



St. Matthias Parish Office:

Open 8:30-6:00PM Mon-Fri
 168 JFK Boulevard, Somerset, NJ 08873,
 732-828-1400, fax: 732-828-0866,
www.stmatthias.net

Mass Schedule (in person):

Sat—5PM, Sun-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 Boulevard, Somerset, NJ 08873
 732-828-1402; www.stmatthias.info

For all Parish emails, add @stmatthias.net

Pastor: Rev Abraham Orapankal, [abraham](mailto:abraham@stmatthias.net)
Parochial Vicar: Rev. Msgr. Joseph Curry, [jcurry](mailto:jcurry@stmatthias.net)

Pastoral Staff

Deacon Russell Demkovitz, [rdemkovitz](mailto:rdemkovitz@stmatthias.net)
 Ana V Kelly, *Marketing & Development*, [akelly](mailto:akelly@stmatthias.net)
 Dolores R. Nann, *Faith Formation*, [dnann](mailto:dnann@stmatthias.net)
 Mary Beth Oria, Business Administrator, [moriam](mailto:moriam@stmatthias.net)
 Deacon John Radvanski, [deaconjohn](mailto:deaconjohn@stmatthias.net)
 Joan Best Seamon, *Music Ministry* [jseamon](mailto:jseamon@stmatthias.net)
 Sr Marie Therese Sherwood, *OSF, Social Concerns*,
[msherwood](mailto:msherwood@stmatthias.net)
 Phyllis Stone, *Liturgy/RCIA and Administrative*
Assistant to the Pastor, [pstone](mailto:pstone@stmatthias.net)

St. Matthias School (add@stmatthiasnj.org)

Elena Malinconico, Principal, [emalinconico](mailto:emalinconico@stmatthiasnj.org)
 Joseph Gidaro, Vice Principal, [jgidaro](mailto:jgidaro@stmatthiasnj.org)

Parish Office Staff

Kelly Counts, *Day Receptionist*
 Nathalie Godet, *Formation/Parish Support Sec.*
 Leslie Guillen, *Bulletin Editor*
 Amy Hanna, *Parish Support Secretary*
 Vinnie Natale, *Bookkeeper*
 Trish Stumper, *Parish Support Secretary*
 Mike Lanyi, *Sacristan*

Maintenance Staff

Julio Montero, *Maintenance Supervisor*
 Conroy Davis, *Custodian*
 Juan Diaz Flores, *Custodian*
 Silvia Nizama, *Housekeeper*

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS
SUNDAY, JAN 17, 2021 –
Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

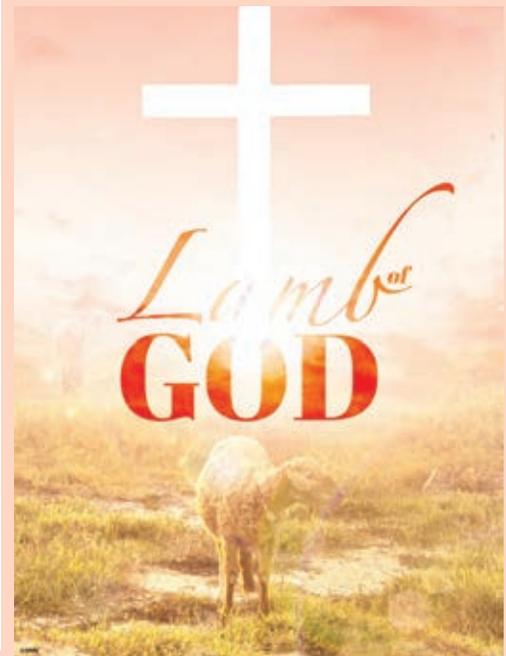
Youth (12-18) SMYLE Meeting—
TODAY., Jan. 17., at 6:30PM See
 page 7.. Also, see below for the
 SMYLE Youth project. Please
 contribute to this worthy
 endeavor.

1st Parents SMYLE Meeting—
 Wednesday, Jan.20 from 7 to
 8PM. See pg. 7 for ZOOM link.

**Register to Attend Pro-Vita Awards
 & Diocesan Pro-life Mass.** See
 pg. 6.

**Diocesan Foundation for Faith
 Education Collection—TODAY**

**Pre-register now for Covid-19
 vaccine.** See pg. 10 for details.



Prayers for the U.S. from Pope Francis

After the weekly Angelus Prayer on January 10, 2021, Pope Francis shared these words:

“Dear brothers and sisters,

I offer an affectionate greeting to the people of the United States of America, shaken by the recent siege at the Congress. I pray for those who lost their life – five – they lost it in those dramatic moments. I reiterate that violence is always self-destructive. Nothing is earned with violence and so much is lost. I exhort the government authorities and the entire population to maintain a deep sense of responsibility, in order to calm souls, to promote national reconciliation and to protect the democratic values rooted in American society. May the Immaculate Virgin, Patroness of the United States of America, help keep alive the culture of encounter, the culture of care, as the royal road to build together the common good; and I do so with all those who live in that land.”

