



St. Matthias Parish Office:

Monday - Friday, 8:30 am - 4:00 pm.
 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 Office Hours, Mon-Fri 8AM to 3PM.

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 Diaz Flores, *Custodian*
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 Leslie Guillen, *Bulletin Editor*, **lg Guillen**
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 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**

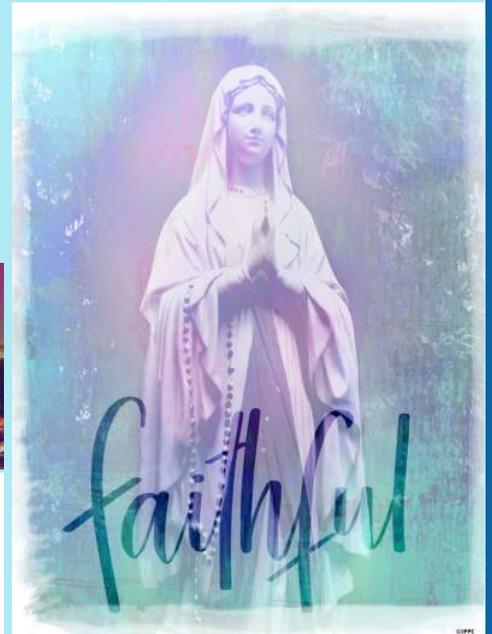
St. Matthias School (add @stmatthiasnj.org)

Mary Lynch, Principal, **mlynch**
 Joseph Gidaro, Vice Principal, **igidaro**

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS
SUNDAY, JAN 1, 2023-
Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God



Next weekend, **January 7th & 8th** is the Together in Charity Collection. There is an envelope in your packet for this collection.



Thank you!

Because of *your* generosity, we exceeded our goal and raised \$40,850!!

GIVINGTUESDAY

Thank you to all of those who volunteered their time to set up the Christmas trees. We could not have done it without you! We are also in need of volunteers on **January 7th at 9:00 am to take down the trees.** Your help is greatly appreciated.

Mary Pat Burke-Grospin
mpburke-grospin@stmatthias.net

Christmas Season Schedule

Saturday, Dec. 31, 2022
(New Year's Eve)
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
 5:00PM Vigil Mass

Sunday, January 1, 2023
(New Year's Day)
Solemnity of Mary Mother of God
 10:00AM Mass
 12:00PM Mass

Sunday, January 8, 2023
The Epiphany of the Lord
 Saturday 5:00PM Mass
 Sunday 8:00AM, 10:00AM & 12:00PM Masses,
 1:15PM Franklin High School Madrigals (Church)



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This Week @ St. Matthias From Our 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, Jan 1, 2023 New Year's Day
 10:00AM Mass Church
 12:00PM Mass Church

Monday, Jan 2, 2023 Sts. Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops & Doctors of the Church
SMS Closed for Christmas Break
 No Mass
 Parish Office Closed

Tuesday Jan 3, 2023 The Most Holy Name of Jesus
 8:00AM SMS in Session
 8:00AM Mass Church
 7:30PM SVDP Society Mtg. St. John XXIII Rm

Wednesday, Jan 4, 2023 St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious
 8:00AM Mass Church
 9:30AM Prayer Group 1 Holy Spirit de Porres Rm
 7:30PM Folk Group Rehearsal Church

Thursday, Jan 5, 2023 St. John Neumann, Bishop
 8:00AM Mass Church
 3:30PM Children's Choir Gr. 3&4 Church
 4:00PM Children's Choir Gr. 5-8 Church
 8:00PM K of C Mtg. Cafeteria

Friday, Jan 6, 2023 St. Andre Bessette, Religious
SMS Dismissal 12:15PM
Last Day Christmas Trees are Lit
 8:00AM Mass Church
 8:30AM 1st Friday Holy Hour Church
 10:00AM SMS Epiphany Mass Church

