



St. Matthias Parish Office:
 Open Mon-Thu: 8:30-5:00PM; Fri: 8:30-4PM
 168 JFK Boulevard, Somerset, NJ 08873
 732-828-1400, fax: 732-828-0866
www.stmatthias.net

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

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

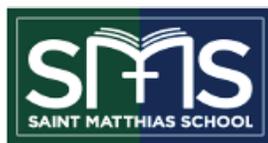
For all Parish emails, add @stmatthias.net
Pastor: Rev Abraham Orapankal, [abraham](mailto:abraham@stmatthias.net)
Senior Priest: Msgr. Seamus Brennan, [sbrennan](mailto:sbrennan@stmatthias.net)
 Mary Pat Burke-Grospin, Business Administrator
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 Deacon Ron Caimi, Senior Deacon
 Kelly Counts, Receptionist, [kcounts](mailto:kcounts@stmatthias.net)
 Juan Diaz Flores, Custodian
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 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)
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 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 23, 2022–

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Join Us
 Next Sunday,
 January 30th
 for the
 St. Matthias School
 Open House
 1:00PM—3:00PM



Next week is:



Catholic Schools
 Week 2022
 January 30–February 5

www.NCEA.org/csw #CSW22



Please see the flyer 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.

The Synod Listening Sessions will **not** meet on January 25. Stay tuned
 for a new date. In the meantime, all are invited to visit the Diocese of
 Metuchen's website, diometuchen.org/synod2023, to share their feed-
 back by completing the online questionnaire.



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 or (732) 826-1400.



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

This Week at St. Matthias

Masses are celebrated in-person and also livestreamed on our YouTube channel: youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ

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 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

Monday, Jan 24, 2022 **St. Francis de Sales, Bishop & Doctor of the Church**

8:00AM Mass & Miraculous Medal Novena Church
7:00PM Finance Council Mtg. Zoom

Tuesday, Jan 25, 2022 **The Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle**

8:00AM Daily Mass Church
7:00PM Handbell rehearsal Church

Wednesday, Jan 26, 2022 **Sts. Timothy & Titus,**

Bishops

8:00AM Mass Church
9:30AM Prayer Grp 1 Holy Spirit Zoom
7:00PM SMYLE Parents Mtg. Zoom
7:30PM Folk Group Rehearsal Church

Thursday, Jan 27, 2022 **St. Angela Merici, Foundress of the Ursulines, the 1st teaching Order**

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

Friday, Jan 28, 2022 **St. Thomas Aquinas Priest & Doctor of the Church**

8:00AM Mass Church

Saturday, Jan 29, 2022 **St. Constantius of Perugia, Bishop & Martyr**

10:00AM Caregivers Support Grp. Zoom
3:30PM Reconciliation Church
5:00PM Mass Church

Sunday Jan 30, 2022 **Catholic Schools Week**

8:00AM Mass Church
10:00AM Mass Church
10:30AM RCIA John XXIII Rm
12:00PM Mass CSW Mass Church
1:00PM SMS Open House School School

Bulletin Article Requests:

If you would like to send information to be included in our bulletin, please email it to 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,

A warm welcome back to Msgr Seamus Brennan, after his short trip to Ireland, which became longer than expected. :)

We are witnessing two events of great importance this week. First is the **49th March for Life** that took place on Friday, January 21 in Washington D.C. The theme for this year's March for Life is "Equality Begins in the Womb." It is to remind us all, as a nation, that we need to restore equal rights to our most defenseless citizens in the womb.

The right to life is a human right. Our defense of that right is a joyful witness to the beauty and dignity of every human person. The March for Life is an inspiring, peaceful, vibrant, and joy-filled rally of women, men, young people, and children from all across the country. Every year, tens of thousands of pro-lifers converge on the National Mall and march on Capitol Hill on the anniversary of the Supreme Court's 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling which legalized abortion in all 50 states. It's the largest annual human rights demonstration in the world. But this is not just a protest... but a gathering to celebrate life. Catholic teaching is clear: we envision a world where every life is celebrated, valued, and protected- born or unborn, young or old, baby or elderly, healthy or sick, rich or poor.

The second event is the "**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**," which began last Tuesday and concludes this Tuesday. The theme this year, is what you have read in last Sunday's bulletin: "We saw the star in the East, and we came to worship him" (Matthew 2:2), as chosen by the Middle East Council of Churches in Beirut, Lebanon. The Magi are a symbol of the world's diversity – different religions and cultures – that comes to pay homage to the Christ-child. Pope Francis said that in a similar way, Christians of diverse backgrounds and traditions "are pilgrims on our way to full unity," who come closer to our goal when keeping our gaze fixed on Jesus.

