



All are Welcome

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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 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)
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 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 30, 2022-
Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Join Us Today, Sunday,
for St. Matthias School's Open House
1:00PM—3:00PM (after the 12 pm Mass)

SMS SAINT MATTHIAS SCHOOL

PRESCHOOL - 8TH GRADE

- FULL DAY PREK & KINDERGARTEN
- PROJECT-BASED LEARNING
- STEM ACTIVITIES IN EVERY CLASSROOM
- 1:1 CHROMEBOOKS K-8
- IPADS IN PREK
- INTERACTIVE PROMETHEAN BOARDS IN CLASSROOMS
- AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS
- BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL CARE
- NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY & MATH LEAGUE
- ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT
- ALL FAITHS ARE WELCOME
- ENROLL TODAY!

170 JOHN F KENNEDY BLVD, SOMERSET, NJ 08873 732-828-1402



Catholic Schools Week 2022
January 30-February 5
www.NCEA.org/csw #CSW22



Synod Facilitator's Training

Our parish encourages parishioners to participate in the Synod training since we hope to have Listening Sessions at St. Matthias. Here is the direct link:
<https://www.diometuchen.org/facilitator-training>.
 The training will be virtual.



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

This Week at St. Matthias

Masses are celebrated in-person and also livestreamed on our YouTube channel: [youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ](https://www.youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ)

The Church is open for individual prayer

Mon-Fri from 7:30 am to dusk
Sat from 9 am to 6pm, and
Sun from 7:30 am to 1 pm,
unless another service is taking place.

Sunday 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
4:00PM	SMYLE Mtg.	Zoom

Monday, Jan 31, 2022 St. John Bosco, Priest

8:00AM	Mass & Miraculous Medal Novena	Church
7:30PM	SVDP Recommitment Prayer Service	John XXIII Rm

Tuesday, Feb 1, 2022 St. Henry Morse, Martyr 1st Day of Black History Month

8:00AM	Daily Mass	Church
6:30PM	GIFT	Church, clsrms & John XXIII Rm

Wednesday, Feb 2, 2022 The Presentation

of the Lord

8:00AM	Mass	Church
9:30AM	Prayer Grp 1 Holy Spirit	Zoom
6:30PM	GIFT	Church, clsrms & John XXIII Rm

Thursday, Feb 3, 2022 St. Blaise, Bishop & Martyr

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

Friday, Feb 4, 2022 St. John De Britto, Priest &

Martyr

8:00AM	Mass	Church
8:00AM	First Friday Holy Hour & Benediction	Church
10:30AM	Spring Hills Nursing Home Mass @ Spring Hills	Hills

Saturday, Feb 5, 2022 St. Agatha, Martyr

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

Sunday Feb 6, 2022

8:00AM	Mass	Church
10:00AM	Mass	Church
12:00PM	Mass	Church
2:00PM	GIFT	Church, clsrms & John XXIII Rm

Bulletin Article Requests:

If you would like to send information to be included in our bulletin, please email it to bulletin@stmatthias.net by 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,

Last Sunday Mrs. Mary Lynch, our Principal gave a pulpit invitation to us to join the special Mass this Sunday as we celebrate the Catholic School Week nationally. She spoke beautifully about St. Matthias School that is an integral part of our parish. The success of St. Matthias School impacts St. Matthias parish. I am truly grateful to all of our parishioners, all of the school parents, faculty, staff, all other supporters and well-wishers for helping our school become truly a sanctuary of "Faith, Caring and Excellence" – as the school motto reminds us.

I'm sure you are aware of the "synod on synodality," a worldwide gathering of bishops and other leaders called by Pope Francis. *Synodality* literally means walking together. Pope Francis invited the Catholic Church to embark on a journey of listening and discernment to develop a deeper understanding of its mission and look toward the future. This Synod, entitled "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission", began in October 2021 and will conclude October 2023. Even though the Church is structured in a vertical hierarchical way, Francis said this synod is meant to "listen to the questions, concerns and hopes of every church, people and nation."

The word 'synodal' refers to the involvement and participation of all the People of God in the life and mission of the Church. The goal of this journeying together is not to create a new pastoral plan with objectives. Rather, the goal is to be present with one another, to listen and learn with each other, and to grow closer to the Lord and His Church. Pope Francis has said: "Let us ask: in the church, are we good at listening? How good is the hearing of the heart? Do we allow people to express themselves, to walk in faith even though they have had difficulties in life, and to be part of the life of the community without being hindered, rejected or judged?"

