



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**
Senior Priest: Msgr. Seamus Brennan, **sbrennan**
 Mary Pat Burke-Grospin, Business Administrator
mpburke-grospin
 Deacon Ron Caimi, *Senior Deacon*
 Kelly Counts, *Receptionist*, **kcounts**
 Deacon Russell Demkovitz, **rdemkovitz** Juan
 Juan Diaz Flores, *Custodian*
 Nathalie Godet, *Website Coordinator*, **ngodet**
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 Amy Hanna, *Accountant/Databases*, **ahanna**
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 Development*, **akelly**
 Mike Lanyi, *Sacristan*
 Sue Lenczewski, *Youth Coordinator*, **SMYLE**
 Julio Montero, *Maintenance Supervisor*
 Dolores R. Nann, *Pastoral Associate for Faith
 Formation*, **dnann**
 Vinnie Natale, *Bookkeeper*, **vnatale**
 Silvia Nizama, *Housekeeper*
 Deacon John Radvanski, **deaconjohn**
 Joan Best Seamon, *Pastoral Associate for Music
 Ministry* **jseamon**
 Sr Marie Therese Sherwood, *OSF, Pastoral
 Assoc. for Social Concerns*, **msherwood**
 Trish Stumper, *Par. Support Secretary*, **tstumper**

St. Matthias School (add @stmatthiasnj.org)
 Mary Lynch, Principal, **mlynch**
 Joseph Gidaro, Vice Principal, **jgidaro**

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS

SUNDAY, AUG 14, 2022– 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time



AUGUST 15 IS THE FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION, BUT ...

This year the feast of Mary's Assumption is not a holy day of obligation! Why not? Even though it is usually a Holy Day of obligation, the obligation to attend Mass is abrogated when it falls on a Saturday or a Monday! But you are welcome to attend Mass on this solemn feast of Mary. **Our Mass is at 8 am.**

For additional information on Holy Days, see page 6.

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 Is Currently Accepting New Students Don't Delay!

See additional information for our school on page 8.



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](https://www.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 14, 2022

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

Monday, Aug 15, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:00AM Mass	Miraculous Medal Novena	Church
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Tuesday, Aug 16, 2022 St. Stephen I, apostolic King & apostle of Hungary

8:00AM Mass		Church
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Wednesday, Aug 17, 2022 St. Hyacinth, Priest

8:00AM Mass		Church
9:30AM Prayer Group 1—Holy Spirit	de Porres Rm	

Thursday, Aug 18, 2022 St. Helena, Empress & mother of 1st Christian Emperor, Constantine

8:00AM Mass		Church
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Friday, Aug 19, 2022 St. John Eudes, Priest & Founder of Congregation of Jesus & Mary

8:00AM Mass		Church
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Saturday, Aug 20, 2022 St. Bernard of Clairvaux, Abbot & Doctor of the Church

9:30AM Secular Franciscans	de Porres Rm	
3:30PM Reconciliation		Church
5:00PM Mass		Church

Sunday Aug 21, 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,

I'm almost over the jet lag after a 15-hour non-stop flight from New Delhi to Newark – not counting the nearly 3 hours of flight from my home town to New Delhi. I'm thankful to God for this first home visit I was able to make since the start of the pandemic. Though a short visit of about three weeks, it was a hectic time with visits, trips, celebrations, etc. The weather was good with slightly lower temperatures at about 90° due to the frequent monsoon rains (90 is pretty mild compared to the summer's 100-110 degrees!!).

But the joy of being with my aging mother, as well as enjoying the company of all my siblings and their children, was worth going through any sacrifice. I had a memorial Mass at my home for my dad whose funeral and the first anniversary, as you know, I was unable to attend. Then there was the extended family get-together: Thirty-three of my cousins and their families came together for an evening of fellowship, prayer and food at my brother's house – a monthly practice our family has kept up. I also had to preside at celebrations of First Holy Communion and baptism as well as a wedding in the family – not counting a couple of funerals (not of my family but of the parish acquaintances) that I had to attend.