We know that Jesus prayed for unity: "Father, may they all be one." (John 17:21). But this unity is not realized as an organizational unity. Instead, it is possible to have a unity based on loving service, the fundamental mark of Christianity. Such a unity is possible if we accept what St. Paul asked us to do: "Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace." (Ephesians 4:3). This is a call for churches to work together so that young people can build a good future according to God's heart, a future in which all human beings can experience life, peace, justice, and love. Here's a short 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. Help us to be one in the spirit of love as we serve others, especially the poorest, the weakest and those marginalized. Unite us in the common mission that Jesus has given us. Amen."

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Orapankal



Readings for the Week

Monday: 2 Sm 5:1-7, 10; Ps 89:20, 21-22, 25-26; Mk 3:22-30

Tuesday: Acts 22:3-16 or 9:1-22; Ps 117:1bc, 2; Mk 16:15-18

Wednesday: 2 Tm 1:1-8 or 1:1-5; Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 7-8a, 10; Mk 4:1-20

Thursday: 2 Sm 7:18-19, 24-29; Ps 132:1-2, 3-5, 11, 12, 13-14; Mk 4:21-25

Friday: 2 Sm 11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17; Ps 51:3-4, 5-6a, 6bcd-7, 10-11; Mk 4:26-34

Saturday: 2 Sm 12:1-7a, 10-17; Ps 51:12-13, 14-15, 16-17; Mk 4:35-41

Sunday: Jer 1:4-5, 17-19; Ps 71:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 15-17; 1 Cor 12:31 — 13:13 or 1 Cor 13:4-13; Lk 4:21-30

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, Jan 22	10:00AM	Mary Collins by Marty Collins
Sunday, Jan 23	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
Monday, Jan 24	8:00AM	Spiritual Blessings for the Family of Thomas Farrell, by Frank & Ruth Ann
Tuesday, Jan 25	8:00AM	Del Rosario Family, by Espy del Rosario
Wednesday, Jan 26	8:00AM	Jill Gordon-Szabo, by John Martinez
Thursday, Jan 27	8:00AM	Benjamin & Daniel de Guzman, by The Family
Friday, Jan 28	5:00PM	Birthday Blessings for Karen Francis, by Anne Marie Francis
Saturday, Jan 29	10:00AM	Jill Szabo, by St. Matthias Folk Group
Sunday, Jan 30	8:00AM	Anne Matthews, by Sharon & Tom Gleason
	10:00AM	Rudy Schaar, by "Fondly" the D'Angiolillo Family
	12:00PM	Jill Szabo, by St. Matthias School Community
	(5:30PM)	Intention of Parishioners

Pray for Those Getting Married...

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 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
Cenon 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
Steven Kayden
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
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

Reflect



Smile with Your Family



God and Satan: God populated the earth with broccoli and cauliflower and spinach, green and yellow vegetables of all kinds, so Man and Woman would live long and healthy lives. And Satan created McDonald's. And McDonald's brought forth the 99-cent double-cheeseburger. And Satan said to Man, "You want fries with that?" And Man said, "Super-size them." And Man gained pounds. And God created the healthful yogurt, that woman might keep her figure that man found so fair. And Satan brought forth chocolate. And woman gained pounds. And God

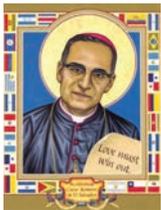
said, "Try My crispy fresh salad." And Satan brought forth ice cream. And woman gained pounds. And God said, "I have sent you heart-healthy vegetables and olive oil with which to cook them." And Satan brought forth a chicken-fried steak so big it needed its own platter. And Man gained pounds and his bad cholesterol went through the roof.And Man went into cardiac arrest. And God sighed and created quadruple bypass surgery. And Satan created HMOs. 😊

Q. Who was the greatest financier in

the Bible? A. Noah – he was floating his stock while the rest of the world was in liquidation. 😊

Q. Who was known as a mathematician in the bible? A. Moses – he wrote the book of numbers. 😊

At our weekly Bible study, the leader asked Walter, an elderly gentleman, to open the meeting with a prayer. Walter did so in a soft voice. Another man, straining to hear, shouted, "I can't hear you!" Walt replied, "I wasn't talking to you." 😊



St. Oscar Romero's "option for the poor."