To see the video, go to: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x8rh19kaBZQ&feature=emb_title This part begins at 12:14.

SMYLE Collection for Unity Square **Next Weekend**
January 23 and 24, 2021

Our Youth Group (12-18), SMYLE, will be collecting Dunkin cards and personal hygiene items (toothbrushes, toothpaste, tissue packs, hand sanitizer) in the church Cry room after all the masses next weekend. *Please help those in need!!!!* Bring the items in plastic grocery bags.

Unity Square is a community organizing and social concerns initiative of Catholic Charities, Diocese of Metuchen, that works to empower community members and catalyze change in the poorest residential neighborhood of New Brunswick, NJ. In so doing, Unity Square addresses a diverse set of issues, including economic development, employment, civic participation, crime and safety, immigrants’ rights, and tenants’ rights.

This Week at St. Matthias

- All Masses will be celebrated in-person (overflow in the cafeteria).
- Masses will also be livestreamed on our YouTube channel: [youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ](https://www.youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ)

The Church is open for individual prayer Sun-Fri from 7:30 am to 7pm & Sat from 9 am to 7pm, unless another event is taking place (Mass, Funeral, Wedding, etc.)

Sunday, Jan 17, 2021 Foundation for Faith Education Special Collection

10:00AM Mass Church
10:30AM Communion outside front doors
10:30AM RCIA via ZOOM
12:00PM Mass Church
12:30PM Communion outside front doors
1:00PM Hot Cocoa/Cookie Pickup by Youth (SMYLE) - behind the school till 2)
6:30PM SMYLE Youth (12-18) via ZOOM

Monday, Jan 18, 2021 Martin Luther King, Jr.
Day Parish Office & SMS are closed
No Mass

Tuesday, Jan 19, 2021

8:00AM Daily Mass Church

Wednesday, Jan 20, 2021

8:00AM Mass Church
7:00PM Parents SMYLE meeting Zoom

Thursday, Jan 21, 2021

8:00AM Mass Church
3:30PM Children's Choir 3rd & 4th gr. Church
4:15PM Children's Choir 5th-8th gr. Church

Friday, Jan 22, 2021

8:00AM Daily Mass Church

Saturday, Jan 23, 2021

3:30-4:30PM Confessions Church
5:00PM Mass Church
5:30PM (At Mass) SMYLE Youth Collection of donated goods Cry Room

Sunday, Jan 24, 2021

10:00AM Mass Church
10:30AM Communion outside front doors
10:30 AM (At Mass) SMYLE Youth Collection of donated goods Cry Room
12:00PM Mass Church
12:30PM Communion outside front doors
12:30 PM (At Mass) SMYLE Youth Collection of donated goods Cry Room
2:00PM RCIA session via ZOOM

Bulletin Article Requests:

If you would like to send information to be included in our bulletin, please email it to bulletin@stmatthias.net by 6 pm, Wednesday, 10 days before the intended issue (earlier for holiday weekends). Approved content is published on a space-available basis.

From the Pastor & the Pastoral Staff

God gave us two ears and one mouth for a reason ...



In today's reading from the Book of Samuel, we read about God calling Samuel three times.

In my past reflections, I've focused on the "Lord called Samuel" – emphasizing the calling, and reflecting how we're all called to live as disciples in God's Kingdom - which is also the theme of today's Gospel. However what got my attention is the listening that takes place in this reading. **Listening to God through our prayers, and listening to others through whom God calls us, is the key to being a disciple of Jesus.**

We are living now in very tense and divisive times when most people are not willing to really listen to each other to discern the truth. It's easier to selectively hear what we like, and immediately reject anyone or anything that is contrary to what we want to believe to be the truth.

My New Year's resolution is to intentionally listen to God's voice, and also the voices of others – especially those with different viewpoints – to strive to be a more active or "eloquent" listener. To be honest, many times my prayer has been "Listen God, your servant is speaking!" I always want to be sure I'm heard - rather than listening to God speak through others. So to follow through with my resolution, I've consulted both Scripture, and an organization called "Mediators Beyond Borders" (<https://mediatorsbeyondborders.org/what-we-do/projects/dpace/conflict-literacy-framework/foundations/>)

They propose **EARS** as an active listening Mnemonic. (**E**mpathize, **A**sk Questions, **R**eflect/Reframe, **S**ummarize)

Empathize: Acknowledge the speaker's emotions and show you care.

Ask questions: For clarity.

Reflect: Repeat back; show the speaker you are listening and you "get it."

Reframe: Cast the subject in a new light.

Summarize: Confirm you understand the important points; allow speaker to clarify, elaborate, or reframe.

Now when I consult today's Scripture reading, I'm looking to Eli and Samuel to be my "listening" coaches. From the elder Eli, an imperfect parent, I learn that God gives us many chances in life and trusts us with his most precious children. Eli was a guardian to the young boy Samuel. From Eli I can learn how to coach someone to actively listen and respond to God's calling by saying: "Speak Lord, for your servant is listening." From Samuel I can learn how to consult someone when I'm not sure what I'm hearing, and to passionately respond. From God I can learn how to be persistent; and patiently listen to another's perspective or questions. It's been said that God is much more anxious to communicate with us than we are to listen.

