



**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  
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Ana V Kelly, Pastoral Associate for Marketing &  
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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)

Silvia Nizama, Housekeeper

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  
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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)

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**THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS**  
**SUNDAY, AUG 1, 2021 –**  
**Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Highlights—This Week**

**Special 500 Year Anniversary of Christianity in the Philippines:**  
**Filipino Mass –TODAY Aug. 1,** at 5:00PM. See below.

**Service WorX week 2 begins today** at 9:30AM.

**Vocations Ministry Commissioning today** at 10:00AM Mass.

**St. Joseph Intercession Prayer—** Wed., Aug 4 at 8:30AM after 8AM Mass.

**1st. Friday Holy Hour—**Fri, Aug 6 at 8:30AM after 8AM Mass.



**All are Welcome!**  
**Celebrate 500 years of Christianity in the Philippines**



The Filipino Community humbly shares the Gift of Faith to all brothers and sisters. To mark this special occasion, Novena Masses are being offered every Sunday starting June 13.

**Today at 5pm,** the 7th novena Mass will be celebrated at **St Matthias Church** with Fr Abraham as presider and homilist.

For further details, please access:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/o/diocese-of-metuchen-filipino-apostolate-dmfa-31889632699>

**Please tell your relatives, friends, and neighbors that Saint Matthias School is the BEST choice for their children's education!**

St. Matthias School continues to accept new students for the 2021-2022 school year for PreK 3, PreK 4, and Kindergarten through grade 8. Before School and After School programs 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.

We look forward to welcoming your child!



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** (overflow in the cafeteria).
- **Masses** will also be **livestreamed on our YouTube channel: [youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ](https://www.youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ)**

The Church is open for **individual prayer** Sun-Fri from 7:30 am to 7pm & Sat from 9 am to 7pm, unless another event is taking place (Mass, Funeral, Wedding, etc.)

### Sunday, Aug 1, 2021

8:00AM	Mass	Church
9:30AM	Service WorX— Wk. 2	Cafeteria
10:00AM	Mass: Vocations Ministry Commissioning	Church
12:00PM	Mass	Church
5:00PM	Filipino Mass— Fr. Abraham	Church

### Monday, Aug 2, 2021

8:00AM	Mass	Church
8:30AM	Miraculous Medal Novena	Church
8:30AM	Service WorX—Wk. 2	Cafeteria

### Tuesday, Aug 3, 2021

8:00AM	Daily Mass	Church
8:30AM	Service WorX—Wk. 2	Cafeteria

### Wednesday, Aug 4, 2021

8:00AM	Daily Mass	Church
8:30AM	St. Joseph's Intercession Prayer	Church
8:30AM	Service WorX—Wk. 2	Cafeteria
9:30AM	Prayer Group-Holy Spirit	de Porres Rm

### Thursday, Aug 5, 2021

8:00AM	Daily Mass	Church
8:30AM	Service WorX—Wk. 2	Cafeteria
8:00PM	Knights of Columbus Mtg.	Cafeteria

### Friday, Aug 6, 2021

8:00AM	Daily Mass	Church
8:30AM	First Friday Holy Hour	Church
8:30AM	Service WorX—Wk. 2	Cafeteria

### Saturday, Aug 7, 2021

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

### Sunday, Aug 8, 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,

Today I am writing about a topic I don't like to talk about: Sunday contributions! Yet, I am doing it for two reasons: First to thank all of you for your tremendous support – in every sense of the term – of our parish community of St. Matthias. It has been a truly humbling experience for me to see the efforts our parishioners are making, to make sure that the contributions reach the parish. Thank you for the trouble you have taken to drop the envelopes in the collection baskets in the church, mail them, drop them physically at the office, or give online through Parish Giving.