Speaking in the synagogue in Nazareth, Jesus used Isaiah's prophetic terms, long since seen as referring to the coming Messiah, to describe his own mission. Jesus said he had been sent, among other reasons, "to bring Good News to the poor." The success of Jesus' mission, particularly with the poor who had no political power except that conferred by their sheer numbers, made Jesus a "dangerous" person to the religious authorities of Israel and eventually resulted in his crucifixion.

The Christian Gospel is still dangerous when its truth is really put into practice. This is clearly seen in the case of Archbishop Blessed Oscar Romero, who was murdered when, like Jesus, he reminded people of the needs of the poor and the oppressed in El Salvador.

The story begins in 1979 when a young priest, Father Grande, was shot and killed on the streets of El Salvador. His "crime" was that he spoke out against the government, which brutally suppressed all forms of protests and executed thousands of innocent people using its notorious "Death Squads." When Fr. Grande's great friend, Bishop Oscar Romero, was chosen to be the new Archbishop, the authorities thought he would keep quiet on the question of the oppressed poor in that country. Instead, Archbishop Oscar Romero became an outspoken defender of the poor and a critic of the state-supported "Death Squads." To honor the memory of his martyred friend, Romero refused to appear in any public ceremonies sponsored by the army or the government. He soon became the voice and conscience of El Salvador. His words and actions were reported throughout the whole world, so that everybody knew the atrocities happening in El Salvador. Romero's fight for human rights led to his nomination for the Nobel Peace Prize. On March 24, 1980, at 6:25 PM, as the Archbishop was offering Mass in a hospital Chapel, a shot from the back of the Church struck him in the chest, killing him instantly. Thus, Archbishop Oscar Romero died a martyr for the Gospel of Christ. As we reflect today on Jesus' words about his mission, let us remember St. Oscar Romero and continue to strive to live out faithfully, in our world and in our daily lives, the "dangerous" truths of the "Good News" which is Jesus' gift to us today.

"Poverty for us is freedom!"

Mother Teresa thinks so. There was a beautiful article about her in *Time* magazine. She was asked about the materialism of the West. "The more you have, the more you are occupied," she contends. "But the less you have the freer you are. Poverty for us is a freedom. It is a joyful freedom. There is no television here, no this, no that. This is the only fan in the whole house...and it is for the guests. But we are happy. I find the rich poorer," she continues.

"Sometimes they are lonelier inside...The hunger for love is much more difficult to fill than the hunger for bread...The real poor know what is joy." When asked about her plans for the future, she replied, "I just take one day. Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has not come. We have only today to love Jesus." Is there anyone in this room as rich as Mother Teresa?

Jesus reminds us of the "Today concept" with his words to the people in the synagogue: "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." In selecting this Messianic passage as referring to himself, Jesus sums up both the source of his power and authority, and the nature of his freeing and

(cont'd on next page)

“Poverty for us is freedom!” (cont.)

saving ministry. First, Jesus claims the power of God’s Spirit as the source of his work. Second, Jesus makes this proclamation in the context of Judaism – on the Sabbath, from the Scriptures, and in the synagogue. Third, Jesus identifies his work, the work of the Messiah, with that of the Suffering Servant of Yahweh (see Isaiah 42: 1-4, in particular), who brings Good News to the poor, proclaims release to the oppressed and recovery of sight to the blind -- figuratively and literally. Fourth, this agenda begins in Nazareth and extends to all places where the Word of God will be heard and understood.

Jesus the Prophet

In one of his books, David Buttrick tells about a cartoon in a magazine. The cartoon showed three men sitting in a row behind a long table. A microphone has been placed in front of each of them. One man was pictured in long flowing hair and a draped white robe. Another was battered, a wreath of jagged thorns on his head. The third was swarthy, with dark curly hair and a pointed nose. The caption said, "Will the real Jesus Christ please stand?"

