



St. Matthias Parish Office:
Effective Jun. 20, 2022 Summer Hours
 Open Mon-Thu 8:30-4:00PM; Fri: 8:30-12:30PM
 168 JFK Boulevard, Somerset, NJ 08873
 732-828-1400, fax: 732-828-0866
www.stmatthias.net

Mass Schedule (in person):
 Sat - 5PM, Sun - 8, 10 AM & 12 noon
 M/T/W/Th/F at 8:00AM
 And also on our YouTube channel
youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ

St. Matthias School (SMS):
 170 JFK Blvd., Somerset, NJ 08873
www.stmatthias.info 732-828-1402
School Summer Office Hours
 Mon-Thurs: 9 am- 1 pm; Fri by appointment

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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 Deacon Ron Caimi, *Senior Deacon*
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 Juan Diaz Flores, *Custodian*
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 Vinnie Natale, *Bookkeeper*, [vnatale](mailto:vnatale@stmatthias.net)
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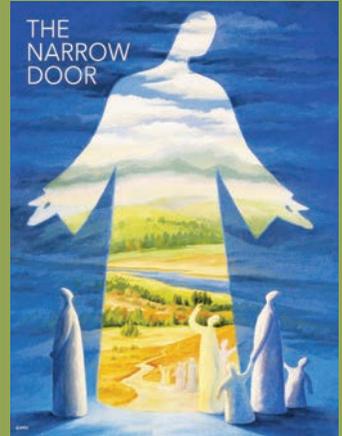
THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS

SUNDAY, AUG 21, 2022- 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time



Next Social Justice Meeting

Our next meeting, by Zoom, will be Tuesday, August 23 at 7:30 pm. All are welcome! If you would like more information about the ministry or our meetings, please contact Lorraine Farr at lvfarr7@gmail.com or Rose Peng at rosepeng@optonline.net.



The Mass Book for 2023

The Mass book for 2023 is now open in the Parish Office. This means that you may request that the priest celebrating a Mass at St. Matthias on a specific date/time in 2023 keep a special intention of yours during that Mass.

In consideration of other parishioners, please limit the initial number of requests to no more than 4 Masses. Thank you.

Save the Date!

Car Wash sponsored by Boy Scouts

Saturday, September 3
More details next week



Back-to-School Shopping?



If you plan to do any back-to-school (or other) shopping on Amazon in the near future, please be sure to sign up for Amazon Smile and select St. Matthias Church/School as your designated charity. Then always start your shopping at www.smile.amazon.com, and St. Matthias School will receive a portion of the purchase total. Note that we never receive information about who is doing the shopping. We are just grateful when Amazon sends us the donated funds.



Please select **St. Matthias Church/School** as your charity on Amazon Smile. You only need to do this once. Then always shop at www.smile.amazon.com, and we will automatically receive a portion of the purchase total. Thank you!

This Week @ St. Matthias From the Pastor

Masses are also livestreamed on our YouTube channel: youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ

The Church is open for individual prayer

Mon-Fri: 7:30 am to dusk, Sat: 9 am to 6pm, and Sun: 7:30 am to 1 pm, unless another service is taking place.

Sunday Aug 21, 2022

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

Monday, Aug 22, Queenship of Blessed Virgin Mary

8:00AM	Mass Miraculous Medal Novena	Church
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Tuesday, Aug 23, 2022 St. Rose of Lima, 1st Saint of the Western Hemisphere

8:00AM	Mass	Church
7:30PM	Social Justice Mtg.	Zoom

Wednesday, Aug 24, 2022 Feast of St. Bartholomew, Apostle

8:00AM	Mass	Church
9:30AM	Prayer Group 1—Holy Spirit de Porres Rm	
7:00PM	GIFT Planning Mtg.	Zoom

Thursday, Aug 25, 2022 St. Joseph Calasanz, Priest & Founder of the Piarists

8:00AM	Mass	Church
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Friday, Aug 26, 2022 Mary of Jesus Crucified (AKA Mariam Baouardy) Religious & Stigmatist

8:00AM	Mass	Church
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Saturday, Aug 27, 2022 St. Monica, mother of Augustine

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

Sunday Aug 28, 2022

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

Bulletin Article Requests:

If you would like to send information to be included in our bulletin, please email it to bulletin@stmatthias.net by **8 AM, MONDAY, 6 before the bulletin date** (earlier for holiday weekends). Approved content is published on a space-available basis.



