85*); (6) the Redemption (*the Bread that I give is my Flesh for the life of the world, 0:95*); (7) the Ascension and glorification of Jesus (*the Son of Man will ascend to where he was before, 6:62*).

Having insisted earlier that the believer must eat the Flesh and drink the Blood of the Son of Man in order to have eternal life, Jesus now tells his disciples "that the flesh is of no avail." But "flesh" here is not the Eucharist. Rather, "flesh"

means natural sustenance, which cannot give spiritual nourishment. And the "Spirit" here means the life-giving Holy Spirit Who will be given to believers after Jesus' ascent into heaven. Peter's response, **"Master, to whom we shall go? You have the words of eternal life,"** reflects the Faith-filled, free and whole-hearted decision of the early Christian community to follow Jesus and his teaching. While giving Holy Communion, the priest says, *! The Body of Christ!* and we respond with a total, "Amen" or *! Yes!* That "Yes!" is not just an act of Faith in the Real Presence but a total commitment of myself to Jesus in the community of which I am a member. Some Bible scholars consider Jesus' question, "Do you want to leave me, too?" to Peter and the apostle's response as parallel to Jesus' question, "Who do you think I am?" and Peter's confession of faith at Caesarea Philippi (Mark 8:27-30; Matthew 16:13-20; Luke 9:18-21).

Faith is not simply a set of ideas to be held on to. It is a living relationship with a Person and His vision of life. It is a relationship that needs to grow and be deepened with the years. It is a relationship that has constantly to be re-appraised in a constantly changing world. We must hear Peter's words to Jesus resounding through the centuries: "To whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."

Letter to the Editor



A Church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. "I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something

like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all." This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" col-

umn, much to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher: "I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this. They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to Church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"



Sunday Reflection: When Things fall from the Sky...

"Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life." John 6: 60-69

Howard Thurman, the African-American theologian, educator and preacher, remembers the summer night when Haley's Comet appeared in 1910. Howard was ten years old and living in Florida:

"One night I was awakened by my mother, who asked if I would like to see the comet. I got up, dressed quickly, and went out with her to the back yard. There I saw in the heavens the awesome tail of the comet and stood transfixed. With deep anxiety I asked, without taking my eyes off it, 'What will happen to us when that thing falls out of the sky?' There was a long silence during which I felt the gentle pressure of her fingers on my shoulders; then I looked into her face and saw what I had seen on another occasion, when without knocking I had rushed into her room and found her in prayer. At last she said, 'Nothing will happen to us, Howard. God will take care of us.' In that moment something was touched and kindled in me, a quiet reassurance that has never quite deserted me. As I look back on it, what I sensed then was the fact that what stirred in me was one with what created and controlled the comet. It was this inarticulate awareness that silenced my fear and stilled my panic."

Too often we act - or react - out of fear; we respond to an issue out of anxiety or dread. Hopelessness can become a way of life: the sense that God has abandoned us or that God doesn't exist in our lives can cripple us emotionally and spiritually. The disciples who cannot "endure" Jesus' talk about giving his "flesh to eat" leave him and return to their directionless, hopeless lives. But Peter's simple, plaintive confession articulates his faith that God is not present in the darkness of evil but in the light of goodness that seeks to shatter that darkness; the God of love who breathes life into our souls is experienced not in our dread of colliding comets but in the goodness and blessed order of all creation. Despite our own doubts, fears and misgivings, we know in the depth of our hearts that, in the end, the words of Jesus will triumph. We mourn God's absence in times of pain, change and despair, but we trust that God can be rediscovered in acts of love, generosity, support and healing extended to us by others. Let us embrace the constant faith and resolve of Simon Peter and the Twelve who remain with Jesus - faith that, even in the most difficult times, senses the light and refuses to abandon the hope of God's love.

Was St. Paul against Women?