Some fear that it will change the structure of the church and make it more democratic like some of the Protestant churches. That is an unfounded fear. The hope is that now on, everyone will have a voice to tell his or her own personal story as well as bring ideas and suggestions for the common good, and the bishops in their dioceses and pastors in their parishes will listen to these and will make the final decisions on these. Thus, we become more of a listening church.

A key part of the Synod are "listening sessions" to be held in all Catholic communities throughout the world. Our diocesan sessions in deaneries were originally scheduled for late January but have been postponed. But the Diocese will be having a "Virtual Synod Facilitator Training" on Thursday, February 3, 2022, from 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. Everyone is welcome to join that by registering at: <https://www.diometuchen.org/facilitator-training>

In addition to these diocesan deanery sessions, I am proposing to have our own parish listening session here at St. Matthias, probably sometime in early March. Keep an eye out in coming weeks for the exact date. But if many of you can attend the Facilitator training on February 3, it will be helpful for our own parish listening session. Have a look at the Synod Preparation materials and other important resources on the diocesan website at: <https://www.diometuchen.org/synod2023>

Your brother in Christ,
Fr. Abraham Orapankal



Readings for the Week

Monday: 2 Sm 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13; Ps 3:2-3, 4-5, 6-7; Mk 5:1-20

Tuesday: 2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30-19:3; Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Mk 5:21-43

Wednesday: Mal 3:1-4; Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10; Heb 2:14-18; Lk 2:22-40 or Lk 2:22-32

Thursday: 1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12; 1 Chr 29:10, 11ab, 11d-12a, 12bcd; Mk 6:7-13

Friday: Sir 47:2-11; Ps 18:31, 47, 50, 51; Mk 6:14-29

Saturday: 1 Kgs 3:4-13; Ps 119:9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14; Mk 6:30-34

Sunday: Is 6:1-2a, 3-8; Ps 138:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 7-8; 1 Cor 15:1-11 or 1 Cor 15:3-8, 11; Lk 5:1-11

Mass Intentions for the Week

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
Monday, Jan 31	8:00AM	Helena Murphy, by Jackie Ewing
Tuesday, Feb 1	8:00AM	Tom Devlin, by Ann & Family
Wednesday, Feb 2	8:00AM	Michael Moczula, by Mary Ducca
Thursday, Feb 3	8:00AM	Marty Englehardt, by Joan & George Keller
Friday, Feb 4	8:00AM	Blessings for Karen Di Lella, by Nancy Inzano
Saturday, Feb 5	5:00PM	Dominic Fama, by The Fama Family
Sunday, Feb 6	8:00AM	St. Peter's Neonatal ICU Unit Staff & Patients, by The Capuno Family
	10:00AM	Michelle, Kimberly & Austin Boateng, by The St. Martin de Porres Society
	12:00PM	Salvator Checchio 35th Anniversary, by Daughter Karen, & Wife Nancy
	(5:30PM)	Intention of Parishioners

Pray for those who are sick...

If you or a family member are sick, please call the Parish Office or email Kelly Counts at kcounts@stmatthias.net to add the name to this list. Names will be listed in the bulletin for 6 weeks. Please let us know if this time period needs to be extended. We want to know how you are doing and want to offer you the support of our prayers. *New people on our prayer list are noted in blue.*

Carolyn Banghart

Maria Barreiro

Gladys Battle

Karl Bierley

Virginia Briggs

Marie Brody

Thomas Burns

Tara Capatosto

Lou Carcich

Ellen Catalina

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

Erlina Liem

The Litrakis Family

Al Maglio

Sue Maglio-Alese

Beatrice May

Margaret Menendez

Gail Miranda

Sabrina Moloney

Dave Moynihan

Bernadine Pasternak

Jim Pettit

Christina Pietrowiak

Jaxon Rivera

Maria Schwenzer

Sr. Mary Amata Shina, OSF

Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF

Catherine Sloomaker

Dennis Stuewe

Alma Valdez

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

Patrizia Nese—parishioner



Smile with Your Family



Rejection at the Pearly Gate: A cab driver reaches the Pearly Gates and announces his presence to St. Peter, who looks him up in his Big Book. Upon reading the entry for the cabby, St. Peter invites him to grab a silk robe and a golden staff and to proceed into Heaven. A preacher is next in line behind the cabby and has been watching these proceedings with interest. He announces himself to St. Peter. Upon scanning the preacher's entry in the Big Book, St. Peter furrows his brow

and says, "Okay, we'll let you in, but you will have only a cotton robe and wooden staff." The preacher is astonished and replies, "But I am a man of the cloth. You gave that cab driver a gold staff and a silk robe. Surely, I rate higher than a cabby." St. Peter responded matter-of-factly: "Here we are interested in results. When you preached, people slept. When the cabby drove his taxi, people prayed." 😊

