



ST. MATTHIAS CHURCH

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
[mpburke-grospin](mailto:mpburke-grospin@stmatthias.net)

Deacon Ron Caimi, Senior Deacon
Kelly Counts, Receptionist, [kcounts](mailto:kcounts@stmatthias.net)
Juan Diaz Flores, Custodian
Leslie Guillen, Bulletin Editor, lg Guillen
Nathalie Godet, Website Coordinator, [n godet](mailto:n godet@stmatthias.net)
Amy Hanna, Accountant/Databases, [ahanna](mailto:ahanna@stmatthias.net)
Julio Montero, Maintenance Supervisor
Deacon Russell Demkovitz, [r demkovitz](mailto:r demkovitz@stmatthias.net)
Ana V Kelly, Pastoral Associate for Marketing & Development, [akelly](mailto:akelly@stmatthias.net)

Mike Lanyi, Sacristan

Sue Lenczewski, Youth Coordinator

Dolores R. Nann, Pastoral Associate for Faith Formation, [dnann](mailto:dnann@stmatthias.net)

Vinnie Natale, Bookkeeper, [vnatale](mailto:vnatale@stmatthias.net)

Silvia Nizama, Housekeeper

Deacon John Radvanski, [deaconjohn](mailto:deaconjohn@stmatthias.net)

Joan Best Seamon, Pastoral Associate for Music Ministry [jseamon](mailto:jseamon@stmatthias.net)

Sr Marie Therese Sherwood, OSF, Pastoral Assoc. for Social Concerns, [msherwood](mailto:msherwood@stmatthias.net)

Phyllis Stone, Pastoral Associate for Liturgy/RCIA & Admin. Assistant to the Pastor, [pstone](mailto:pstone@stmatthias.net)

Trish Stumper, Par. Support Secretary, [tstumper](mailto:tstumper@stmatthias.net)

St. Matthias School (add @stmatthiasnj.org)

Mary Lynch, Principal, [mlynch](mailto:mlynch@stmatthias.net)

Joseph Gidaro, Vice Principal, [jgidaro](mailto:jgidaro@stmatthias.net)

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS

SUNDAY, JAN 9, 2022-

The Baptism of the Lord

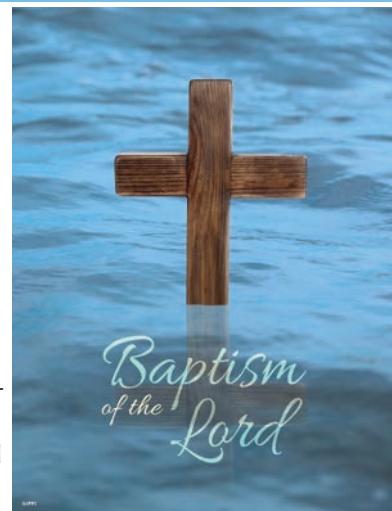
The Synod on Synodality



Preparation for the worldwide Synod is underway with hundreds of thousands of small groups meeting around the world, discerning

how God is calling us to be Church.

“Walking together is the most effective way of manifesting and putting into practice the nature of the Church as the pilgrim and missionary people of God,” said Cardinal Grech, the Vatican’s Secretary-General for the Synod. “Synodality is a way of being Church... making visible the core values of communion, participation and mission... Synodality helps us [recognize] that in all moments of dialogue, decision-making and discernment, it is God’s will that we are seeking to discern and discover...We listen to each other in order to better hear the voice of the Holy Spirit speaking in our world today.”



The excellent video of Cardinal Grech’s speech to the U.S. bishops is available at: <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/church/news/2021-11/cardinal-grech-synodality-us-bishops-synod-video-message.html>

In the Diocese of Metuchen, the **Synod Listening Sessions** will be held on **Tuesday, January 25, from 7 pm to 9 pm**. The Sessions will be grouped by Deanery. St. Matthias is part of the County Seat Deanery and we will meet at **Immaculate Conception Church in Somerville**. To participate in the Listening Session, please register at: www.diometuchen.org/synod2023 as soon as possible.

