



**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](http://www.stmatthias.net)

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

**St. Matthias School (SMS):**  
 170 JFK Blvd., Somerset, NJ 08873  
[www.stmatthias.info](http://www.stmatthias.info) 732-828-1402

For all Parish emails, add @stmatthias.net

**Pastor:** Rev Abraham Orapankal, [abraham](mailto:abraham@stmatthias.net)  
**Senior Priest:** Msgr. Seamus Brennan, [sbrennan](mailto:sbrennan@stmatthias.net)  
 Mary Pat Burke-Grospin, Business Administrator  
[mpburke-grospin](mailto:mpburke-grospin@stmatthias.net)  
 Deacon Ron Caimi, Senior Deacon  
 Kelly Counts, Receptionist, [kcounts](mailto:kcounts@stmatthias.net)  
 Juan Diaz Flores, Custodian  
 Leslie Guillen, Bulletin Editor, [lg Guillen](mailto:lg Guillen@stmatthias.net)  
 Nathalie Godet, Website Coordinator, [ngodet](mailto:ngodet@stmatthias.net)  
 Amy Hanna, Accountant/Databases, [ahanna](mailto:ahanna@stmatthias.net)  
 Julio Montero, Maintenance Supervisor  
 Deacon Russell Demkovitz, [r demkovitz](mailto:r demkovitz@stmatthias.net)  
 Ana V Kelly, Pastoral Associate for Marketing & Development, [akelly](mailto:akelly@stmatthias.net)  
 Mike Lanyi, Sacristan  
 Sue Lenczewski, Youth Coordinator  
 Dolores R. Nann, Pastoral Associate for Faith Formation, [dnann](mailto:dnann@stmatthias.net)  
 Vinnie Natale, Bookkeeper, [vnatale](mailto:vnatale@stmatthias.net)  
 Silvia Nizama, Housekeeper  
 Deacon John Radvanski, [deaconjohn](mailto:deaconjohn@stmatthias.net)  
 Joan Best Seamon, Pastoral Associate for Music Ministry, [jseamon](mailto:jseamon@stmatthias.net)  
 Sr Marie Therese Sherwood, OSF, Pastoral Assoc. for Social Concerns, [msherwood](mailto:msherwood@stmatthias.net)  
 Phyllis Stone, Pastoral Associate for Liturgy/RCIA & Admin. Assistant to the Pastor, [pstone](mailto:pstone@stmatthias.net)  
 Trish Stumper, Par. Support Secretary, [tstumper](mailto:tstumper@stmatthias.net)  
**St. Matthias School (add @stmatthiasnj.org)**  
 Mary Lynch, Principal, [mlynch](mailto:mlynch@stmatthiasnj.org)  
 Joseph Gidaro, Vice Principal, [jgidaro](mailto:jgidaro@stmatthiasnj.org)

## THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS

### SUNDAY, JAN 16, 2022–

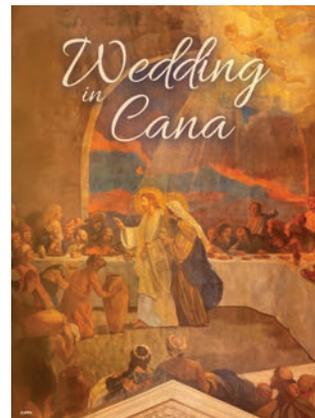
### Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

#### Pope Francis to the Diplomatic Corps

Annual Address, January 7, 2022

“The issue of migration, together with the pandemic and climate change, has clearly demonstrated that we cannot be saved alone and by ourselves: the great challenges of our time are all global... What is needed... is a recovery of our sense of shared identity as a single human family.”

The complete speech may be found at:  
<https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/speeches/2022/january/documents/20220110-corpo-diplomatico.html>



The Synod Listening Sessions will not meet on January 25. Stay tuned for a new date. Check [www.diometuchen.org/synod2023](http://www.diometuchen.org/synod2023)

#### Our Annual Night of Winners is coming Feb. 26th



Please see the ad on page 9 for additional information

Any new, unused items, in their original packaging are welcome to be dropped off in the Parish or School Office during normal business hours.

**The deadline for donations is February 4, 2022.**

Not sure what we might be looking for? Look no further than the list below for ideas/suggestions or visit our Amazon Wish List to donate with just a click!

[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1QM08DGC9TS6E?ref\\_=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1QM08DGC9TS6E?ref_=wl_share)

Gift Certificates/Gift Cards	Electronics (TV's, iPads, Kindles, etc.)	Gaming Stations
Jewelry	American Girl Dolls	Pet Items
Bottles of Wine/Liquor	Collectibles	Beauty Items
Housewares	Barware	Vacation Home Rentals
Appliances	Sporting Equipment	

Any questions about donations can be directed to Melissa Garlatti – [melissa.garlatti@gmail.com](mailto:melissa.garlatti@gmail.com)

#### Job Opening at St. Matthias

The Catholic Community of St. Matthias is looking for a **general maintenance worker with a black seal license**. Responsibilities include janitorial duties in maintaining the safety and cleanliness of the facilities, and responding to work orders from the school and parish. This position will have a competitive salary and excellent benefits. Please contact Mary Pat at [mpburke-grospin@stmatthias.net](mailto:mpburke-grospin@stmatthias.net) or (732) 826-1400.