Q: How do all the oceans say hello to

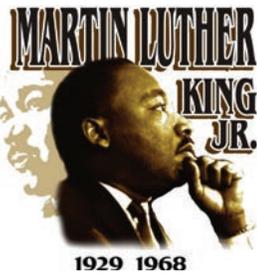
each other? They wave!

Q: What did one wall say to the other wall? I'll meet you at the corner!

Q: What do you call a bear with no teeth? A gummy bear!

Q: What did one plate say to the other? Dinner is on me!

Q: What did one eye say to the other? Between us, something smells.



Facing Rejection, Martin Luther King style

April 16, 1963, almost fifty-two years ago, Martin Luther King, Jr. offended a lot of people by writing a letter from a Birmingham jail. He wrote that letter to Church people, to the pastors. He said, "Now is the time. God wills that all his children be free. God wills that all his children be given an equal chance in this life."

He challenged the Church to believe that what the Scripture says, applies to "now." Not to sometime later, not to when everything is ready, but now. Not some other time, but right now. Martin Luther King, Jr. said a generation ago, "We shall match your capacity to inflict suffering with our capacity to endure suffering. We shall meet you physical force with soul force. Throw us in jail, and we will still love you. Send your hooded perpetrators of violence into our community at the midnight hour and beat us and leave us half-dead and we will still love you. But be assured that we will wear you down by our capacity to suffer. One day we shall win freedom, but not only for ourselves. We shall so appeal to your heart and conscience that we shall win you in the process and our victory will be a double victory. For love is the most durable power in the world."

Let us face rejection with prophetic courage and optimism. The story of Jesus' rejection in his own hometown is a story that we can identify with, because it is a story that has happened to most of us. Perhaps we have experienced the pain of rejection, betrayal, abandonment, violated trust, neglect or abuse. What about rejection by those closest to us? Often our friends, families, or childhood companions fail to listen to us, refuse our advice and reject the words of grace, love and encouragement that we offer to them because they are unable to see us as God's appointed instruments, the agents of God's healing and saving grace. Perhaps we ourselves are guilty of such rejection. How often have we discounted people through prejudice? We must realize that God's power is always available to transform even the most unlikely people and that His power may come to us through unlikely instruments.

"An Enclave of Resistance!"

In September of 1997 there was a groundbreaking service for a Catholic cathedral that was going to be constructed in Los Angeles.



The Diocese of Los Angeles commissioned the famous Spanish architect Jose Rafael Moneo to design the building. Their hope was that the cathedral would be completed by the beginning of the millennium. It was to be a peculiar witness to the glory of God. There were models of the cathedral at the groundbreaking service, and on the basis of the models a *Los Angeles Times* reporter wrote a review of the cathedral. This is a part of what the reporter said: "Moneo is creating an alternate world to the everyday world that surrounds the cathedral, a testimony to grandeur of the human spirit, an antidote to a world that is increasingly spiritually empty." Then he wrote this sentence: "The cathedral, set in the midst of the secular city, will be an enclave of resistance."

What an image . . . the Church an enclave of resistance. The words "an enclave of resistance" should be a part of the mission statement of every Church in the city, "an enclave of resistance against all that diminishes human life" ("An Enclave of Resistance," a sermon preached by Rev. Mark Trotter, San Diego, California, October 5, 1997). Today's Gospel, presenting Jesus, the liberator, challenges us to become enclaves of resistance to the attacks on Christians by the atheistic and agnostic media and liberal politicians and judges.

The Prophetic Call and Fear of Rejection

John Quincy Adams, the sixth President of the United States and the son of a former President, reportedly said that he would rather clean filth from the streets than be President. Scripture tells us that most of the prophets shared John Quincy Adams' feeling of inadequacy to their calling.