In 2021 may our prayer and practice echo Samuel's words: **"Speak Lord for your servant is listening."**

Happy New Year!

Deacon John

Readings for the Week

Monday: Heb 5:1-10; Ps 110:1, 2, 3, 4; Mk 2:18-22

Tuesday: Heb 6:10-20; Ps 111:1-2, 4-5, 9, 10c; Mk 2:23-28

Wednesday: Heb 7:1-3, 15-17; Ps 110:1, 2, 3, 4; Mk 3:1-6

Thursday: Heb 7:25 — 8:6; Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 17; Mk 3:7-12

Friday: Heb 8:6-13; Ps 85:8, 10, 11-12, 13-14; Mk 3:13-19

Saturday: Heb 9:2-3, 11-14; Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9; Mk 3:20-21

Sunday: Jon 3:1-5, 10; Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9; 1 Cor 7:29-31; Mk 1:14-20

Mass Intentions for the Week*

Saturday, Jan 16	5:00PM	Tom Devlin, by Ann
Sunday, Jan 17	10:00AM	Intention of Parishioners
	12:00PM	Augustin Vidal, by Menchie & Family
Monday, Jan 18	8:00AM	No Mass
Tuesday, Jan 19	8:00AM	Rose Marie LaTorre, by Marty Collins
Wednesday, Jan 20	8:00AM	Health & Blessings for Joan Seamon, by sister, Sharon
Thursday, Jan 21	5:00PM	Januario Referente, by Menchie & Family
Friday, Jan 22	8:00AM	Mary Collins, by Marty Collins
Saturday, Jan 23	5:00PM	Kevin Doyle, by Isabelle & John Baker
Sunday, Jan 24	10:00AM	Louise Evi, by The Gleason & Zlata Family
	12:00PM	Else Verleur, by The Barfield Family

Pray for those getting Married...

Christina DeJesus & Edger Brito—Saturday, Feb. 7, 2021

Pray for those who are sick...

If you or a family member are sick, please **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.

Elbren, Sr. & Natalia
Agdeppo
Barbara Branham
Timothy Brennan
Marie Brody
Baby Isla-Rose Callahan
Tara Capatosto
Ellen Catalina
Frank Catalina
Barbara Coan
Wes Coddington
Marie DeFeo
Adoracion & Cenon
DeGuzman
Mary Ellen Delaney
Alaina Derecola
Nancy Diaz
Mary Dolan
William Dolphin
Dorothy Domenici
Jaclyn, Ariana & Thomas

Donlon
Mary Eads
Emma Gergely
Rose Gessner
Mary Gidaro
Katherine Giustino
John Gross
Michael Hagerty
Allison Karakowski
Michael Kirugi
Taylor LaCort
Al & Rose Larangeira
William Lecorchick
Alice Leong
Pat Leposa
The Littrakis Family
Al Maglio
Sue Maglio-Alese
Patrick Mahoney
Shirley Mahoney
Christine Matthews

Steve McGovern
Elizabeth Miller
Dave Moynihan
Baby Ezran Natural
Cassian Ndukwu
Julianne Opydike
Julie Parks
Jim Pettit
Christina Pietrowiak
Annie Powderly
Anthony & Andrew Referente
Kathleen & Mannix Referente
Samantha Renaud
Chris Retz
Aubree Rezac
Diane Rice
Rudy Schaar
Maria Schwenzer
Lena Sciotto
Sr. Mary Amata Shina, OSF
Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF

Encarnacion (Gina) So
Alessandro Spagnolo
Dennis Stuewe
Juan Ulerio
Fred & Carolyn
Vanmiddlesworth
Carmencita Ventura
Eulalia Villanueva
Mark T. Worthington
Kenneth Yacavino
Edward Yeager

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...

Mathai Joseph — father of Fr. Abraham (see page 9)
Teresita Lacap — grandmother of Lana Chan
Russel Mulholland

—“His mercy endures forever.” *Chronicles*

Sunday Reflections



Smile with Your Family Jesus' Report card from grade school...

SUBJECT	GRADE	TEACHERS COMMENT
Religion	D	To the question "Who made the world?" persisted in answering 'My dad'. Claims bible originated from the same source.
History	A	Excellent pupil of ancient and Religious History.
Geography	C-	Assignment on 'Hot, dry lands' was excellent, but shows no interest in the rest. In geology, keeps talking about the Rock of Ages instead of the ages of Rock.
Mathematics	F	Lacks basics. Keeps muttering about 'Three in one' and 'I and the father are one'.
General Science	D	Lacks discipline - e.g., when asked to repeat the Science experiment for making hydrogen, claims he knew a better way.
Graphic-Communication	D	Prefers to draw with a stick in the sand to pencil and paper.
Consumer-Education	C+	Interesting ideas about alternative life style: something about living like sparrows and lilies of the fields...too impractical.
Art Craft	B	Obviously has imagination and creativity, a good potter - likes working with dirt and water.
Physical-Education	D-	A trouble maker e.g. during the learn-to-swim campaign insisted on trying to walk on the water across the pool.