If you shop on Amazon, please help us by starting at:  
[www.stmatthias.net/Amazon](http://www.stmatthias.net/Amazon)

## This Week at St. Matthias

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 Jan 16, 2022 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00AM	Mass	Church
10:00AM	Mass	Church
10:30AM	RCIA	John XXIII Rm
12:00PM	Mass	Church

### Monday, Jan 17, 2022 St. Anthony, Abbot

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

No School & Parish Office Closed

8:00AM No Mass

### Tuesday, Jan 18, 2022 St. Margaret of Hungary

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

### Wednesday, Jan 19, 2022 St. Canute IV, 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, Jan 20, 2022 St. Fabian, Pope & Martyr, St. Sebastian, Martyr

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	Cry Room
7:30PM	Sunday 10AM Choir	Church
7:30PM	NeXt Level Mtg.	Zoom

### Friday, Jan 21, 2022 St. Agnes, Martyr

8:00AM Mass Church

### Saturday, Jan 22, 2022 St. Vincent Pallotti, Priest & Founder of Pious Society of Missions ( Pallottines)

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

### Sunday Jan 23, 2022 Foundation for Catholic Education Collection

8:00AM	Mass	Church
10:00AM	Mass	Church
10:00AM	1st Reconciliation Prep (children only)	
	Mass in church, then classrms, & John XXIII	
12:00PM	Mass	Church
2:00PM	Adult Confirmation Prep Sessions	Zoom

#### Bulletin Article Requests:

If you would like to send information to be included in our bulletin, please email it to [bulletin@stmatthias.net](mailto:bulletin@stmatthias.net) by 12 Noon, WEDNESDAY, 10 days before the intended issue (earlier for holiday weekends). Approved content is published on a space-available basis.

## From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends,

Martin Luther King Day is observed every year on the third Monday of January. This year it falls on this Monday, January 17. Dr. King became minister of the Dexter Ave. Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama in 1954 and was the most prominent leader in the American civil rights movement until his assassination in 1968. We are thankful for the path that he forged, together with countless others, for bringing about racial equality and ending racial segregation in the United States.

From what we have witnessed in recent years, it is obvious that we are experiencing deep divisions and polarizations on this issue and on other social justice matters. We need to ask the same questions that Dr. King asked: How will we struggle against the injustices in our society? What means will we use? Inspired by his Christian convictions and his admiration for Gandhi's nonviolent activism that led to India's freedom in 1947, Dr. King opted for civil rights through nonviolence and civil disobedience. He wanted to overcome hate with the wisdom of the Gospel of Jesus who taught loving our enemies. He kept reminding his audiences to seek reconciliation and not to fall easy prey to the temptation to violent reprisals. In 1958, Rev. King wrote: "*Along the way of life, someone must have the sense enough and the morality enough to cut off the chain of hate. This can only be done by projecting the ethics of love to the center of our lives.*"

As Catholics, we have been doing a lot of self-examination in becoming aware of racism that denies respect, equality and human dignity to people of color both in the church and in the society. In November 2018 the Catholic bishops of the United States released a Pastoral Letter Against Racism called, *Open Wide Our Hearts*. Our Bishops acknowledged the truth: "Racism still profoundly affects our culture, and it has no place in the Christian heart. This evil causes great harm to its victims, and it corrupts the souls of those who harbor racist or prejudicial thoughts. The persistence of the evil of racism is why we are writing this letter now."

Yes, the letter is a powerful initiative but more needs to be done, and soon, to bring that awareness to us Catholics on the national, diocesan and parish levels. I'm very happy that our parish of St. Matthias has taken some significant steps to address racism and other social justice issues by having events and retreats as well as launching the Social Justice Initiative by our Pastoral Council and the Racial Justice Initiative by our St. Martin De Porres Society.

I invite us all to read the Bishops' letter '*Open Wide Our Hearts*' as well as get new resources from [usccb.org/racism](https://www.usccb.org/racism). May the legacy of Dr. King remind us that God's plan for us is to live in peace with all, by loving and respecting everyone without any discrimination.

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Orapankal

## Readings for the Week

**Monday:** 1 Sm 15:16-23; Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21, 23; Mk 2:18-22

**Tuesday:** 1 Sm 16:1-13; Ps 89:20, 21-22, 27-28; Mk 2:23-28

**Wednesday:** 1 Sm 17:32-33, 37, 40-51; Ps 144:1b, 2, 9-10; Mk 3:1-6

**Thursday:** 1 Sm 18:6-9; 19:1-7; Ps 56:2-3, 9-10a, 10b-11, 12-13; Mk 3:7-12

**Friday:** 1 Sm 24:3-21; Ps 57:2, 3-4, 6, 11; Mk 3:13-19

**Saturday:** 2 Sm 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27; Ps 80:2-3, 5-7; Mk 3:20-21

**Sunday:** Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10; Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15; 1 Cor 12:12-30 or 1 Cor 12:12-14, 27; Lk 1:1-4; 4:14-21

## Mass Intentions for the Week

<b>Saturday, Jan 15</b>	5:00PM	Jill Szabo, by The Lanyi & Kantor Families
<b>Sunday, Jan 16</b>	8:00AM	Augustin Vidal, by Menchie Ventura & Family
	10:00AM	Valentine Rex, by Binny, Sowjanya & Aneta
	12:00PM	Leticia Roman, by Flora Sunga
	(5:30PM)	Intention of Parishioners
<b>Monday, Jan 17</b>	8:00AM	No Mass
<b>Tuesday, Jan 18</b>	8:00AM	Elena Cruz, by The Tibay Family
<b>Wednesday, Jan 19</b>	8:00AM	Jill Gordon-Szabo, by Helen & Sal Saladini
<b>Thursday, Jan 20</b>	8:00AM	Mary Eads, by The Family
<b>Friday, Jan 21</b>	5:00PM	Januario Referente, by Menchie Ventura & Family
<b>Saturday, Jan 22</b>	10:00AM	Mary Collins by Marty Collins
<b>Sunday, Jan 23</b>	8:00AM	Ethal Wohlhagen, by Sharon & Tom Gleason
	10:00AM	Lisa Wehner, by Pat & Tony Ricicki
	12:00PM	Geralyne Kish Moore, by Joan Shea
	(5:30PM)	Intention of Parishioners