The **Facilitator’s Training Session** for the above Listening Sessions was scheduled for **TODAY/yesterday, Saturday, January 8, at 10 AM** at St. Francis Cathedral. Registration was also available at the above website.

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.

Volunteer to Help Us Take the Down the Christmas Trees!

TODAY, Saturday, January 8, at 10 am. Email Mary Pat at mpburke-grospin@stmatthias.net if you can help! Thank you!



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 9, 2022 **Baptism of the Lord** Together in Charity Collection

8:00AM	Mass	Church
10:00AM	Mass	Church
12:00PM	Mass	Church
2:00PM	GIFT	Zoom

Monday, Jan 10, 2022 St. William of Bourges, Cistercian Bishop		
8:00AM	Mass	Church
8:30AM	Miraculous Medal Novena	Church
7:00PM	Liturgy Ministry Leaders Mtg.	John XXIII Rm

Tuesday, Jan 11, 2022 St. Theodosius of Cenobia, Bishop & Founder		
8:00AM	Daily Mass	Church
7:00PM	Pastoral Council Ministry Leaders Mtg	Zoom
7:00PM	SMDP Racial Justice Initiative Core Mtg.	Zoom

Wednesday, Jan 12, 2022 St. Bernard of Corleone, Religious		
8:00AM	Mass	Church
9:30AM	Prayer Grp 1 Holy Spirit	Zoom
7:00PM	SMDP Society Monthly Mtg.	Zoom

Thursday, Jan 13, 2022 St. Hilary, Bishop & Doctor of the Church		
8:00AM	Mass	Church
7:30PM	Sunday 10AM Choir	Church
7:30PM	NeXt Level Mtg.	Zoom

Friday, Jan 14, 2022 Devasahayam Pillai, Martyr		
SMS dismissal	12:15PM	

8:00AM	Mass	Church
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Saturday, Jan 15, 2022 Our Lady of Arabia, Patroness of the Arabian Peninsula		
10:00AM	Secular Franciscans Mtg.	de Porres Rm
3:30PM	Reconciliation	Church
5:00PM	Mass	Church

Sunday Jan 16, 2022 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time		
8:00AM	Mass	Church
10:00AM	Mass	Church
10:30AM	RCIA	John XXIII Rm
12:00PM	Mass	Church

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends,



We celebrate the Baptism of Jesus this Sunday. We know that Christmas is not just for a day, but for a whole season. Last Sunday was the “Epiphany” or the “manifestation” of Jesus Christ to the world through the wise men. This weekend we have another manifestation to close the season of Christmas with God the Father and the Holy Spirit manifesting themselves to Jesus at the start of his public ministry which we celebrate in the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. That’s why we took down all the Christmas trees and other decorations. We hear in the readings for this Sunday how the Spirit was present to Jesus and how God was “well pleased” with his “beloved Son.” The descent of the Spirit and the voice of God from heaven mark the final epiphany of the Christmas season.

It is this Spirit of God who prompted us to welcome the New Year with a renewed sense of hope and joy. Many of us have made New Year resolutions. Now that we are some 10 days into the New Year, one question to ask is: **ARE WE GIVING UP ON OUR NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS..??** If you are not one among 8% of Americans who stick to their New Year Resolutions (according to research from the University of Scranton), you may be tempted to give up on making or keeping any for this year. But wait... there is hope if only we are willing to change the way we think.

The concept of “akrasia” will explain why we fail. ‘Akrasia’ is the state of mind in which someone acts against their better judgment through weakness of will. Even Socrates, who lived some 400 years before Christ, investigated this human enigma which is the paradox of wanting to do something beneficial, but failing to do it. We fail because the benefits are delayed and we’re impatient. You want to exercise, but the results aren’t immediate, so you tell yourself you’ll start later. ‘Akrasia’ is why we procrastinate, and it’s directly tied to why we need to change the way we think. If you want to run a marathon, you don’t begin training by running 26.2 miles. You get your body used to running shorter distances and work your way up. Hence the key to accomplishing any goal is to focus on manageable tasks instead of the grand outcome.