CLASS TEACHERS COMMENT: *This boy has a very unhealthy tendency to form gangs. He has organized twelve of his friends into a gang and is seen constantly in the company of the children of publicans and sinners. He needs to be more selective in his choice of friends. Also, he should learn to keep his hair at a tidy length and not wear sandals with the school uniform.*



Parenting Tune-Up

On Jan. 18 we celebrate the contributions of Martin Luther King to racial equality and non-violence. Does your child have any friends from a different race? If not, why not? Talk, find ways to mix or read stories of a different ethnic group.

Marriage Tune-Up

"Speak, for your servant is listening." (1 Samuel 3:18) A common complaint among couples is, "You're not listening to me." When is listening hard for you? If you are busy or tired, ask for a better time. Is there a conversation you've been avoiding?



Respect Life

9 Days for Life is a novena for the protection of human life. Each day's intention is accompanied by a short reflection and suggested actions to help build a culture of life. For more information please visit:

<https://pro-life-activities.ipages.co/9-days-for-life-2021-english/>

Or

<https://www.usccb.org/sites/default/files/2020-12/9-days-2021-print-eng.pdf>

"Come and See"

George Barna, in his book *Marketing the Church*, writes: "The most effective means of getting people to experience what a church has to offer is having someone they know who belongs to the church simply invite them to try it. Call it whatever you wish - word-of-mouth, personal invitation, friendship evangelism - this is indisputably the most effective means of increasing the church rolls." [George Barna, *Marketing the Church* (NavPress, Colorado Springs, 1988), p. 109.] I don't want to bore you with statistics, but these are not boring statistics. There are 160 million Americans who are unchurched. If invited to attend church, 31% said they would be very likely to come - 51% said they would be somewhat likely to come. That means 82% of the people who do not go to church in America are likely to attend if they are invited - Only 21% of active church goers ever invite anyone to church. Only 2% of active church-goers invite the unchurched. Do you know what Jesus needs more than anything else? He needs more fishing buddies. Do you know what fishing buddies need? They need a church that will be fish-friendly.

You Never Invited Me in 20 Years!

Two men, who had been business partners for over twenty years, met one Sunday morning as they were leaving a restaurant. One of them asked, "Where are you going this morning?" "I'm going to play golf. What about you?" The first man responded rather apologetically, "I'm going to Church." The other man said, "Why don't you give up that Church stuff?" The first man asked, "What do you mean?" His partner said: "Well, we have been partners for twenty years. We have worked together, attended board meetings together, and had lunch together, and all of these twenty years you have never asked me about going to Church. You have never invited me to go with you. Obviously, it doesn't mean that much to you."

(John A. Stroman, *God's Downward Mobility*, CSS Publishing Company) Don't get yourself in that fix. Don't let others think your Faith doesn't matter that much to you.

Sunday Reflections

Sunday Reflection: From Body to Soul!



John was standing with the two disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he said, "Behold, the Lamb of God." The two disciples heard what he said and followed Jesus. Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, "What are you looking for?"

John 1: 35-42

In his career as a forensic pathologist, Dr. Thomas Andrew thought he had seen it all - but nothing like this. The opioid crisis, he says, is the worst drug epidemic in U.S. history. The staggering number of opioid deaths are straining the staffs and resources of morgues like the one Dr. Andrew directed in New Hampshire - especially New Hampshire, which has more deaths per capita from synthetic opioids than any other state. Dr. Andrew is no longer satisfied with cataloguing the escalating drug toll. He wants to try, in his own small way, to stop it.

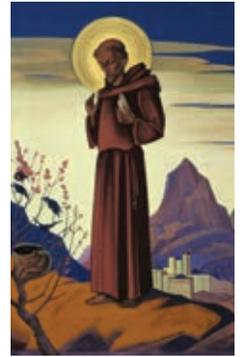
After two decades as New Hampshire's chief medical examiner, Dr. Andrew retired in 2017. But he's not done. "I wanted to prevent people from ending up in the forensic lab. I wanted to address the spiritual dimension of the crisis, reaching kids before drugs did." He decided to go from exploring the mysteries of the dead to exploring the mysteries of the soul. In a sharp career turn, he entered a seminary program to pursue a theology and ministry degree to minister to young people, helping them stay away from the drugs he has found to be the cause of so many deaths. Dr. Andrew developed an appreciation for the essence of life by seeing its fragility. Most of the nearly 5,800 people he examined on his stainless-steel autopsy table "woke the day they died oblivious to the fact that it would their last on earth."