## Pray for Those Getting Married...

Mariella Klinger and Dave Seamon—January 15, 2022

Christina DeJesus and Edgar Brito—January 30, 2022

## Pray for those who are sick...

*If you or a family member are sick, please call the Parish Office or email Kelly Counts at [kccounts@stmatthias.net](mailto:kccounts@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

Lou Carcich

Ellen Catalina

Sean Clancy

Tom Current

Joseph DeFrancesco

Kenon DeGuzman

Mary Ellen Delaney

Alaina Derecola

Surya & Juliany Dharma

Jim Dolan

Mary Dolan

William Dolphin

John Farkas

Claudia Gemgnani

Emma Gergely

Rose Gessner

Mary Gidaro

Marie Godet

Sloopy Hoffman

Baby Isla-Rose Huffman

Kathleen Lagenbacher

Al & Rose Larangeira

Erlina Liem

The Litrakis Family

Al Maglio

Sue Maglio-Alese

Beatrice May

Margaret Menendez

Gail Miranda

Sabrina Moloney

Dave Moynihan

Baby Ezran Natural

Patricia Nese

Danny Ochangco

Jack Oge

Bernadine Pasternak

Jim Pettit

Christina Pietrowiak

Oscar Poisler

Baby Griffin Rademaker

Kevin Reavey

Chris Retz

Ann Ritchick

Jaxon Rivera

Angela Romanek

Maria Schwenzer

Sr. Mary Amata Shina, OSF

Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF

Catherine Sloomaker

Encarnacion (Gina) So

Alessandro Spagnolo

Dennis Stuewe

Jeff Tami

Alma Valdez

Fred & Carolyn Vanmiddlesworth

Eulalia Villanueva

Judi Wojna

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

Ruel Camaligan

Ethna Archer, mother of Wilma Moynihan

Angela Romanek, mother of Don Romanek

Francis Moricone, mother of Sal Falgiano

## Reflect



### Smile with Your Family



Little Tommy was so impressed by his oldest sister's wedding that he announced. "I want to have a wedding just like Linda had." "That sounds great," said his father. "But whom will you marry?" Tommy announced: "I want to marry grandma because she loves me and I love her." "You can't marry grandma," his father said. "Why not?" Tommy protested. "Because she is my mother." "Well," reasoned Tom-

my. "Then why did you marry my mother?" 😊

At the Christmas Eve service at a church, the pastor, quizzing some children about the nativity, asked, "What gifts did the three wise men give the Christ child?" "Gold!" one child yelled. "Frankincense!" shouted another. After a pause, a third asked, "Gift cards?"

Who was the fastest runner in the mile?

Adam because he was the first in the human race.

How can you tell an optimist from a pessimist? Ask them to pronounce OPPORTUNITYISNOWHERE.

Optimist: Opportunity is now here;

Pessimist: Opportunity is nowhere! 😊

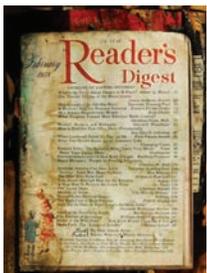
### Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: Jan. 18-25

January 18–25 is traditionally the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. "We saw the star in the East, and we came to worship him" (cf. Matthew 2:2) is the theme for the 2022 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. It was discerned by the Middle East Council of Churches (MECC) in Beirut, Lebanon, and finds its origins in the Gospel of Matthew (Matthew 2:1-12).

Begun in 1908, these days have been set aside each year so that Christians the world over may share the prayer of Jesus: "that all may be one... that the world may believe" (John 17:21). All are encouraged to use the Daily Scripture and Prayer to join with Christians around the world praying "that all may be one... that the world may believe" (John 17:21). Here's a model prayer we all can pray:

***"Lord God, we thank you for sending your Son Jesus Christ to gather all peoples into the one communion of love and life through your Holy Spirit. We thank you for reminding us in our day to extend every effort to maintain the unity of the followers of Christ for which He so fervently prayed.***

***We ask today that this unity, this gift of the Holy Spirit, be so renewed among our churches that they will overcome obstacles that hinder a fuller expression of this gift and prevent a stronger witness to your love in Christ, through the Spirit with whom You live and reign forever and ever, Amen."***



### "I Have Two Wives!"

There was an article in *Reader's Digest* a few years ago, by a man named Patrick Cooney titled, "Why I Wear Two Wedding Bands." Cooney says that he has worn two wedding bands for more than a dozen years. When he's asked about them, he responds, "I have two wives." He's kidding, of course. One day a stranger would not let him off with this glib answer about why he wears two bands. So Cooney spilled the whole story. He explained his father died in 1999. As they were saying their final farewells at his funeral, his mother, who had been married to his father for 50-plus years, removed his father's wedding band and handed it to Patrick. Surprised, he placed the gold band on his left middle finger, next to his wedding band. There it has re-

mained. He told the stranger that he wears his father's wedding band to honor his father and his parents' marriage. He also wears it to remind himself to be the son, brother, husband, and dad that his father wanted him to be. He is now 60 years old and has been married for 30 years. The stranger walked away, then turned back and said, "Sir, you know, I have my father's wedding band in my sock drawer at home, and beginning today, I am going to start wearing it." Powerful story.

***But isn't it true of all our relationships? It's important not only to be faithful and attentive to our spouse, but to our children or our parents and our friends. I can tell you right now, without any hesitation at all that it is God's will for us to take care of our relationships.***

## Reflect

### When Wine Runs out of your Family Life?

*We need Jesus' presence in the family for its smooth running. Just as Jesus filled the empty water jars with wine, let us fill the empty hearts in our family with love. By the miracle of Cana, Jesus challenges us to enrich the empty lives of those around us with the new wine of love, mercy, concern and care.*



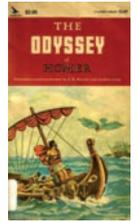
### “The Best is Yet to Be!”