Dear Friends,

Today's Gospel has a very controversial question put to Jesus: "Will only a few be saved?" If this question is put to Jehovah's Witnesses, they will answer that the saved will number exactly 144,000, quoting the Book of Revelation 7:4 where it records this number as those saved from the tribes of Israel. But Scripture scholars point out that the same Book of Revelation 7:9 speaks about "a great multitude of those saved, whom no one can count." Hence mainline Christians believe that the number 144,000 is symbolic to indicate the great multitude who will be saved, not to offer a limit on the souls who will be in heaven.

While different religions claim different ways to attain heaven, *what do people in general think of the relevance of religion and God? What is the connection between belief in God and morality? And how important are God and prayer in people's lives?* Pew Research Center posed these questions to 38,426 people in 34 countries in 2019.

The result is published in an article interestingly titled: *The Global God Divide*. Despite variances in religious observance, a median of 62% across the countries surveyed say that religion plays an important role in their lives, while 61% agree that God plays an important role in their lives and 53% say the same about prayer.

This 'God divide' is very visible in various regions of the world. Of all 13 countries surveyed in the European Union, Greece has the largest share of residents who tie belief in God to morality (53%), followed closely by Bulgaria (50%) and Slovakia (45%), while just 9% in Sweden, 14% in the Czech Republic and 15% in France say that it is necessary to believe in God to be moral. While 26% in Canada and 44% in the U.S. say belief in God is necessary to be moral, nearly everyone surveyed in Indonesia (96%) and in the Philippines (96%) draws a connection between belief in God and having good values. And almost eight-in-ten (79%) in India say the same.

We know that Jesus is very inclusive and welcoming even as He invites everyone to repent and believe (Mark 1:15). So we need to be reminded that we are not the only ones invited into the Kingdom of God. There are so many who have been invited! This was a truth hard to swallow for the Jews who thought in a very exclusive way. This is still hard for those Christians who think similarly. An old anonymous poem presents this Gospel truth in an unforgettable way:

*"I dreamt death came the other night, and heaven's gate swung open wide
With kindly grace an angel bright, Ushered me inside
And there, to my astonishment, Stood folks I'd judged and labeled
As quite unfit, of little worth and spiritually disabled.
Indignant words rose to my lips, But never were set free.
For every face showed stunned surprise – No one expected me!"*

Your brother in Christ,
Fr. Abraham Orapankal



Readings for the Week

Monday: 2 Thes 1:1-5, 11-12; Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 4-5; Mt 23:13-22

Tuesday: 2 Thes 2:1-3a, 14-17; Ps 96:10, 11-12, 13; Mt 23:23-26

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

Thursday: 1 Cor 1:1-9; Ps 145:2-3, 4-5, 6-7; Mt 24:42-51

Friday: 1 Cor 1:17-25; Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 10-11; Mt 25:1-13

Saturday: 1 Cor 1:26-31; Ps 33:12-13, 18-19, 20-21; Mt 25:14-30

Sunday: Sir 3:17-18, 20, 28-29; Ps 68:4-5, 6-7, 10-11; Heb 12:18-19, 22-24a; Lk 14:1, 7-14

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, Aug 20	5:00PM	Eileen McAdams, by Pat & John Rogen
Sunday, Aug 21	8:00AM	Edward Traina, by the Grodkiewicz Family
	10:00AM	Birthday Blessings for Phyllis Stone, by Jim Stone
	12:00PM	John Pekarsky, by Pat Keller
	(5:30PM)	Intention of Parishioners
Monday, Aug 22	8:00AM	Nellie A. Bathan, by The Bathan Family
Tuesday, Aug 23	8:00AM	Perla Alojegan, by The Capuno Family
Wednesday, Aug 24	8:00AM	Tom Bardick, by A Friend
Thursday, Aug 25	8:00AM	Paul & Sally Hughes, by The Family
Friday, Aug 26	8:00AM	Lou Carcich, by Frances Curtis & daughters
Saturday, Aug 27	5:00PM	Ray Hanson, by The IHN Team
Sunday, Aug 28	8:00AM	Stanislaw & Eugenia Stefanski, by Granddaughter & Family
	10:00AM	Lou Carcich, by Barbara & Family
	12:00PM	Brendlyn Alcindor, by Anne Marie Francis
	(5:30PM)	Intention of Parishioners

Pray for those who are sick...