Moses tried to convince God that he didn't speak well enough, and Jeremiah complained to God that he was too young. The prophets trembled at the trials ahead of them – and with good reason. Israel had a long history of rejecting prophets (2 Chr 36:16; Jer 2:30; Amos 2:12; Matt 23: 37; Luke 13: 34; I Thes 2:15; Heb 11: 32ff.).



Jeremiah was threatened with death several times, thrown into an empty and muddy cistern, imprisoned, dragged off to exile in Egypt, and, perhaps, most painful of all, was forced to watch the destruction of Jerusalem because its inhabitants would not listen to his message.

At least twice in his lifetime, the prophet **Elijah** spoke the truth of God to King Ahab of Israel concerning the King's promotion of idolatry. As a result, Elijah was forced to flee into the wilderness where he suffered great privation (I Kgs 16-29-17: 3 and I Kgs 18: 16-19: 4). Today's Gospel story is another example



of why the prophets did not jump for joy at their career prospects. In the space of five verses, we see the people of Nazareth turn from amazement to such fury at Jesus' words they seized Him and dragged him off to the cliff to murder him. Speaking God's truth by word or by deed is a risky business even today. Hundreds of missionaries have been martyred since 1990. Thousands of Christians have been killed this past year in Moslem countries and Communist countries. Christians are subjected to the white martyrdom of mental torture in advanced countries, including the U.S., by the agnostic and atheistic media and liberal politicians and judges, as forms of the media constantly ridicule and insult Christians with unprecedented vengeance.

Evolution of the Church!

Some years ago, Richard Halverson, then Chaplain of the United States Senate, in an address to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, described the evolution of the Church: "In the beginning," he said, "the Church was a fellowship of men and women who centered their lives in the living Christ. They had a personal and vital relationship with the Lord and it transformed their lives and the world around them. But then the Church moved to Greece, where it became a philosophy. And then it moved to Rome, where it became an institution. And then it moved to Europe, where it became a culture. And now it has moved to America, where it has become an enterprise."

What an indictment – the Church as a philosophy, as an institution, as a culture, as an enterprise! Any of these violates God's intention for the Church. The Church is to be that fellowship of people who have a vital and personal relationship with the Lord, which transforms their lives. As result of that transformation, the Church becomes an enclave of resistance, transforming the world that surrounds it.

We must have the prophetic courage of our convictions. By our Baptism, God calls us to be prophets like Jesus, sharing his prophetic mission. The task of a prophet is to speak and to live out God's truth. We must never be afraid of this call, for it is Jesus who will supply us with the courage, the words and the deeds we will need to oppose the many evils in our society. By legalizing abortion in 1973, the U.S. Supreme Court has allowed the killing of over forty- seven million unborn children in forty years. The Roe versus Wade decision is currently permitting the brutal execution of thousands of unborn babies every day. Our television and movie conglomerates, which are supported by the money paid by millions of Americans and many large corporate sponsors, are spewing forth pornographic material that is poisoning our children and our society. Our society tells adults and youngsters that promiscuous sex, drugs, gambling and alcohol are legitimate pleasures for modern, liberated people. Our country needs to hear God's Truth from Spirit-filled Christians with the prophetic courage of their convictions. Heroes like Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King consistently refused to retaliate violently while affirming the dignity of every person, including their enemies.

Liberate Dungeon Lovers!

Kazimerz Symanski of Poland was a prisoner of war during World War II. There is no record of what happened to Symanski in the prison camp, but his experiences there obviously changed him. In his later years, Symanski seemed bent on reliving his prison experience. He even turned his small apartment into a prison cell. He put bars over the windows and constructed a small cage in which he slept. He refused to allow electricity or running water in his apartment. He seemed determined to live in the most primitive and confining conditions. Symanski died in 1993 from the effects of his living conditions. [*The Comedian Who Choked to Death on a Pie . . . And the Man Who Quit Smoking at 116*, compiled by the editors of *Fortean Times* (New York: Cader Books, 1996), pp. 48-49.]

Continued on next page

Reflect

Liberate (continued)

Some of us, too, have been living for years in prison cells of our own making. We are bound by addictions, anxiety, low self-esteem, anger, fear, guilt, misconceptions about God. We get this blank expression when the preacher talks about joy, or stepping out in Faith, or living the abundant life. We're just lucky to make it through the day without collapsing from the weight of our chains. But we weren't made to live that way.