In a drama written for television entitled *Love among the Ruins*, Lawrence Olivier and Katharine Hepburn star as two old friends who were childhood sweethearts forty years ago. Still a single man, Lawrence Olivier is now a prominent lawyer near the age of retirement. Katharine Hepburn is now a widow who comes by chance to Olivier's office for some legal help. Their old romance flares up again, and this time Olivier gets enough courage to ask Hepburn to marry him. To convince her to say 'yes' he quotes these verses from Robert Browning's poetry: "Grow old along with me! The best is yet to be. The last of life, for which the first was made. Our times are in his hands." ***This television drama about love and marriage, and about "the best is yet to be," throws some light on today's Gospel story about the wedding feast at Cana. In his book, John: The Different Gospel, Fr. Michael Taylor points out that, unlike the other evangelists, John calls Jesus' works of wonder signs instead of miracles. John does this because they reveal in a visible way the inner spiritual identity of Jesus. Further, the other symbol in the Cana story, The Old Testament, symbolized by the water, is not being cast aside; it is being transformed by Jesus into something better –the new wine of the New Testament. Indeed, this hour that has finally come is the best that is to be in human history because it is characterized by the abundance and excellence of God's glory being revealed in Jesus.***

### And “they lived happily for ever”

In *The Odyssey*, Homer (ca. 850 BC) wove an epic poem of 24 books around the wanderings and adventures of the mythic Odysseus, King of Ithaca. With his ships scuttled and lost at sea after the Trojan War, Odysseus angered the sea-god, Poseidon, who blocked his every attempt to return to Ithaca, forcing him to roam the earth. While he encountered and coped with one calamity after another, his faithful wife Penelope remained in Ithaca awaiting his return. Years passed with no word from Odysseus. At last, Telemachus, their only son, had grown to manhood. Suitors, wishing to take for themselves Odysseus' wealth and kingdom had been seeking Penelope's hand in marriage. In an effort to fend them off, Penelope promised that she would choose one of them after she had finished weaving a shroud for her father-in-law. Still hoping for her husband's return, Penelope stalled for time by secretly unraveling each day's weaving during that evening. Eventually, but only after years of suffering and separation, the loving couple were reunited.



***Current statistics in western countries give us the impression that “happily ever after” endings now exist only in the world of myth. In the book The Moral Compass, William J. Bennett says, “In recent history, marriage has devolved from being a Sacrament to a contract to a convention to, finally, a convenience, and the wedding vow changed from ‘as long as we both shall live’ to ‘as long as we both shall love.’” Today's Gospel teaches us that if Jesus and Mary are invited into the marriage and are permanently, honorably retained in the family, they will help us solve the tough problems of our family life.***

### The Setting for the Miracle at Cana

Christ's first miracle, which John refers to as a “sign,” takes place in the village of Cana in Galilee. The hometown of the disciple Nathaniel but an otherwise insignificant town, Cana was located some eight miles northeast of Nazareth. This miracle is the first in John's series of seven signs by which Jesus manifested his power and glory during his public ministry. Presumably, the "disciples" who accompanied Jesus were Andrew, Simon Peter, Zebedee's sons James and John, Philip, and Nathaniel. Jesus' mother Mary was also present. Joseph is not mentioned in the story; he may well have died already. It is also possible that Mary was in some way related to the bride or groom and may have been serving as an assistant to the wedding director. According to a version recounted in the Coptic Gospels, the bridegroom was Simon of Cana, Jesus' disciple and the brother of Jacob

continued

# Reflect

## Miracle at Cana (continued)

and Judah. He was the son of Joseph’s brother Cleophas (Helpai) and Mary’s elder sister, and, hence, the nephew of both Mary and Joseph. Such weddings usually began on Wednesdays with the celebration lasting for seven days. During this period, guests arrived each day bringing gifts and participating in the joy of the occasion. In verse 3, we read that, in the course of the celebration, “the wine ran short.” This was a difficult situation for the young couple, and may indicate that they came from poor families.

### “But, Do You Love Me?”



In a scene of the stage play and movie, *Fiddler on the Roof*, the hero Tevye on one occasion keeps nagging his wife Golda, asking her

whether she loves him or not. He keeps pestering her to say she does.... But she is in no romantic mood and brushes him off, until finally she turns to him and says, “Look at this man.... Look at you..... I am your wife, I have cooked your meals, washed your clothes, milked your cow, given you children, my bed is yours, everything I have and am, I share with you – and after all that, you want to know whether I love you? Oh, well... I suppose I do....”

**Most grown-up people, religious included, don’t go telling people they love them.... even if Jesus tells us we have to love one another. But they do express this love by what they do for those people around them every day. Let’s invite Jesus into the ordinary events of daily life, he can make them new! Let us, “invite Jesus and Mary to remain with us in our homes.” St. John**

**Vianney suggests this as the solution for many of our family problems. He used to encourage parents to create an atmosphere of prayer, Bible-reading, mutual love and respect and sacrificial service at home so that the presence of Jesus and Mary might be perpetually enhanced and experienced in the family.**

## Mary’s Intervention at Cana

Among the Jews of that time, wine was not only considered a staple food item, but was also frequently used in times of celebration. To run short of wine at a wedding feast was certainly a serious problem, particularly damaging to the reputation of the host



and an ill omen for the newly-married couple. When Mary pointed out the problem to Jesus, his reply seems, on the surface, to be a bit sharp. This, however, is to misunderstand the passage. Although Jesus addressed his mother as "Woman" or "Dear

Woman,” the term was roughly equivalent to our word “lady” or “madam”, and was not, in itself, unnecessarily harsh. It was, in fact, a term of respect and is the same word Jesus used when he addressed his mother from the cross, saying of John, “Woman, behold your Son.” Jesus’ next words are also easily misunderstood. He asked Mary, “What is it to me and to you?” This implies no rudeness on Jesus’ part. Probably, it means, “We are guests, and guests are not expected to supply the things needed at a feast.” Jesus further protested, “My hour has not yet come,” The “hour” of Jesus includes his passion, death, Resurrection and exaltation taken as one great event. In spite of Jesus’ detachment from the problem, Mary instructed the waiters, “Do whatever He tells you,” showing Faith that her son would do what the newlyweds and their families really needed. The Church uses the account of this miracle to remind us that, by virtue of her position as the Mother of God and our Heavenly mother, Mary’s intercession for us with God has great power.