In the morgue, Dr. Andrew learned to cope with the full immersion of death by compartmentalizing what he saw and "locking it away." But after a while, he found, one is bound to ask, *What's all this about? What am I contributing here? What difference does this make?* "You realize you've got x amount of gas left in the tank, and either I could choose to limp through this another 10 years and see where this goes on the accounting end, or I could finally attack this by way of extension ministry to youth, outside the four walls of a church. If you can instill moral and ethical values in young people that it can somehow help to inoculate them from that other so-called friend of theirs who's going to come up to them in middle school with the weed or the pill or heaven forbid that packet of powder, then you have maybe saved that one starfish off the beach."

Throughout our lives we wrestle with the question that Dr. Andrew has asked in his work as a pathologist and that Jesus asks of his prospective followers: *What are you looking for?* The answer is not to be found in instant gratification or amassing things; what we want our lives to become begins in the values of the heart and soul, in the happiness we choose to embrace. The Jesus we will meet in Mark's Gospel in the weeks ahead is the very word of God made human for us and like us in order to show us how to realize the love that God breathed into our souls at birth, the love that makes us completely human as God envisioned us to be.

Evangelization – St. Francis Style!

One day Francis of Assisi invited one of the young friars to join him on a trip into town to preach. The young friar was so honored at receiving such an invitation from St. Francis that he quickly accepted. They paused beneath a tree and Francis stooped to return a young bird to its nest. They went on and stopped in a field crowded with reapers and Francis bent his back to help load the hay onto a cart. From there they went to the town square where Francis lifted a bucket of water from the well for an old woman and carried it home for her. All day long he and St. Francis walked through the streets and byways, alleys and suburbs, and they rubbed shoulders with hundreds of people. Each time they stopped, the young friar was sure that St. Francis would stop and preach. But no words of great truth or wise discourse issued from the saint's mouth. Finally, they went into the Church, but Francis only knelt silently to pray. At the end of the day, the two headed back home. Not once had St. Francis addressed a crowd, nor had he talked to anyone about the Gospel. The young monk was greatly disappointed, and he said to St. Francis, "I thought we were going into town to preach?" St. Francis responded, "My son, we have preached. We were preaching while we were walking and in everything we did. We were seen by many and our behavior was closely watched. It's of no use to walk anywhere to preach unless we preach everywhere as we walk! Preach the Gospel at all times. Use words only if necessary."



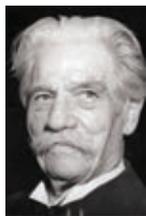
"What's Your Profession?"

A stranger once asked a teacher, "What's your profession?" The teacher replied, "Christian." The stranger continued, "No, that's not what I mean. What's your job?" The teacher asserted, once again, "I'm a Christian!" Puzzled, the stranger clarified, "Perhaps I should ask, what you do for a living?" The teacher replied, "Well, I've a full-time job as a Christian. But, to support my sick husband and children, I teach in a school." That teacher had certainly understood the meaning of discipleship summarized by the response psalm (40): "Here I am, Lord, I come to do your will."

Our Christian call is to live and die like the Lamb of God. (A) We live like a lamb: a) by leading pure, innocent, humble, selfless lives, obeying Christ's commandment of love. b) by appreciating the loving providence and protecting care of the Good Shepherd in his Church. c) by partaking of the Body and Blood of the Good Shepherd in the Holy Eucharist and deriving spiritual strength from the Holy Spirit through prayer and the Sacraments. (B) We die like a sacrificial lamb: a) by sharing our blessings of health, wealth and talents with others in the family, parish and community; b) by bearing witness to Christ in our illness, pain and suffering; c) by offering our suffering for the salvation of souls and as reparation for our sins and those of others.

Sunday Reflections

Call to Rebuild Broken Lives!



Albert Schweitzer was a concert pianist in Europe who gave up his career in music to become a doctor and work as a missionary in Africa. Albert Schweitzer writes in his book 'The Quest for the

Historical Jesus'. Jesus comes to us as one unknown, as he did long ago to the apostles on the seashore. He speaks to us the same words that he spoke to them: "Follow me!" "And to those who accept his invitation, whether they be wise or simple, young or old, he will reveal himself to them in their toils and sufferings. And they shall learn through their own experiences who he is."

Our call is to rebuild broken lives. Like the missionary call of Samuel and the apostles, we too are called. Our call is to rebuild broken lives, reconciling them to God's love and justice through Christ Jesus, our Lamb and Lord. Through Baptism into the Body of Christ, we are empowered and enabled by the Holy Spirit to free the oppressed. Through the love of the Lamb of God, we are called to better the lot and improve the broken spirit of all who have been exiled from the possibility of hope, exiled from God's righteousness or burdened by the yoke of spiritual, social, economic, and political dislocation. In other words, through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the glorified Lamb, we are called to empower the human spirit with a sense of identity and purpose.

Pro-Vita Awards

The **Annual Diocesan Respect Life Mass & Pro-Vita Awards** will be presented on **Friday, January 22 at 5:00 p.m. at the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi, Metuchen**. Bishop James F. Checchio will be the celebrant. This year's Pro-Vita Winners are Frances Johnson and Frank McCann. Both are members of St. Matthias Parish. Frances Johnson is the Director of the Pregnancy Aid and Information Center in Raritan. Frank McCann is the Treasurer of New Jersey Right to Life.