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

Beth & Jay Adams

Erika Adams

Brandon Barbarite

Carolyn Banghart

Gloria Barone-Tuckey

Edith Benko

Anthony Brandi

Barbara Butler

Tara Capatosto

Ellen Catalina

Michael DiMaggio

William Dolphin

Vivian Dong

Tom Duffy

Marion Fischer

Josephine Geenty

Claudia Gemgnani

Emma Gergely

Rose Gessner

Mary Gidaro

Sloopy & John Hoffman

Baby Isla-Rose Huffman

Robert Kashinsky

Rose Larangeira

The Litrakis Family

John Litrakis

Kenneth & Kelly Magat

Clarissa & Kevin Magat

Al Maglio

King Manansala

Susan & Tosh Manansala

Beatrice May

Margaret Menendez

Carol Millemann

Sabrina Moloney

Dave Moynihan

Eleanor Nagy

Janice Navatkowski

Jean Oberlander

Dan O'Brien

Jeaninne Oberlander

Danny Ongchangco

Paul & Doris Paetow

Robert Pellegrino

Jim Pettit

Christina Pietrowiak

Ruth Piscadlo

Gabriel Rivera

Jaxon Rivera

Barbara Ruziska

Maria Schwenzer

Lena Sciotto

Buddy Scott

Sr. Mary Amata Shina, OSF

Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF

Kathleen Smith

Jeff Sullivan

Jeff Tami

Angie Montalbo Tinio

Jerry Tongson

Jeaninne Tosh

Regina Wellman

Robert Wesner

Mark T. Worthington

And for all who are ill, homebound, elderly, in nursing care, or living with chronic illness, we pray.

Pray for those who have died...

— "His mercy endures forever." Chronicles

Gertrude E. Murphy

Theresa (Patty) Spinelli

Bernice Ostrowski

From the Pastoral Staff

A 2019 Brookings Institution study found that “unintended pregnancies were at an all-time low in the U.S. but still represented about 45% of all pregnancies.” In addition, “about 40% of unplanned pregnancies ended in abortion, while the other 60% resulted in a birth. The result is that about one-third of all births are unplanned.”

The statistics are sobering. Roughly one-third of you reading this column today are alive because a woman who unexpectedly became pregnant, chose to carry you to term and give birth to you.

The Catholic Church is a steadfast supporter of protecting human life, especially the life of the most vulnerable who cannot defend themselves. The Church also professes that a human being is created at the moment of conception and, thus, has a right to live from that moment forward.

During the recent abortion discussions, one phrase that keeps coming up is “My body. My choice.” This may sound reasonable, but is it really true? The challenge that makes this issue so difficult is that pregnancy involves two bodies – the body of the mother and the body of the child. If the mother has the right to choose what to do about

her body, should not the child also have a right to choose life for his/her body? Given that the unborn child is totally vulnerable, the Catholic Church steps in to defend the child’s right to grow up as a human person.

But what if the pregnant woman feels unable to become a mother? There are so many possible reasons for this – some simple, some very complex, and some heart-breaking. Many in the U.S. believe that the only option is abortion. It is not. But the alternatives may appear impossible to a woman who is reeling from the shock of discovering that she is pregnant.

As a faith community that professes “all are welcome”, how do we minister to women who find themselves unexpectedly pregnant? Do we offer enough resources and support to help her make the two urgent and very emotional decisions needed: 1) to carry the child till birth, and 2) to choose to either become a mother or to make an adoption plan? How do we support the birth-father who is sometimes ignored and has no legal voice during the pregnancy?

My life is blessed in many ways because of adoption, both within my family and also with friends. My first encounter

with adoption was a high school friend who later became my college roommate. She ended up becoming a medical doctor. She never knew her birth parents. Many times I have wished that I could let her birth-mother know how much goodness has come into the world because of her selfless decision to carry my friend to term and to make an adoption plan. Every single human life touches so many other people in unexpected ways. The very difficult decisions (and sacrifices) that my friend’s birth-mother made continue to give life to others even now.

Let us consider how we care for and journey with those in need due to an unplanned pregnancy. It is one thing to say we are pro-life and to write letters to our legislators. It is another to reach out and minister to those who find themselves in urgent need of hope, care, and accompaniment.