Today's second Reading (Ephesians 5:21-32) has this line: "Wives should be subordinate to their husbands as to the Lord." Elsewhere he asks women to be silent in the church. These and other similar writings of Paul make us wonder if he was against women's equality and intent on subordinating women to men. But an objective study of Paul's letters show that he was not. His letters are pastoral in nature, addressed to the specific needs and questions of particular communities and therefore certain particular local situation cannot be applied universally. Keep in mind also, Paul was a man of his day, shaped by the patriarchal attitudes of Greco-Roman and Jewish cultures toward women. As Craig S. Keener (*Paul, Women and Wives, Marriage and Women's Ministry in the Letters of Paul*, Hendrickson Publishers, Inc., Peabody, MA: 1992) has observed, centuries before the New Testament Period, Aristotle argued that men were naturally superior and therefore fit to rule over women. Plato described a woman's virtues as taking care of the home and obeying her husband. Was the Ephesians author simply following the lead of others before him?

Furthermore, many biblical scholars agree that Ephesians was not written by Paul himself, but by a later leader who assumes his mantle of authority. And it is notable that such insistence on subordination of women is not found in any of the authentic Pauline letters. Rather, we find sayings that point toward equality and mutuality, such as: "In the Lord woman is not independent of man or man independent of woman. For just as woman came from man, so man comes through woman; but all things come from God" (1 Cor 11:11-12); also 1 Cor 7:4: "The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does; likewise, the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does." A careful, open-minded reading of the text will prove otherwise. St. Paul in the second reading, actually advises husbands and wives to "defer to one another out of reverence for Christ" (v. 21).

The best measure of Paul's egalitarian sensibility lies in the way he talks about different Christian women. Paul was no lone ranger in his apostolic ministry, and many of his co-workers were women. Looking at the passages in Paul's letters and in the Acts of the Apostles in which these women are mentioned, one finds a great sense of collegiality and many examples of women given authority. If interested in reading a good article on this topic, here's the link: <https://www.americamagazine.org/issue/675/article/women-and-paul>



Year of St. Joseph: Reflection for August

This month's focus on Joseph is titled: "Joseph, a Father in the shadows." Here's how Pope Francis explains this in his Apostolic Exhortation *Patris Corde* (With a Father's Heart):

"The Polish writer Jan Dobraczyński, in his book *The Shadow of the Father*,^[24] tells the story of Saint Joseph's life in the form of a novel. He uses the evocative image of a shadow to define Joseph. In his relationship to Jesus, Joseph was the earthly shadow of the heavenly Father: he watched over him and protected him, never leaving him to go his own way.

Fathers are not born, but made. A man does not become a father simply by bringing a child into the world, but by taking up the responsibility to care for that child. Whenever a man accepts responsibility for the life of another, in some way he becomes a father to that person.

Children today often seem orphans, lacking fathers. The Church too needs fathers. Saint Paul's words to the Corinthians remain timely: "Though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers" (1 Cor 4:15). Every priest or bishop should be able to add, with the Apostle: "I became your father in Christ Jesus through the Gospel" (ibid.). Paul likewise calls the Galatians: "My little children, with whom I am again in travail until Christ be formed in you!" (4:19).

Joseph never made himself the center of things. He did not think of himself, but focused instead on the lives of Mary and Jesus. Joseph found happiness not in mere self-sacrifice but in self-gift. In him, we never see frustration but only trust. His patient silence was the prelude to concrete expressions of trust. Our world today needs fathers. It has no use for tyrants who would domineer others as a means of compensating for their own needs. It rejects those who confuse authority with authoritarianism, service with servility, discussion with oppression, charity with a welfare mentality, power with destruction. Every true vocation is born of the gift of oneself, which is the fruit of mature sacrifice. The priesthood and consecrated life likewise require this kind of maturity. Whatever our vocation, whether to marriage, celibacy or virginity, our gift of self will not come to fulfillment if it stops at sacrifice; were that the case, instead of becoming a sign of the beauty and joy of love, the gift of self would risk being an expression of unhappiness, sadness and frustration."

Why our Protestant Brethren Think Differently

This is one of the main distinctions between the different branches of Christianity. Catholic Christians and Eastern Orthodox Christians have maintained the ancient Faith in the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist. But during the Protestant Reformation, which took place in northern Europe in the fifteen and sixteen hundreds, the different Protestant groups stopped believing in the Real Presence. Martin Luther, John Calvin, Thomas Cranmer, John Knox and some other reformers started their own churches, breaking away from the Catholic Church. It was during this period that the many different Protestant denominations began to appear: Lutherans, Presbyterians, Baptists... The Puritans who arrived on the shores of Massachusetts in the 1600s, better known as "the pilgrims," were a spinoff of these reformed churches. All of these new Christian groups continued to celebrate some kind of communion service in their Sunday worship, at least once or twice a year. But none of them believed firmly and clearly that Jesus was truly present in the Eucharist. They all taught that Jesus was only speaking symbolically when he said, as we heard in today's Gospel,

"Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life."