All these may sound like I was not having a real vacation in the way we understand. But being with family and extended family whom I had not seen for a long time was vacation. It makes me conscious of the bonding not only with the extended families but also with the entire parish and village community where I grew up. This communitarian dimension of life is something many of our parishioners can relate to from their own various cultural roots.

I am lucky that I could be away without worrying about St. Matthias – thanks to Msgr. Seamus Brennan who oversaw the parish with the help of our wonderful parish staff. But he deserves extra gratitude for taking care of all the sacramental needs himself. As announced last Sunday, Msgr. Brennan is now in Ireland, with his family, for a well-deserved vacation and to celebrate his 50th anniversary of the Ordination to priesthood – in the very shrine church he was ordained 50 years ago.

Tomorrow (August 15) is the feast of the Assumption of Mary, which is usually a Holy Day of Obligation, but it is not this year since it is falling on a Monday. You can read more about the Holy Days of Obligation in this bulletin on page 6. But I would encourage and invite us to attend the 8 am Mass on the feast of the Assumption – if you can. Otherwise, at the end of the day, as some do, watch it online from our St. Matthias YouTube channel.

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Orapankal

Readings for the Week

Monday: Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Ps 45:10, 11, 12, 16; 1 Cor 15:20-27; Lk 1:39-56

Tuesday: Ez 28:1-10; Deut 32:26-27ab, 27cd-28, 30, 35cd-36ab; Mt 19:23-30

Wednesday: Ez 34:1-11; Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; Mt 20:1-16

Thursday: Ez 36:23-28; Ps 51:12-13, 14-15, 18-19; Mt 22:1-14

Friday: Ez 37:1-14; Ps 107:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9; Mt 22:34-40

Saturday: Ez 43:1-7ab; Ps 85:9ab, 10, 11-12, 13-14; Mt 23:1-12

Sunday: Is 66:18-21; Ps 117:1, 2; Heb 12:5-7, 11-13; Lk 13:22-30

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, Aug 13	5:00PM	Dominic Fama, by the Fama Family
Sunday, Aug 14	8:00AM	Deceased Members of the Sunga/Munar Families, by Flora Sunga
	10:00AM	Hugh Scott, by St. Matthias School
	12:00PM (5:30PM)	Tommy Nasdeo, by Debbie McDermott Intention of Parishioners
Monday, Aug 15	8:00AM	Balbina Kashatus, by daughter, Ann
Tuesday, Aug 16	8:00AM	Augustin Vidal, by The Referente Family
Wednesday, Aug 17	8:00AM	Lou Carcich, by Barbara & family
Thursday, Aug 18	8:00AM	Teofilo S. Bathan, by The Bathan Family
Friday, Aug 19	8:00AM	Leo Shanosky, by Helen
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 (5:30PM)	John Pekarsky, by Pat Keller 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

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

Mary Dolan

From the Pastoral Staff

What a great opening line in today's gospel- **"I have come to set the world on fire!"**



I certainly know a group of children who set my world on fire every week- our very own St. Matthias Children's Choir.

For 44 years, the St. Matthias Children's Choir has inspired a love of faith and a love of music in the hearts of countless young parishioners and their families. Our weekly rehearsals on Thursday afternoons are a judgment-free, safe environment where our members learn the value of ministry, service and community.

We start each rehearsal by reciting our Children's Choir Creed...

We are the Saint Matthias Children's Choir.

We are holy, we are strong and we respect each other's talents.

We are the St. Matthias Children's Choir.

And we love to sing!

We sing our way through the beautiful seasons of the church year- from Advent to Pentecost. We sing songs of forgiveness, trust, and thanksgiving.

We sing our love of the Eucharist and songs of Good Friday sorrow and Christmas and Easter Joy.

We sing in Spanish, Zulu and Latin. We dance, we clap, we laugh, we do yoga, and we challenge each other to become better musicians and more faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

As the Director of our Children's Choir, I am blessed to have a team of choir moms and assistants who care for our children and help every single week to assure they are safe, happy and appreciated.

So, why not set your child or grandchild's world on fire by thinking about becoming a member of our St. Matthias Children's Choir?

