



St. Matthias Parish Office:

Open Mon-Thu: 8:30-5:00PM; Fri: 8:30-4PM
 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

For all Parish emails, add @stmatthias.net

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THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS
SUNDAY, FEB 13, 2022-
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Buy Your Tickets NOW for

Night of Winners 2022— Viva St. Matthias!

Saturday, February 26, 2022 Registration & Basket Raffle

Don't miss out on the great prizes to be raffled off at the Night of Winners! We still have seats available to participate in-person or virtually. This is the school's largest fundraiser of the year and we need everyone's support. Help us make it a great success and join in the fun! See **page 10** to buy your tickets today. **See page 10 for "How to buy"**.



The St. Martin de Porres Society invites everyone to join us for our

Mass Celebrating Black History Month
NEXT SATURDAY, Feb. 19, 2022, 5:00PM

See **page 8** for more on Black History Month at our parish.

Sign Up Today for a Live Lent Group

Groups will begin meeting the **week of Feb. 27.**
Make this Lent a special one! Details on **page 7.**



New Social Justice Ministry

The Parish Pastoral Council is launching a new Social Justice Ministry. Help us to identify, prioritize and address social justice issues. Join us on **Tuesday, Feb. 22 at 7:30PM** via Zoom! Details are on **page 9.**

Pastoral Council Seeks New Members for 3-Year Term

Come observe our March meeting! See page 9 for details.

Synod Listening Session

The diocese will be holding two Listening Sessions **THIS Friday, February 18**, at Immaculata High School. Register at <https://diometuchen.org/county-seat-deanery-listening-sessions> St. Matthias will also be holding an additional session (in-person and virtual) in the near future.



Discover St. Matthias School!

Do you have children who will be entering PreK3 to 8th grade in the Fall?

Discover our amazing school, right next door!



If you shop on Amazon, please help us by starting at: www.stmatthias.net/Amazon

This Week at St. Matthias

Masses are celebrated in-person and 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 from 7:30 am to dusk

Sat from 9 am to 6pm, and

Sun from 7:30 am to 1 pm,

unless another service is taking place.

Sunday Feb 13, 2022 Blessing of Couples at Masses
Live Lent Registration Begins

8:00AM	Mass	Church
10:00AM	Mass	Church
10:00AM	First Eucharist Prep	Church, clsrn & John XXIII Cafeteria
10:30AM	RCIA	Cafeteria
12:00PM	Mass	Church

Monday, Feb 14, 2022 Happy Valentine's Day
St. Cyril, Monk, St. Methodius, Bishop, Apostles of the Slavs

8:00AM	Mass & Miraculous Medal Novena	Church
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Tuesday, Feb 15, 2022 St. Jovita & St. Faustinus, Martyrs

8:00AM	Daily Mass	Church
7:00PM	Pastoral Council Mtg.	Zoom

Wednesday, Feb 16, 2022 St. Onesimus, Martyr

8:00AM	Mass	Church
9:30AM	Prayer Grp 1 Holy Spirit	Zoom
6:45PM	Confirmation 8	John XXIII Rm
7:30PM	Folk Group Rehearsal	Church

Thursday, Feb 17, 2022 The Seven Holy Founders of The Servite Order

SMS Dismissal 12:15PM

8:00AM	Mass	Church
3:30PM	Children's Choir Gr. 3&4 rehearsal	Church
4:15PM	Children's Choir Gr. 5-8 rehearsal	Church
7:00PM	Prayer Shawl Ministry Mtg.	Neumann Rm
7:30PM	Sunday 10AM Choir	Church
7:30PM	NeXt Level Mtg.	Zoom

Friday, Feb 18, 2022 St. Kuriakose Elias Chavara, Priest & 1st Canonized male Saint of Indian origin
SMS No School- Teacher Spirituality Day

8:00AM	Mass	Church
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Saturday, Feb 19, 2022 St. Conrad of Piacenza, Franciscan Hermit

10:00AM	Secular Franciscans Mtg.	de Porres Rm
3:30PM	Reconciliation	Church
5:00PM	Mass, Black History Month Mass	Church
6:00PM	SMDP Black History Society Symposium	Zoom

Sunday Feb 20, 2022

8:00AM	Mass	Church
10:00AM	Mass	Church
12:00PM	Mass	Church
4:00PM	SMYLE Mtg.	Zoom



From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends,

Three related observances are happening this week:

- National Marriage Week (Feb 7-14):** This week draws our attention to the beauty of marriage. The theme selected by the U. S. Conference of Catholic Bishops for National Marriage Week 2022 is "Called to the Joy of Love," referring to Pope Francis' 2016 Encyclical on the family *Amoris Laetitia*. The theme was chosen to highlight the many ways that married couples and families are accompanied by the Church to live out the call of love. National Marriage Week was started to honor husbands and wives for their never-ending sacrifices and faithfulness that hold these unions together.
- World Marriage Day (Feb 13)** began in Baton Rouge, Louisiana in 1981 and grew out of the experience of couples engaged in the "Worldwide Marriage Encounter," a movement founded in Spain -- "Encuentro Conyugal" -- by the late Father Gabriel Calvo (1927-2021), who devoted his entire priestly ministry (1952-2021) to the pastoral care of married couples and families. "There is within each couple," he reflected, "a divine energy of love. It has to be released by a deep sharing between husband and wife, through the communication of their feelings and of the whole of their lives together. It cannot be done in just one moment." Pope St. John Paul II imparted his apostolic blessing to "World Marriage Day" in 1993.
- Valentine's Day (Feb 14):** One of the most romantic days of the year, Valentine's Day, has a Catholic connection. Saint Valentine, officially known as Saint Valentine of Rome, is a third-century Roman saint widely celebrated on February 14 and commonly associated with "courtly love." One of the many legends about him, says that he refused to sacrifice to pagan gods, was imprisoned and while imprisoned he healed the jailer's blind daughter. On the day of his execution, he left the girl a note signed, "Your Valentine." His feast day came to be dedicated to love, and people observed it by writing love letters and sending gifts to their beloved.

These three observances invite us to promote marriage and love. We know that the number of marriages have fallen drastically in recent decades due to cultural and attitudinal changes. While the Catholic church is at the forefront of promoting marriage and family, I was happily surprised to find great support for the same from certain unexpected quarters:

Time Magazine: "...We should provide the facts about the importance of marriage as a matter of child welfare and economic aspiration. As a society, we have launched highly effective public education campaigns on much less momentous issues, from smoking to recycling... For now, the decline of marriage is our most ignored national crisis..."

Fox News: "The Brookings Institution says that if we had the marriage rate today that we had in 1970, there would be a 25 percent drop in poverty. The Heritage Foundation says that marriage drops the probability of a child living in poverty by 82 percent."

Newsweek Magazine: "National Marriage Week presents a chance to focus on rebuilding a culture of marriage for this generation."

May such support for marriage and family spread more and more. As we appreciate and encourage all our married couples, we pray for God's blessings to enable them to continue the path of love and unity despite the many challenges they face.

Your brother in Christ, Fr. Abraham Orapankal



Readings for the Week

Monday: Jas 1:1-11; Ps 119:67, 68, 71, 72, 75, 76; Mk 8:11-13

Tuesday: Jas 1:12-18; Ps 94:12-13a, 14-15, 18-19; Mk 8:14-21

Wednesday: Jas 1:19-27; Ps 15:2-3a, 3bc-4ab, 5; Mk 8:22-26

Thursday: Jas 2:1-9; Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7; Mk 8:27-33

Friday: Jas 2:14-24, 26; Ps 112:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Mk 8:34-9:1

Saturday: Jas 3:1-10; Ps 12:2-3, 4-5, 7-8; Mk 9:2-13

Sunday: 1 Sm 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23; Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8, 10, 12-13; 1 Cor 15:45-49; Lk 6:27-38

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, Feb 12	5:00PM	Olalia Cahatol, by Gerard & Joy Cahatol
Sunday, Feb 13	8:00AM	William J. Gleason, by Isabelle & John Baker
	10:00AM	Lisa Wehner, by Flynn-Rasimowicz Family
	12:00PM	Repose of the Soul of Marie DeFeo, by Daughter, Lisa & Family
	(5:30PM)	Intention of Parishioners
Monday, Feb 14	8:00AM	Jill Szabo, by Espy de Rosario
Tuesday, Feb 15	8:00AM	Spiritual Intention of the Tibay Family, by The Family
Wednesday, Feb 16	8:00AM	Frank Catalina, by Gladys & Vinnie Mari
Thursday, Feb 17	8:00AM	William Scott, by Pat & Frank Sellinger
Friday, Feb 18	8:00AM	Susan & James Shinnners, by Mary
Saturday, Feb 19	5:00PM	John Natale, by Joanne & Vinnie
Sunday, Feb 20	8:00AM	Joseph Ganim, by Wife, Carol
	10:00AM	Lisa Wehner, by The Jacques Family
	12:00PM	Eleuterio Banaag, by Luzminda Villarica
	(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 kcoun@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.