Saturday, Jan 7, 2023 St. Raymond of Penyafort, Priest
 3:30PM Reconciliation Church
 5:00PM Vigil Mass Church

Sunday, Jan 8, 2023 Epiphany of the Lord
Together in Charity Collection
 8:00AM Mass Church
 10:00AM Mass -Sign Language Interpreter Church
 12:00PM Mass Church
 1:15PM FHS Madrigals Perform Church
 2:00PM GIFT Church, Clsrms, St. John XXIII Rm



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, 5 business days before the needed bulletin date (earlier for holiday weekends). Approved content is published on a space-available basis.



Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! The New Year's Eve Mass is an opportunity for us to thank God for the blessings we received in 2022. We usher in the New Year not only watching all the celebrations across the world including the dropping of the ball in Times Square, but also by celebrating the Eucharist in God's house and beginning 2023 with His blessings. Many will make this first day of the New Year a time of reflecting, resolving, and beginning again.

It is only understandable that most New Year's resolutions are about personal health like eating right, losing weight, relaxing more, avoiding smoking, drinking etc. But Christianity reminds us that we are more than our bodies. Jesus says: "Life is more than food, and the body more than clothes" (Luke 12:23). Hence our New Year resolutions should address every aspect of our self - physical, mental, spiritual and emotional. I came across some simple but profound ideas that the International Catholic Stewardship Council published. I wish to share these with you:

Practice gratitude – Cultivating a grateful heart is the hallmark of a Christian steward. Every day, express thankfulness. Seeing the good in your life will allow you to keep your heart compassionate and loving.

Encounter the Lord each day – Find time to be with the Lord each day, whether it be for an hour or ten minutes. Have a conversation with the Lord. Give your joys and worries to Him as well. Allow God's love to transform them.

Be present to others – There is much celebration and mourning, joy and sorrow in peoples' lives. What a blessing it is to be able to share those times and not let others experience them alone. The gift of your presence to others is much more valuable than you realize.

Resist overwork – There is a pressure to produce, meet goals, be successful. But activities that lead us to overwork, constant fatigue and worry do not give glory to God. What God calls us to do, we can do well. Be mindful that life requires balance, down time and letting go of unrealistic goals.

Give more – Good stewards realize that everything they have is entrusted to them as gifts to be shared. There is no better place to begin than sharing with the community that gathers around the Lord's table at Mass.

Make a difference in your parish community – Believe it or not, your parish community can use your talents. Offering your talents to your faith community is one of the most effective ways to feel useful and connected to others, and it is a potentially life-changing New Year resolution.

Consider living more simply – We cannot find fulfillment in possessions. They add nothing to our self-worth. Jesus blessed the "poor in spirit" in his Sermon on the Mount; and Saint Francis of Assisi urged us to live with only what was necessary, for that is how we begin to find God.

Don't give up – People give up their New Year resolutions because of perfectionism and unrealistic expectations. So take it slow, be kind to yourself and keep trying. Resist the urge to throw your hands up and quit. You succeed through small, manageable changes over time.

May the Blessings of Baby Jesus stay with all of you for the whole of the New Year 2023.

Your brother in Christ,
 Fr. Abraham Orapankal

Readings for the Week

Monday: 1 Jn 2:22-28; Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; Jn 1:19-28

Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:29-3:6; Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6; Jn 1:29-34

Wednesday: 1 Jn 3:7-10; Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9; Jn 1:35-42

Thursday: 1 Jn 3:11-21; Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5; Jn 1:43-51

Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13; Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20; Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-38 or Lk 3:23, 31-34, 36, 38

Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21; Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5-6a, 9b; Jn 2:1-11

Sunday: Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, Dec 31 5:00PM Will Cuddeback, by Mom & Dad