Past failures can be used as stepping stones to learning, growth and success. So, give yourself another chance this New Year! Make a practical resolution that you can keep! And daily ask the help of the New-Born King to keep that one resolution!

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Orapankal

Readings for the Week

Monday: 1 Sm 1:1-8; Ps 116:12-13, 14-17, 18-19; Mk 1:14-20

Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:9-20; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd; Mk 1:21-28

Wednesday: 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20; Ps 40:2, 5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10; Mk 1:29-39

Thursday: 1 Sm 4:1-11; Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25; Mk 1:40-45

Friday: 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a; Ps 89:16-17, 18-19; Mk 2:1-12

Saturday: 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1; Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7; Mk 2:13-17

Sunday: Is 62:1-5; Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 7-8, 9-10; 1 Cor 12:4-11; Jn 2:1-11

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, Jan 8	10:00AM	Health & Blessings for Victoria Villareal Moreno, by The Moreno Family
Sunday, Jan 9	8:00AM	William J. Gleason, by Sharon & Tom Gleason
	10:00AM	Health & Blessings for Paula Wegg, by Marilyn Wegg & Family
	12:00PM	Elizabeth Maruca, by Nephew/Godson, Joe Gidaro
	(5:30PM)	Intention of Parishioners
	(5:30PM)	Intention of Parishioners
Monday, 10	8:00AM	Robert Downie, Sr., by Vinnie
Tuesday, Jan 11	8:00AM	Bert Maglio, by Mom, Dad, Pete & Sue
Wednesday, Jan 12	8:00AM	Richard Gowen, by IEEE Foundation
Thursday, Jan 13	8:00AM	Olivia Encalada, by The Gavilanes Family
Friday, Jan 14	5:00PM	Paul Hughes, by The Family
Saturday, Jan 15	10:00AM	Jill Szabo, by The Lanyi & Kantor Families
Sunday, Jan 16	8:00AM	Augustin Vidal, by Menchie Ventura & Family
	10:00AM	Valentine Rex, by Binny, Sowjanya & Aneta
	12:00PM	Leticia Roman, by Flora Sunga
	(5:30PM)	Intention of Parishioners

Pray for Those Getting Married...

Mariella Klinger and Dave Seamon—January 15, 2022, and 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 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
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
Kathleen Lagenbacher
Al & Rose Larangeira
Erlina Liem
The Litrakis Family
Al Maglio
Sue Maglio-Alese
Beatrice May
Margaret Menendez
Gail Miranda
Sabrina Moloney

Dave Moynihan
Baby Ezran Natural
Patricia Nese
Danny Ochangco
Jack Oge
Bernadine Pasternak
Jim Pettit
Christina Pietrowiak
Oscar Poisler
Baby Griffin Rademaker
Kevin Reavey
Chris Retz
Ann Ritchick
Jaxon Rivera
Angela Romanek
Maria Schwenzer
Sr. Mary Amata Shina, OSF
Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF
Catherine Slootmaker

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...

Marie DeFeo
Joyce Shamy
Marion Horbert

Aurea McMullen

— “His mercy endures forever.” Chronicles

Reflect



Smile with Your Family



Baptism of a cat: Johnny's Mother looked out the window and noticed him "playing Church" with their cat. He had the cat sitting quietly and he was preaching to it. She smiled and went about her work. A while later she heard loud meowing and hissing and ran back to the open window to see Johnny baptizing the cat in a tub of water. She called out, "Johnny, stop that! The cat is afraid of water!" Johnny looked up at her and said, "He should have thought about that before he joined my church."

Three times: Too many people come to Church three times primarily. They're baptized, they get married, and they have their funeral service at the Church. The first time they throw water on you, the second time rice, the third time dirt! A friend described these three attendance as "when they are

hatched, matched and dispatched" ☺

Baptized in luxury: When our Church was renovated, adding a Baptismal pool, we were pleased. So was our daughter.