Carolyn Banghart

Maria Barreiro

Gladys Battle

Karl Bierley

Virginia Briggs

Marie Brody

Thomas Burns

Tara Capatosto

Ellen Catalina

Tom Current

Joseph DeFrancesco

Cenon DeGuzman

Mary Ellen Delaney

Alaina Derecola

Surya & Juliany Dharma

Marlene DiMaggio

Jim Dolan

Mary Dolan

William Dolphin

John Farkas

Claudia Gemgnani

Emma Gergely

Rose Gessner

Mary Gidaro

Marie Godet

Sloopy Hoffman

Baby Isla-Rose Huffman

Steven Kayden

Erlina Liem

The Litrakis Family

Al Maglio

Sue Maglio-Alese

Beatrice May

Margaret Menendez

Carol Millemann

Sabrina Moloney

Dave Moynihan

Bernadine Pasternak

Jim Pettit

Christina Pietrowiak

Jaxon Rivera

Maria Schwenzer

[Lena Sciotto](#)

Sr. Mary Amata Shina, OSF

Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF

Catherine Sloomaker

Dennis Stuewe

Alma Valdez

Jeaninne Walker

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

Lou Carcich—parishioner

Rev. Msgr. Michael J. Corona—Diocese of Metuchen

Rev. Msgr. Terrance M. Lawler—Diocese of Metuchen

Reflect



Smile with Your Family



"Blessed are the pure of heart, they shall see God." These are taken from the national archives of the letters of pure hearted kids to their pastors proving how pure they are in heart, while bringing us smiles:

Dear Pastor, I know God loves everybody but He never met my sister. Yours sincerely, Arnold. Age 8, Nashville.

Dear Pastor, Please say in your sermon that Pete Peterson has been a good

boy all week. I am Pete Peterson. Sincerely, Pete. Age 9, Phoenix.

Dear Pastor, My father should be a minister. Every day he gives us a sermon about something. Robert Anderson, age 11.

Dear Pastor, I'm sorry I can't leave more money in the plate, because my father didn't give me a raise in my allowance. Could you have a sermon

about a raise in my allowance? Love, Patty. Age 10, New Haven.

Dear Pastor, My mother is very religious. She goes to play bingo at church every week even if she has a cold. Yours truly, Annette. Age 9, Albany.

Dear Pastor, I would like to go to heaven someday because I know my brother won't be there. Stephen. Age 8, Chicago.



Satan's Beatitudes!

Blessed are those who wait to be asked and expect to be thanked - I can use them in my business.

Blessed are those who are touchy. Soon they will stop going to church - verily, they shall be my missionaries.

Blessed are those who sow gossip and trouble - they are my beloved children.

Blessed are those who have no time to pray - for they are MY prey.

Blessed are those who are too tired, too busy, too distracted to spend an hour once a week with their fellow Christians in church - they are my best workers.

Blessed are those who gossip - for they are my secret agents.

Blessed are you when you read this and think it has everything to do with other people, and nothing to do with you - I've got room for YOU at my inn.

Longing for What or Whom?

"Is that all there is?" says the song of the '60s. It is a fact that so many are **longing for more...** more time, more peace, more health, etc. What is it that you long for? How many times we have said, "If only I had that, I would be happy." Too late many learn that happiness does not come from the outside but from within.

Lent is a time when Catholics traditionally have fasted and prayed with the hope that they would have time to think about what really makes us happy. Lent is coming up, a season to reflect on the more important things in life.

Why not try something different this Lent? In our parish, we will again have the opportunity to gather in small groups of 8 to 10 people, once a week for six weeks starting the week of Ash Wednesday. When we gather, we will read Scripture, pray, and share our faith. This experience will provide more than you can imagine. Sign up for a day and time of the week that works for you. You will not be sorry. To sign up- <https://forms.gle/FYvnjMbqD8yGmZYB8>

Happiness Myths

Dr. Harold Treffert is the director of the Winnebago Mental Health Institute in Wisconsin. In an article entitled "The American Fairy Tale," he discusses five dangerous ideas we have about the meaning of happiness.

First, happiness is things. The more you accumulate and have, the happier you will be.

Second, happiness is what you do. The more you produce and earn, the happier you will be.

Third, happiness is being the same as others. The more you are fashionable and conform with the times, the happier you will be.

Fourth, happiness is mental health. The fewer problems you have and the more carefree you are, the happier you will be.

Fifth, happiness is communicating with electronic gadgets. The more you can communicate with a television set, a satellite or a computer, the happier you will be.

According to Dr. Treffert, these five myths about happiness are the cause of many mental health problems today. If happiness cannot be found through these five myths of "The American Fairy Tale," then where is the answer?