Sunday, Jan 1, 2023 8:00AM Intention of Parishioners

10:00AM Dennis Stuewe, by St. Matthias School

12:00PM Thomas Neville, by St. Matthias School

Monday, Jan 2 8:00AM No Mass

Tuesday, Jan 3 8:00AM Remia Alomia, by The Capuno Family

Wednesday, Jan 4 8:00AM Dennis Stuewe, by Holy Trinity Prayer Group

Thursday, Jan 5 8:00AM Mary Ford Nolan, by The Mazzeo Family

Friday, Jan 6 8:00AM Barbara Rossmann, by Sister

Saturday, Jan 7 5:00PM Intention Of Parishioners

Sunday, Jan 8 8:00AM Mary Haney, by Ellen & Paul Junas

10:00AM Victoria Moreno, by The Walter Family

12:00PM Russell Mulholland,
by Joan Pritchard & John Mulholland



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.*

Erika, Jay & Beth Adams
Carolyn Banghart
Tammy Baskaran
Angela Berlund
Arthur & Regina Berlowitz
Anthony Brandi
Bianca Canlas
Tara Capatosto
Ellen Catalina
Kyle Davidson
Lisa DeFeo
Michael DiMaggio
William Dolphin
Vivian Dong
Claudia Gemgnani
Helen Geraghty
Emma Gergely

Mary Gidaro
Carol Gryskiewicz
Sloopy & John Hoffman
Marilyn Horvath
Baby Isla-Rose Huffman
Robert Kashinsky
Al Kepenis
Kathleen Lagenbacher
The Litrakis Family
Jude Raymond Maceren
Clarissa & Kevin Magat
Kenneth & Kelly Magat
Al Maglio
Susan, Tosh & King Manansala
Christine Mathews
Beatrice May
Anne McElwee

Margaret Menendez
Carol Millemann
Sabrina Moloney
Kathlyn Moore
Eleanor Nagy
Janice Navatkowski
Danny Ongchango
Paul & Doris Paetow
Fiorello Parente
Robert Pellegrino
Jim Pettit
Christina Pietrowiak
Nathan Reavey
Caitlin Regan
Doris Regan
Gabriel Rivera
Jaxon Rivera

Arina Robinson
Arthur Robinson
Maria Schwenzer
Tippur Seshagiri
Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF
Jeff Sullivan
Jay Swick
Tom Szabo
Nancy Whelan
Jay 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*

Reflect



Smile with Your Family



Alex was five; all his Christmas presents were always signed, 'from Father Christmas.' A little while after Alex had opened all his presents on Christmas morning, we became aware that he was looking quite down in the mouth for no obvious reason. 'What's the matter, Al?' I asked. 'Ummm, these are all from Father Christmas' replied Alex slowly, 'I really hoped that you and Mummy would give me something for Christmas.' 😊

Broken already: At the beginning of a new year, a high school teaching staff decided to post their new year's resolutions on the bulletin board. As the teachers gathered around the bulletin board, a great commotion ensued. One of the teachers was complaining. "Why weren't my resolutions posted?" She was throwing such a temper tantrum that the principal hurried to his office to see if he had overlooked her resolutions. Sure enough, he had mislaid them on his desk. As he read her resolutions, he was astounded. This teacher's first resolution was not to let little things upset her in the New Year. 😊

Peter, at a New Year's party, turns to his friend, Ken, and asks for a cigarette. 'I thought you made a New Year's

resolution to quit smoking,' Ken responds. 'I'm in the process of quitting,' replies Peter with a grin. 'Right now, I am in the middle of phase one.' 'Phase one?' wonders Ken. 'Yeah,' laughs Peter, 'I've quit buying.' 😊

My New Year's resolution is to stop hanging out with people who ask me about my New Year's resolutions. 😊

An optimist stays up until midnight to see the New Year in. A pessimist stays up to make sure the old year leaves. 😊

Where can you go to practice math on New Year's Eve? Times Square. 😊

My resolution was to read more, so I put the subtitles on my TV. 😊

I don't know why people flock to Times Square on New Year's Eve. They always drop the ball.