Rejection Because of Helping a Man in Need!

Long ago, there lived an English priest named George Herbert, who was also a poet and amateur musician on his way to a music session with some friends, he once came across a man whose horse had collapsed under the weight of its load. Both horse and owner were in great distress. Without a moments' hesitation, he stopped and emerged from his vehicle, took off his clerical robes and rolled up his sleeves. First he helped the owner unload the horse, getting it standing on its feet and then reload the animal systematically so that the weight would be evenly and reliably stacked. Then, to the owner's delighted surprise, he gave him some money to refresh himself and his horse. Finally, the priest got back into his vehicle and drove on to meet his friends. Of course, when he arrived late for the music session, his hair was disheveled, his face grimy, his clothes soiled and his hands dirty. This astounded the

other musicians, who had known George to be prim, proper and punctual. And when he told them the reason for his unkempt appearance and late arrival, the others frowned upon him for getting involved in such a mess with an ordinary stranger. Unabashed and unapologetic, George Herbert answered: "The thought of what I have done will be like music to me at midnight. The omission of it would have caused discord in my conscience. For if I am bound to pray for all who are in distress, I am sure that I am bound, so far as it is in my power, to practice what I pray for. So now let's tune our instruments."

We need to follow Christ, not political correctness, and to speak the truth of Christ without being hypocritical or disrespectful. We must never remain silent in the face of evil for fear of being thought "politically incorrect." Jesus was not against conflict if it promoted truth. He taught us to give respect and freedom without condoning or encouraging sinful behavior. That was the example given by Martin Luther King and his civil rights marchers singing, "We shall overcome," as they were carted off to jail, were washed down with fire hoses and had savage Alsatian dogs loosed on them. Love does not tolerate destructive behavior, but it sometimes causes pain--just as a surgeon must sometimes hurt in order to heal. We need to be kind, charitable, honest, forgiving and clear in speaking out our Christian convictions as Jesus was when He spoke in the synagogue. We live in a pluralistic society, but as the American Bishops say in their document Living the Gospel of Life: A Challenge to American Catholics | Real pluralism depends on people of conviction struggling to advance their beliefs by every ethical and legal means at their disposal."

Pray



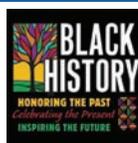
**Make Lent 2022
the Best Lent Ever!
Participate in a St. Matthias
"Live Lent" Small Group**

Watch our two videos from past participants at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ShtSHq2mpYk&t=2s> or <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IEJLL6jhiqw> Start for the first time or continue with a St. Matthias Small Faith Sharing Group! This Lent on Zoom!

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

Continuing members do not need to sign up -- simply connect with your group facilitator. Facilitators will be contacting group members who were part of their group this past fall or last Lent. Each group likely will be meeting on Zoom on the same date/time.

Groups will begin the week of February 27! New members, please sign-up early! Most groups will be using the, "Around the Lenten Circle: Small Group Sessions for Lent 2022" by Ann Naffziger. It is an e-resource. Questions? Please contact Dee Nann at the parish office at 732-828-1400 or dnann@stmatthias.net.



**CELEBRATING BLACK
HISTORY MONTH AT
ST. MATTHIAS**

The St. Martin de Porres Society is pleased to invite all to celebrate Black History Month in our parish. Here is what you can expect in the month of February.

Weekly bulletin articles on Black History from our Society members- Starting February 6th -

**Mass in celebration of Black History Month
February 19, 2022, 5:00PM**

Faith and Racial Justice Series Kickoff from the Just Faith Network facilitated by the St. Matthias Racial Justice Initiative Core Group

Space is limited. Registration required at St. Matthias: Faith and Racial Equity Series by justfaith.org (signupgenius.com)

- **February 19th, 9-11:30am (Zoom Retreat) -**
- **February 26th, 9-11:00 am (Session 1 via Zoom) --**
Contact matthiasracialjustice@gmail.com

From the Pastoral Staff

Faith + Excellence + Service = Catholic Schools Week



Since 1974, this last week of January has had a special significance for Saint Matthias School and Catholic schools

doors are open to families of other faiths, inviting them to make our school even better by sharing their love for a solid education, an understanding of different cultures and appreciating diverse beliefs.

ing.