If the statistics have not changed much since the 2019 report, the need is great.

Ana V. Kelly
Pastoral Associate



Reflect



Smile with Your Family



Some Garden jokes:

"Gardening requires lots of water - most of it in the form of perspiration." 😊

"A perfect summer day is when the sun is shining, the breeze is blowing, the birds are singing, and the lawn mower is broken." 😊

Name the vegetable the botanists have developed that eliminates the need to brush your teeth: Bristle sprouts. 😊

A man walks into a flower shop "I'd like some flowers please." "Certainly, Sir. What did you have in mind?" He

shrugs "Well I'm not sure, I uh, I uh, I uh..." "Perhaps I could help. What exactly have you done?" 😊

The philosopher who said, “work well done never needs doing over” never weeded a garden. 😊

When weeding, the best way to make sure you are removing a weed and not a valuable plant is to pull on it. If it comes out of the ground easily, it is a valuable plant. 😊

Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit; wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad 😊

Reflect



Parenting Tune-Up

Imposing a punishment is no fun for the parent or the child. First parents must show self-discipline in deciding the best action, then execute it with loving firmness. What's your discipline of choice - an extra chore, removal of a privilege, time-out...?



Marriage Tune-Up

"Love is work. It's good work, if you can get it. But it's work, nevertheless." (Benjamin Cheever) Name one thing your beloved has done for you that you know took extra effort on his/her part.

Life is a series of Passages

"Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I tell you, will attempt to enter but will not be strong enough . . . For behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last." Luke 13: 22-30

In the first year of life, the baby struggles to take his or her first steps. Soon the child is charging through the house — as long as there is furniture, railings or Mom or Dad's legs to hold on to. But the toddler only walks when they are finally able to let go and stand on their own.

The child begins school, excited about the possibilities that await: the books she or he will be able to read and the numbers to count things, to measure things, to keep track of things. But first the child has to master the sounds of the 26 letters of the alphabet and the basic computations and values of numbers. Later, in high school and college, come the opportunities to learn the skills on which the student will build a successful and meaningful career — once this future scientist or physician or writer or artist or entrepreneur pass-

es the basic "101" courses.

And then one day, the (now) adult meets someone. The more the two get to know each other the more they like each other. The best times of the week are the times they are together. Their friendship blossoms into love. But there is no chance at "happily ever after" until they work up the courage to commit to one another as spouses.

Life is a series of such passages, "narrow gates" through which we all have to pass — and there is no easy way through them. The "narrow gates" we encounter require an honesty and integrity that we can't ignore or fake our way through. The Gospel "narrow gate" is the honest discernment of who we are, what we believe, what we hear God asking of us in the depths of our hearts. The "narrow gate" to God is difficult to negotiate: the "gate" of selfless love, unconditional forgiveness, sacrificial peace — but Jesus promises that anyone willing to struggle through these "narrow gates" will find their way to the eternal dwelling place of the Father.



"Strive to enter through the narrow gate" Luke 13:22-30

Thousands upon thousands of young boys grow up bouncing basketballs and dreaming of a life in the National Basketball Association - the professional ranks. But only a handful are chosen each year. Woe to the young man or young woman who is talented at sports but neglects his or her education! Thousands upon thousands of new businesses are started each year, but only a small number of people in our society become super-successful in material terms. The higher you go up the scale, the smaller the num-

Narrow Door to Successful Living

bers become. Thousands upon thousands of young couples each year stand at the altars of churches like this one and pledge their love to one another, but half of these marriages will end in divorce. Many couples will stay together only for convenience, for appearances or for their children.

The door to any kind of successful living is a narrow one. That is why Jesus reminds us in today's Gospel: "Strive to enter by the narrow door, for many I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able." Successful living requires making hard choices. It requires dedication and sacrifice. How can Christian Faith demand any less?

The Narrow Gate of Great Musicians

Someone once said to Paderewski, the great pianist, "Sir, you are a genius." He replied, "Madam, before I was a genius I was a drudge." He continued: "If I missed practice one day, I noticed it; if I missed practice two days, the critics noticed it; if I missed three days, my family noticed it; if I missed four days, my audience noticed it." It is reported that after one of Fritz Kreisler's concerts, a young woman

said to him, "I would give my life to be able to play like that." He replied, "That's what I gave." The door is narrow.