While riding in the car with my daughter and her friend, we went past a pond. My daughter's friend proudly declared, "I was baptized in that pond." My daughter responded with no less pride: "Oh, I was baptized in a Jacuzzi at our church."

Two children were discussing baptism: My mom is a believer in baptism by fire. No, my priest said that you have to use water. ☺

A computer geek's msg: I'm working on a new typeface to be used for church bulletins... I call it 'Baptismal Font.' ☺

Giving Comfort as a Profession?

"Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God." It was precisely because Janine Carreiro was not able to give comfort to a baby girl lying on a floor in East Timor, Indonesia, that she has chosen to "give comfort" as her profession.

In 2005, as Indonesia erupted into civil war, Carreiro and other volunteers were confined within convent walls. On the morning of their evacuation, the last thing she saw was a one year-old baby girl lying under a dirty rag. Carreiro realized that this baby's life was never going to come close to being the life that Carreiro, herself, would live, simply because she had been born in another place. "For me," Carreiro says, "that was the epitome of injustice—that your place and your position in life can be determined just by where you're born."

This realization, wrote Susan Hines-Brigger in St. Anthony Messenger, eventually led Carreiro to her executive director-

ship of the Brockton Interfaith Community (BIC) where she works as a community organizer, attempting to "make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God."

Apparently she is successful, as the Catholic Campaign for Human Development's (CCHD) Cardinal Bernardin New Leadership Award was presented to Carreiro in 2010. Her greatest joy comes from watching the transformation that can happen in people when she is able to "help people figure out the best way to tackle the problems that they see. And then sometimes to get out of the way so they can actually be creative enough to do it."

Carreiro relies on a strong faith to see her through the feeling of being overwhelmed by the enormity of the work to be done. "I'm 100 percent sure that I'm just an instrument at this point in time." Even so, it can probably be heard by those she serves, "You are my beloved. With you I am well pleased." (Dr. Constance M. Popp)



Identified with victims!

When leprosy broke out among the people of the Hawaiian Islands in the middle of the 19th century, the government authorities responded by establishing a leper colony on the remote island of Molokai. The victims were snatched by force from their families and sent to this island to perish. However, moved by their terrible plight, a young Belgian priest, Saint Damien De Veuster, asked permission from his superiors to minister to them. Straightaway he realized that there was only one effective way to do this, and that was to go and live among them. Having got

ten permission, he went to Molokai. At first, he tried to minister to the lepers while maintaining a certain distance. But he soon realized that he had to live among them in order to gain their trust. As a result he contracted leprosy himself. The reaction of the lepers was immediate and wholehearted. They embraced him and took him to their hearts. He was now one of them. There was no need, no point any more, in keeping his distance. The lepers had someone who could talk with authority about leprosy, about brokenness, about rejection and public shame.

Continued on next page

Reflect

Identified with victims! (continued)

Today's Gospel tells us how, by receiving the baptism of repentance, Jesus became identified with the sinners whom he had come to save.

Jesus' baptism reminds us of our mission:

- a) to experience the presence of God within us, to acknowledge our own dignity as God's children and to appreciate the Divine Presence in others by honoring them, loving them and serving them in all humility;*
- b) to live as the children of God in thought, word and action so that our Heavenly Father may say to each one of us what He said to Jesus: "You are My beloved son/daughter with whom I am well pleased." It means that we are to let His thoughts direct our thoughts, His mind control our mind, His concerns be our concerns.*