A word about the last method of online giving, which is my second reason! **My sincere thank you to over 660 of our parishioners who have signed up to give through Parish Giving, which has helped us reduce administrative costs as well as the costs for printing and mailing the envelope packets, while increasing the overall collections.** This also allows us to better forecast our revenues, as the giving is more consistent. Therefore, this is the best method of contribution, though some are reluctant to sign up. Let me address some of the reasons I have heard for not signing up online:

- **The fear that giving out your bank info could be dangerous:** It is good for everyone to know that the 'Parish Giving' company has been providing this service to hundreds of parishes for over 10 years and has in place all the latest security features to ensure that your financial information can never be accessed by anyone. But, at the same time, I wish to respect those who wish to continue the use of envelopes – no matter what.
- **The fear that you have no control over the amount once you sign up:** Not true. You are in full control of the timing and amount of your donations. You can even login to the system or call the Parish Giving customer service team to make updates or even un-enroll/cancel at any time.
- **The fear of embarrassment that you are putting nothing in the basket while others do:** True, but there is an easy solution. You can download and print "Collection Plate" coupons right from your account page, so you can still have something to put in the basket.

Therefore, I request you to please consider enrolling in Parish Giving – if you haven't done that already. It is secure, easy to use and gives us the ability to count on your contributions each and every week, even when you might not be able to join us in person. Simply visit our St. Matthias website [www.stmatthias.net](http://www.stmatthias.net) and then click on "Donate" at the top. Follow the simple registration steps. Should you need support, Parish Giving is available to answer questions and even help set up your account. They can be reached M-F from 8:30- 4:30 pm at 866-307-7140.

I do appreciate your support to our parish community. Most importantly, I, together with Msgr. Seamus Brennan, Deacons John Radvanski, Russ Demkovitz, and Ron Caimi, look forward to engaging and nourishing everyone spiritually as we grow closer to our Lord wherever we may be in our lifelong faith journey. And our parish staff is ever ready to serve the people of our parish.

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Orapankal

## Readings for the Week

**Monday:** Nm 11:4b-15; Ps 81:12-13, 14-15, 16-17; Mt 14:13-21

**Tuesday:** Nm 12:1-13; Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 6cd-7, 12-13; Mt 14:22-36 or Mt 15:1-2, 10-14

**Wednesday:** Nm 13:1-2, 25 — 14:1, 26-29a, 34-35; Ps 106:6-7ab, 13-14, 21-22, 23; Mt 15:21-28

**Thursday:** Nm 20:1-13; Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9; Mt 16:13-23

**Friday:** Dn 7:9-10, 13-14; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 9; 2 Pt 1:16-19; Mk 9:2-10

**Saturday:** Dt 6:4-13; Ps 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 47, 51; Mt 17:14-20

**Sunday:** 1 Kgs 19:4-8; Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9; Eph 4:30 — 5:2; Jn 6:41-51

## Mass Intentions for the Week

<b>Saturday, Jul 31</b>	5:00PM	William Bell, by Vinnie
<b>Sunday, Aug 1</b>	8:00AM	Romola Ventura, by The Telyczka Family
	10:00AM	Birthday Blessings for Michele Curtis, by Mom
	12:00PM	Frank Sciotto, by Wife & children
	(5:30PM)	Intention of Parishioners
<b>Monday, Aug 2</b>	8:00AM	Adoracion de Guzman, by The Valdez Family
<b>Tuesday, Aug 3</b>	8:00AM	Gertrudis Derekito & Emiliano Jarin, by The Jarin Family
<b>Wednesday, Aug 4</b>	8:00AM	Courtney Gonzalez & Dorothy Gonzalez, by Anne Marie
<b>Thursday, Aug 5</b>	8:00AM	Anniversary Remembrance for Julian & Felisa De Guzman, by The De Guzman Family
<b>Friday, Aug 6</b>	8:00AM	Adoracion De Guzman, by The Tibay Family
<b>Saturday, Aug 7</b>	5:00PM	Marlene & Tony Volpe, by Ed & Marcia Santucci
<b>Sunday, Aug 8</b>	8:00AM	Edgardo Bongga, Remembering you in prayer on your birthday, by Marie Maceren
	10:00AM	Marlene & Tony Volpe, by Ed & Marcia Santucci
	12:00PM	Elba Iris Lagares, by Lois, Ed & Brian Jerzewski
	(5:30PM)	Intention of Parishioners