Why should we think we can "drift" into the Kingdom of God? The Christian life is a constant striving to do the will of God as Jesus revealed it. We need to strive because there



Reflect

The Narrow Gate of Great Musicians (con't.)

are forces of evil within us and around us, trying to pull us down. We need to check our track on a daily basis. The parable of the locked door warns us that the time is short. Each day sees endings and opportunities missed. "Opportunity will not knock twice at your door." Remember the old "Examination of Conscience" we were asked to make at the end of each day, in which we ask God's pardon for the faults and sins of the day? "How conscious was I this day of God's numerous gifts? How well did I respond to the opportunities to bear witness and serve in Jesus' name: to forgive, feed,

clothe, and love those who entered my life? How much did I strive today to enter through the narrow gate of sacrificial love in action?" We might conclude this self-examination with a short prayer: "I need you Jesus Christ. Grant me forgiveness for my sins. Make me a new person. I need your Holy Spirit to direct me, to strengthen me, so that I can walk in the narrow way and choose the narrow gate. I need you to change me from a self-centered, self-sufficient person into your wise servant."



The NCAA Cross-country Championship

Back in 1994, 128 runners lined up to compete in the NCAA cross-country championship in Riverside, California. Unfortunately, one of the turns on the 10,000-meter course was not well-marked. Only five of the 128 runners stayed on the correct path. Mike Delcavo was the first runner to notice the problem. He began waving at the other runners to follow him, but most refused. Can you blame them? One-hundred-and-twenty-three runners took the wrong path, only five took the right one. What did the 123 think of Delcavo? He commented later, "They thought it was funny that I went the right way." (Leadership, Summer 1994, p. 49.)

We all like to think that we're on the right path; what a rude awakening it would be to discover we aren't, if we take the broad way leading to eternal damnation. We need to make wise decisions and choose the narrow gate. God allows us to decide every day what road we will walk down and what gate we will choose. He encourages us, however, to choose His way: "Choose life" (Moses – Dt 30:19-20); "Choose this day whom to serve" (Joshua – Jos 24:15); "If God is Lord, follow Him" (Elijah – 1 Kgs 18:21); "There are two paths: one of life and one of death, and the difference between the two is great." (Didache); "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me" (Lk 9:23). This means a consistent denial of self and the steady relinquishing of sinful pleasures, pursuits, and interests.



Carl Jung and Rabbi Zusya

In 1933 Carl Jung observed in his book, *Modern Man in Search of a Soul*, that it is no easy matter to live a life modeled on Christ, but it is unspeakably more difficult to live one's own life as truly as Christ lived his. The question for Christians living today is not, "What would Jesus do?" for he has not left us here to live his life as a

clone, but to live our own in Him. No one can do my living for me, or dying either, for that matter. God has not given my life to you or your life to someone else. No one but you will be held accountable for it. It is written of Zusya - the old Rabbi of Annitot - that shortly before his death he gathered his disciples around him and said, "When I die and stand before my Heavenly Judge, God will not say to me, 'Zusya, why weren't you Moses?' No! God will say to me, 'Zusya, you could at least have been Zusya ... so why weren't you?'

"Are you saved"? When the questioner asked Jesus "How many will be saved?" he was assuming that the salvation of God's Chosen People was virtually guaranteed, provided they kept the Law. In other words, the Kingdom of God was reserved for the Jews alone, and Gentiles would be shut out. The Jewish catechism, Mishnah, taught: "All Israelites have a share in the world to come." But the author of the Apocalypse of Ezra declared, "this age the Most High has made for the many, but the age to come for a few" (4 Ezra 8:1). Hence, Jesus' answer must have come as a shock. Jesus affirms that God wants all persons to enjoy eternal life with Him. But he stresses the need for constant fidelity and vigilance throughout our lives. Thus, Jesus reminds us that, even though God wants all of us to be saved, we all need to work at it.



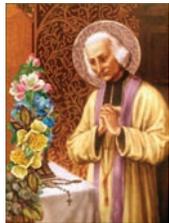


The Last shall be the First!