I love when they drop the ball in Times Square. It's a nice reminder of what I did all year. 😊

May all your troubles last as long as your New Year's resolutions 😊



Parenting Tune-Up

The calendar year is over. Ask yourself and your child what you liked most and least about 2022? What are you looking forward to as we step into 2023? What is one thing you'd like to improve about yourself?

Marriage Tune-Up



New Year! Traditionally people make resolutions to improve themselves at the beginning of the year. In marriage, since you are united in love, what improves one spouse also improves the other. What marriage building practice do you want to start or continue during 2023?

Did Christmas End, or Just Beginning?

When the song of the angels is stilled when the star in the sky is gone when the kings and the princes are home when the shepherds are back with their flocks **the work of Christmas begins**: to find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the hungry, to release the prisoner, to rebuild the nations, to bring peace among the people, to make music in the heart. (Howard Thurman)

Did you miss the Point? You can Start Anew!

How was Christmas? Was it truly a celebration of Christ? Or did I miss the point? If I decorate my house perfectly with plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights and shiny balls, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another decorator. If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of Christmas cookies, preparing gourmet meals and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another cook. If I work at the soup kitchen, carol in the nursing home, and give all that I have to charity, but do not show love to my family, it profits me nothing. If I trim the spruce with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes, attend a myriad of holiday parties and sing in the choir's cantata, but do not focus on Christ, I have missed the point. But don't worry, the compassionate God gives you another chance to begin this New Year well!

Start anew!

Mary's "treasures"

An American Mennonite minister, Isaac Villegas, writes in the December issue of *The Christian Century* of volunteering last year at a migrant shelter in Tijuana, Mexico. One day a woman arrived from the Mayan region of Guatemala. She was pregnant, within weeks of her due date. She came to the shelter asking for a pair of shoes. Together, the woman and Villegas rummaged through the shelter's store of donated clothing. As they poked around, she began to giggle: there was a huge pile of high heels — stilettos and platform shoes. Villegas laughed, too, trying to explain that they were donated by well-meaning Americans who had no idea what it was like to walk through the desert in stilettos. The two eventually found a pair of Nikes that fit her.

Later that evening, Villegas and the other volunteers decided to throw a baby shower for the soon-to-be mom. They sorted through the boxes of clothes, picking out the cutest onesies and baby outfits; they pitched in to purchase a cake and party supplies. The next evening they celebrated the mother-to-be and her child about to be born, Villegas realizes, into a world and society "that couldn't care less about her life or her child's." A week later, back home in the United States, Villegas received a text from a friend at the shelter with pictures of the newborn. Both mother and child were doing well. The folks at the shelter would care for her until she was ready to try to cross the border with her child for a new life in the United States.

For Isaac Villegas, his encounter with the Mayan mother was an experience of the Christmas mystery: "This is the world into which Jesus is born, with Mary and Joseph far away from their home, in a neglected corner of society, left to celebrate with strangers. The shepherds from the fields offer the only gifts they have, words: the words of the angels, the promises of God, news of hope. And 'Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart . . .'" "The Christmas gospel is this," Villegas writes, that despite the bewilderment and exhaustion of our lives, "there is joy, there are celebrations, there are baby showers in shelters and people who look out for each other and strangers who do what they can with what they have. The world is held in God's care, every life held by God."

In the course of this New Year, we will encounter Mary and Joseph and their Child in the poor, the fearful, the broken, the despairing and the hurting we will meet. May we resolve this New Year's Day, a day dedicated to the Mother of God, to speak the word of God's

compassion and peace readily and gratefully in the generosity and respect we will be called upon to extend to others. May the "holy families" we meet "treasure" in their hearts whatever we are able to provide to them as we would offer to Mary and her Child.