## Pray for Those Getting Married...

Steven Holloway & Manishka Mishra—Aug. 14

## 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](mailto: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  
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  
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

Frank (Gary) Yusko

## From the Pastoral Staff



The readings from Exodus and John in this week's scripture readings are about *justice and holiness*: providing all the people with our daily bread, and satisfying our spiritual hunger with "the food that remains unto life eternal." According to Gerald Darring's commentary for this Sunday in **The Sunday Website at St. Louis University**, the Church puts these readings together in this Mass to suggest to us that there is a connection between the '**justice**' issue of hunger and the '**holiness**' issue of the Eucharist. *The work of God is to feed, and if we want to join in that work, we must become providers, doing all we can to see that no one goes hungry and to bring people to the Eucharistic table of the Lord.*

Many persons today are physically hungry. Certainly the solution to starvation and malnu-

trition requires increased production and improved distribution of food. But it also requires a concerted act of solidarity by the nations and peoples of the world. Our sharing in the Eucharist inspires us to such solidarity, as well as to actions which express it; for sincere celebration of the Eucharist must lead to various works of charity and mutual help. —U.S. Bishops, [\*The Eucharist and the Hungers of the Human Family\*](#) 1975:11

This Sunday begins the second of our parish's week-long ServiceWorX camps for our rising 8<sup>th</sup> graders preparing for Confirmation. All week they will be focused on the connection between "justice" and "service" with our Catholic faith and teachings.

Today will begin with the student par-

ticipants attending the 10AM Mass together here at St. Matthias. Sunday is an opportunity for the Center for Faith Justice Staff leaders and participants to meet, get to know each other and talk about what the week ahead will contain. It is also a chance for parents to ask any remaining questions they might have regarding the upcoming week. The week will include going out (via school bus) to different service sites in the morning; returning to the parish for lunch, some recreation; followed by connecting Catholic teaching to their morning service experience. The week concludes on Friday with an afternoon prayer service to which families are invited. Please keep our young people in your prayers!

Dee Nann  
Faith Formation



## Reflect



### Smile With Your Family —



**No fish there!** One cold winter day, two guys decide to take up ice fishing. They find a nice spot and begin to cut a hole in the ice. Then they hear a voice. "There's no fish there..." Puzzled, they begin to cut another hole a few feet away. Again, they hear the voice. "There's no fish there..." They are now confused, but still determined. About 10 feet away, they begin to cut another ice hole. "There's no fish there...", again they hear the voice. They immediately turn to the sky and say, "Is that you, God?" "NO! IT'S THE MANAGER OF THE ICE-SKATING RINK! THERE'S NO FISH THERE! 😊"

**Using in a sentence:** A teacher asked her students to use the word "beans" in a sentence. "My father grows beans," said one girl. "My mother cooks beans," said a boy. A third student spoke up, "We are all human beans."

**One-liner smiles:** Prayer: Don't give God instructions – just report for duty! 😊

My email password has been hacked. That's the third time I've had to rename the cat. 😊



### Parenting Tune-Up

As older children continue their schooling this fall, it's tempting to want to pour all your protective wisdom into them, especially around issues of faith. As they age, however, "share your faith struggles, not just your certainty."

### Marriage Tune-Up



"The whole Israelite community grumbled against Moses and Aaron." (Exodus 16:2) Sometimes there are plenty of reasons to grumble in marriage - not enough money, something breaks, your spouse forgot to get gas... Let's call for a grumble free day; or at least if a grumble occurs to you, put it in the perspective of all the blessings of your life together.