We welcome your children or grandchildren in grades 3-8. It's **FREE**- thanks to the faithful stewardship of our parishioners.

We rehearse on Thursday afternoons. **Our first rehearsal is SEPTEMBER 22.**

Grades 3 and 4 will rehearse from 3:30-4:15.

Grades 5-8 will rehearse from 4:00-4:45. (We will have a 15 minute overlap where we will all sing together.)

THIS IS IMPORTANT!

If these times do not align with your child's school dismissal schedule, we

can make some adjustments or accommodations, so please don't let that get in the way of your children joining us. Email me at jseamon@stmatthias.net and let me know what the schedule conflict is, and we'll try to figure out a solution.

Also, we are giving some thought to starting a 1st and 2nd grade choir that would meet seasonally, maybe even on a Sunday morning after the 10:00 Mass.

If you have a younger child who loves to sing, let us know and we will see how many are interested in this new musical possibility.

A Registration link for the St. Matthias Children's Choir will be on our parish website www.stmatthias.org on or before Sept. 1.

I am away until 8/24 but will get back to your e-mails and questions as soon as I return. Or ask any of our choir members or their parents. They can tell you everything you need to know.

Joan Best Seamon
Pastoral Associate for Liturgical Music
jseamon@stmatthias.net



Reflect



Parenting Tune-Up

"Families must do two things to survive - protect themselves from what is most hurtful and connect with what is good outside the family. These tasks require time and energy, both of which are scarce commodities in an era when many parents work long hours at jobs." (Mary Pipher) Do you need to adjust your family balance?



Marriage Tune-Up

The Assumption: Jesus came into the world through Mary. She nurtured him, witnessed his passion, and stood by the apostles at Pentecost. Mary's life mirrors God's relationship with us during times of bliss and agony. Despite being the mother of God, she focused on those in need, the hungry, the poor, the lowly. Let go of your importance today and join Mary.



Smile with Your Family



Adam and Eve had an ideal marriage. He didn't have to hear about all the men she could have married, and she didn't have to hear about the way his mother cooked. 😊

An elderly woman died last month. Having never married, she requested no male pallbearers. In her handwritten instructions for her memorial service, she wrote, "They wouldn't take me out while I was alive, I don't want them to take me out when I'm dead." 😊

A Sunday School teacher asked her class, "Does anyone

here know what we mean by sins of omission?" A small girl replied: "Aren't those the sins we should have committed, but didn't?" 😊

Did you hear about the new restaurant called 'Karma'? There's no menu: you get what you deserve 😊

Math teacher: If I have three bottles in one hand and two in the other hand, what do I have? Student: A drinking problem. 😊

Grace on the Front Lines

"I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing! There is a baptism with which I must be baptized, and how great is my anguish until it is accomplished! Do you think that I have come to establish peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division." Luke 12: 49-53

Yegor Firsov is a former member of the Ukrainian Parliament. When Russian forces invaded Ukraine in February, Firsov left his home and family in Bucha, a suburb of the capital city of Kyiv, and joined a territorial defense unit made up mostly of civilian volunteers with some degree of combat training. In an essay in **The New York Times** [May 30, 2022], Yegor Firsov writes about his work as a medic in his ravaged country:

"My job here is to fetch the wounded, give them some first aid and take them to the hospital. And, since there is nobody else to do it, we also collect the dead. You might think that people are tougher in places where death is commonplace, but I've found that people are more sensitive and more open. When shells are exploding everywhere and you are lying in cover with strangers, you really feel like having frank conversations. You share intimate secrets, personal experiences and sacred memories. People want to fill death-ravaged space with as much life as possible. Here everyone shares everything with one another and helps one another. Even the military, the police and the officials. If they see that you have no food, they will feed you. If your clothes are torn or dirty, they will offer their own. If there are no cigarettes, they will give you half of theirs. In peacetime I have never seen people have such care for one another.