# Pray

**ALL ARE WELCOME TO SIT IN ON RCIA (Rite of Catholic Initiation for Adults) SESSIONS**

**Listen. Learn. Share. Pray.**

Here is our schedule of sessions and topics for January - February

If you have questions, please contact the parish office.



DATE	TOPIC	LOCATION
<b>CATECHUMENATE PERIOD</b>		
January 16, 2022	How the church evolved, its history, myths and facts	John XXIII Room
January 30, 2022	<i>The Joy of the Gospel: Pope Francis and his letters</i>	John XXIII Room
February 13, 2022	Catholic Social Teaching	Cafeteria
February 27, 2022	The importance of the eucharist. (We are the Body of Christ)	Cafeteria

## From the Pastoral Staff

During the Christmas break I had the pleasure of viewing, **Stories of a Generation With Pope Francis**, which began streaming on Netflix Christmas Day. It continues the theme of encouraging intergenerational interaction between the elderly and the young championed by Pope Francis throughout his papacy. I found it very inspiring and engaging. Actually, I'm in the process of re-watching!

Based on the pope's 2018 book, **Sharing the Wisdom of Time** [Loyola Press], the program showcases stories from people over 70 from around the world, including Pope Francis himself, as they share their life experiences to youthful filmmakers and participants. Each of its four hour-long episodes is devoted to a particular theme: **"Love," "Dreams," "Struggle" and "Work."**

"There are a few famous names in the series, such as Martin Scorsese and Jane Goodall. But most of those who appear on screen, under the overall direction of Simona Ercolani, have never lived in the limelight". [*America Magazine, December 22, 2021*]

In the segment called **"Love,"** we meet a 90-year-old woman from Argentina, who spent decades looking for her grandson after her daughter was killed during the unrest of the 1970's in that country. More recently, Vito Forino, 72, went for a sail from his home in Lampedusa, Italy, in 2013 and ended up rescuing 47 people from a sinking refugee ship. To many he rescued, he has become a father figure.

One of those highlighted as a **dreamer** is New Zealand climate scientist Dave Lowe. Together with a group of other scholars, Lowe won a Nobel Prize for being the first to measure increasing carbon dioxide in the atmosphere of the Southern Hemisphere in 1972.

A 76 year old Costa Rican father has a more personal dream. He yearns for his blind and developmentally disabled twin sons to be able to feel sand between their toes and the ocean waves lapping at their feet.



Sports enthusiasts are not left out—as shown by the stories of an 88-year-old Spanish woman skydiver who learned the skill from her son, and a 77-year-old surfer who thought he could ride a tsunami.

Remorse finds its place in the show as well. Asked by his youngest daughter what his greatest regret is, Scorsese responds, "I would have liked to help raise my other daughters," seemingly acknowledging that his film career often took precedence over his family life.

The episode on **"Struggle"** is particularly moving. An 87 year old woman, for instance, was born in Aleppo, Syria, but was forced to flee to Beirut. Now, she faces yet another upheaval, having to leave her home and the friends she's made in Beirut to live with her daughter and grandson in France.

As for **"Work,"** a Mexican midwife reflects on the satisfaction she derives from knowing that she has helped bring thousands of babies into the world during her lifetime. A ninety-year-old Vietnamese cobbler recalls making shoes for the king of Cambodia in the 1950s. Making shoes continues to be his passion! And Nike Okundaye, 70, a Nigerian artist and fashion designer, discusses the freedom her profession gave her.

I thoroughly enjoyed this series. It would be great to view with teens but perhaps not young children.

Dee Nann

## Learn



### St. Matthias Racial Justice Initiative Two Upcoming Programs —

January 22 and February 19

- Saturday morning Zoom coffee session on **January 22nd from 9:30 to 11:30** with a focus on breaking the ice through stories, *"Who Am I: Sharing Our Stories of Race, Culture and Identity"* to spur discussions about what we learned in our families and schools and how it impacts the ways we look at racism today.

- **February 19th speaker on Critical Race Theory (CRT)** - what it is, what it is not, and what it means for Christian education.

All are welcome to join our core group. We meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month.

Please contact us at [matthiasracialjustice@gmail.com](mailto:matthiasracialjustice@gmail.com).

# Serve

## Vocations Ministry - Called to Build God's Kingdom — Jan 16, 2022

Pope Francis in "Gaudete et Exsultate" on the call to holiness in today's world: Wealth ensures nothing. Indeed, once we think we are rich, we can become so self-satisfied that we leave no room for God's word, for the love of our brothers and sisters, or for the enjoyment of the most important things in life. In this way, we miss out on the greatest treasure of all. That is why

Jesus calls blessed those who are poor in spirit, those who have a poor heart, for there the Lord can enter with his perennial newness.

Pope Francis is trying to say that this world and the system gives us a false promise of being in control of our lives only if we have a lot of money. However no one has ever known how much "a lot of money" is. Money can be here

today and gone tomorrow, it can be on paper however when we need it we may not be able to use it. So even if we think we can be in control of our life and if we have a lot of money it just gives a dilution of false control. God alone can be the one who can come to our help when we need help.