A quilt for 2023

And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart. Luke 2: 16-21

Her eldest granddaughter has just shared the news: she and her boyfriend are engaged. Grandma is ecstatic for the young couple. When the grandmother shares the news with her quilter-friends, they immediately decide to create a beautiful quilt for the couple. Grandma begins thinking about colors. She and her sister-quilters study various patterns before settling on a design that will look amazing in the couple's home. Along the way they add touches that reflect the bride and groom: a small panel imprinted with a cello to reflect her musical training, a cloth with a coho salmon to celebrate his love of the outdoors. A Celtic harp, a maple tree, two robins become part of the design. They even add the Red Sox iconic letter "B," in memory of his late father, who was an avid baseball fan.

As in every quilt they create together, the quilters make a few changes along the way: they will rework pieces that don't quite fit, re-sew stitches that are uneven or when thread breaks, and incorporate new ideas that inspire them. After hours of hard but loving work, Grandma and her friends surprise the couple with the finished quilt a week before their wedding. The bride and groom are moved not only at the artistry but the love clearly reflected in the quilt. They immediately arrange to have the quilt displayed at the wedding. Now, many years later, the quilt remains on their bed, a beautiful symbol of love and gratitude for their life together and the family and friends who support them.

Imagine this New Year's Day as creating a quilt — a quilt of our lives. We begin 2023 with the ideas and hopes for what we can create from the fragments of cloth we will find. The colors of compassion and generosity of our fellow quilters will inspire us. We will make mistakes — choices that don't fit, stitches that are poorly executed — but by God's grace and in a spirit of humility, we can re-stitch as necessary. Today, in the spirit of Mary's "keeping all these things in her heart," may we resolve to make this year a "quilt" of God's joy and hope: grateful for the "pieces" of God's providence and peace that bless our days, discovering the pattern of God's love in the gift of this New Year.

Reflect

New Year Resolutions of Biblical Characters

- Eve**—Don't talk to strangers.
- Sarah**—Wear my wedding ring, especially when talking to kings.
- Jacob**—Light the oil lamp *before* consummating the marriage.
- Joseph**—Tell my dreams to my therapist, not my brothers.
- Moses**—Practice power poses. Work on stutter.
- Balaam's Donkey**—Keep my big mouth shut.
- Samson**—Grow my hair out.
- Absalom**—Cut my hair.
- Elisha**—Get hair plugs. Or a toupee. Also anger management classes.
- Rahab**—Make foreign spies use the *back* door.
- Hosea**—Buy *Naming Babies for Dummies*.
- Peter**—Think before I speak. Think before I act.
Stop with the compulsive lying. . .
Get a new therapist.
- Martha**—Sign Mary up for cooking classes.
- Mary**—Sign Martha up for a spa day.
- Eutychus**—Drink more coffee.

If these biblical folks had made these new year's resolutions, the stories we teach and preach might be quite different. Based on lessons learned from your past, what are your New Year Resolutions for 2023?

The Best New Year Gifts

- To your friend - loyalty;
- To your enemy - forgiveness;
- To your boss - service;
- To a child - a good example;
- To your parents - gratitude and devotion;
- To your mate - love and faithfulness;
- To all men and women - love;
- To God - your life.

How can Kyle be so positive?

Kyle Maynard was born with some of the birth defects that every parent fears--stunted arms and legs and misshapen hands and feet. Most people would consider him to be handicapped. But most people don't know Kyle Maynard. This young man, who chooses not to use prosthetic limbs, constantly challenges himself to break physical barriers. He played middle school football alongside much bigger kids. In high school, Kyle began weight training and joined the wrestling team. He and his coach developed moves that made the most of Kyle's physical assets. Kyle advanced so much that he earned the title, Strongest Teen, for his weight-lifting feats.

In fact, Kyle Maynard has such a positive attitude that a juvenile court judge once sentenced a troublesome kid to spend the day with Kyle. The judge wanted the teen to understand that our lives are shaped much more by our attitude than by our circumstances. After spending a day with the troubled teen, Kyle commented, "People think I have a bad life. Look at my life compared to this kid's. I have a beautiful family who loves me. Everybody has struggles. My struggles are just more apparent."