But if Jesus had been speaking of a mere symbol, and not a real sacrament, would he have referred to eating and drinking his flesh and blood seven times? Would he have made such an effort to explain that his flesh is "real food" and his blood "real drink" (verse 55)? Would he have used two different verbs to make sure he was understood: "phago" (verses 50 and 51), which means to consume a meal, and then, after his listeners expressed shock and doubt, "trago" (verses 53-58), which means to gnaw, crunch, or chew, as when we eat raw vegetables, or when cattle graze on grass?. John 6 makes it crystal clear the literalness of what Jesus taught.





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

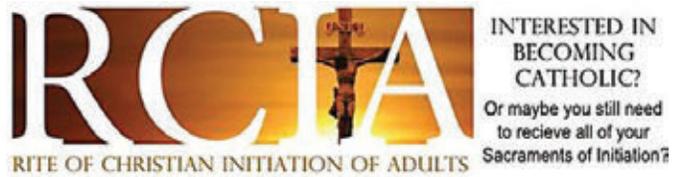
Our team members will participate in an RCIA Team retreat to get ourselves spiritually ready for bringing new members into the Church through the

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 29th
after 10:00AM Mass until 12:00PM
School Cafeteria**



A Lesson on how Liturgical Music is Selected, By Joan Best Seamon

As Pastoral Associate for Liturgical Music, I am entrusted each week with

choosing appropriate sacred music that enhances our Eucharistic celebrations. Music has the ability to move us, to induce feelings, moods and different states of mind. Well-chosen liturgical music can be transformative- the human voice joined with other voices in song can evangelize and point us to the divine.

So how do I choose what we are going to sing each week?

First and foremost, I read the scriptures of the day, starting with the Gospel, and then proceeding to the First Reading and the Responsorial Psalm, which are always connected thematically to the Gospel.

Then I read the Propers of the day- the Entrance and Communion Antiphons, and the Gospel verse. Finally I look at the Second Reading, which is always on its own cycle- right now we are reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

Only after I have read and prayed the scriptures and the propers am I ready to actually choose music. I refer to several resources that give appropriate suggestions. I consider what season of the Church Year we are in, what we sang last week and what we might sing next week and any groups of parishioners who might be present at mass, i.e. a particular choir, RCIA, Service Worx, etc. . I seek variety, too, in style and text, aiming for a good mix of traditional and contemporary sacred music, if not at one particular Mass than at least from week to week.

Then I make a liturgical, musical and pastoral judgement about each hymn or song. Does it fit the liturgy of the day and the particular moment of the celebration, is it worthy musically, and are we the assembly familiar enough with this song to sing it well?

I generally stay with the same Gloria and Eucharistic Acclamations for an entire season. We are currently singing the Gloria from the Mass of Renewal and the Eucharistic Accla-

mations for the Mass of Creation, but will change to the heritage Mass in a few weeks.

So, today, since we are finishing up the “Bread of Life” discourse in Matthew’s Gospel, I chose **“Gather the People”** as our Entrance Hymn-(it does not work as a Closing Hymn!) But since we always sing the first 2 verses, I thought we might include verses 4 and 5 - “Around This Table God’s Mercy Flows” and “Around this table new hope is born...”

The Psalm refrain from Psalm 34 is the same as we sang 2 weeks ago- instead of choosing a new melody I stayed with the same setting, so that we would sing **“Taste and See the Goodness of the Lord”**, with great energy and joy, right from the heart.

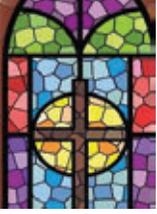
For the Communion Hymn, I chose **“One Bread One Body.”** It is a familiar song that we do not sing very often. The text is Eucharistic, and singing it today keeps it in our repertoire and maybe even introduces” One Bread One Body” to our younger parishioners who did not grow up with it like many of us did.