Identity of the Peanut Scientist

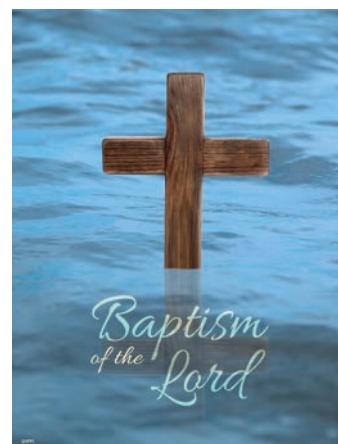
In one of his books, Fr. Bill Bausch describes George Washington Carver, the great black agricultural scientist who did a lot of research work on the commercial and medical uses of the lowly peanut. Carver built a great industry through his scientific endeavors. In January, 1921, he was brought to Washington, D.C., to the Ways and Means Committee to explain his work on the peanut. As a black man, he was last on the list and so, after three days of waiting, he finally walked up the aisle to speak, ignoring the racial comments and ridicule. Later he wrote in his autobiography, "Whatever they said of me, I knew that I was a child of God, and so I said to myself inwardly, 'Almighty God, let me carry out Your will.'" He got to the podium and was told that he had twenty minutes to speak. Carver opened up his display case and began to explain his project. So engaging was his discussion that those twenty minutes went all too quickly, and the chairman rose and asked for an extension so he could continue his presentation, which he did for an hour and three-quarters. They voted him four more extensions so he spoke for several hours. At the end of his talk they all stood up and gave him a long round of applause.

And all that happened because he knew who he was, and Whose he was and because he refused to be defined by the labels of his culture. The feast of the Baptism of our Lord reminds us of who we are and Whose we are. By Baptism we become the adoptive sons and daughters of God, brothers and sisters of Jesus, members of his Church, heirs of Heaven and temples of the Holy Spirit. We become incorporated into the Church, the Body of Christ, and made sharers in the priesthood of Christ [CCC]

#1279]. Hence, "Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit and the door which gives access to the other Sacraments" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, #1213). / Before the pandemic, most of us dipped the fingers of our right hand into the holy water font and blessed ourselves when we would enter into Church. Why? This blessing is supposed to remind us of our Baptism. And so when I bless myself with Holy Water, I should be thinking of the fact that I am a child of God; that I have been redeemed by the Cross of Christ; that I have been made a member of God's family and that I have been washed, forgiven, cleansed and purified by the Blood of the Lamb..

"This is my Beloved Daughter, this is my Beloved Son"

Edward Farrell, a friend of mine, is a Catholic priest who serves an Inner City Parish in Detroit. He's written some marvelous books. One I would especially recommend is entitled *Prayer Is a Hunger*. Ed is a part of a small group with whom I meet each January. I've told you about this group. We call it the Ecumenical Institute of Spirituality. It's an important group for me. Though we meet only for three days once a year, sharing our spiritual pilgrimages with one another, seeking to focus our minds and hearts on some growing edge, it's an important part of my life. Ed is a part of it too. He's one of the most genuinely humble persons I know. Serving some of God's forgotten people in one of Detroit's most depressed areas, he is quietly profound. I never will forget the insight he provided me about this text. He said that Jesus went to the cross so that we too could hear the same word Jesus heard at his baptism - so that you and I can hear, "This is my beloved daughter/this is my beloved son, with whom am well pleased." Have you thought about it that way? Jesus' paid the price so that for you and me, the heavens could open, and we could know the reality of God's Spirit as a living power and presence, in our lives. Jesus wanted us to know the reality of Good News in the dark days of hopelessness and despair. The Voice which named Jesus God's beloved Son is still speaking in our souls, "You are Mine. You are unique and special. I am pleased with you. I love you. I love you so much that I gave My beloved Son for you. You are my beloved son, you are my beloved daughter."



Reflect

God's Press Conference

When likable Lou Holtz was announced as the new head football coach at the University of Notre Dame, he was touted as one who would restore the school's football program to its tradition of excellence. Whenever a new leader appears on the scene, whether it is the new coach of a team or the new president of a corporation, a press conference is usually held to proclaim that leader's qualifications and potential. Such press conferences usually create some excitement about the leader's identity, and arouse our expectations with glowing promises about what this leader will accomplish.