Continued on next page

Reflect

Happiness Myths

Continued from previous page

Jesus gave us the answer when he outlined the beatitudes in today's reading from Luke. He instructs his disciples in the paradoxical blessedness of poverty, hunger, sorrow and persecution because they contradict our natural expectations in every way. Blessed are those who are poor, hungry, weeping, hated, excluded, insulted and denounced because in poverty, we recognize God's reign; in hunger, his providence; in sorrow, true happiness; and in persecution, true joy. Experiencing these miseries opens the way for us to receive the true riches, food, comfort and acceptance we can find only in His love and His presence here, and in His Kingdom forever. The beatitudes are commands for how we should live, and what we should do. What makes one blessed is not simply poverty or hunger or sadness or suffering for faith, but living these in the context of our commitment to Jesus and His spirit of sharing.

Two Different Points of view on Happiness

The "Dear Abby" Column once received a letter from a 15-year-old girl which read as follows: Dear Abby: Happiness is not having your parents scold you if you come home late, having your own bedroom, and getting the telephone call you've been hoping for. Happiness is belonging to a popular group, being dressed as well as anybody, and having a lot of spending money. Happiness is something I don't have. "15 and Unhappy."

Shortly after the letter was published, "Dear Abby" received a reply from 13-year-old girl who wrote: Dear Abby: Happiness is being able to walk and talk, to see and hear. Unhappiness is reading a letter from a 15-year-old girl who can do all four things and still says she isn't happy, I can talk, I can see, I can hear. But I can't walk. "13, crippled and Happy." These letters reflect two different points of view on happiness. Today's gospel on the beatitudes does the same.

We must take care to choose our way wisely. "There are two Ways, one of Life and one of Death, and there is a great difference between the two Ways." These are the opening lines of the "Didache" a first century Christian catechism used to teach new Christians the essence of the Christian faith. The way of life is the way of

Jesus, the way of the beatitudes, the way of loving service to God and our brothers and sisters that leads

to eternal life. The other way is the way of death. It is the way of self-centeredness, self-reliance, immorality, self-indulgence and immediate gratification. It leads to death and hell. Which way are we going? The challenge of the beatitudes is: "Are you going to be happy in the world's way or in Christ's way?" If we choose the world's way, we are seeking our blessings in the wrong

Beatitude in Puppy's Tail



Said a puppy to his old uncle dog, "From my short experience in life I have learned that the best thing for a dog is happiness and that happiness is in my tail. That is why I am chasing my tail, and when I catch it, I shall have perfect happiness." The old dog replied, "From my research and long experience, I too, have judged that happiness is a fine thing for a dog and that happiness is in his tail. But I've noticed that whenever I chase it, it keeps running away from me, but when I go about my business, it comes after me."

We hear of many famous men and women who chased happiness in their own way, and met with tragic ends: Michael Jackson - legendary singer and performer, Marylyn Monroe - actress, American idol, model, Ernest Hemingway - legendary author, Alexander McQueen - fashion designer, the list can go on.

What is our picture of a happy life? According to one study conducted in the U. S. only 20% of Americans claim to be happy. Is the "American dream" our picture of the happy life: the ideal of owning a beautiful home with a two-car garage, having a loving and adjusting spouse, two well-behaved kids, and a dog, enjoying a decent job, and having enough money to enjoy leisure and retired life? Where do we go in search of happiness: the movie theater, the amusement park, a hiking trail, a shopping mall, a good restaurant, a ballpark? In the Sermon on the Mount, as recorded in Matthew, and in the Sermon on the Plains in Luke from which we read today, Jesus gives us a rather different picture of a happy life. Jesus tells us that we can find true and lasting happiness in ways we may never have considered.

Happiness Quotes

Mother Teresa: "Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier."

Helen Keller: "Resolve to keep happy, and your joy and you shall form an invincible host against difficulties."

Thich Nhat Hanh: "The present moment is filled with joy and happiness. If you are attentive, you will see it."



The Attitude that Truly Matters!

There was a farmer. He lived a happy life spending most of the time taking care of his farm with the aid of his horse. One day he lost his horse. Neighbors came to sympathize with him. "What a shame", they said. "Who knows? God Knows?" He replied. A week later this horse returned with another horse. The neighbors came to share his joy. "What a blessing", they said. "Who knows? God knows", he replied. One day while riding the horse his son fell down from the horse and broke his leg. Again neighbors came to offer their sympathy. "What a shame", they said. "Who knows? God knows!" he replied. A week late a war broke out in their country. The king ordered all men over 18 years of age to join the military. They spared his son because of his broken leg. Once again neighbors rushed to his house. "What a blessing?" they said. "Who knows? God Knows!" the farmer replied. (SV)