Finally, **“Lead Me Lord”** as the Closing Hymn, refers to the Gospel where Peter asks Jesus “Lord, to whom shall we go? You alone have the words of eternal life.” We sing it well and the text “Lead me Lord today” is a great sentiment to sing as we leave church to bring the Gospel to the world.

So there you have it, especially for those of you who thought I just threw darts at a list of songs each week! More than you ever wanted to know, but that’s how it is done. Some weeks it all goes really well- other weeks I ask myself “what was I thinking?” I sure hope you left Mass today humming one of our songs and then living it all week long. **“Lead Me Lord today...”**

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

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A 7th grade parent meeting will be held in 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

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.

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

SAVE THE DATE FOR 'MINISTRY FAIR'

St. Matthias Pastoral Council is initiating an evening of Ministry Fair to familiarize the community about what our different ministries are doing. It will be **via zoom** on **Tuesday evening, September 14, at 7 pm.**

Give

TUITION ANGELS CONTINUE TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE



Since 2009 until the present time, the Tuition Angel Fund has been providing assistance to families who struggle to keep pace with tuition payments and desire to give their children a Catholic Education. The past 18 months during the pandemic have been especially challenging for parents. Loss

of jobs, reduced work hours, medical concerns and many other factors weigh heavily on family budgets.

Presently our available funds have dwindled, but St. Matthias School remains alive and vibrant with many new enrollees each year. We want to continue providing a strong faith-filled, Catholic, Christ-centered education to our children. We want to be there to help families who believe in the positive effects of a Catholic education and allow them to experience SMS. We are, therefore, asking your help in building up the Tuition Angel Fund.

Any donation that you can afford will be more than helpful. You may donate through Parish Giving, by writing a check and mailing it to the Parish Office, or by placing your donation in an envelope, marking it "Tuition Assistance" and place the envelope in the collection basket.

Thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation. SMS continues to be a vibrant, nurturing and essential part of our Parish Community and your gift to the Angel Fund will help us to keep it that way.

From: Members of the Tuition Angel Committee

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,	\$8,548.24	\$17,378.75	\$25,926.99	\$27,441.80
Week 8 - August 22,	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$21,636.70
Week 9 - August 29,	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$21,117.70
			Month-to-date Total	Aug Total Last
			\$80,373.99	\$111,705.65
			Current Year-to-date Total	Year-to-date
			\$180,950.33	\$203,847.42

Serve



Vocations Ministry - Called to Build God's Kingdom — Aug 22, 2021

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

"A Christian cannot think of his or her mission on earth without seeing it as a path of holiness, for 'this is the will of God, your sanctification' (1Thess 8:7). Each saint is a mission, planned by the Father to reflect and embody, at a specific moment in history, a certain aspect of the Gospel."

We must remember that a call to holiness is not something that is only for the Saints ... it is a call to all of us. Through our Baptism we are set on a journey of our own personal path to holiness that is lived through our Vocation in life.

** New Job Opening **

St. Matthias School is in need of a bookkeeper/office assistant. This is a part time position. If you are interested, please call Mary Pat Burke-Grospin, Business Administrator, at (732) 828-1400 ext 121, mpburke-grospin@stmatthias.net

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, 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)

Charity Golf Outing

Please join us at the **8th Annual Sisters of Christian Charity Golf Outing** on **Thursday, September 30, 2021** at the beautiful **Cedar Hill Country Club** in Livingston, NJ. Individual golfers, foursomes and sponsors are welcome. Golf prizes will be awarded. For further information or to register online, go to: www.sceast.org/golf-outing or email Elaine Thornberry at sccmissionadvancement@gmail.com. We hope to see you there!



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

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

Parish Leadership

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Co-Chairs:	Rose Peng		Parish Finance Council:		Audrey Francis
Claudine Langrin	Frank Rees	Trustees:	Joe Porter, Chair		Kester Hector
Mary Beth Vetter-Purcell	Maria Tapia-Burch	Isaac Peng	FinanceCouncil		Joan Pritchard
Co-Secretaries:	John Taylor	Marge Richards	@stmatthias.net		Mary Pat Burke-Grospin,
Lorraine Farr	Marilyn Wegg				Ex-Officio
Anne Marie Francis	Ana Kelly, Ex-Officio		Susan Klimcsak		Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio
			Barry Dusault		

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.



St. Matthias School is a PreK3 through 8th 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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