Today's event of our Lord's baptism is something like this. It's as if God Himself called a press conference to reveal His Son Jesus as the long-awaited Messiah and to give us a preview of what His mission would accomplish. "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased" Mark and Luke have the words addressed to Jesus, "You are my

Son...." But Matthew's "This is my Son" makes the words relevant to the bystanders because they are an open testimony to the Father's approval of his Son ... and we should view "Son" as a Messianic title. The Heavenly Voice points to a relationship shared by no other. It is significant, it is "good news," that Jesus hears he is the "beloved Son, with whom [God] is well pleased" before his public ministry begins.

The Heavenly Father is much pleased with his Son's humble submission and speaks audibly and directly to him for all to hear: "You are my beloved Son, with you I am well pleased." The Holy Spirit, too, is present as Jesus submits to John's baptism. The Holy Spirit anoints Jesus for his ministry which begins that day as Jesus rises from the waters of the Jordan River.

On the Right Road, but in the Wrong Direction!

A man was traveling down the country one day. His journey brought him along some by-roads, where the signposts were few and far between. After a while, he was unsure if he was on the right road, so he decided to ask the first person he saw. Eventually he came across a farmer driving his cows home for milking. He stopped the car, and asked him if he was on the right road to Somewhere, just to give the place a name. The farmer told him that he certainly was on the right road. My friend expressed his thanks, and was about to move forward when the farmer added, in a very nonchalant way, "You're on the right road, but you're going in the

wrong direction!"



Today's reflection on Jesus' baptism challenges us to examine whether we are on the right road and moving in the right direction for our eternal destiny. This is the day for us to remember the graces we have received in Baptism and to renew our Baptismal

promises: On the day of our Baptism, as Pope St. John Paul II explains, "We were anointed with the Oil of Catechumens, the sign of Christ's gentle strength, to fight against evil. Blessed water was poured over us, an effective sign of interior purification through the gift of the Holy Spirit. We were then anointed with Chrism to show that we were thus consecrated in the image of Jesus, the Father's Anointed One. The candle lighted from the Paschal Candle was a symbol of the light of Faith which our parents and godparents must have continually safeguarded and nourished with the life-giving grace of the Spirit." This is also a day for us to renew our Baptismal promises, consecrating ourselves to the Holy Trinity and "rejecting Satan and all his empty promises," which our profane world is constantly offering us through its mass-media of communication. Let us ask Our Lord today to make us faithful to our Baptismal promises. Let us thank Him for the privilege of being joined to His mission of preaching the "Good News" by our transparent Christian lives of love, mercy, service and forgiveness.

Pray

December Baptisms

The Catholic Community of St. Matthias welcomes the following children who were baptized in December. We support them with prayers and ask their parents to nurture them so they can grow to be faith-filled people of God and our parish community.

*Leila Janet Downes
Arianna Serenity Infante
Ethan Isaac Rivera
Cameron Eli Waring
Juliana Michelle Williams*



From the Pastoral Staff

On January 1, 2022, we celebrated the World Day of Peace. Pope Francis' message this year is titled, *Dialogue between Generations, Education and Work: Tools for Building Lasting Peace.*

“...Today the path of peace... remains sadly distant from the real lives of many men and women and thus from our human family, which is now entirely interconnected. Despite numerous efforts aimed at constructive dialogue between nations, the deafening noise of war and conflict is intensifying. While diseases of pandemic proportions are spreading, the effects of climate change and environmental degradation are worsening, the tragedy of hunger and thirst is increasing, and an economic model based on individualism rather than on solidary sharing continues to prevail. As in the days of the prophets of old, so in our own day the cry of the poor and the cry of the earth constantly make themselves heard, pleading for justice and peace.

“In every age, peace is both a gift from on high and the fruit of a shared commitment... All can work together to build a more peaceful world, starting from the hearts of individuals and relationships in the family, then within society and with the environment, and all the way up to relationships between peoples and nations.