Barbara Hutton, the Woolworth heiress, was known as the “poor little rich girl.” Since her mother died when she was five, Barbara Hutton described her childhood as an unhappy one. She said, “Though I had millions of dollars, I had no mother and no home.” Nor was her adult life a happy one. She was married seven times and was a princess three of those times. A virtual recluse, she died in 1979 at age 66. A newspaper article summed up her life with the words: “Barbara Hutton died unmarried and alone, a symbol of the cliché that money does not buy happiness.” By way of contrast, consider the life of Dorothy Day. She was known as “the mother of the faceless poor of the city’s off-scouring.” She always felt she existed for a special purpose. She discovered that purpose when she became a Catholic at age 30 and dedicated her life to help the poor. Dorothy Day founded and edited the Catholic Worker newspaper, went to prison as a suffragist and pacifist, and established farm communes and hospices for the dispossessed. When she died in 1980 at age 83, *Time* magazine called her a “secular saint.” Barbara Hutton and Dorothy Day illustrate somewhat the proverb cited by our Lord today: “There are those now last who will be first, and those now



first who will be last.”
Entry into God’s kingdom is not automatically granted, based purely on religious Faith or nationality, so we cannot presume on God’s mercy and do nothing by way of response to God’s invitation. What Jesus is saying is that salvation is not guaranteed for anyone. "Outside the Church there is no salvation" was a rallying cry for centuries. But Jesus declares that nobody can claim that he is “saved,” possessing a “visa” to Heaven. How many will be saved in the end is a decision that rests with God, and depends on whether His Justice or His Mercy finally prevails. Jesus came to bring God’s love and freedom to the whole world. The message of his Gospel is that there is not a single person, not a single people, nation, race, or class, which will be excluded from experiencing the love and liberation that God offers. Hence, the role of the Christian community, from the beginning until now has been, first and foremost, to proclaim to the whole world the Good News of God’s love for the world, and then to show this Good News to be real, reflected in the loving, sharing and serving lives of individual Christians. So to be “saved” means to live and to die in a close, loving relationship with God and with others.



The Narrow Gate of St. John Mary Vianney

One of the greatest examples for entering through the narrow gate to holiness was John Mary Vianney. He was the last in his class. In French and Latin he was the last student. He failed in Theology studies. So he was asked to leave the seminary. After that he was taught Theology privately and was ordained in 1815. Three years later he was appointed to the parish of Ars, a parish, where practically no one went to church. In a few years people began to come on pilgrimage to Ars. He became the most sought after spiritual advisor. It is an example of last being first. John Mary Vianney was last but now he is the patron of parish priests. What has caused the miracle? The gracious touch of the Lord. This miracle will happen to anyone who tries to enter by the narrow gate; who disre-

gards the standards of the world and set his goal on high.
The author of the Letter to the Hebrews, considering the “narrow gate theology,” gives it a different twist (Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13). For Paul, the road less often taken and the gate less often chosen are the paths of God’s discipline. The pain and suffering Christians experience are parts of God’s discipline, given in love. We are being disciplined by our afflictions, strengthened to walk that straight and narrow path - that we may enter the gate, take our place at the banquet of the righteous. The experience is similar to that of a child, disciplined by loving parents who desire only to help him grow, mature, and become responsible. God’s discipline can be appreciated only by those who regard their relationship with God as that of a child to a parent (Proverbs 3: 11-12).



Pray



TIME FOR OUR RCIA INVITATIONS

Here at St. Matthias, we have a vibrant RCIA ministry. Each year we have a number of adults receiving the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil. That is made possible because of our parishioners who invited them or suggested their names. We are hoping for your help again as we form the next class of 2023. So if you know someone who ...

has expressed an interest in becoming Catholic, or was baptized Catholic as a child, but has not celebrated the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist, please let us know.

We come together in a small group to learn more about our faith through study, reflection, sharing, discussions and prayer. Past participants have been very enthusiastic about these informal sessions that focused on the teachings and experience of Church and prepared them. For more information or to give a name, please contact Anne Marie Francis, our RCIA Coordinator, at alfrancis.30@gmail.com or call the Parish Office.