The Catholic school works hand-in-hand with parents in the child's faith development. The most viable way that we live out our faith is when we come together at the table of our Lord. Here we are nourished, individually and as a family, giving us the sustenance we need to go beyond ourselves. The more that a family joins the community in prayer and joins the community at Eucharist, the better our children are educated to be of service to others.

Let us all work together in shining the light of hope on our school and on our parish as we persevere in faith, excellence, and service!

Joseph C Gidaro
Vice Principal &
Director of Development

throughout the nation: Catholic Schools Week (CSW). The theme across America is "Catholic Schools: Faith, Excellence, and Service. While as a nation we pause this week to celebrate and acknowledge the foundation of all Catholic schools, namely faith and achievement, these blessings and successes are witnessed on a daily basis here in Somerset, and from coast to coast in all Catholic schools.

What a blessing we have at the Catholic Community of Saint Matthias in that we can share our faith and love of Jesus through the education ministry, providing our parish families the richness and heritage of a Catholic education. Yet, we do not stop here. Our

On January 30, 2022, after our Noon mass, we will have an Open House where we will have the opportunity to showcase the many treasures that make up our incredible school; the greatest of these are our students. Likewise, new registrations will begin, and it is our hope that you, our dear parishioners, will invite your friends, neighbors, and family members to visit our school and consider enrolling their children for the upcoming school year. Since 1965, SMS has been engaging children spiritually and academically in a Christ-centered environment, preparing them to be disciples and citizens. The future of our church begins within the walls of our school build-

Learn

SMYLE Youth Group Update

SMYLE visioning meeting (all virtual, link to be shared)
February 9th - 7:00-8:30pm
March - 23rd - 7-8:30pm

SMYLE meetings:

TODAY, Sunday, January 30th 4:00-5:30 (virtual)

Link to be sent

Sunday, February 20th 4-5:30

Sunday, March 20th



This week, schools all over the country celebrate the gift of a Catholic education....

Here's what's happening at our great school!

Sunday - CSW Celebratory Mass at 12 noon followed by an Open House from 1 to 3.

Monday - Students will write thank-you letters to local businesses (community)

Tuesday - Brain Show assembly

Wednesday - Crazy Hat Day! Breakfast for faculty and staff.

Thursday - Prayers for Religious Vocations

Friday - Athletic Bowl



Catholic Schools Week 2022
January 30-February 5
www.NCEA.org/csw #CSW22

Catholic School 2022-2023 Tuition Assistance - Online Application Process Open

Families interested in applying for tuition assistance to attend an eligible Diocese of Metuchen elementary or high school may apply online now through FACTS Grant & Aid Assessment at <https://online.factsmgt.com/aid>. Online applications must be completed (including all required documentation) by no later than March 31, 2022. Applications are available in English and Spanish. Families that need assistance completing the online application or need access to a computer to apply should contact their school.

Give (and Receive!)

Stewardship Reflection Jan. 30, 2022 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, it is not pompous...” (1 CORINTHIANS 13:4)

Do you get jealous? Do you focus more on the things that other people have than on the gifts that God has given to you? Are you pompous? Do you acquire more possessions to impress others? At times we are all guilty of these things. Pray for more humility. Humility helps us become less “self-centered” and become more “God-centered” for the sake of others.

Reflexiónese — 30 de enero de 2022 - 4do. Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario

“El amor es paciente, el amor es bondadoso... No es celoso, ni jactancioso...” (1 CORINTIOS 13:4)

¿Es usted celoso? ¿Se centra más en las cosas que otras personas tienen que en los dones que Dios le ha dado? ¿Es usted jactancioso? ¿Adquiere más bienes para impresionar a los demás? A veces todos somos culpables de estas cosas. Recépidole humildad a Dios. La humildad nos ayuda a ser menos “egocéntricos” y a “centrarnos más en Dios” por el bien de los demás.

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	\$10,993.00	\$12,385.25	\$23,378.25	\$23,532.25
Week 31 - Jan. 30, 2022	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$15,486.25
			Month-to-date Total	Jan Total Last Yr
			\$109,040.50	\$133,693.85
			Current Year-to-date Total	Year-to-date as of Jan 31,
			\$776,944.81	\$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.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU



THANK YOU to all those who so generously supported the 2021 Giving Tree. Your gifts and donations were graciously received by the eleven organizations that we assisted this year... all of whom sent notes of thanks for your constant loyal support. In addition to the numerous packages of clothes, coats, toiletries, toys, and other gifts shipped direct, we also saw \$4,500.00 in gift cards pass through the collection baskets, each being distributed to the organizations specified. Your kindness and support are so vital to this effort and much appreciated. Wishing you peace and happiness in this New Year. Until next time...