## Are we Obsessed with Food?



In today's Gospel, Jesus speaks about food. The two biggest sellers in any bookstore, according to Andy Rooney, are the cookbooks and the diet books. The cookbooks tell you how to prepare the food, and the diet books tell you how not to eat any of it. Orson Wells once said, "My doctor has advised me to give up those intimate little dinners for four, unless, of course, there are three other people eating with me." Champion archer Rick McKinney confesses that he regularly eats chocolate chip cookies for breakfast. He refers to "the basic four food groups" as a Big Mac, fries, a shake and a lemon tart. A California scientist has computed that the average human being eats 16 times his or her own weight in an average year, while a horse eats only eight times its weight. This all seems to prove that if you want to lose weight, you should eat like a horse. (*Sunshine Magazine*). That's a subject most of us know too much about. A recent survey found that 41% of men and 55% of women consider themselves overweight. In one way or another, many of us are obsessed with earthly food. Think what a difference it would make in our lives if we were equally obsessed with Heavenly Food, the Food that Christ gives us.

***We need spiritual nourishment from the word of God and from the Holy Eucharist: In the Holy Mass, the Church offers us two types of bread: a) the Bread of Life, contained in God's Word and b) the Bread of Life, contained in the Holy Eucharist. Unfortunately, many of us come to Mass every week to present on the altar only our earthly needs without accepting spiritual nourishment by properly receiving God's Word and the Holy Eucharist. Let us nourish our souls with this Heavenly manna and carry Jesus to our homes and workplaces, radiating his love, mercy and compassion all around us. It is perhaps the plainness and ordinariness of the consecrated Bread and Wine and their easy availability in our Churches that sometimes prevent some of us from appreciating the great gift of God in the Holy Eucharist. But we should not take for granted the Divine generosity that provides these gifts so readily and gratuitously by sharing in the Bread of Life simply as a matter of habit and without showing due attention and proper respect.***

## Hunger in the World!

According to statistics from Oxfam, 2,500 people will die of hunger during the typical one-hour Church worship service. Two-thirds of them will be children. A third of the children in the world are very underweight for their age. About one-fifth of the people in the world are so malnourished that they cannot engage in productive activity. The problem is not a lack of food. Enough food is produced to provide an adequate diet for everyone. A part of the problem is a matter of distribution. The food is not equally available to those who are hungry. A part of the problem also is a lack of will and a sense of priority to feed the hungry. *In today's Gospel Jesus teaches us about spiritual hunger and our need for him, as Heavenly Food, to satisfy our spiritual hunger for God. Spiritual hunger cannot be sought unless physical hunger is taken care of. We need both. Jesus himself showed us that when he first satisfied the physical hunger of the crowd he ministered to.*

***Multiply good works like the loaves and fishes, as Pope Francis says: "Jesus satisfies not only material hunger, but the most profound of hungers, the hunger for meaning in life, the hunger for God. In the face of suffering, loneliness, poverty and difficulties of so many people, what can we do? Complaining, does not solve anything, but we can offer what little we have. We certainly have a few hours of time, some talent, some expertise. ... Who among us, does not have his or her "five loaves and two fish"? If we are willing to put them in the hands of the Lord, we will bring a little more love into the world a bit 'more love, peace, justice and joy.' God is able to multiply our small gestures of solidarity and make us partakers of his gift."***



## The Great Depression Bread – Lines!

In the depression years of the 1930's, millions of Americans were out of work and many thousands were hungry. In a number of cities, religious groups set up bread-lines to feed the hungry. One of these was the Franciscan monastery in Cincinnati, Ohio. Every evening, the Friars, Brothers and lay volunteers prepared and gave a nourishing sandwich of bread and meat to hundreds of hungry men and women. It was interesting to note the reactions of the recipients. Many accepted the well-prepared and well-wrapped food with a smile and a thank you. Others, with heads hanging, snatched the food package and shuffled off. Some tore the bag at once and started eating as they hurried away. Most of them ate every last crumb after a silent prayer and put the wrapping into a nearby container, though some would eat only the meat and discard the bread on the roadside. A few discontented ones just opened the package and then threw the entire contents away in protest. The way those hungry unfortunates reacted to that little lunch is a lot like the way his listeners received the words of Jesus in today's Gospel.