"Once I was looking for somewhere to buy milk and I met a man who was about 70 years old. He gave me a jar with about half a gallon of milk and refused to take any money. We got to talking and it turned out that in 2016 his wife

was killed and his daughter was left severely injured by shelling. The house they lived in was destroyed. When I asked him why he didn't leave, he pointed to a barn with some chickens and a cow inside. 'And besides, where can I go?' he said.

"I used to like to go to bed late and get up late. Now my favorite time of day is dawn. At 4 a.m. I come out of the shelter to smoke and hear the birds singing, see the light of the rising sun, feel the May warmth. For a moment it seems as if there is no war and all these horrors were just a bad dream, as if I could go for a walk and the streets of my hometown would look like they used to.

"Then someone from the other side wakes up and the explosions and shelling begin again. Russia starts another day of 'liberating' my peaceful childhood town from childhood, from peace and from me. After a while we get a call: There are wounded who urgently need first aid and transport to the hospital. And we go."

The vulnerability and fragileness of our lives are at the heart of today's difficult passage from Luke's Gospel. In the divisions we suffer, in the contradictions that challenge us, in the disconnect between our faith and values and the demands and expectations of our world and culture, the love of God is the one constant that brings us back to one another, that heals the rifts, that bridges what divides us. The compassion, the selflessness, the justice that Jesus demands of those who would be his disciples are the "fire" and "baptism" through which we transform our world in the sacredness of God. The challenge of discipleship, Jesus teaches, is not to let God's word of justice and mercy divide us but to realize how that word can bring all humanity together as God's holy people.



Holy Days of Obligations for American Catholics

This may be an opportune time for us to understand that United States Conference of Catholic Bishops had decided the list of Holy Days of Obligations for American Catholics to be eight:

Mary, Mother of God (always celebrated January 1, but if this occurs on a Saturday or a Monday there is no obligation to go to Mass)

Epiphany (this has been permanently transferred to the first Sunday after January 1)

Ascension (this is celebrated on different days depending on which ecclesiastical province you live in; a few provinces celebrate it on the traditional date, which is the Thursday of the 6th week of Easter, but most provinces in the U.S., including ours in New Jersey, have transferred it to the 7th Sunday of Easter.)

The Body and Blood of Christ (this has been permanently transferred to the second Sunday after Pentecost)

Assumption of Mary (always celebrated August 15, but if this occurs on a Saturday or a Monday there is no obligation to go to Mass)

All Saints (always celebrated November 1, but if this occurs on a Saturday or a Monday there is no obligation to go to Mass)

Immaculate Conception of Mary (always celebrated December 8)

Christmas (always celebrated December 25)
You will be surprised that there is one exception: the state of Hawaii has only two holy days of obligation (besides Sundays), which are the Immaculate Conception (Dec. 8) and Christmas (Dec. 25).



Putting out Fires

A few years ago, a couple and their two small children made the harrowing journey from their home in El Salvador to the United States. They made a new start in a small town: husband and father hires out to area farms; wife and mother cleans houses and takes in sewing. The family found welcome and support at a small church. When federal Immigration and Custom Enforcement sought them out, the church community provided them sanctuary.

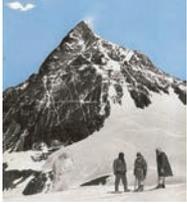


Volunteers created a small apartment for them in the church basement. Since the parents couldn't leave church property for fear of arrest and deportation, parishioners signed up for weekly grocery runs, meal deliveries and laundry. Many in town — including some parishioners — made no secret of their anger at what they saw as the church condoning illegal immigration. But the parishioners who took this on were of one mind: for them, to be faithful to their Baptismal call to follow Jesus meant they had to help this family.

Few issues have so divided our nation as the legality of abortion. But for one church community, the plight of women experiencing difficult pregnancies is not a cause for judgement and condemnation but compassion and mercy. A group of women in the parish have assembled a network of services for pregnant women in crisis. They arrange for medical care, housing and whatever material and emotional support a woman may need. They work "under the radar" — hospitals and physicians refer patients to them. If a woman opts out at some point, the group wishes her well and tries to stay in contact with her. Some have criticized their work as simplistic "do good-ism" and some in the parish believe that these women should work instead for the legal banning of abortion. But they have taken to heart what Cardinal Blase Cupich of Chicago said following the Supreme Court's ruling in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*: "This moment should serve as a turning point in our dialogue about the place an unborn child holds in our nation, about our responsibility to listen to women and support them through pregnancies and after the birth of their children, and about the need to refocus our national priorities to support families, particularly those in need."