Everybody sees Jesus from a different angle, including the writers of the New Testament. For Matthew, Jesus is the Teacher of Righteousness. For Mark, Jesus is an exorcist, constantly battling the powers of evil. Even after Evil nails him to a cross, Jesus emerges from the tomb to continue his saving work. But for Luke, the word that best summarizes the person and work of Jesus is the word "prophet." In the story we heard today, Jesus is a different kind of prophet. The prophet Jesus says, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." When the prophet Jesus said, "Today the Scripture is fulfilled," he turned memory into a mission statement. He transformed hope into an assignment. He claimed the beautiful poetry of Isaiah as his job description. The reading from Isaiah describes a kind of Messianic figure. Jesus identifies himself as that figure and declares that the mission and ministry prophesied are his mission and his ministry. In other words, Jesus declares that Isaiah's prophecy is fulfilled in Him. This mission was similar to the mission given to Moses in Exodus 3: 7-10. Jesus claims that he has been sent to Israel: (1) to bring glad tidings to the poor; (2) to proclaim liberty to captives; (3) to give recovery of sight to the blind; (4) to free the oppressed, and (5) to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord. ["An acceptable year," in this context, suggested the ancient "Jubilee Year."] Isaiah meant that the period of his ministry would open for all Israel the long-desired restoration of Zion which the Lord God Himself would accomplish, giving Israel His forgiveness and restoring her to His love and favor.

“Theology of Liberation”

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In selecting this Messianic passage as referring to himself (“This text is being fulfilled today, even as you listen”), Jesus sums up both the source of his power and authority, and the nature of his freeing and saving ministry. First, Jesus claims the power of God’s Spirit as the source of his work. **Second,** Jesus makes this proclamation in the context of Judaism – on the Sabbath, from the Scriptures, and in the synagogue. **Third,** Jesus identifies his work, the work of the Messiah, with that of the Suffering Servant of Yahweh (see Isaiah 42: 1-4, in particular), who brings Good News to the poor, proclaims release to the oppressed and recovery of sight to the blind -- figuratively and literally. **Fourth,** this agenda begins in Nazareth and extends to all places where the Word of God will be heard and understood.

“You’ll learn more from that than anything I can tell you!”

The story is told of Noelene Martin, a Franciscan monk in Australia assigned to be the guide and "gofer" for Mother Teresa when she visited New South Wales. Thrilled and excited at the prospect of being so close to this great woman, he dreamed of how much he would learn from her and what they would talk about. But during her visit, he became frustrated. Although he was constantly near her, the friar never had the opportunity to say one word to Mother Teresa. There were always other people for her to meet. Finally, her tour was over, and she was due to fly to New Guinea. In desperation, the Franciscan friar spoke to Mother Teresa: "If I pay my own fare to New Guinea, can I sit next to you on the plane so I can talk to you and learn from you?" Mother Teresa looked at him. "You have enough money to pay airfare to New Guinea?" she asked. "Yes," he replied eagerly. "Then give that money to the poor," she said. "You'll learn more from that than anything I can tell you." Mother Teresa understood that Jesus' ministry was to the poor, and she made it hers as well. That was the way she lived her miracle.

Continued on next page

Reflect

Continued from previous page

Today's Gospel tells us that Jesus performed miracles because he was filled with the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus promised the same Spirit to his disciples: "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor to be with you forever—the Spirit of truth... He lives with you and will be in you" (John 14:16-17). To this very day, the Holy Spirit is available to all believers who sincerely ask Him to dwell in their hearts. If we fail to receive, and then to use, His power and His gifts, we are left with nothing but our natural abilities, and we will be unable to be used as instruments in His freeing miracles. Miracles occur every day through weak human instruments, although they may be less spectacular than the ones Jesus performed. People whose minds are ravaged by fear and hatred can be miraculously filled with peace and kindness. Those whose hearts are crippled with bitterness and anger can be made gentle and peaceful. Perhaps others, whose relationships with their spouses are strained, can be miraculously healed by love and faithfulness. These are true miracles, performed by the power of God, through the Holy Spirit, often making use of human instruments. Let us be ready to become Spirit-filled instruments of Christ's saving freedom.

Liberation from Hate!



The Walt Disney TV movie, *Ruby Bridges*, told the story of Ruby Bridges, a six-year-old African-American girl, who was the first person to integrate the schools in New Orleans. Every day the federal marshals escorted her into the schoolhouse, because both sides of the sidewalk would be lined with people who were screaming threats. Robert Coles, a noted Harvard psychiatrist, volunteered his time to work with young Ruby. Every day he would talk with her, trying to help her weather the crisis. On the news one night, he noticed her walking up the sidewalk and the people were screaming and throwing things, but suddenly she stopped and said something and started backing down the sidewalk. Then the marshals picked her up and took her into the building. That night, Cole asked her what she said to the marshals. She said, "I was not talking to the marshals." He said, "Yes, you were. I saw you on the news. I saw your lips moving. You were talking to the marshals." She said, "I was not talking to the marshals." He said, "Well, what were you doing?" She said, "I was praying for those people who were hollering at me. I had forgotten to pray and I was trying to go back and pray for them as I walked to the school building." Cole shook his head and said, "You were praying for the people who were screaming at you?" She said, "Yes, my mama taught me that when people speak mean of you, you pray for them just like Jesus prayed for the people who spoke mean of him."

