



St. Matthias Parish Office:

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

Mass Schedule (in person):

Sat—5PM, Sun -- 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): open M –Thur
9:00-1:00. 732-828-1402 or 1540. 170 JFK Blvd.,
Somerset, NJ 08873 www.stmatthias.info

For all Parish emails, add @stmatthias.net
Pastor: Rev Abraham Orapankal, [abraham](mailto:abraham@stmatthias.net)
Parochial Vicar: Rev. Msgr. Joseph Curry, [jcurry](mailto:jcurry@stmatthias.net)
Senior Priest: Msgr. Seamus Brennan, [sbrennan](mailto:sbrennan@stmatthias.net)
Mary Pat Burke-Grospin, Business Administrator
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Formation, [dnann](mailto:dnann@stmatthias.net)
Vinnie Natale, Bookkeeper, [vnatale](mailto:vnatale@stmatthias.net)
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RCIA & Admin. Assistant to the Pastor, [pstone](mailto:pstone@stmatthias.net)
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Mary Lynch, Principal, [mlynch](mailto:mlynch@stmatthiasnj.org)
Joseph Gidaro, Vice Principal, [jgidaro](mailto:jgidaro@stmatthiasnj.org)

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS
SUNDAY, JULY 11, 2021 –
Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Highlights—This Week

Register for GIFT— If you have a child in K through 8th grade, not attending a Catholic School, please register them now for our family-based Religious Education program called GIFT—Growing in Faith Together. See page 8.

Registration is now open for First Eucharist (all 2nd graders regardless of school attending). See page 8.

Registration is now open for Confirmation (all 7th & 8th graders must register, regardless of school attending). See below.



Are You Willing to be a Hospitality Minister, a Eucharistic Minister, or a Lector? Please Volunteer! We Need YOU!

We are looking to rebuild these ministries at our Masses as we enter this new "open" phase of what we hope is the end of the pandemic. Schedules are flexible.

If you are willing to volunteer for any of these liturgical ministries, please contact Phyllis Stone in the Parish Office at: 732-828-1400 x127 or pstone@stmatthias.net. Training will be provided.



Attention 7th & 8th Graders:
Confirmation Preparation 2021-2022

Register for Confirmation Preparation as soon as possible.

Families who have a **7th or 8th** grader **in either St. Matthias School or the GIFT program** and desire to have their child prepare for the sacrament of Confirmation need to complete the

2021-2022 Confirmation registration form online, available at:
www.stmatthias.net/confirmation.

A parent meeting for 7th grade parents will be held in October or November for all registered 7th graders. **Questions?** Please email Dee Nann at dnann@stmatthias.net, or contact Faith Formation Assistant, Nathalie Godet at 732-828-1400 or ngodet@stmatthias.net



Save the Date:

Goodbye for Fr. Joe - July 24th, 5 PM Outdoor Mass



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

This Week at St. Matthias

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

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

Sunday, Jul 11, 2021

8:00AM	Mass	Church
10:00AM	Mass	Church
12:00PM	Mass	Church

Monday, Jul 12, 2021

8:00AM	Mass	Church
8:30AM	Miraculous Medal Novena	Church

Tuesday, Jul 13, 2021

8:00AM	Daily Mass	Church
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Wednesday, Jul 14, 2021

8:00AM	Daily Mass	Church
9:30AM	Prayer Group 1– Holy Spirit	de Porres Rm
7:30PM	Parish Vocation Ministry	de Porres Rm

Thursday, Jul 15, 2021

8:00AM	Daily Mass	Church
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Friday, Jul 16, 2021

8:00AM	Daily Mass	Church
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Saturday, Jul 17, 2021

10:00AM	Secular Franciscans Mtg.	de Porres Rm
3:30PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation	Church
5:00PM	Mass	Church

Sunday, Jul 18, 2021

8:00AM	Mass	Church
10:00AM	Mass	Church
12:00PM	Mass	Church



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, Thursday, 9 days before the intended issue** (earlier for holiday weekends). Approved content is published on a space-available basis.

From the Pastor



Dear friends,

Did you notice a huge pile of mulch – 20 yards to be exact - in front of the church a couple of weeks ago? It was donated by the good will of Mr. Will Dupree of Spooky Brook Landscaping. A big thank you to Will for his good will donation. I was planning to arrange with Joan Seamon to get a group of volunteers to spread the mulch. But suddenly I saw some individuals doing that work on their own: Tom Mager, Debbie Evennou, Collette Edwards and Fr. Joe Curry. Their selfless example inspired even me to join them for a few hours in wheelbarrowing the mulch!

Seeing these wonderful parishioners stepping up, even without being asked to do this physically demanding work, made me realize the goodness of our people. We have so many parishioners volunteering for so many parish ministries. Some of them we see and recognize on Sundays: ushers doing hospitality, Lectors/Readers, Eucharistic ministers, sacristans, music and tech people. Others we do not see or recognize: youth group mentors, RCIA team, catechists, volunteers on the Pastoral Council, Finance Council, School Advisory Council, Property Management, Vincent DePaul Society, Home School Association, and many others. Our parish owes them a big salute as their good will to offer their time and talent is an important factor that helps this parish run smoothly.

Volunteering is their way to express their love and commitment to St. Matthias parish, bringing them so much satisfaction and contentment, with no expectation of any material or monetary reward. God who sees these good acts will be their reward (Matthew 6:4). Albert Schweitzer echoed the same when he wrote: *“The interior joy we feel when we have done a good deed is the nourishment the soul requires.”*

Volunteering is a great way to give back to the church community that is always there for us. The example of these numerous volunteers is an impetus for the rest of us to consider volunteering. Our Parish is in need of volunteers. Hence I propose to have a pool of volunteers who could offer some of their time and talent, as per their availability/convenience, for various parish needs from time to time. Could you email me at abraham@stmatthias.net if you are willing to be part of that pool, with a very flexible commitment? Let us know your name, email, phone number, and type of volunteer work you would be willing to do (e.g. answering phones, typing/data entry, yardwork, or anything else you would be willing to do.)