## Sunday Reflection: The Terribly, Tragically Sad Man!

**"Do not work for food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you . . ."** *John 6: 24-35*

Once there was a happy little boy who said to God one day, "O God, I want to live in a big house with a big porch, two Saint Bernard's and a garden in the back. I want to marry a woman who is tall and very beautiful and kind, with long, black hair and blue eyes, and who plays the guitar and sings in a clear, high voice. I want three strong sons to play football with. When they grow up, one will be a great scientist, one will be a Senator and the youngest will quarterback the Packers. I want to sail vast oceans and climb the highest mountains. I want to drive a red Ferrari and never have to pick up after myself." God said, "That sounds like a nice dream. I want you to be happy."

But one day, the boy hurt his knee playing football. His dream of being an adventurer was over. So he studied marketing and started a medical supply company. He met a pretty woman at school, who was very warm and kind. She wasn't glamorous, she wasn't a musician, but she was a wonderful cook and a talented artist. Because of his work, they lived in the city in an apartment. A small balcony served as the big porch; all they had room for was a fluffy cat. They had three daughters (not sons); the loveliest of the three had to use a wheelchair. He made enough money for his family to live comfortably, but he didn't drive a red Ferrari - and with three daughters, he spent a lot of time picking things up.

Then, one morning, he woke up very sad. He confided to a friend his disappointment that his wife was not the beautiful, glamorous musician he had dreamed of. His friend tried to reassure him that his wife was kind and generous. *But the man wasn't listening.* He shared with his wife his disappointment with their apartment instead of the big house he dreamed of. She reminded him of the comfortable happy

home and their three beautiful daughters. *But the man wasn't listening.* He went to see a therapist and went on about how he dreamed of being a great adventurer and driving a Ferrari and not having to pick up after himself. The therapist pointed out that the medical supplies and equipment he sold saved many lives. *But the man wasn't listening.* The therapist charged him \$200 and sent him home. He confessed to a priest that he had dreamed of having three strong sons. The priest said that he had been blessed with three beautiful, intelligent and gracious daughters. *But the man wasn't listening.*

He was so sad that he became very sick. Late one night, alone in his hospital room, the man said to God, "Remember when I was a boy and I told you what I wanted?" "It was a lovely dream," God said. "Why didn't you give me those things?" "I could have," God replied, "but I wanted to surprise you with things you didn't dream of. Your life is one of the best packages I've put together." "Yes," interrupted the man. But I thought you were going to give me what I wanted." "And I thought you were going to give me what I really wanted," God said. "To be happy with what I had given you." And that night the terribly, tragically sad man began to dream a new dream. And he became very happy.

**As "the terribly, tragically sad man" discovers, a life of true joy and meaning is driven not by "perishable" material things and fleeting experiences but by the "nonperishable" values of God. Perhaps the most difficult challenge of our time is to accomplish the "work" of God while "working" to succeed in our careers, to make a place in our homes and hearts for the "bread" that is Christ amid the "fast food" being shoved at us from every direction. May God give us the wisdom to live lives grounded in the "food that endures" beyond the fleeting and the perishable, the "bread of heaven" that feeds and nurtures us for our own life's journey to the dwelling place of God.**

### Food Pyramids!



New standards for diet are periodically updated. Before "My Plate" was introduced, the food pyramid was used as a guide for healthy eating. It included a base of bread, cereals, rice and pasta. The next level up the pyramid was vegetables and fruit. A still smaller next level was milk, yogurt, cheese, meat, poultry, fish, eggs, and nuts. The smallest group at the top was fats, oils and sweets.

We can propose a food pyramid for those who want a healthy spiritual life. You may want to develop your own, but it might include a base of feeding on the word of God by study and meditation on the Scriptures. Upon that base one is nourished by Christian fellowship. It should include servings of regular worship. To that a daily use of prayer and devotions could be added. On top of those elements should be time for Christian service to meet the needs of others.