When bad things happen, they are not by choice. If the poor, the hungry, the sorrowful and the hated are all blessed, then why should anyone attempt to help them improve their lot? The answer is that there is a difference between choosing poverty and being plunged into it without one's choice, due to an unjust socio-political situation. There are a few, only a few, saints like Francis of Assisi, who freely choose the sufferings and hardships that poverty brings. That is not what the Beatitude suggests, nor what Jesus asks of most of us. It is true that we are unable to eradicate poverty from the face of the earth. But we can help, either directly or by working with others, our poor brothers and sisters to improve their living conditions and education, so that they may choose to free themselves from the poverty thrust upon them by greedy exploiters. Luke's account offers the rich the good news that their salvation lies in their concern for the poor and in the good stewardship of sharing their goods with others in need. But the rich among us remain cursed as long as they remain unwilling to share their surplus with the needy. In short, in the beatitudes, Jesus envisions a society where the resources which belong to all are divided among all according to need, making every one blessed and happy.

Eight Laws of Public Health

Some years ago a panel of doctors was appointed by the Federal government to meet together and draw up eight laws of public health that could be printed in pamphlet form and distributed to the public. After twelve days off exhaustive meetings, the doctors were unable to come to a consensus. It seems that their areas of concern were so diverse: one was a cancer specialist, one a cardiologist, one a psychiatrist, and they all approached the problem from their own discipline. The chest expert was concerned about coal dust from the mines and lint from textile mills, while the psychiatrist was concerned about the effects of urban stress. Finally, Dr. Harold Sladen from a Hospital in Detroit came up with an appropriate idea. He said: Let's just republish the eight beatitudes of Jesus and simply replace the word "Blessed" with the words "healthy."

Luke presents the Sermon on the Plain as following immediately upon the choosing of the twelve apostles (Luke 6: 13 ff). Therefore, one of the Fathers of the Church called this sermon "The Ordination Address to the Twelve." Both the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew and the Sermon on the Plain in Luke are also known as "The Compendium of Christian Doctrine," "The Magna Carta of the Kingdom," and "The Manifesto of the King." In these two sermons we have the essence of Jesus' teachings to his chosen apostles. The introductory portion of the sermon consists of blessings and woes that reflect the real economic and social conditions of humanity (the poor--the rich; the hungry--the satisfied; those grieving--those laughing; the outcast--the socially acceptable). These beatitudes of Jesus were taught in Aramaic. In Aramaic they are not simple statements; rather, they are exclamations, i.e., "O the blessedness of the poor in spirit!" (Compare today's responsorial psalm [Psalm 1], for a similar Hebrew version).

"Really happy and still in their right mind?"

There was a PEANUTS cartoon years ago in which Lucy asked Charlie Brown if he has ever known anybody who was really happy. Before she could finish her sentence, however, Snoopy came dancing on tiptoe into the frame, his nose high in the air. He danced and bounced his way across two frames of the cartoon strip. Finally, in the last frame, Lucy finished her sentence, "Have you ever known anybody who was really happy and was still in their right mind?"



Today's readings teach us that true happiness, or beatitude, lies in the awareness of who we are and of what we are supposed to do. They remind us that we are all children of a loving Heavenly Father and that we will be happy in this world and in heaven only when we share our blessings with our brothers and sisters in need and work for uplifting them, thus declaring our "option for the poor," as Jesus did. The eight beatitudes Jesus gives in Matthew and the four in Luke contradict the ideas of real happiness found in the Jewish culture and in our modern society, according to which wealth, health, power and influence are the true beatitudes. "The beatitudes" are technically known as "macarisms", or blessings (from the Greek makarios, meaning "blessed" or "happy.")

Macarisms are found in the Book of Proverbs, in the Psalms, and even in the book of Revelation. There are thirty-seven beatitudes in the New Testament, seventeen of which are sayings of Jesus.

From the Pastoral Staff



February 7-14 is National Marriage Week and Sunday February 13 is World Marriage Day. The theme for this week is *Called to the Joy of Love*. Spouses, engaged couples and lovers everywhere will be visiting card stores, malls, and florists, making reservations for special dinners, and scrambling to find a way to express their love to that special person in their lives. Monday is Valentine’s Day and many people will be reflecting on the gift of love in their lives.

Sacred Scripture begins with the creation of man and woman in the image and likeness of God and concludes with a vision of "the wedding-feast of the Lamb". In the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, we are told, "God Himself is the author of marriage. The vocation to marriage is written in the very nature of man and woman as they came from the hand of the Creator. Marriage is not a purely human institution despite the many variations it may have undergone through the centuries in different cultures, social structures, and spiritual attitudes" CCC #1603.

The well-being of individual persons and of both the human

and Christian society is closely bound up with the healthy state of conjugal and family life. Alternative life-styles may be proposed but none can serve the needs of individuals or society like the traditional marriage of one man and one woman.