# Give (and Receive!)

## Stewardship Reflection Jan. 16, 2022 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

**"To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit." (1 CORINTHIANS 12:7)**

St. Paul tells us that God has blessed each of us for a reason. How has God blessed you? Are you using your gifts according to God's plan? How are you helping to build God's kingdom here on earth? Remember that if you don't do the work God planned for you, no one else can do it. Live the life God has intended for you. Take time to discern your charisms (gifts from the Holy Spirit). Experience the supernatural Peace and Joy God desires for each of us.

## Reflexiónese — 16 de enero de 2022 - 2do. Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario

**"A cada uno se le da una manifestación especial del Espíritu para el bien de los demás." (1 CORINTIOS 12:7)**

San Pablo nos dice que Dios nos bendijo a cada uno de nosotros por una razón... ¿Cómo te ha bendecido Dios? ¿Estás utilizando tus dones de acuerdo con el plan de Dios?... ¿Cómo estas ayudando a construir el reino de Dios aquí en la tierra? Recuerde que si no hace el trabajo que Dios planificó para usted, nadie más podrá hacerlo. Viva la vida que Dios quiere para usted. Tómese el tiempo para discernir sus carismas (dones del Espíritu Santo) ... Experimente la Paz sobrenatural y la Alegría que Dios desea para cada uno de nosotros.

Stewardship Totals for Fiscal Year July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022				Last Year's Total
Current Month	In-Pew/Mail	Parish Giving	Weekly Total	Weekly Total
Week 27 - Jan. 2, 2021	\$10,474.00	\$13,442.25	<b>\$23,916.25</b>	\$23,949.30
Week 28 - Jan. 9, 2022	\$9,484.00	\$0.00	<b>\$9,484.00</b>	\$44,503.80
Week 29 - Jan. 16, 2022	\$0.00	\$0.00	<b>\$0.00</b>	\$26,222.25
Week 30 - Jan. 23, 2022	\$0.00	\$0.00	<b>\$0.00</b>	\$23,532.25
Week 31 - Jan. 30, 2022	\$0.00	\$0.00	<b>\$0.00</b>	\$15,486.25
<i>Please note: Parish Giving is not available this week</i>			<b>Month-to-date Total</b>	<b>Jan Total Last Yr</b>
			<b>\$33,400.25</b>	\$133,693.85
<b>Jan. 9, 2022 - Together in</b>	<b>\$917.50</b>		<b>Current Year-to-date Total</b>	<b>Year-to-date as of Jan</b>
			<b>\$701,304.56</b>	\$767,978.45

# Serve



## CAREGIVER/CARE SUPPORT MINISTRY ZOOM MEETING

We'd like to invite parishioners who are caring for ill loved ones, or are coping with chronic illness themselves, and in need of spiritual and emotional support, to join us for discussion and prayer via Zoom. **SATURDAY, January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022; 10am - 11 noon**

Contact: Donna Kahora, [friendsofnikki@comcast.net](mailto:friendsofnikki@comcast.net)

or Sister Marie Therese, [msherwood@stmatthias.net](mailto:msherwood@stmatthias.net), 732-828-1400.

17<sup>th</sup> Annual Night of Winners  
To support St. Matthias School  
Saturday, February 26, 2022



Attention Kohl's Shoppers!

Do you have **Kohl's Cash** or **Kohl's YES Rewards** dollars that you won't use before they expire?  
Consider donating them to St. Matthias School's Night of Winners (NOW) fundraiser! It's SUPER EASY!

The quickest way is to take a photo of your certificates, or forward **YOUR email certificates** to NOW's Kohl's Cash Chairperson,  
**Natasha Holbeck** at [nholbeck2@msn.com](mailto:nholbeck2@msn.com).

Natasha will confirm receipt and even send you an update when we've used your donation to make a purchase.

Please support our children and our school!

## Connect



### Let's Celebrate 2022

This year, St. Matthias will celebrate its 60th anniversary! The official date is June 8th. We hope to celebrate this historic milestone with a variety of spiritual and entertaining festivities. Hopefully and prayerfully, we will also celebrate the end of this pandemic!



The Pastoral Council has formed a committee of six parishioners to plan and prepare the celebration of this great milestone, along with the School Administration. The committee will continue to give updates on events in the forthcoming months. Stay tuned!

## Local Community

### Respect Life Events: January 2022

#### Annual March for Life in Washington, DC will be held on Friday, January 21, 2022

Information for parish bus trips to the March for Life in Washington DC will be posted soon on the Diocesan website. If you plan to run a bus to Washington DC and have not already done so, please email your information to [amarshall@diometuchen.org](mailto:amarshall@diometuchen.org) as soon as possible.

**9 Days for Life - January 19 - 27, 2022** The U.S. bishops' annual novena **9 Days for Life** takes place January 19 - 27, 2022. Pray for the respect and protection of all human life with new intentions, brief reflections, and more each day. Download the novena

online, or participate through Facebook, email, text message or an app. Join at [www.9daysforlife.com](http://www.9daysforlife.com)



Beginning Experience of the Hudson Valley is inviting men and

women of all ages who have suffered the loss of a spouse through death, divorce or separation to:

Coping with Life Alone- a multi-session remote program held on Sundays from **1PM to 4:30PM beginning January 30, 2022**. Registration is required please contact Denise at 845 325 3147 or Victoria at 860 993 5469.

Healing Weekend- a 48 hour in-person weekend retreat held at St. Lawrence Retreat Center in Beacon NY from April 22 to 24, 2022. For information or to register please call Denise at 845 325 3147 or Janice at 845 490 7466.