We need to receive Christ's freedom, live it and pass it on to others: As members of Christ's Mystical Body, we share in the freeing, saving mission of Jesus. However, even after we have chosen to believe in him, to accept his teachings and to live them out in our lives, we are still in bondage. We are captives of sin, and only Christ can set us free. We are often blinded by our evil habits, addictions and need for financial security. Pride and prejudice can make us blind to the needs of the less-fortunate, prompting us to fear and avoid them, rather than to love and help them. We can also be blind to the presence of God within ourselves and others. We are often not free to listen to a lonely, heart-broken neighbor. We can be prisoners of materialism and consumerism, chained to pleasure, power, money and control of everyone and everything in our world. Accordingly, we need to be freed and raised to a richer level of life. Once we receive true liberation from Christ, we need to share it with those we encounter in our daily lives -- in our families, communities, parishes and workplaces.

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. 732-828-1400

DATE	TOPIC	LOCATION
CATECHUMENATE PERIOD		
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

“For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons, and we were all given to drink of one Spirit.” 1 Cor 12:12-30

All of us here at St. Matthias are together as one in the body of Christ. We come together to worship together and to spread the good news of Jesus Christ. When I took over this year as principal of Saint Matthias School, this is the message I want for our students. I am here to spread the good news of Jesus to all of the students and staff as well. We are one community here both parish and school. And what better way to carry over Jesus’s message than living that word every day at St. Matthias School. Our teachers are dedicated to the mission of Christ, and our school has a Christ-Like environment for all to experience.

The students here at St. Matthias receive a top-notch education, and included in that education is respect and dignity for all. Students have opportunities to connect their

faith with their studies, and live out the true meaning of Jesus. Opportunities such as service to others, celebrating in school-wide masses, and showing kindness to other students are just a few of the reasons that make St. Matthias a wonderful place to be!



I am inviting all of you to come experience St. Matthias School. Check out what makes us different from public, charter, or other private schools.

We will be hosting our Open House on Sunday, January 30th from 1-3PM, after the 12PM mass. Join us! And spread the good news to your family and friends as well.

God Bless,
Mary Lynch
Principal

Learn

New Jersey Passed Law to Allow Abortions throughout Entire Pregnancy

On January 11, 2022, both houses of the NJ State Legislature passed the “Freedom of Reproductive Choice Act” (S49/A6260) to allow abortion at all stages of pregnancy. The Governor then signed the Bill. The 7 Catholic Bishops of New Jersey have jointly written a response. “The legal and ethical calculus that underlies this new legislation absolutely and forthrightly extinguishes the human and moral identity of the unborn child. Perhaps the legislators who rushed through this Act in the waning moments of their terms did not want citizens to understand fully its human and legal consequences.” Their entire statement is available at: <https://njcatholic.org/news/bishops-statement-on-the-passage-of-the-freedom-of-reproductive-choice-act-into-law>

To learn how your NJ Legislators voted, visit the following page, scroll down to “Session Voting” and then click on “Roll Call”: <https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/bill-search/2020/S49> To find the names of your Legislators or to email them, visit: <https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/legislative-roster>

SMYLE Youth Group Update

SMYLE visioning meeting (all virtual; link to be shared)

- January 26 7:00-8:30pm
- February 9th - 7:00-8:30pm
- March - 23rd - 7-8:30pm

SMYLE meetings:

- Sunday, January 30th 4:00-5:30 (virtual)
- Link to be sent
- Sunday, February 20th 4-5:30
- Sunday, March 20th



Vocations Ministry - Called to Build God’s Kingdom — Jan 23, 2022

Pope Francis in “*Gaudete et Exsultate*” on the call to holiness in today’s world: This spiritual poverty is closely linked to what Saint Ignatius of Loyola calls “holy indifference”, which brings us to a radiant interior freedom: “We need to train ourselves to be indifferent in our attitude to all created things, in all that

is permitted to our free will and not forbidden; so that on our part, we do not set our hearts on good health rather than bad, riches rather than poverty, honour rather than dishonour, a long life rather than a short one, and so in all the rest”.
What is your personal currency, what

are you obsessed with?
What do you think you need in order to be happy? The wisdom of this Beatitude is that it reminds us not to store up treasure on earth, but rather, store up treasures in heaven.