Frank McCann:

*Frank has been and still is a very active pro-life warrior. Parish Diocesan Representative, Annual Critical Life Conference, Periodic Legislative Dialog Conferences, Joint 20/20 Project with other pro-life organizations. In addition I am Treasurer of New Jersey Right to Life (NJRTL) and President of its Somerset County Chapter. As both a NJRTL and Diocesan representative, he participates in lobbying days in Trenton regarding pro-life legislation. Frank has been very active in St. Matthias parish in different roles and ministries such as serving as a member of the Finance Council, the weekly collection counting team, carnival parking, IHN program, and with his late wife, the Loaves and Fishes ministry. **A very hearty congratulations to Frank. St. Matthias Community is very proud of you.***

Fran Johnson:

Fran became involved in pro-life ministry shortly after the legalization of abortion on demand in 1973. Fran worked as a speaker to small groups and high school classes about the sanctity of human life. As Secretary of the Somerset County Right to Life Committee, Fran found donors to cover the cost of buses for the March for Life in Washington DC., and helped fundraise for the Pregnancy Aid Center with the Annual Rose Luncheon. Never missing an opportunity to promote respect for human life, you could always find Fran staffing the Somerset County Right to Life table at the 4H Fair, standing with others at Life Chain, and attending many pro-life events. Fran is also a past president of NJ Right to Life, and worked on the Diocesan Pro-Life Committee from 1985-1991. Recently Fran has worked with Frank McCann as a parish rep for the Diocesan Respect for Life Committee, keeping the parish connected to Diocesan respect for life efforts and events. **A very hearty congratulations to Fran. St. Matthias Community is very proud of you.**

Parishioners from St. Matthias are especially welcome to attend the Mass in-person at the Cathedral. **Seating is limited so registration is required.** Register by visiting: www.diometuchen.org/humanlifeanddignity. The Mass will also be live-streamed by the Cathedral. For more information, email human.life.and.dignity@diometuchen.org

Celebrating Our Faith: Liturgy

All Waiting



Today's readings talk to us about "call" – Samuel called by the Lord, the first disciples called by Jesus. Our God constantly calls us to enter into a personal relationship with him. In daily life, especially during these difficult Covid Pandemic days, it is not so simple to hear the call of God. Sometimes others are most valuable in helping us – Eli helped Samuel, and Andrew helped his brother Simon. We invite you to Come and See how the Catholic Community of St.

Matthias can help you to respond to emptiness, or a longing to get to know God better, or a sense of being drawn to the Catholic Church. Attendance at an Inquiry Session requires NO COMMITMENT to join the Catholic Community. Inquiry Sessions are merely an opportunity to "Come and See" how the Catholic Faith Community can help you find a home in God. All who are unbaptized, baptized into another Christian denomination, or baptized Catholic but have never received BOTH sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist are invited. For more information, please contact Phyllis Stone at pstone@stmatthias.net.

Celebrating Our Faith: Liturgy

Pope Francis Amends Canon Law to Officially Allow Women to Serve as Lectors and Altar Servers

Although in many dioceses around the world women and girls have been serving as lectors/readers or altar servers/acolytes, Canon Law (=Church law) restricts these official, stable ministries to men.

On January 10, Pope Francis issued a *motu proprio* (which means a piece of legislation) titled, *Spiritus Domini*. The *motu proprio* revises one of the laws, canon 230.1. Language changes include changing the reference from "men" to "lay persons" when referring to lectors and acolytes. To read the entire *motu proprio*, visit:

<https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2021/01/11/210111a.pdf>

(If you are reading this bulletin online, hold down the Ctrl key and then click on the above link.)



Ash Wednesday & the Lenten Season

Mark your calendars for **February 17th, Ash Wednesday** and the beginning of Lent. Once again, St. Matthias will offer drive-through ashes come rain or shine, in addition to Mass and prayer services on **Wednesday, February 17th**.

If you would like to help distribute ashes for one or both shifts of the drive-through (3:45 - 4:45 or 4:45 to 5:45), please contact the Parish Office or email pstone@stmatthias.net.

Discovering God: Formation



St. Matthias School (SMS) Annual Fund 2020-2021

The Parish and School have launched the SMS Annual Fund for 2020-2021. Please read the letter from Fr. Abraham and Ms. Elena Malinconico on our website at www.stmatthias.net/SMSAnnualFund.

Our Catholic School is a vital and treasured ministry of our Parish Community. If you would like to help support this ministry, you may donate by check, made out to "St. Matthias School", and with "Annual Fund" written in the memo line. Checks may be dropped off in the collection basket on Sunday, or mailed to St. Matthias Church, 168 John F. Kennedy Blvd., Somerset, NJ 08873. You may also donate to the SMS Annual Fund through www.ParishGiving.org. Thank you!



St. Matthias Youth Living Evangelization = SMYLE

Calling all Youth

Ages 12-18!!!!