Here I wish to propose three paths for building a lasting peace. First, dialogue between generations as the basis for the realization of shared projects. Second, education as a factor of freedom, responsibility and development. Finally, labour as a means for the full realization of human dignity...”

The complete message is available at: <https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/peace/documents/20211208-messaggio-55giornatamondiale-pace2022.html>

www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/peace/documents/20211208-messaggio-55giornatamondiale-pace2022.html But the part that really touched me was the section on dialogue.



“In a world still gripped by the pandemic that has created untold problems, ‘some people attempt to flee from reality, taking refuge in their own little world; others react to it with destructive violence. Yet between selfish indifference and violent protest there is always another possible option: that of dialogue. Dialogue between generations’.

All honest dialogue, in addition to a correct and positive exchange of views, demands basic trust between the participants. We need to learn how to regain this mutual trust. The current health crisis has increased our sense of isolation and a tendency to self-absorption. The loneliness of the elderly is matched in the young by a sense of helplessness and a lack of a shared vision about the future...

“Dialogue entails listening to one another, sharing different views, coming to agreement and walking together. Promoting such dialogue between generations involves breaking up the hard and barren soil of conflict and indifference in order to sow the seeds of a lasting and shared peace.”

How wonderful our world would be if we all were truly willing to listen to each, to share different views, to come to agreement and then walk together. Maybe this should be our New Year’s resolution.

Ana V. Kelly

Learn

A Celebration of the Life of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Rescheduled for February (date is TBD)

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

To RSVP: Email matthiasracialjustice@gmail.com



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.”

Serve

Vocations Ministry - Called to Build God's Kingdom — Jan 9, 2022

Pope Francis in “Gaudete et Exsultate” on the call to holiness in today’s world:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven”

The Gospel invites us to peer into the depths of our heart, to see where we find our security in life. Usually the rich feel secure in their wealth, and think that, if that wealth is threatened, the

whole meaning of their earthly life can collapse. Jesus himself tells us this in the parable of the rich fool: he speaks of a man who was sure of himself, yet foolish, for it did not dawn on him that he might die that very day (Lk 12:16-21).

To be poor in spirit is to be aware of our great need for God, knowing that we totally depend on Him. The person who

is poor in spirit recognizes that God is everything in his life. When we realize that we can never be fully satisfied apart from God's presence, we come to God in a place of ultimate neediness. Let's take time to reflect on where Pope Francis suggests we place our security on.



Give (and Receive!)

Thank you from Giving Tree recipient, Pregnancy Aid Center

A heartfelt thanks from the Pregnancy Aid Center in Raritan to so many parishioners for including us in the Christmas Giving Tree. We were blessed with a “mother lode” of diapers, pajamas, outfits, lotion, shampoo, outerwear and diaper bags. So many moms and children will benefit from your generosity. Thank you, Joanne Diana, for organizing this to help so many organizations.

Stewardship Reflection JAN 9, 2022

The Baptism of the Lord

“John answered them all, ‘I baptize you with water; but he who is mightier than I is coming... he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit...’” (LUKE 3:16)

The Catholic Catechism states that “Jesus’ immersion in the water is a sign for all human beings of the need to die to themselves to do God’s will.” In other words, as baptized Catholics there is only one gift that we need to give to Jesus – the gift of ourselves. Surrender yourself to God, place your trust in Him and allow the Holy Spirit to work through you for the greater glory of God.

Reflexiónese — 9 de enero de 2022 -

El Bautismo de Nuestro Señor

“Juan les respondió, ‘Yo bautizo con agua; pero ya viene el que es más poderoso ... él los bautizará con el Espíritu Santo...” (LUCAS 3:16)

El Catecismo Católico establece que “la inmersión de Jesús en el agua es una señal para todos los seres humanos de la necesidad de morir para cumplir la voluntad de Dios”. En otras palabras, como Católicos bautizados solo necesitamos darle un don a Jesús - el don de nosotros mismos. Ríndete ante Dios, coloca tu confianza en Él y permite al Espíritu Santo trabajar a través de ti para la mayor gloria de Dios.