## When I'm Happy I Always Sing 'Jesus Loves Me'!

In one of the *Chicken Soup for the Soul* books there is a story told by a doctor. It is about a five-year-old girl named Mary who had suffered a stroke that left half of her body paralyzed. Even more tragically, she had been hospitalized for treatment of a brain tumor, and had recently lost her father and mother. She was being examined in an MRI machine. The imaging sequence at that time required the patient to remain perfectly still for about five minutes--a demanding task for a five-year-old. About two minutes into the first sequence, the doctor and the technician noticed on the video monitor that Mary's mouth was moving. They even heard a muted voice over the intercom. They halted the exam and gently reminded Mary not to talk. She smiled and promised not to talk. They repeated the sequence with the same result. Her lips were still moving. The technologist, a bit

gruffly, said, "Mary, you were talking again, and that causes blurry pictures." Mary's smile remained as she replied, "I wasn't talking. I was singing. You said no talking." "What were you singing?" someone asked. "Jesus Loves Me," came the barely audible reply. "I always sing 'Jesus Loves Me' when I'm happy." Everyone in the room was speechless. "Happy? How could this little girl be happy?" The technologist and the doctor had to leave the room to regain their composure as tears began to fall. [James C Brown, MD: *E-zine: Chicken Soup for the Soul* <http://www.soupserver.com/>.] Mary was happy because she knew Jesus loved her. Today's Gospel tells us how Jesus promised to remain with us through the Heavenly Bread of the Holy Eucharist to demonstrate his love for us.



### Idolizing but not Trusting!

Actor Tony Randall, famous for his role as Felix in *The Odd Couple*, once had an experience that surely was the inspiration for a current credit card commercial. Randall was in a jewelry store in New York City. The store's owner recognized him and became very excited. He declared that Randall was his all-time favorite actor. What a treat it would be for his wife, the man said, if she could talk to the Tony Randall. Randall graciously agreed. So the man called his wife, and Randall had a short, pleasant conversation with her as she gushed on and on about how wonderful he was. Finally, Randall came to the point of his visit to the jewelry store. There was a gold necklace in the window that had caught his eye. He'd like to buy it. Would the store accept a personal check? The store owner hesitated, then asked, "Do you have any identification?" Recognition only goes so far. The store owner was ready to idolize Tony Randall; he wasn't ready to trust him. You see where this is leading, don't you? Is it possible for people to come in this House today and worship Jesus--but still not trust him with their lives?

### Led by the Horse!

One of the truly great masterpieces of fiction was the satirical story of Don Quixote, by the Spanish writer Cervantes. In it we read how the absurdly chivalrous hero, followed by his squire Sancho Panza, set out to find adventure, to perform deeds of bravery and win the admiration of all. He had such an open mind on his quest that he decided to go wherever his horse Rosinante would lead him. But the horse, having found itself given free reign, naturally returned to the place it knew best, its own stable. Too often perhaps we humans find ourselves going the same way, doing the same thing, returning to the same sinful habits again and again, sometimes also drifting aimlessly, sometimes lured on by the novelty of sensationalism, sometimes a prey to the enticements of others, or carried away by the latest fashion in religion. St. Paul in today's second reading advises the Ephesians to satisfy their spiritual hunger by turning away from their former evil ways and leading lives of love, kindness, compassion and forgiveness.



## Pray

Join us for an RCIA Inquiry Session

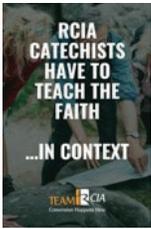
Sunday, August 29<sup>th</sup>  
after 10:00AM Mass until 12:00PM  
School Cafeteria



### Novena for Saint Joseph

We will be praying a novena to St. Joseph on the **first Wednesday of the month** until the end of this year. **It is at 8:30AM**, after the 8:00 AM Mass. Please join us in praying the novena prayer, **this Wed., Aug. 4.**

## Pray



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

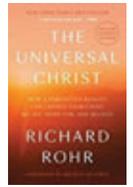
Our team members will participate in an RCIA Team retreat to get ourselves spiritually ready for bringing new members into the Church through the RCIA program.