National Marriage Week offers married couples and dating couples an invitation to reflect again on the love that sustains their lives and on their responsibility to work constantly to build up that love. There are some great resources available to assist couples in this task. Check the variety of suggestions available on the website foryourmarriage.org or go to the website for the USCCB.org. I would also highly recommend that couples preparing for marriage treat themselves to the special gift of making An Engaged Encounter weekend. And for married couples, treat yourselves to a Marriage Encounter Weekend. These are wonderful programs offered by the church to assist couples in building and sustaining loving and growing bonds that will be life-long. Check our own diocesan website at diometuchen.org for other resources.

Happy Valentines to all. Msgr. Brennan

Pray



Make Lent 2022 the Best Lent Ever!
Participate in a St. Matthias “Live Lent” Small Group
Watch our two videos from past participants at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ShtSHqzmpYk> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IEJLL6jhiqw>
Start for the first time or continue with a St. Matthias Small Faith Sharing Group! This

Lent on Zoom!

We have approximately 20 groups that meet on various days/times of the week. If you are new to this experience, please sign up online at: <https://forms.gle/FYvnjMbqD8yGmZYB8>

Continuing members do not need to sign up -- simply connect with your group facilitator. Facilitators will be contacting group members who were part of their group this past fall or last Lent. Each group likely will be meeting on Zoom on the same date/time. **Groups will begin the week of February 27!** **New members, please sign-up early!** Most groups will be using, "Around the Lenten Circle: Small Group Sessions for Lent 2022" by Ann Naffziger. It is an e-resource. Questions? Please contact Dee Nann at the parish office at 732-828-1400 or dnann@stmatthias.net.



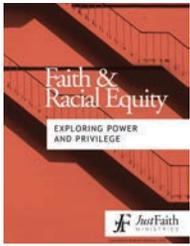
Liturgical Ministers Morning of Reflection Saturday, February 26th, 8:30 am - 12:30 pm John XXIII Room

This year’s pre-Lenten morning of reflection for liturgical ministers is open to anyone and will feature Dr. Patrick Manning, Assistant Professor of Pastoral Theology and the Chair of the Department of Pastoral Theology at Immaculate Conception School of Theology at Seton Hall University. Following a talk by Dr. Manning our own Terry Seamon will lead a group through reflection and discussion on what Jesus is inviting us to be part of, post-pandemic. For more information contact Phyllis Stone in the Parish Office. pstone@stmatthias.net.



Altar Servers Wanted!

Are you a student in grade 5 or higher? Would you like to play a prominent role at Mass each week? We are looking for students that would like to join the Altar Servers Ministry. If you are interested in joining this ministry, Click here to register, <https://www.stmatthias.net/liturgical/>



St. Matthias Racial Justice Initiative—Begins NEXT SATURDAY, February 19

Do you want to learn about and discuss racism in our Church and in our community, but you don't know where to begin? You can start with "Open Wide Our Hearts" The Enduring Call to Love", the 2018 Pastoral Letter from the US Catholic Bishops, https://www.usccb.org/resources/open-wide-our-hearts_o.pdf.

And you can also accept an invitation to start learning along with the St. Matthias Racial Justice Initiative as presented through the lens of the Christian tradition from JustFaith Ministries' *Faith & Racial Equity*. This eight-session program starts with *Exploring Power &*

Privilege using scriptural grounding for reflection on past and present racial injustices, and conversation about how power and privilege have contributed to racial inequity. For more information on the program click here, <https://justfaith.org/faith-and-racial-equity/>.

Participant space is limited and registration is required through Sign Up Genius. Go to: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a054fa4ab2faaff2-faith>

The program schedule (subject to adjustment) is as follows:

Opening Retreat (via Zoom) Saturday, February 19, 2022, 9:00 AM - Noon

Sessions 1-8 (2/26, 3/12, 3/26, 4/9, 4/23,

5/14, 5/28, 6/11, 9:00 - 11:30 AM (via Zoom for now) Immersion Experience -TBD

Cost to attend the program is free. Cost of books/materials (2-3 books) is not free; however, copies are available for loan from the Parish Office or you can purchase your own new or used online.

Contact parish facilitators —Neil Purcell, Kerry Millan, Janice Regan or Christine Grippo for more information at matthiasracialjustice@gmail.com, or Phyllis Stone (President of St. Martin de Porres Society) in the Parish Office, pstone@stmatthias.net, (732) 828-1400, ext 127.