Give (and Receive!)

Stewardship Reflection Jan. 23, 2022 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Go, eat rich foods and drink sweet drinks, and allot portions to those who had nothing prepared...” (NEHEMIAH 8:10)

Ezra’s instructions to the people show us that God does not forbid us from enjoying the good things in life. He wants us to be happy! However, God expects us to be grateful for all that He has given us and to generously share our blessings with those who are in need. Now here’s the hard part – to share all we have without expecting anything in return.

Reflexiónese — 23 de enero de 2022 - 3er. Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario

“Vayan a comer manjares escogidos, beban vinos generosos e inviten al que no disponga de nada para sí...” (NEHEMIAS 8:10)

Las instrucciones de Ezra a la gente nos mostraron que Dios no nos prohíbe disfrutar de las cosas buenas de la vida. ¡Él quiere que seamos felices! Sin embargo, Dios espera que seamos agradecidos por todos los dones que Él nos ha dado y que compartamos generosamente sus bendiciones con aquellos que están pasando necesidades. Esa es la parte difícil - compartir lo que tenemos sin esperar nada a cambio.

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	\$23,916.25	\$23,949.30
Week 28 - Jan. 9, 2022	\$9,484.00	\$28,805.75	\$38,289.75	\$44,503.80
Week 29 - Jan. 16, 2022	\$9,063.00	\$14,393.25	\$23,456.25	\$26,222.25
Week 30 - Jan. 23, 2022	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$23,532.25
Week 31 - Jan. 30, 2022	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$15,486.25
			Month-to-date To-	Jan Total Last Yr
In-pew Special Collections			\$85,662.25	\$133,693.85
Jan. 9, 2022 - Together in Charity: \$917.50			Current Year-to-	Year-to-date as of
			\$753,566.56	\$767,978.45

Serve

Pastoral Council Seeking New Members

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

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

CAREGIVER/CARE SUPPORT MINISTRY ZOOM MEETING



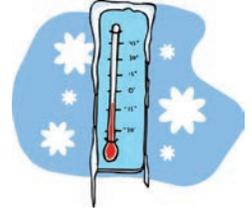
We'd like to invite parishioners who are caring for ill loved ones, or are coping with chronic illness themselves, and in need of spiritual and emotional support, to join us for discussion and prayer via Zoom. **SATURDAY, January 29th, 2022; 10am - 12 noon**

Contact: Donna Kahora, friendsofnikki@comcast.net
or Sister Marie Therese, msherwood@stmatthias.net, 732-828-1400.

Serve

Thank You to All Who Helped Us Take Down the Christmas Trees

Thank you to all of the parishioners, friends, members of The Knights of Columbus, staff and the students from St. Joseph High School who helped us remove the Christmas trees and lights last weekend. Given the freezing temperature, your dedication was greatly appreciated!



The trees will now be picked up by Franklin Township and recycled into mulch.

Connect



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

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 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 few clicks!

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1QM08DGC9TS6E?ref_=wl_share

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

Gift Certificates/Gift Cards
Jewelry

Bottles of Wine/Liquor

Housewares

Appliances

Electronics (TV's, iPads, Kindles, etc.)

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

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



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.

Discover Your Spiritual Power: Special Weekend Retreat Spotlights Prayerful Women



Join St. Francis Center for Renewal for **The Most Powerful Thing a Woman Can Do**, a special Women's Spirituality Weekend set for **Friday through Sunday, February 4-6**.

We will listen to the voices of women in prayer through the ages, and recognize our own call as women to make a difference in the world today. **Sisters Marguerite Stewart, M. Virginelle Makos** and **Barbara Brown** will guide us through the challenging times of the Old and New Testament and

speak to our present-day realities. Come and be inspired by women of faith and hope, and lift up your heart to God with power and purpose.

Options are available to spend the weekend with us, commute or dedicate just your Saturday. Space is limited, but a \$50 deposit will reserve your spot. below. We welcome you to call the Center at **610-867-8890**.

St Francis Center for Renewal | 395 Bridle Path Road, Bethlehem, PA 18017 www.StFrancisCtr.org

Parish Leadership

Parish Pastoral Council:
Co-Chairs:
Claudine Langrin
ClaudMLangrin@gmail.com and
Mary Beth Vetter-Purcell
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:FinanceCouncil@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, 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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