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**



### You Are Invited!



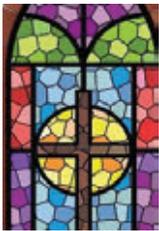
**WHAT?** To join a Spiritual Reading Group for Richard Rohr's book, **THE UNIVERSAL CHRIST**

**WHY?** Your friend Jesus the Christ desires to deepen your understanding of his identity and foster your awareness of his presence in our world.

**HOW?** Via monthly Zoom meetings.

**INTERESTED?** Please email **Sister Marie O'Hagan, SSJ** [Our beloved former St. Matthias Staff member now working predominantly in spiritual formation!] [SparrowsNestSpiritualCenter@gmail.com](mailto:SparrowsNestSpiritualCenter@gmail.com)

## 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.

## All at Home Seeking Spiritual Formation on Your Own Schedule! Consider these Resources

(If you are reading this bulletin online, hold down the CTRL key and click on the link)

**BibleProject** (<https://bibleproject.com>) and **The Bible Project TV** (<https://bibleproject.com/stream>)

BibleProject is an animation studio that produces short-form, fully animated Bible videos, podcasts, and Bible resources to make the biblical story accessible to everyone, everywhere. People can now stream BibleProject videos on their television at home using the most popular streaming devices: Roku, Amazon Firestick, and Apple TV. Some examples are noted below.

<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/gospel-mark/>  
<https://bibleproject.com/bible-studies/how-god-replies-to-jobs-suffering/>  
<https://bibleproject.com/blog/keeping-the-sabbath-is-it-still-relevant-to-christians-today/>

**Yale Bible Study:** <https://yalebiblestudy.org>

The mission of the Yale Bible Study is to engage people in small group Bible study by providing studies of biblical books, deepened by insights from Yale Divinity School professors. There are over 25 bible courses of 8 sessions each with videos and study guide. These materials form an accessible, free, and deeply thoughtful and informed group Bible study program. All course materials available freely without registration; sign up for additional tools and discussion. Two examples are noted below.

<https://yalebiblestudy.org/courses/the-gospel-of-mark/?tab=tab-curriculum>  
<https://yalebiblestudy.org/courses/the-gospel-of-luke/?tab=tab-curriculum>

*Cont. on next page*

# Learn

## All at Home Seeking Spiritual Formation on Your Own Schedule!

(cont'd from preceding page)

**Faith Gateway:** <https://www.faithgateway.com>

Faith Gateway is an online community for readers to discover great content and engage with Christian authors. Faith Gateway brings together content in many different forms: daily blog posts, book excerpts, devotionals, free downloads, videos, giveaways, contests, author chats, and more.

<https://www.faithgateway.com/what-am-i-supposed-to-do-with-all-the-hurt/#.YOX3j-hKjct>

**FULLER Studio:** <https://fullerstudio.fuller.edu>

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**Catholic Central** offers entertaining and authoritative answers to your questions about Catholic thought, spirituality and practice. To do that, we've assembled a team of witty writers, appealing hosts and learned theologians to produce a collection of videos that entertain, enlighten and inspire. Catholic Central is a project of Family Theater Productions based on Sunset Boulevard in Hollywood, California.

<https://www.catholiccentral.com/catholic-central-episodes/discernment>

<https://www.catholiccentral.com/catholic-central-episodes/prophets>

<https://www.catholiccentral.com/catholic-central-episodes/churchhistory>

**Learning to Pray with James Martin, SJ - YouTube**

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLFA\\_2Z1L-3trG2uB4ghong\\_QNUTU7j1qB](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLFA_2Z1L-3trG2uB4ghong_QNUTU7j1qB)

# Give

## Stewardship Reflection Aug 1, 2021 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

**"Each day the people are to go out and gather their daily portion; thus will I test them, to see whether they follow my instructions or not." EXODUS 16:4**

When the Israelites gathered more than their daily portion of manna, the surplus became wormy and rotten. In the same way today, self-reliance, pride and ego leads to hoarding and excessive surplus of goods and money. Living a stewardship lifestyle helps us discern our "wants" from our "needs". Living a grateful and generous lifestyle reminds us that God will provide all that we need and that we have plenty to share.