Welcome to another year celebrating Black History Month at St. Matthias where we *Honor the Past, Celebrate the Present, And Inspire the Future.*

SOJOURNER TRUTH



Sojourner Truth was an American abolitionist and women's rights activist. At birth around 1797, Truth was born into slavery in Swartekill, New York and was named Isabella Baumfree. She escaped with her infant daughter to freedom in 1826. After going to court to recover her son in 1828, she became the first black woman to win such a case against a white man. She was the first known African American suffragist. Although unable to read and write, the emancipated Sojourner became an itinerant preacher and reformer who supported herself with menial jobs. She traveled throughout the eastern United States and attended woman's rights conventions as an outspoken proponent for woman's rights and woman suffrage. Her overwhelming presence, personal magnetism, and unique oratorical style captivated audiences and won even skeptics to the cause. She also earned money by selling the Narrative of Sojourner Truth, written for her by Olive

Gilbert. She was said to have delivered a powerful speech in favor of woman's rights at the Akron, Ohio woman's convention in 1851, remembered as "Ain't I a Woman?" a speech which some historians today question because it is written in Southern slave dialect, while Truth had the speech of one raised in Dutch-speaking New York. This speech secured her reputation as a famous champion of the woman's rights cause. In 1864, she traveled to Washington D. C. where she was received by President Lincoln in the White House. In December of that year, the National Freedman's Relief Association appointed her "counselor to the freed people" at Freedman's Village, Arlington Heights, VA. Truth also attended meetings of the American Equal Rights Association where she called for the vote for both Black men and for women. In the mid-1850s, she moved to Battle Creek, Michigan, where she lived among an enclave for free Blacks. In 1875, Truth returned to Battle Creek, where she died in 1883. Taken from the works of Dr. Rosalyn Terborg-Penn.

SMDP Society Black History Month Symposium on Critical Race Theory and Catholic Education

"CRITICAL RACE THEORY: What is it? What it's not. What does it mean for Christian education?"

Featuring Parishioner Sandra M. Donnay, Ph.D, Founder: Racial Equity Initiative (Moderator) and Reverend Danté R. Quick, Ph.D., Senior Pastor of 1st Baptist of Lincoln Gardens (Guest)

- **February 28th at 7:00 PM via Zoom -**

Join Zoom Meeting <https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/9702883550> Meeting ID: 970 288 3550



Serve



Join Us for the First St Matthias Social Justice Ministry Meeting!

There are vast social justice issues that plague countries around the globe.

They also exist in our own country, our own state, our own towns, the Catholic organization, and possibly in our own parish church and our own school.

Members on the Parish Pastoral Council have had many discussions this past year about the desire of St Matthias Parish to engage in social justice issues. The need to address racism was very much at the top of the list and the Racial Justice Initiative is sponsoring several programs this month.

Meanwhile, there are other injustices in our society that call for our attention as

well. Pope Francis has certainly made social justice central in his teachings, encyclicals and homilies. He is not afraid to discuss big social justice issues and encourages us all to contemplate social justice through the lens of the Gospels. The Gospels call us to love each other, to be neighbors to each other and to care for each other no matter who we are, where we come from or what our station is in society. Some of these issues include immigration/human migration, respecting LGBTQ+, voting rights, environment, healthcare, refugee crises, racial injustice, income disparities, gun violence, respect life, hunger and food insecurity.

The goal of this new Social Justice Min-

istry will be three-fold: **education, discussion** and **action**. Education is for us to fully understand the totality of an issue. Discussion is for our reflection and discernment, knowing that we have much to learn from each other's experiences and wisdom. Action is for working towards change for a more loving world in our parish, our community and our world.

Our first meeting will be **Tuesday, Feb. 22 at 7 pm via zoom:**

<https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/81968510428> Come join us!

To learn more, contact Rose Peng, rosepeng@optonline.net or Lorraine Farr at lvfarr7@gmail.com.

Pastoral Council Seeking New Members

The Parish Pastoral Council is looking for new members to replace outgoing members. The Pastoral Council has a 3-year term with rotating membership so there are always experienced members on the council when new members join. Members of the PPC must have experience serving in at least one other ministry in the parish. The PPC serves to advise the Pastor about parish matters, bringing the concerns of parishioners to his attention.

The current council has overseen a task force to return to in-person Masses, encouraged the Racial Justice Initiative, established a Parish Vocations Ministry as well as reestablished the Social Justice Ministry - among other initiatives. We would like to invite parishioners to our March 15th evening zoom meeting to observe our meeting to help you think about your possible calling to this parish ministry. Please contact Claudine Langrin: ClaudMLangrin@gmail.com, MaryBeth Vetter Purcell: marybeth.vetter@gmail.com, Fr. Abraham or any PPC member for more information.

Give (and Receive!)