Jesus' striking words in today's Gospel are painfully clear: Jesus comes to proclaim a demanding Gospel of compassion, forgiveness and justice that is often at odds with the values and conventions of our world. The Gospel is not easy, it's not comfortable; it's challenging and demanding and, in its call for personal conversion, it can be divisive and confrontational, putting us and those we love on opposite sides of an issue. To live that Gospel faithfully sometimes means challenging the conventional wisdom of the time and even established public policy and law, requiring us to embrace a higher ethical and moral standard in confronting life's challenges. Discipleship demands that we risk power, prestige and even acceptance to stand up for the equality, justice, compassion and reconciliation that every individual is due by virtue of being a son and daughter of God.

Reflect



In the 1920s, an English adventurer named Mallory led an expedition to conquer Mount Everest. His first, second and even his third attempt with an experienced team met with failure. Upon his return to England, the few who had survived held a banquet to salute Mallory and those who had perished. As he stood up to speak, he looked around; he saw picture frames of himself and those who had died. Then he turned his back on the crowd and faced a large picture of Mount Everest looming large like an unbeatable giant. With tears streaming down his face, he spoke to the mountain on behalf of his dead friends. “I speak to you Mt. Everest, in the name of all brave men living, and those yet unborn. Mt. Everest, you defeated us once, you defeated us twice; you defeated us three times. But Mt. Everest, we shall someday defeat you, because you can’t get any bigger, but we can.”

Today’s Scripture challenges us to con-

Courage to Confront

front the world with prophetic courage of our Christian convictions. We will have courage when we have fire in our hearts! On the day of our Baptism, we received the light of Christ and were instructed to keep that torch burning brightly until the return of Christ Jesus. Further, the Holy Spirit was sent into our hearts at Confirmation to help set us on fire. The old proverb should be applicable to all baptized and confirmed Christians: “He/She who is on fire cannot sit on a chair.” Our Lord Jesus continues to cast fire on the earth, the fire of the Spirit, through the ministry of Word and Sacraments. As Christians, we should have fire to inflame people to care, to serve, and to bless each other with all the gifts of Faith. We should work with the Holy Spirit to allow that fire to burn off the impurities in us and to bring out the purity of the gold and silver within us. We need Divine fire to inflame our hearts with the love of God and love for His children.

We Christians should blaze with the same fire with which Jesus wished his

disciples to burn: “I came to cast fire upon earth, and would that it were already kindled” (Luke 12: 49). Hence, let us remember the old saying, “He/She who is on fire cannot sit on a chair,” and let us carry the fire of the Holy Spirit wherever we go. The scientist-cum-theologian Teilhard de Chardin said: “Someday, after we have mastered the winds, the waves, the tides and gravity we shall harness the energies of love. Then for the second time in the history of the world man will have discovered fire.” “An ‘adult’ faith is not a Faith that follows the trends of fashion and the latest novelty (“dictatorship of relativism”); a mature adult faith is deeply rooted in friendship with Christ. It is this friendship that opens us up to all that is good and gives us a criterion by which to distinguish the true from the false, and deceit from truth” (Benedict XVI, April 18, 2005). Such a Faith will enable the fire of the Holy Spirit to burn in us and give us the courage of our Christian convictions.

Saint or Communist?

The Jesuit Cardinal Avery Dulles, writing about the role of prophecy in the modern Church communities in his book *Models of the Church*, remarks: “Christianity is not healthy unless there is room in it for prophetic protest against abuses of authority.” God continues to send such prophets to every parish community and it is the duty of the bishop, pastor and parish council to listen to the well-intended and constructive criticisms of such Jeremiahs.