THIS EVENING, Sunday, Jan. 17

Join us for our first SMYLE zoom meeting!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4919124654>

Sunday, January 17 from 6:30-7:30 pm

The meeting will include Games, a tasty treat, and discussion.

Topic: Does My Life Matter?

Hot Cocoa and Cookie pick-up for all participants on Sunday afternoon, January 17 from 1:00-2:00 behind St. Matthias School!

Calling All Parents!!!!

Join us for our first Parent SMYLE zoom meeting!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4919124654>

Wednesday, January 20 from 7:00-8:00pm

Topic: Not all conversations are the same...
How do I begin difficult conversations with my children?

Being Good Stewards

Stewardship Reflection Jan 17, 2021 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, 'What are you looking for?'" - John 1:38

What are you looking for? Are you wasting your time looking for the material comforts of the world? Or, is your heart longing for something deeper that can only be found by spending time with God? Take time, each day, in silence and ask the Lord what it is that He wants you to do.

Reflexiones — 17 de enero de 2021 2do. Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario

"Jesús se dio la vuelta y al ver que lo seguían les preguntó, '¿Qué están buscando?'" - Juan 1:38

¿Que está usted buscando? ¿Está perdiendo su tiempo buscando las comodidades materiales del mundo? O, ¿su corazón anhela algo más profundo que puede únicamente encontrarse si pasamos tiempo con Dios? Tome tiempo, cada día, en silencio y pregúntele al Señor que es lo que Él quiere que usted haga.

16th Annual Night of Winners To support St. Matthias School Saturday, February 13, 2021

The success of this event is due in large part to the generous donations that we receive from our parishioners and school families.

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 January 22, 2021.

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 few clicks!

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/dl/invite/85UrXJn?ref=wl_share

Thank you in advance for your generosity and kindness!
Please note that all donations are tax-deductible.

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American Girl Dolls
Collectibles
Barware
Sporting Equipment
Gaming Stations
Pet Items
Beauty Items
Vacation Home Rentals

Any questions about donations can be directed to Melissa Garlatti -
melissa.garlatti@gmail.com

Please Obtain Gift Cards Online to Help Our School AT NO COST TO YOU!

We have over 750 gift cards currently available online. No need to stop by the office, nor to touch anything. Instead, when you go shopping or to a restaurant, buy the gift card on your phone, and then pay for your items by showing the cashier your phone. The cashier will scan the gift card on your phone. And St. Matthias School will receive a percentage of the gift card price, at no cost to you. Here are the steps:

1. Go to your phone's App store and download "RaiseRight Fundraising" (If you are on a computer, go www.raiseright.com and follow the prompts.)
2. Click on "Join a Program"
3. Enter the following Enrollment Code to help St. Matthias School:
A68921F9388
4. Then follow the prompts, skipping the optional boxes.

Remember to use **RaiseRight** every time you shop. Also, invite friends/family/neighbors to purchase these gift cards. Questions? Contact Melissa Rizzo, melissamilerrizzo@gmail.com.

Being Good Stewards

Stewardship Totals for Fiscal Year July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021				Last Year's Total
Current Month	In-Pew/Mail	Parish Giving	Weekly Total	Weekly Total
Week 23 - Dec. 6, 2020	\$9,781.00	\$10,608.93	\$20,389.93	\$30,063.09
Week 24 - Dec. 13, 2020	\$14,973.79	\$12,927.68	\$27,901.47	\$27,638.09
Week 25 - Dec. 20, 2020	\$12,120.00	\$15,919.18	\$28,039.18	\$26,708.09
Week 26 - Dec. 27, 2020	\$16,449.00	\$17,149.93	\$33,598.93	\$27,060.09
			Month-to-date Total	Dec. Total Last Yr
			\$109,929.49	\$111,469.36
			Current Year-to-date Total	Year-to-date as of Dec 31, 2019
			\$634,284.58	\$725,496.17
Christmas 2020 Collection (in-pew/mail/Parish Giving):			\$ 81,075	\$ 87,969
Flowers:			\$ 3,943	\$ 3,058
Solemnity of Mary:			\$ 2,058	\$ 4,633

Stewardship Totals for Fiscal Year July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021				Last Year's Total
Current Month	In-Pew/Mail	Parish Giving	Weekly Total	Weekly Total
Week 27 - Jan. 3, 2021	\$3,677.00	\$14,689.10	\$18,366.10	\$27,751.99
Week 28 - Jan. 10, 2021	\$17,655.00	\$12,537.80	\$30,192.80	\$26,647.99
Week 29 - Jan. 17, 2021				\$24,913.99
Week 30 - Jan. 24, 2021				\$32,122.99
Week 31 - Jan. 31, 2021				\$28,355.99
			Month-to-date Total	Jan Total Last Yr
			\$48,558.90	\$139,792.95
			Current Year-to-date Total	Year-to-date as of Jan 31, 2020
			\$682,843.48	\$865,289.12

Caring for Others

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In Memory of Mathai Joseph, Fr. Abraham's Father

On Monday, January 11, 2021, Fr. Abraham's father, Mathai Joseph, passed away in India. He was 94 years old. The funeral was held on Tuesday, January 12.