St. Matthias School



Spotlight on St. Mathias School

While children everywhere are enjoying the remaining days of a glorious summer, St. Matthias School is hard at work getting ready for a new school year, and we can't wait to share the exciting new things that are in store for our SMS students and families. The biggest renovation over the summer is the creation and implementation of our new **MakerSpace** and **STEM** programs. STEM will now be offered as a once-a-week special to all grade levels, while the new MakerSpace room will be available for teachers to use with their students to supplement literacy, math, science, and social studies. Another exciting update is the introduction of an **advanced Reading and Writing Workshop program** to our ELA curriculum. The goal is to help all students develop a love and appreciation of reading while improving literacy skills.

New in technology is the exciting news

that all students in grades Kindergarten through 8 will receive **new Chrome-books** this school year. Students in PreK3 and 4 will receive **new iPad Airs** for learning and center time. This strategically places the school at **1:1 in personal technology devices**. Additionally, all classroom and resource spaces are now fitted with **Promethean boards** that help make learning colorful and interactive. **Minecraft for Education** and **3D printers** will be made available for the students to explore. The implementation of a new **Cyber Robotics curriculum** for grades 4-8 will prepare students for participation in the CoderZ National Cyber Robotics Coding Competition. Our broad technology program, high academic standards, and strong citizenship and moral teachings help St. Matthias School to continue to educate lifelong learners and leaders.

St. Matthias School received the "**2022 Best of Somerset Award**" by the Somerset Award Program in the elementary school category. As an integral part of

this diverse community, SMS is proud of what it has to offer students and families. In addition to being Cognia-accredited, we are members of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), and the National Junior Honor Society. **Project Based Learning (PBL) opportunities** are provided to students in all grade levels. We value the **Arts and offer specials in music, band, art, world language, physical education, library, and technology**. We are open five days a week and offer **full day PreK3 & 4 along with Before and After Care**. We are also proud to have a vibrant and active HSA (Home-School Association).

If you are currently an SMS family, we can't wait to start a new school year with you. **If you are looking for a new school for your children, give us a call for more information or to schedule a tour**. Our Main Office number is 732-828-1402. All are welcome at St. Matthias School.

See you in September!

Learn



Diocese of Metuchen Group for World Youth Day 2023

A number of flights have been reserved for a short period for our group for WYD 2023. **Register by August 25th to receive \$100 off the total cost of your trip!**

You can reserve your spot by putting down a deposit in the next two weeks. (If you have already registered, you will also have \$100 off reflected in your payment portal). After you register for the trip, Jean from Fiat Ventures will reach out to you to share the different insurance plan options that are available.

A **parish or group will receive \$1,200 off for every 5th person** from the parish or group to be used as they decide. Call Megan Callahan, 732-243-4576, mcallahan@diometuchen.org for questions/information.



2022-2023 GIFT for K-8 Religious Formation

We are happy to invite all parents/families with children in K-8, who are not attending a Catholic school, to register their children for our wonderful religious education/formation program for 2022-2023.

The 2022-2023 registration form for our K-8 family-based parish program of religious formation, G.I.F.T. [Growing In Faith Together], is currently available to complete online at 2022-2023 GIFT for K-8 Religious Ed

<https://www.stmatthias.net/faith-formation/>. Please register your family/children in grades K-8. This year we are planning to offer 3 sessions each month: on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings at 6:30PM *without a meal* because of the COVID-19 precautions; and on Sunday afternoons at 2PM, again without a meal. You choose which one of the three sessions to attend.

The fees for the program are noted on parish website page. Please register online; the fee can also be paid online. **Please note: GIFT is required for all children in grades 1-8 who are not attending a Catholic school; it is optional for kindergarten students. It is required for non-Catholic school children also during the sacramental prep years.**

Attention 2nd Graders: First Eucharist Preparation 6466-2023

For all families in GIFT **and** for those who are students at St. Matthias School who have (baptized) children who are in 2nd grade [fall 2022] or older who desire to receive the Sacraments of First Reconciliation/First Eucharist in 2023, sacramental preparation is required through the parish-**you must register online**. Typically, classes are held for all children and at least one parent on certain Sunday mornings in the cafeteria or the St. John XXIII room [school building] and certain classrooms from 10:30AM -11:30AM. We are planning in person sessions for 2022-2023. Be sure to register early.

The sacramental preparation fee for this program is \$80. The 2022-2023 Registration for **First Eucharist/First Reconciliation** are available online at <https://www.stmatthias.net/first-eucharist-first-reconciliation/>

Questions? Please email Dee Nann at dnann@stmatthias.net or call the Parish Office, 732-828-1400.