St. Matthias' Building Repair & Replacement Fund

St. Matthias has no reserve fund for ongoing repair/replacement of facilities or equipment. Therefore, we have created a new **Building Repair & Replacement Fund**, to both address near-term needs and to help us start building such a reserve. If you would like to donate to this fund, please mark your check "Building Repair". Thank you!

Stewardship Reflection Feb 13, 2022 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Blessed are you when people hate you,... exclude and insult you, and denounce your name... on account of the Son of Man." (LUKE 6:22)

All of us have been in situations when someone has made a negative comment or joke about God or our Catholic faith. How did you respond? Did you stay silent or pretend to go along with the crowd because you didn't want to cause waves and then, later, you felt bad? Know that God is with you all the time; the Holy Spirit will put the right words in your mouth. Pray for the strength and courage to proclaim our faith to others, especially during uncomfortable situations.

Reflexiónese — 13 de febrero de 2022 - 6º Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario

"Bienaventurados si los odian , ...excluyen e insultan, y desprecian su nombre... por causa del Hijo del Hombre" (LUCAS 6:22)

Todos ustedes habrán estado en situaciones en las cuales alguien hizo comentarios negativos o se burló de Dios o de su fe Católica. ¿Cómo respondieron? Se quedaron callados o pretendieron seguirle la corriente a la multitud porque no querían causar problemas y entonces, más tarde, ¿se sintieron mal? Sepa que Dios está con usted todo el tiempo; el Espíritu Santo pondrá las palabras correctas en su boca. Recé para tener fortaleza y valor para proclamar su fe a los demás, especialmente durante situaciones incómodas.

Give (and Receive!)

Stewardship Totals for Fiscal Year July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022				Last Year's Total
	In-Pew/Mail	Parish Giving	Weekly Total	Weekly Total
Week 32 - Feb. 6, 2022	\$12,318.00	\$18,755.75	\$31,073.75	\$30,959.75
			Current Year-to-date	Year-to-date as of Feb
			\$824,999.83	\$870,700.95

Connect



Night of Winners 2022— Viva St. Matthias! Saturday, February 26, 2022



Buy your \$25 ticket TODAY at <https://forms.gle/A42vy7dFR1AXQaMm9>

This year's event has two options: **In-Person and Virtual**. You must be 18 years or older to participate. Only 200 tickets will be sold for in-person, so register **TODAY!** The in-person event begins at **6pm**. Doors open at 5:30pm. Everyone must wear a mask when they are not seated at their table. Tickets are \$25.

The **Virtual (You Tube Live Stream)** event will start at **8 pm** on Saturday. Virtual participants must be available (or

designate a representative) to put their tickets in the basket bins in the School Cafeteria on Saturday, 02/26/22 from 9am-4pm. All persons entering the building must wear a mask at all times. The baskets will be on display in the cafeteria. Additional Basket Raffle Tickets and Super Cash 50/50 Tickets will also be for sale during the ticket drop time. Questions? Contact Melissa Garlatti - stmatthiasnow@gmail.com



A Light in the Darkness

The Covid health crisis has brought many challenges, not least of all rises in anxiety, depression, and substance abuse. Catholic parishes, schools, and communities can play an important role in supporting people who are suffering in the midst of these challenges. Join us for an insightful forum about the challenges faced by Catholics during Covid as well as practical resources and strategies for dealing with anxiety, depression, addiction, and suicidal ideation in the context of Catholic schools and parishes.

Anyone who interacts with others in their ministry, who is concerned about someone suffering from addiction and/or poor mental health, or who suffers in this way themselves are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Tuesday, February 15 at 1-2 PM or Wednesday, February 16 at 7-8 PM

Register at: www.newarkoym.com/alightinthedarkness

Co-sponsored by Seton Hall University and the Archdiocese of Newark Office of Youth Ministry. Panelists are clinical therapist Danielle Heitmann, addiction counselor Keaton Douglas, and catechetical leader Dr. Patrick Manning.

Parish Leadership

Parish Pastoral Council:

@gmail.com

John Taylor

Parish Finance Council:

Kester Hector

Co-Chairs:

Co-Secretaries:

Marilyn Wegg

Joe Porter, Chair

Joan Pritchard

Claudine Langrin

Lorraine Farr and

Ana Kelly, Ex-Officio

Finance Council

Mary Pat Burke-Grospin,

ClaudMLangrin@gmail.com and

Anne Marie Francis

Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio

@stmatthias.net

Ex-Officio

Mary Beth Vetter-Purcell

Rose Peng

Trustees:

Barry Dusault

Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio

marybeth.vetter@gmail.com

Frank Rees

Isaac Peng

Gwen Orłowski

Maria Tapia-Burch

Marge Richards

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.



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