Joanne Diana, on behalf of the Giving Tree Team

Night of Winners 2022 - Viva St. Matthias!

Saturday, February 26, 2022

Registration & Basket Raffle Tickets are on sale **NOW!**

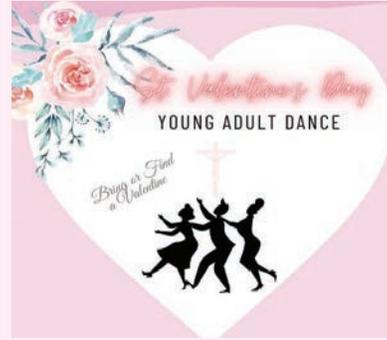
This year's event will be a **Hybrid Event** — in-person with a virtual option. You must be 18 years or older to participate in this event. The in-person event has a seating limit of 200 people, so make sure to register early! **The in-person event begins at 6:00pm. Doors open at 5:30pm.** Everyone must wear a mask when they are not seated at their table.

The Virtual (You Tube Live Stream) event will start at 8:00pm on Saturday.

Registration closes on 02/24/22 @ 5pm.

In order to participate in the Virtual Only event, you must be available (or designate a representative) to put your tickets in the basket bins in the St. Matthias School Cafeteria on Saturday, 02/26/22 from 9am-4pm. All people entering the building must wear a mask at all times. The baskets will be on display in the cafeteria. Additional Basket Raffle Tickets and Super Cash 50/50 Tickets will also be for sale during the ticket drop time.

Any questions, please contact Melissa Garlatti - stmatthiasnow@gmail.com



Saint Valentine's Day Young Adult Dance – Saturday, Feb. 12, 7 PM-11 PM St. Matthias Church Cafeteria

The Catholic Club of NJ group, promoting the gift of life, invites **Young Adults (21-40)** to a Saint Valentine's Day dance on **Saturday, February 12th, 2022** from **7 pm—11 pm** at **St. Matthias**. Bring your Valentine or find your Valentine and join us for an evening of great food, live music, and fun! Classy dress attire

requested. Cost: \$40.00

St Matthias Catholic Church, 168 John F Kennedy Blvd, Somerset, NJ 08873. Please email catholicclubnj@gmail.com with questions.

Register at: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc9UWmb6dJxWLEVUGC4RHxEQ6fx3_S_YJTGmFdPb9fwRltZ5w/viewform?usp=sf_link

(If you are reading this bulletin online, just hold down the CTRL key and click on the above link to register.)

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.

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

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	

Local Community

A Celebration of the Life of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Rescheduled for February 27th, 2022

St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church
47 Skillman Rd, Skillman, NJ 08558
A \$5 Light Lunch (soup, bread, dessert) beginning at 12:30pm

Viewing the Movie: [Selma](#)

Prayer and Conversation

Registration Required

To RSVP: Email matthiasracialjustice@gmail.com, or

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c044ba4ab29a7fc1-remembering>

As our country continues to grapple with the critical issue of racial justice, come and join the conversation.

“Never, never be afraid to do what’s right – especially if the well-being of a person or animal is at stake. Society’s punishments are small compared to the ones we inflict on our soul when we look the other way.”



Marriage Encounter Weekend—February 4-6, 2022

For a truly meaningful New Year’s Resolution, one that lasts long after the Champagne has lost its fizz, why not resolve to treat each other to a Marriage Encounter Weekend? A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend gives you the time and tools to revitalize romance, deepen communication, and nourish the spirituality in your marriage. The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend will be held February 4 – 6. Please apply ASAP as space is limited. Phone 1-732-904-9636 for application and information (Tom & Ruth DeFalco). Visit us at: www.vvme.org for more information.



WHAT’S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT?

Wednesday, February 9th, 5:30-9pm

1651 US Highway 22

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e-mail : msmhope@msmhope.org

Spend an evening enjoying dinner, talking about relationships and renewing your marriage vows.
\$50-\$60 per person Space is limited Register by **January 31st** online at www.msmhope.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: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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