Isn't that amazing? You and I see people every day with perfectly good bodies, healthy in every way, who are mired in unhappiness. And then we run into a Kyle Maynard with his stunted arms and misshapen hands and feet, and he is so positive. How does that happen? Obviously it helps to have people who love you and believe in you.

Make one simple resolution.

We might resolve to say a short prayer every morning:

"Good morning, Lord. Thank You for extending my life for one more day. Enable me to do your will, O God and anoint me with the power of your Holy Spirit." And, every evening, as the last thing before we go to sleep we could resolve to say: "Good night, Lord. Thank You for all Your blessings. Thank You for helping me to do Your will today and forgive me, Lord, for saying 'No,' to Your grace on several occasions today. Help me to do better tomorrow, and to say 'Yes' to Your love." We could resolve to go to sleep praying: "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Have a Happy New Year, overflowing with the "Yes" to God our Father, to the Lord Jesus our Brother and "Yes" to the Holy Spirit our Advocate and our Guide to every good deed.

Pray



Just a reminder that the RCIA is intended for:
+ Unbaptized adults, + Adults who have been baptized into a non-Catholic denomination + Adults who have been baptized Catholic but

never received first Eucharist or Confirmation **NOW IS THE TIME TO FIND OUT MORE!** Contact our RCIA Co-Coordinator Anne Marie Francis: alfrancis.30@gmail.com or Mary Frances Reavey: mfreavey@gmail.com to find out more .

From the Pastoral Staff



It is rare that we get to celebrate New Year's Day, or the Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God on a Saturday/ Sunday- Happy New Year!

Today's Gospel from Luke includes one of my absolute favorite scripture passages of all time..” And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart.

This entire Advent/ Christmas season has been opportunity for us all to think about and pray about what we treasure in our hearts.

What's in my heart?

My family, our friends, our health, our employment, the happy or poignant memories of holidays past and the hope for peaceful special holidays ahead... my list goes on and on.

I treasure the incredible music with which our St. Matthias Music Ministry has praised God this past year, especially at our Anniversary Concert and our Christmas Masses.

I treasure the knowledge that so many people in our parish

and local community have been helped by the outreach of our ministries to the poor and grieving.

And I treasure this amazing Catholic faith we share, which brings us together around the table of our Lord Jesus Christ, nourishing our spirits and helping us to authentically live our baptismal call to discipleship.

There is so much to be grateful for, and so much to look forward to!

Let's make an awesome 2023- together! Happy New Year! ...



Joan Best Seamon

Pastoral Associate for Liturgical Music, St. Matthias Church



Learn

TO THE PARENTS OF YOUNG CHILDREN!

We are so happy that you are coming to St. Matthias with your little ones. Your effort is appreciated. May we suggest the following:

Relax! God put the wiggle in children; don't feel you have to suppress it in God's house.

You are welcome to use our Cry Room for the little ones. But if they are a bit older, you can also consider sitting toward the front where it is easier for them to see and hear what is going on at the altar. They tire of seeing the backs of other people's heads.

Quietly explain the parts of Mass and the actions of the priest, altar servers, etc.

Sing the hymns, pray, and voice the responses. Children learn liturgical behavior by copying you.

If you have to leave Mass with your child, feel free to do so, but please come back. As Jesus said, "Let the children come to me." If necessary, please consider using the cry room, but remember that you are still participating at the Mass.

Remember that the way we welcome children in the church directly affects the way they respond to the Church, to God, and to one another. Let them know that they are at home in this house of worship.

Merry Christmas!

TO THE MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH

The presence of children is a gift to the church and they are a reminder that our parish is growing. Please welcome our children and give a smile of encouragement to their parents.

Merry Christmas!