If you would like to participate in the funeral rites online (belatedly), you may do so by going to: <https://www.facebook.com/malabarbeatpage/videos/2488793351416453/> The funeral rites begin with the all-night vigil at home, followed by the funeral liturgy — first at home with the priests, then the service in the church, and then the burial in the parish cemetery.

If you would like to send Fr. Abraham a note, you may mail it to him at the Parish Office, 168 John F. Kennedy Blvd, Somerset, NJ 08873, or email him at abraham@stmatthias.net

Meal Brigade for Fr. Abraham

We wanted to remind everyone that the Meal Brigade for Fr. Abraham continues. The link to sign up for future weeks is: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0a4caf2ea0fa7-stmatthias>

When Fr. Abraham first arrived, he mentioned that at his previous parish, parishioners had set up a meal brigade, bringing a meal three times a week. This saved the parish the cost of hiring a cook. We decided to continue this tradition at St. Matthias. Meals can be left in the cooler on the front porch of the rectory (the house next to the Parish Office). The above link can also be found on our website, www.stmatthias.net, by clicking on "Serve" and then scrolling down to "Meal Brigade for Fr. Abraham". Questions? Contact Phyllis Stone, pstone@stmatthias.net



Caring for Others



Thank You from the Society of St. Vincent de Paul

The members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul at St. Matthias want to thank all who recently made donations, especially during the Christmas Season. With your help, we have been able to assist clients in the Franklin Township area with bills for housing, as well as for keeping their lights and heat on. In addition, we were able to send gift cards for Thanksgiving food to 16 households, and gift cards for Christmas food and children's presents to 13 households.

If you or someone you know in Franklin needs help during this difficult time, please contact us through our SVDP Help Line at 732.828.1400 ext. 120 or email us at SVDPatSM@gmail.com

Thank You to Everyone Who Helped to Take Down Our Trees!

See you next year!



Connecting with Our Local Community

St. Francis Center for Renewal

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

January 18 to January 25, 2021,

Daily at 11:30AM - Noon

www.StFrancisCtr.org, 610.867.8890, 395 Bridle Path Road, Bethlehem, PA 18017. Freewill Offering



Mount Saint Mary House of Prayer

1651 US Hwy. 22, Watchung, NJ 07069

908-753-2091

www.msmhope.org

THOMAS AQUINAS: DISCIPLE AND SAINT

via ZOOM presented by Mt. St. Mary House of Prayer



Most know St. Thomas Aquinas as a Doctor of the Church and eminent scholar. Do we ever ponder why he's called Saint? Not for his work so much as his spirit and life as a disciple of Jesus! That's what we will think and pray about on this eve of his Feast.

Wed., Jan. 27, 7--9 p.m. (\$20-\$30 as you are able)

Presenter: Honora Werner, OP

Pre-Register NOW to Receive a COVID Vaccine

The State of New Jersey has now created a website where you can Pre-Register to receive the Vaccine (at no cost). You will then be notified when you are eligible to receive the vaccine. Go to the following website and follow the prompts:

<https://covid19.nj.gov/pages/vaccine>

Parish Leadership

Parish Pastoral Council:

Chair: Nick Grippo
nickgrippo@gmail.com

Co-Chair: Lisa Robinson
lar0504@comcast.net

Secretary:
Tom Aussem

Co-Secretary:

Denise Brown

Lorraine Farr

Anne Marie Francis

Claudine Langrin

Garrett Linderth

Joe Percoco

Rose Peng

Marybeth Purcell

John Taylor

Ana Kelly, Ex-Officio

Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio

Parish Finance Council:

Joe Porter, Chair

Finance council

[@stmatthias.net](mailto:stmatthias.net)

Susan Klimcsak

Barry Dusault

Gwen Orłowski

Audrey Francis

Kester Hector

Mary Beth Oria, Ex-Officio

Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio

Trustees:

Isaac Peng

Marge Richards

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

Parish Registration — Welcome new members! Please register by calling the Parish

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.

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

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

The RCIA process is an opportunity for instruction and spiritual transformation for any adult seeking a deeper understanding of the Catholic tradition or

full incorporation into the Catholic Church. If you are interested in becoming a Catholic or completing the Sacraments of Initiation-- Baptism/ Confirmation/Eucharist, please call the Parish Office.

Stewardship

Stewardship is a way of life, a way of thanking God for all our blessings by returning a portion of the time, talent and treasure allotted to us. Whether it is clothes for the poor, food for the hungry, outreach to youth, in education, in worship, or simply arms stretched out to someone who is lonely, the Catholic Community of St. Matthias encourages everyone to become stewards of the gifts they have been given by God, returning a portion in gratitude to God for the work of ministry

here at St. Matthias and beyond our local community.



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.

Bulletin Article Requests

Please email proposed bulletin articles to bulletin@stmatthias.net by 6 pm, Wednesday, 10 days before the intended issue (earlier for holiday weekends).



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