The words of the late Archbishop Helder Camara, the champion of Brazil’s poor, serves as a prophetic warning, to all members of the Church: **“When I give bread to the poor they call me a Saint. But when I ask why the poor have no bread, they call me Communist.”**

Pray

The Church around the World



Interested in the Catholic Church’s report about what is happening around the world? For excellent, accurate news briefs, sign up for the official, daily Vatican News e-letter. Go to: <https://www.vaticannews.va/en.html> and scroll all the way down. Then click on “newsletter” and follow the prompts.

You can also just check the above page at any time for the latest information.

The Mass Book for 2023



The Mass book for 2023 opened on **Tuesday, August 2, 2022** 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 in his prayers during that Mass.

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

Did You Know?



The doors to St. Matthias School are just steps from the church doors, but many parishioners aren't familiar with our wonderful school.

Did you know this about St. Matthias School?

- Full Day Preschool & Kindergarten, plus Grades 1-8
- Before Care and After Care
- STEM activities in every classroom
- 1:1 Technology (Chromebooks) in K-8
- iPads in PreK
- Interactive Promethean Boards in classrooms
- Voted "Best in Somerset" 2022
- Competitive Math League
- Athletic Department
- All Faiths are Welcome!

St. Matthias School registration is now open. Our

challenging academics, outstanding faculty and engaging learning environment provide children with the opportunity to grow and mature to their utmost potential.

In addition to athletics, some of the afterschool clubs, ministries and activities offered include: Drama Club, Student Council, National Junior Honor Society, Prayer Group, 3D Printing Club, Speed Stacker, Book Club, Children's Choir, and Altar Servers.

Explore our website, www.stmatthias.info, and contact Maria Kosty at 732-828-1402 or mkosty@stmatthiasnj.org to schedule a tour. We look forward to welcoming your child!

Please help us spread the word to your relatives, friends, and neighbors. ALL are welcome! Thank you!

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

Take Note!

This is a special message for all of you from our St. Matthias Music Ministry....

We hope that you are having a great summer so far. ☺ And, while you are relaxing at the pool or on the beach, may we suggest that you start dreaming about how awesome it would be if you joined one of our choirs in September, especially those of you who really like to sing or play an instrument.

Maybe you sang in your high school or college choir or a Capella group. Maybe you've been on stage. Or maybe you just want to get your (gloved) hands on

one of our really cool hand bells.

Maybe you are the woman at the 5:00 Mass who has such a great voice and I can never get to at the end of Mass to talk to you because I'm playing my postlude.

Or maybe you are the man at the 12:00 Mass who sings every single communion song by heart. I see you and hear you, but can't personally invite you -I'm just not quick enough!

We are really proud of our unique Music Ministry experience of music, prayer,

spirituality, learning and friendship. And it's all just waiting for you!

Just imagine how good we would sound and how much more inspirational and gospel-centered our choirs would be if YOU or YOUR CHILDREN joined us. Or if you joined TOGETHER.

So sit back and relax for now, rest your voices and your fingers. Don't worry. We'll let you know when we are starting up again. Get ready...

See you in September? Intrigued? Questions... jseamon@stmatthias.net

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 1 - July 3, 2022	\$10,494.53	\$14,756.25	\$25,250.78	\$22,576.25
Week 2 - July 10, 2022	\$13,907.27	\$24,267.75	\$38,175.02	\$33,857.28
Week 3 - July 17, 2022	\$7,533.00	\$12,160.25	\$19,693.25	\$22,864.25
Week 4 - July 24, 2022	\$8,810.00	\$11,941.25	\$20,751.25	\$21,278.66
Week 5 - July 31, 2022	\$8,584.00	\$9,639.25	\$18,223.25	\$21,517.25
			Month-to-date Total	July Total Last Yr
		* Updated totals	\$122,093.55*	\$122,093.69
			Current Year-to-date	Year-to-date as of Jul
			\$122,093.55*	\$122,093.69

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
			Month-to-date Total	Aug Total Last Yr
			\$32,697.75	\$100,487.19
			Current Year-to-date	Year-to-date as of Aug
			\$154,791.30	\$222,580.88

Stewardship Reflection Aug 14, 2022 Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

"Do you think I have come to give you peace on Earth? No, I tell you, but rather division." Luke 12:51

Many of us like to play it safe, not cause waves with our family and friends, especially when it comes to politics and religion. We don't want to cause any turmoil. However, many times this is at the expense of the truth. The truth being Jesus Christ. Too many people are misguided because they rely on their own limited human ability to reason and are not allowing faith in God to guide them. Form your conscience; take a stance for life, marriage and religious liberty.