## Parish Leadership

**Parish Pastoral Council:**  
**Co-Chairs:**  
Claudine Langrin  
[ClaudMLangrin@gmail.com](mailto:ClaudMLangrin@gmail.com) and  
Mary Beth Vetter-Purcell  
[marybeth.vetter@gmail.com](mailto:marybeth.vetter@gmail.com)

**Co-Secretaries:**  
Lorraine Farr and  
Anne Marie Francis  
  
Rose Peng  
Frank Rees  
Maria Tapia-Burch  
John Taylor

Marilyn Wegg  
Ana Kelly, Ex-Officio  
Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio  
  
**Trustees:**  
Isaac Peng  
Marge Richards

**Parish Finance Council:**  
Joe Porter, Chair  
**FinanceCouncil**  
[@stmatthias.net](mailto:stmatthias.net)  
Barry Dusault  
Gwen Orłowski  
Audrey Francis  
Kester Hector

Joan Pritchard  
Mary Pat Burke-Grospin,  
Ex-Officio  
Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio

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

**Parish Registration** — Welcome to St. Matthias! Please register on our website. [www.stmatthias.net/join-us](http://www.stmatthias.net/join-us), or visit the Parish Office.

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

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

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



**St. Matthias School** is a PreK3 through 8<sup>th</sup> grade school rooted in faith, inspired by love, and dedicated to academic excellence. Before and After School Care Programs are available. Come visit! Contact 732-828-1402 to schedule a tour.



**Complete Kitchen & Bathroom Remodeling**  
 Porcelain Marble  
 Granite Countertops  
 Heated Floors  
 Backsplashes  
 Shower Doors  
**732-514-1500**  
 Lic # 13VH00782600  
 (Parishioner)



**Diocese of Metuchen**  
 Catholic Cemeteries  
 and Crematory  
**800-943-8400**

Holy Cross Burial Park 840 Cranbury-South River Rd. Jamesburg, NJ 08831  
 Resurrection Burial Park Hoes Lane and Park Ave. Piscataway, NJ 08854  
[www.diometuchen.org/cemeteries](http://www.diometuchen.org/cemeteries)

**catholicmatch**<sup>®</sup>

New Jersey

[CatholicMatch.com/dateNJ](http://CatholicMatch.com/dateNJ)



EXCELLENCE GUARANTEED

**Resta's Auto Care**

AAA 732-873-8900 Restas.com Trusted For 75 Years 1873 Amwell Road • Somerset

**FRANKLIN ELECTRIC MAINTENANCE CO. INC.** Lic. #18219

Family owned and operated since 1956.



**-SALES  
-SERVICE  
-INSTALLATION**  
**732-249-1359**

[www.FranklinElectricNJ.com](http://www.FranklinElectricNJ.com)

**DON'T BE LEFT IN THE DARK!**



**RE-IMAGINE SENIOR LIVING**

An Assisted Living and Memory Care Community in your neighborhood.

**SCHEDULE A TOUR TODAY!**

**732.873.4800**

473 Demott Lane  
 Somerset, NJ 08873

[www.springhills.com](http://www.springhills.com)



ARE THESE YOUR SIZE?



[www.middlebushfire.com](http://www.middlebushfire.com)  
 MIDDLEBUSH VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT



**MIDDLEBUSH VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT.**

21 OLCOTT STREET  
 FIRE FIGHTERS NEEDED  
 WE WILL TRAIN!  
[HELP@MIDDLEBUSHFIRE.COM](mailto:HELP@MIDDLEBUSHFIRE.COM)  
[www.middlebushfire.com](http://www.middlebushfire.com)

**PROTECTIVE PAVING**



**DRIVEWAYS PARKING LOTS**  
 FULLY INSURED  
 FREE ESTIMATES  
**732-828-4177**  
 SOMERSET, NJ

**Mallory's Army Foundation**  
 United Together In The Fight Against Bullying...  
 Don't Just Teach Kindness...  
 BE KINDNESS!

[www.MallorysArmy.com](http://www.MallorysArmy.com)  
 (973) 440-8657  
[info@mallorysarmy.org](mailto:info@mallorysarmy.org)  
 It's easy to join our mailing list!  
 Just send your email address by text message:  
**Text MALLORYSARMY to 22828 to get started.**

Message and data rates may apply.

**RIDESHARE ZONE**

**S top  
A sk  
M atch  
I nform**

**#WHATSMYNAME**

Shop small - Shop local  
 - Support small business -  
**PLEASE**  
 SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS  
 Tell them you saw their ad here!

**OUR SPONSORS & OUR COMMUNITY**



Sponsors can offer promotions, discounts and/or up-to-date contact information to the **ENTIRE** community

Finding **FABER**

**ANYONE** in the community can access realtime offers from their favorite sponsors to save, share & support



**Morgan**  
 basement waterproofing

In Our 4th Decade of Quality Service  
 French Drains • Foundation Repair • Mold Remediation  
 All Work Guaranteed  
**732-777-7888**  
[www.morganbasementwaterproofing.com](http://www.morganbasementwaterproofing.com)

WORSHIP



WITH US



Make a Difference in Your Community

**VOLUNTEER**

with the American Red Cross

Join today at [redcross.org/Volunteer](http://redcross.org/Volunteer)

**Boylan Funeral Home**

188 Easton Avenue  
 New Brunswick, New Jersey 08901  
**732-545-4040**

[www.BoylanFH.com](http://www.BoylanFH.com)  
 Family owned and operated since 1958

Robert Fox, Manager N.J. License No. 4371  
 Elisabeth Schwinn, Director N.J. License No. 4327

10 Wooding Avenue  
 Edison, New Jersey 08817  
**732-572-0076**

**C & F PAINT & HARDWARE**  
 Benjamin Moore Paints  
 1075 Easton Ave., Suite 12A  
 Somerset, NJ 08873  
 732-764-8908  
 www.candfpaint.com  
 Frank Del Tufo - Owner



**TOWNSHIP PHARMACY**  
 712 Hamilton Street, Somerset  
 SR. DISCOUNT • WE DELIVER  
 732-545-8800

Connecting businesses to customers in realtime!