Spotlight on St. Matthias School



Like many of your households, December has been quite a busy month here at St. Matthias School. Of course, the Christmas season begins with the celebration of Advent, where we prepare the stables of our hearts for the return of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Students at every grade level have been learning about Advent and making beautiful crafts to honor this special time of year. They have also been learning Christmas songs, making holiday art, and reading Christmas-themed stories, such as “A Christmas Carol” and “A Christmas Memory.” We celebrated the feast day of Saint Nicholas on December 6th. Shoes of every size were lined up in the hallways in hopes that St. Nick would fill them with treats. Eighth graders, decked out in Santa hats and antlers, were bestowed the privilege of making ornaments and decorating the school’s Christmas tree. They were also treated to a delicious breakfast to kick off the day’s festivities. Our school band, under the direction of Mr. and Mrs. Mallinson, held a beautiful Christmas concert on December 13th. This musical performance is always such a lovely part of the

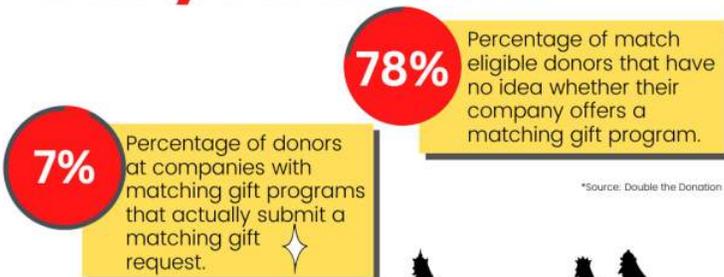
holiday season. The annual St. Matthias Craft Fair and St. Nick Sale provided students and their families the opportunity to shop for unique presents for friends and family. Another favorite annual tradition is the Nativity play performed by our most precious preschoolers. To end this busy season, we had a Pajama Day and story time with Santa. We also had a Dress-Up Day for Baby Jesus’ birthday and attended the Christmas Prayer Service prepared by the fourth grade class. If you are interested in learning more about our amazing school, please join us for an Open House on January 29th at the 10 a.m. Mass followed by a tour of the school from 11 to 1.

Traditions are important, but we never lose sight of the true meaning of Christmas. We rejoice in the birth of God’s only son, Jesus Christ, who came to redeem all mankind and call them to Himself. We thank you for supporting our parish school. Know that you are a part of our daily prayers. Merry Christmas to all!

Mary Lynch,
St. Matthias School Principal

Learn

Did you know....



Take advantage of Year-End Giving & Donate to St. Matthias

www.stmatthias.net/give

 For more information, email: ahanna@stmatthias.net

Did you know that many companies sponsor a matching gift program to encourage employees to be generous?

That's FREE money to a non-profit of their choice. Your end-of-year giving may have DOUBLE the impact!

ahanna@stmatthias.net

find out if your company has a matching gift policy!

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 23 - Dec. 4, 2022	\$17,492.00	\$14,248.25	\$31,740.25	\$30,212.75
Week 24 - Dec. 11, 2022	\$13,450.00	\$25,235.75	\$38,685.75	\$33,732.25
Week 25 - Dec. 18, 2022	\$10,261.00	\$12,698.25	\$22,959.25	\$31,730.75
Week 26 - Dec. 25, 2022	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$17,584.65
			Month-to-date Total	Dec. Total Last Yr
			\$93,385.25	\$113,260.40
Due to Publisher's holiday schedule, we will publish all Stewardship Totals in later bulletins.			Current Year-to-	Year-to-date as of Dec
			\$639,790.92	\$667,904.31

Stewardship Reflection Jan 1, 2023 Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

“And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart.” LUKÉ 2:19

After Jesus, we look to Mary as an ideal steward. Her entire life was lived in obedience to God’s call. She heard God’s message, and immediately said “yes.” Mary teaches us to live with joy and gratitude for the many blessings God has given us. Just as the moon reflects the light of the sun, Mary reflects the light of Christ. Like Mary, we are called to reflect Christ’s light to the world. We do this through lives of gratitude and generosity.