Attention 7th & 8th Graders: Confirmation Preparation 2022-2023

Register for Confirmation Preparation as soon as possible!

Families who have a 7th or 8th grader in either St. Matthias School or the GIFT program and desire to have their child prepare for the sacrament of Confirmation need to complete the **2022-2023 Confirmation registration form online**, available at <https://www.stmatthias.net/confirmation/> A parent meeting for 7th grade parents will be held in **November for all registered 7th graders-or those in Year 1 of Confirmation Preparation who may be a bit older.** **Questions?** Please email Dee

Nann at dnann@stmatthias.net

Give (and Receive!)

Stewardship Totals for Fiscal Year July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023				Last Year's Total
Current Month	In-Pew/Mail	Parish Giving	Weekly Total	Weekly Total
Week 6 - August 7, 2022	\$10,861.00	\$21,836.75	\$32,697.75	\$32,929.65
Week 7 - August 14, 2022	\$8,751.50	\$17,449.25	\$26,200.75	\$25,926.99
Week 8 - August 21, 2022	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$25,348.80
Week 9 - August 28, 2022	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$16,281.75
			Month-to-date Total	Aug Total Last Yr
			\$58,898.50	\$100,487.19
			Current Year-to-date	Year-to-date as of Aug 31,
			\$180,992.05	\$222,580.88

Give (and Receive!)

Stewardship Reflection Aug 21, 2022 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

“For behold, some are last who will be first and some are first who will be last.” Luke 13:30

Our cultural standards are different from God’s standards. We often rank people by what they have, how powerful they are, or how successful they are. Jesus reminds us that God will not judge us by the same earthly standards. When God asks you, “What have you done with the gifts I have given you?” How will you respond?

SAINT MATTHIAS SCHOOL POSITIONS AVAILABLE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR

1. **SUBSTITUTES** needed to teach Pre-Kindergarten 3 to grade 8. Candidates must have a minimum of 60 college credits and be available Monday thru Friday.

2. **FOOD SERVICE WORKER SUBSTITUTES** needed to join our cafeteria staff in September. This is a part-time position. We are looking for candidates that are friendly; able to establish and maintain effective working relationships with coworkers, students and staff; and able to work as a team in a fast paced environment. No experience necessary.

Duties and Responsibilities

Primary responsibilities include providing assistance to the school lunch program by preparing and serving food to school students and staff.

In addition, your duties include restocking and maintaining supplies for the kitchen and cafeteria, as well as maintaining and cleaning the kitchen, equipment, and washing dishes. You are required to stand and be able to lift up to 35 pounds.

Prior to employment, all candidates for all positions will be:

- *Fingerprinted
- *Subject to a background check
- *Complete the “Protecting God’s Children” Program
- *Be in compliance of the school’s vaccination requirement

If interested, please contact Joe Gidaro, jgidaro@stmatthiasnj.org OR Mary Lynch, mlynch@stmatthiasnj.org

Connecting with our Local Community



Diocesan Pilgrimage to DC Sept. 24, 2022

Please join the diocesan pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC with Most Rev. James F. Checchio, JCD, MBA, and Bishop of Metuchen on **Saturday, September 24, 2022** to celebrate the closing event of the 40th Anniversary of the Diocese of Metuchen. Bishop Checchio will also welcome Archbishop Christophe Pierre, Apostolic Nuncio, to the United States, the personal and official representative of Pope Francis, to join us on this prayerful day. For a schedule of the day, additional information, and a list of parishes running buses to the Basilica, please visit: www.diometuchen.org/pilgrimage-in-honor-of-the-40th-anniversary. For questions or concerns, please contact amarshall@diometuchen.org

Parish Leadership

Parish Pastoral Council:

Co-Chairs:

Rose Peng, rosepeng@optonline.net
John Taylor, jptaylor1068@yahoo.com

Co-Secretaries:

Frank Rees
Marilyn Wegg
Stephan Busono
Anne Marie Francis
Bill Isele
Maria Tapia-Burch

Ana Kelly, Ex-Officio
Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio

Trustees:

Isaac Peng
Marge Richards

Parish Finance Council:

Kester Hector, Chair
Finance Council
@stmatthias.net
Barry Dusault
Gwen Orłowski
Audrey Francis

Joe Porter
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, 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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event dates

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