Finding FIBER



**Steve's Pizza & Restaurant**  
 900 Easton Ave. Somerset Village  
 732-247-0400  
 \$1.50 Off Large 18" Pie

**AJS PAINTING**  
 TONY SCHINELLA, PARISHIONER  
 Friendly, Courteous Service  
 Owner Operated, Free Proposals  
 Meticulous, Guaranteed Work  
 Highest Quality, Affordable Price  
 No Job Too Small • Since 2001  
 732-873-8477

**SOLD BARROOD**  
 Selling, Buying or Renting Houses - Call us for help!  
 700 EASTON AVE., SOMERSET  
 732-846-1661  
 Good people, great service, since 1940  
 PARISHIONER

**Waterstone WEALTH ADVISORS, LLC**  
**John C. Moynihan, CFP®**  
 Certified Financial Planner™, practitioner  
 Somerset, NJ  
 732.873.0433 • www.wallc.net  
 Practical Solutions for Managing Wealth

**GLEASON FUNERAL HOME**  
 AT NEED CARE • PRE-NEED • MONUMENTS  
 PARISHIONER OWNED  
 William K. Gleason, Mgr., N.J. Lic. No. 4489  
 1360 HAMILTON STREET • SOMERSET, NJ  
 732-545-0700  
 WWW.GLEASONFUNERALHOME.COM

NJ Plbg Lic. 7617 & 9231  
 NJ Elect Lic. 10217  
 Kitchen & Bath Remodeling  
**Dolan Inc.** since 1949  
 Serving Middlesex & Somerset Counties  
 800.222.8827  
 Plumbing • Heating • Cooling • Electric  
 696 Franklin Blvd., Somerset, NJ 08873  
 Family Owned & Operated. Call the one's you've trusted for 65 years.  
 "In Loving Memory of Jack Dolan Sr. and Jack Dolan"

**BRIGHT VIEW POWERWASHING & PAINTING**  
 Greg Dente, Owner/Operator  
 Somerset & surrounding areas  
 Friendly & Reliable Services  
 Free estimates • Guaranteed work  
 We keep our promises • No job too small  
**POWERWASHING & SMALL PAINTING WORK**  
 908.812.2061

**WE'RE HIRING!**  
 Substitute Teachers & Support Staff throughout New Jersey  
 Apply today at SOURCE4TEACHERS.com

**D'Angiolillo Chiropractic Center**  
 Find out more about us and how we can help you!  
 Visit Our Website @  
 www.DrJoeD.com  
 (732) 873-2222  
 PROFESSIONAL CENTER AT SOMERSET  
 11 Clyde Road, Suite 103  
 Somerset, NJ 08873  
 Serving Our Community Since 1985

**REMAX FIRST REALY**  
 Luz Mary Molina Realtor Associate  
 Mauricio Molina Realtor Associate 848-391-0790  
 Luzmarymolina@msn.com  
 557 Cranbury Rd., Ste. 23, E. Brunswick, NJ  
 Office: 732-257-3500 Ext. 359  
 Cell: 732-322-8671

**April Tarantino**  
 Broker Associate  
 Direct: (732) 735-3511  
 apriltarantino@hotmail.com  
 www.apriltarantino.com  
 31 Years Experience - Somerset Specialist

**Parker** Somerset | New Brunswick  
 Highland Pk | Piscataway  
 Monroe Twp  
**We're Accepting New Residents**  
 Nursing, Memory & Post-acute Care  
 Assisted Living  
 732-902-4200  
 Parkerlife.org

**RAIKE'S Home Improvement LLC**  
 732-249-7113  
 Fully Insured Lic. 13VH06498900 www.raikeshomeimprovement.com  
 We Install & Construct  
 • Windows • Finished Basements • Siding  
 • Doors • Kitchens • Roofing  
 • Decks • Baths • Custom Interior Woodwork  
 Power Washing  
 Homes • Decks • Sidewalks • Driveways • Stoops • Etc.  
 No Job Too Small! Cabinet Refacing Parishioner

**AJS Landscaping & Hardscaping, LLC**  
 Pavers • Stone • Mulch  
 Specialize In Custom Projects  
 Contact Anthony Schinella, Parishioner  
 609-751-6514 • www.ajslandscapingpro.com

**DC Funding**  
 Commercial Rates are at an All Time Low.  
 Contact us today to get a free analysis to see if we can help Save you money with your monthly payments on your commercial property. Multi-Family, Retail, Office Building, Apartment and Condos.  
 Can close in as little as 45 days! Four season customer service is our top priority.  
 www.duqfunding.com  
 1650 Market Street - Suite 3600  
 Philadelphia, PA 19103

**BRUNSWICK FURNITURE OUTLET, LLC**  
 330 Townsend St., New Brunswick, NJ  
**Rafael** Se Habla Español  
 732-354-4420

**DALTON**  
 QUALITY PROFESSIONAL SERVICE  
 Serving Central NJ Since 1986  
 RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL SALES/SERVICE  
 All Major Credit Cards Accepted  
 P. Lic. #12425 • E. Lic. #9526  
 NJ Reg #13VH02047500 • HVAC Lic. 1510  
 ELECTRIC, PLUMBING HEATING & COOLING  
 NOW HIRING QUALIFIED TEAM MEMBERS  
 1186 LIVINGSTON AVENUE, NORTH BRUNSWICK, NJ  
 732-247-7390 • www.DaltonElectricCo.com

**Rosie Rose**  
 Florist & Event Design • 732-769-6181  
 901 Joyce Kilmer Ave., North Brunswick  
 www.Rosieroseflowers.com

**Finding FIBER**



**FIND YOUR NEW BEST FRIEND.**  
 \$60 adoption fee | animals are spayed/neutered, micro-chipped & up-to-date on shots  
**Franklin Township Animal Shelter**  
 475 DeMott Lane, Somerset, NJ 08873  
 732.873.2500 x6255 | Tue-Fri 12-3 & Sat 12-6  
 Ad sponsored by Second Chance For Animals