Reflexiónese 1 de enero de 2023 - Solemnidad de María, la Santa Madre de Dios

“Y María, por su parte, guardaba todas estas cosas en su corazón y meditaba acerca de ellas” LUCAS 02:19

Después de Jesús, miramos a María como nuestro modelo ideal de corresponsabilidad. Vivió toda su vida obedeciendo el llamado de Dios. Ella escuchó el mensaje de Dios, y dijo «Sí» inmediatamente. María nos enseña a vivir con alegría y gratitud por las muchas bendiciones que Dios nos ha dado. Así como la luna refleja la luz del sol, María refleja la luz de Cristo. Como María, nosotros somos llamados a reflejar la luz de Cristo al mundo. Nosotros lo hacemos a través de una vida de gratitud y generosidad.

Connect



St Vincent de Paul Society at St Matthias

We are looking for a volunteer to join us to manage our communications (website, social media, and print copy). If you think you have the skills and are interested in joining a ministry that makes a world of difference in the lives of our neighbors in need, please send an email to SVDPatSM@gmail.com for more information.

St Vincent de Paul Society at St Matthias

Do you have a vehicle that you are looking to donate? Look no further. The St Vincent de Paul Society has a program that will pick up your vehicle, at no cost to you, and handle the rest, from selling your vehicle to providing a tax receipt. Your vehicle donation helps fund local programs for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul – such as housing, utilities, food, disaster relief, job training, and more for neighbors in need. All types of vehicles, including cars, trucks, motorcycles, trailers, boats are accepted! You can use the following link to access their on-line form à <https://svdpusa.careasy.org/home>

Connect with Our Local Community



SPIRITUAL AWAKENINGS VIDEO CLUB

There are many great spiritual masters of our time. Richard Rohr, OFM and others

have works that have touched millions of God-seekers. Join this monthly video club and share your insights and prayerful responses to the works of Fr. Rohr and others.

2nd Friday of the month 10-11:30 a.m. at the House of Prayer and on Zoom. From January 13, February 10 (\$20--\$30 / session as you are able)



Women's Spirituality Weekend: Living in the Now

Friday, February 10, 2023 4:00 PM

Sunday, February 12, 2023 12:00 PM

St. Francis Center for Renewal

395 Bridle Path Road Bethlehem, PA, 18017

If you have questions or would prefer to pay by check, please call the Center at 610-867-8890.

Marriage Enrichment



Looking for the perfect Christmas gift for your spouse? Why not give yourselves a Marriage Encounter Weekend.

A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend gives you the time and tools to revitalize Romance, deepen communication, and nourish the spirituality in your marriage.

The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend will be held February 24 - 26.

Please apply ASAP as space is limited.

Phone 1-732-904-9636 for application and information (Tom & Ruth De Falco). Visit us at: www.wwme.org for more information.



Parish Leadership

<p>Parish Pastoral Council: Co-Chairs: Rose Peng, rosepeng@optonline.net John Taylor, jptaylor1068@yahoo.com</p>	<p>Co-Secretaries: Frank Rees Marilyn Wegg Stephan Busono Anne Marie Francis Bill Isele Maria Tapia-Burch</p>	<p>Msgr. Seamus Brennen, Ex-Officio Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio Trustees: Pearl Scott Marge Richards</p>	<p>Parish Finance Council: Kester Hector, Chair Finance Council @stmatthias.net Carmen Driz-Melilli Barry Dusault Gwen Orlowski</p>	<p>Audrey Francis Joe Porter Joan Pritchard Mary Pat Burke-Grospin, Ex-Officio Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio</p>
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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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Tuesday, 10/11
Tuesday, 10/18
Tuesday, 10/25

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Tuesday, 11/08
Tuesday, 11/15
Tuesday, 11/29

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