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 23 - Dec. 5, 2021	\$11,277.00	\$18,935.75	\$30,212.75	\$20,389.93
Week 24 - Dec. 12, 2021	\$10,936.00	\$22,796.25	\$33,732.25	\$27,901.47
Week 25 - Dec. 19, 2021	\$17,436.50	\$14,294.25	\$31,730.75	\$28,039.18
Week 26 - Dec. 26, 2021	\$8,724.40	\$8,860.25	\$17,584.65	\$33,598.93
				Month-to-date Total
				Dec. Total Last Yr
				\$113,260.40
				\$109,929.51
				Current Year-to-date To-
				Year-to-date as of Dec
				\$667,904.31
				\$634,284.60
Dec. 8, 2021 - Immaculate Conception Collection: \$999				
Dec. 12, 2021 - Retirement Fund for Religious: \$2,817				
Christmas in-pew collection - \$17,956.27				

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
			Month-to-date Total	Jan Total Last Yr
			\$23,916.25	\$133,693.85
Jan. 1, 2022 - Solemnity of Mary Collection: \$1,207				Current Year-to-date Total
				Year-to-date as of Jan 31,
				\$691,820.56
				\$767,978.45

Serve

St Matthias Social Justice Ministry

There are vast social justice issues that plague countries around the globe. They also exist in our own country, our own state, our own towns, the Catholic organization, and possibly in our own parish church and our own school.

Members on the Parish Pastoral Council have had many discussions this past year about the desire of St Matthias Parish to engage in social justice issues. In the spring of this 2021, a small group of people started discussing the need for a social justice ministry. As we listed the issues, the need to address racism was very much at the top of the list. As many of you know, the Racial Justice Initiative has already begun its mission and we look forward to new programs in the

spring.

Meanwhile, there are other injustices in our society that call for our attention as well. Pope Francis has certainly made social justice central in his teachings, encyclicals and homilies. He is not afraid to discuss big social justice issues and encourages us all to contemplate social justice through the lens of the Gospels. The Gospels call us to love each other, to be neighbors to each other and to care for each other no matter who we are, where we come from or what our station is in society. Some of these issues include immigration/human migration, respecting LGBTQ+, voting rights, environment, healthcare, refugee crises, racial Injustice, income disparities, gun vio-

lence, respect life, hunger and food insecurity.

The goal of this new Social Justice Ministry will be three-fold: **education, discussion and action**. Education is for us to fully understand the totality of an issue. Discussion is for our reflection and discernment, knowing that we have much to learn from each other's' experiences and wisdom. Action is for working towards change for a more loving world in our parish, our community and our world.

Our first meeting will be Feb. 22. To learn more, please contact Rose Peng at rosepeng@optonline.net or Lorraine Farr at lvfarr7@gmail.com.

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/1QMo8DGC9TS6E?ref_=wl_share

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

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



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!



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 - 11 noon

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

Local Community

Respect Life Events: January 2022

Annual Diocesan Respect Life Mass & Pro-Vita Awards

Friday, January 14, 2022

The Annual Diocesan Respect for Life Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Checchio on **Friday, January 14, 2022 at 5:00 PM at St. Francis of Assisi Cathedral in Metuchen**. The Bishop will present the 2022 "Pro-Vita" awards at this time. Contact: amarshall@diometuchen.org, 732-562-1990 ext. 1543.

Trenton Rally for Life at the Statehouse

The Rally for Life at the Trenton Statehouse will be held on **Friday, January 14, 2022 from 11 am – 1:00 PM**



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

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

9 Days for Life - January 19 - 27, 2022

The U.S. bishops' annual novena **9 Days for Life** takes place January 19 - 27, 2022. Pray for the respect and protection of all human life with new intentions, brief reflections, and more each day. Download the novena online, or participate through Facebook, email, text message or an app. Join at www.9daysforlife.com!

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
Barry Dusault
Gwen Orlowski
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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