Reflexiones — 14 de agosto 2022 -

"¿Creen ustedes que vine a traer paz a la tierra? ¡No! Más bien vine a traer división" Lucas 12:51

A muchos de nosotros nos gusta ir a lo seguro, no causar problemas con nuestra familia y amigos, especialmente cuando se trata de política y religión. No queremos causar ningún revuelo. Sin embargo, muchas veces lo hacemos a expensas de la verdad. Jesucristo es la verdad. Demasiadas personas están equivocadas porque confían en su propia capacidad humana limitada para razonar y no permiten que la fe en Dios los guíe. Forma tu conciencia; toma una postura a favor de la vida, el matrimonio y la libertad religiosa.

SAINT MATTHIAS SCHOOL POSITIONS AVAILABLE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR

- AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM ASSISTANTS** needed. The program begins at 2:30 and ends at 6:00. Compensation is hourly. Working options include 1, 2 or 3 days per week. Some duties include homework help, indoor and outdoor games, playtime, overall monitoring of children in grades Pre-K 3 to 8.
- 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.
- 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

St. Francis Center for Renewal

Spiritual Journaling: A Path of Self-Discovery and Divine Connection

Fri, Sep 16, 2022, 5:00 PM through
Sun, Sep 18, 2022, 12 PM

St. Francis Center for Renewal, 395 Bridle Path Rd, Bethlehem, PA 18017, 610-867-8890
e-mail – sfcr-info@stfrancisctr.org.
Please call or email the center for fees, reservations or additional information.



Loyola Jesuit Center

161 James St., Morristown, NJ
973-539-0740



8-Week Spiritual Exercises Facilitated by Marie Santana
Wednesday, September 7, 2022, 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM
Repeats every Wednesday until October 26, 2022

The Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius Loyola are a program of meditations, prayers, considerations, and contemplative practices that help Christian faith become more fully alive in the everyday life of contemporary people.

The suggested Free Will Offering for the **8-Week Spiritual Exercises Series is \$160.00 for all 8 Wednesday nights**. If you wish to pay for the first session only & pay as you go, then the **suggested Free Will Offering is \$20.00**.

Parish Leadership

Parish Pastoral Council:	Co-Secretaries:	Ana Kelly, Ex-Officio	Parish Finance Council:	Joe Porter
Co-Chairs:	Frank Rees	Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio	Kester Hector, Chair	Joan Pritchard
Rose Peng, rosepeng@optonline.net	Marilyn Wegg		Finance Council	Mary Pat Burke-Grospin, Ex-Officio
John Taylor, jptaylor1068@yahoo.com	Stephan Busono	Trustees:	@stmatthias.net	Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio
	Anne Marie Francis	Isaac Peng	Barry Dusault	
	Bill Isele	Marge Richards	Gwen Orłowski	
	Maria Tapia-Burch		Audrey Francis	

About St. Matthias (please contact the staff members on the cover for up-to-date information)

Parish Registration — Welcome to St. Matthias! Please register on our website. www.stmatthias.net/join-us, or visit the Parish Office.

Marriage — Registered parishioners should contact the parish office a year before the desired wedding date.

Baptism — Baptismal Preparation Sessions are held four times a year for registered parishioners. Please contact the parish office before the baby is born. The sacrament of Baptism is celebrated on the second and fourth Sunday of each month, except during Lent.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) - If you are interested in becoming a Catholic or completing the Sacraments of Initiation--Baptism/Confirmation/Eucharist, please call the Parish Office.



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

Apply online prior to an event for on-the-spot interviews!

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