## Reflexiónese — 1 de agosto de 2021 Domingo 18° del Tiempo Ordinario

**"Cada día la gente saldrá y recogerá su ración diaria; entonces los probaremos, para ver si ellos siguen mis instrucciones o no." ÉXODO 16:4**

Cuando los israelitas recogían más de su ración diaria de maná, el excedente se llenaba de gusanos y se descomponía. De la misma manera hoy en día, la autosuficiencia, el orgullo y el ego conducen al acaparamiento y a la acumulación excesiva de bienes y dinero. Vivir un estilo de vida de corresponsabilidad nos ayuda a distinguir nuestros "deseos" de nuestras "necesidades". Vivir un estilo de vida agradecido y generoso nos recuerda que Dios nos proveerá todo lo que necesitamos y hará que tengamos más que suficiente para compartir.

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 1 - July 4, 2021	\$8,212.00	\$14,364.25	<b>\$22,576.25</b>	\$26,905.88
Week 2 - July 11, 2021	\$7,656.53	\$26,200.75	<b>\$33,857.28</b>	\$23,090.88
Week 3 - July 18, 2021	\$10,149.00	\$12,715.25	<b>\$22,864.25</b>	\$21,664.13
Week 4 - July 25, 2021	\$9,508.41	\$11,770.25	<b>\$21,278.66</b>	\$20,480.88
			<b>Month-to-date Total</b>	<b>July Total Last Yr</b>
			<b>\$100,576.44</b>	\$92,141.77
			<b>Current Year-to-</b>	<b>Year-to-date as of Jul 31,</b>
			<b>\$100,576.44</b>	\$92,141.77

## DISCOVER YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS

### Are You Willing to be a Hospitality Minister, a Eucharistic Minister, or a Lector? Please Volunteer! We Need YOU!

We are looking to rebuild these ministries at our Masses as we enter this new "open" phase of what we hope is the end of the pandemic. Schedules are flexible.

If you are willing to volunteer for any of these liturgical ministries, please contact Phyllis Stone in the Parish Office at: 732-828-1400 x127 or [pstone@stmatthias.net](mailto:pstone@stmatthias.net).



### Caregivers Support Group Luncheon

This past year, like most of our ministries, our Caregivers Support Group met via ZOOM. On Saturday, July 17, co-facilitators Sister Marie Therese and Donna Kahora organized a luncheon gathering at Stagehouse Tavern. The members were overjoyed to see each other in person, spend time together, and share what has been happening in their lives. Much laughter could be heard coming from our corner table, reflecting the love, support, and camaraderie among the group.

(Photo---seated from left to right: Louise Karakowski, Donna Kahora (co-facilitator), Georgeann Crowell, Lena Sciotto, Sister Marie Therese (co-facilitator), Marilyn Shinski, Elaine Grykien, Lorraine Walkiewicz)

### Vocations Ministry - Called to Build God's Kingdom — Aug 1, 2021

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

*"The important thing is that each believer discern his or her own path, that they bring out the very best of themselves, the most personal gifts that God has placed in their hearts (cf. 1 Cor 12:7), rather than hopelessly trying to imitate something not meant for them.*

How can YOU bring out the very best of yourself? What gifts do you have that you are not aware of or that you have not found a way to share with our faith community yet?

Spend some quiet time this week with God to discern the most personal gifts that God has placed on YOUR heart.



## Parish Leadership

<b>Parish Pastoral Council:</b>	Rose Peng Frank Rees	<b>Trustees:</b>	Isaac Peng Marge Richards	<b>Parish Finance Council:</b>	Audrey Francis Kester Hector Joan Pritchard
<b>Co-Chairs:</b>	Maria Tapia-Burch John Taylor Marilyn Wegg			<b>Finance Council</b>	Mary Pat Burke-Grospin, Ex-Officio
	Ana Kelly, Ex-Officio Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio			<b>@stmatthias.net</b>	Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio
<b>Co-Secretaries:</b>				Susan Klimcsak Barry Dusault Gwen Orlovski	

## 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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