I am reminded of the words of Gandhi: *“The best way to FIND yourself is to lose yourself in the SERVICE of others.”* How reminiscent of the message of our Lord Jesus Christ himself!

God bless your goodness.

Fr. Abraham Orapankal

Readings for the Week

Monday: Ex 1:8-14, 22; Ps 124:1b-3, 4-6, 7-8; Mt 10:34 — 11:1

Tuesday: Ex 2:1-15a; Ps 69:3, 14, 30-31, 33-34; Mt 11:20-24

Wednesday: Ex 3:1-6, 9-12; Ps 103:1b-2, 3-4, 6-7; Mt 11:25-27

Thursday: Ex 3:13-20; Ps 105:1, 5, 8-9, 24-25, 26-27; Mt 11:28-30

Friday: Ex 11:10 — 12:14; Ps 116:12-13, 15, 16bc, 17-18; Mt 12:1-8

Saturday: Ex 12:37-42; Ps 136:1, 23-24, 10-12, 13-15; Mt 12:14-21

Sunday: Jer 23:1-6; Ps 23:1-3, 3-4, 5, 6; Eph 2:13-18; Mk 6:30-34

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, Jul 10	5:00PM	Josephine & Phil Russo, by The Nastasi & Nitti Families
Sunday, Jul 11	8:00AM	Rose Jeffers, by The Seiwert Family
	10:00AM	Concetta & Luigi Mongiardo, by The Collier Family
	12:00PM	Dominick Clementi, by Angela & David Burtenshaw
	5:30PM*	Intention of Parishioners
Monday, Jul 12	8:00AM	Anthony E. ciccotelli, Jr. by The Mazzeo Family
Tuesday, Jul 13	8:00AM	Ed Hart, by Marty Collins
Wednesday, Jul 14	8:00AM	Romeo Jarin, by The Jarin Family
Thursday, Jul 15	8:00AM	Sr. Esther Maria, by The OSF Community
Friday, Jul 16	8:00AM	Bert Macalalad, by Alex & Bobit Maceren
Saturday, Jul 17	5:00PM	Deceased Members of the Julian & Felisa DeGuzman
Sunday, Jul 18	8:00AM	Quintin Derekito, by The Jarin Family
	10:00AM	Juanita Latorre, by Edna Yumang
	12:00PM	Mary Eads, by The Vaughn & Comollo Families
	5:30PM*	Intention of Parishioners

Pray for Those Getting Married...

Margaret D'Angiolillo & Shane Atkinson July 31, 2021

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.

Elbren, Sr. & Natalia Agdeppa
Lucille Albani
Carolyn Banghart
Maria Barreiro
Marie Brody
Thomas Burns
Baby Isla-Rose Callahan
Tara Capatosto
Ellen & Frank Catalina
Sean Clancy
Barbara Coan
Tom Current
Joseph DeFrancesco
Cenon DeGuzman
Mary Ellen Delaney
Alaina Derecola
Surya & Juliany Dharma
Nancy Diaz
Jim Dolan
Mary Dolan
Marty Dolphin

William Dolphin
Dorothy Domenici
Josephine Geenty
Claudia Gemgnani
Emma Gergely
Rose Gessner
Mary Gidaro
Emma Himey
Sloopy Hoffman
Kathleen Lagenbacher
Al & Rose Larangeira
William Lecorchick
The Litrakis Family
Kenneth & Kelly Magat
Al Maglio
Sue Maglio-Alese
Beatrice May
Margaret Menendez
Gail Miranda
Dave Moynihan
Baby Ezran Natural

Patricia Nese
Danny Ochangco
Julianne Opydike
Maria Pennington
Jim Pettit
Christina Pietrowiak
Oscar Poisler
Kevin Reavey
Chris Retz
Ann Ritchick
Angela Romanek
Datius Rutashobya
Rudy Schaar
Maria Schwenzer
Sr. Mary Amata Shina, OSF
Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF
Catherine Sloomaker
Encarnacion (Gina) So
Alessandro Spagnolo
Dennis Stuewe
Jeff Tami

Madeline Tarantino
Fred & Carolyn Vanmiddlesworth
Eulalia Villanueva
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

Hildegard Scheurle-parishioner

From the Pastoral Staff



In today's Gospel we hear Jesus sending off the disciples, instructing them to take nothing for the journey but a walking stick. He tells them whenever a place does not welcome them or listen to them, leave them and shake the dust off their feet.

"Wallet, keys, phone." Many of us have a mantra we recite as we leave the house to insure we are ready for the day. Jesus sends us out with less, inviting us to trust, to be ready to engage with and respond to the world around us.

Many people allow themselves to become defensive and protective, aware of slights and insults. Jesus invites His followers to shake it off and leave behind acrimony, resistance and unfriendliness. We ask Jesus to help us keep our eyes on Him and His heart, rather than let our hearts be restricted and narrow.

Imagine that you have been invited to join the twelve apostles. You are excited about being sent out to speak of the kingdom of God. You expect to learn the master strategy from Jesus. Instead you are told to travel light — no bank account, no car. You are to depend on one thing only: the

power and grace of God. Then amazing things can happen!

Pope Francis wants a poor church for the poor, and he bases his wish on today's text.

We Christians may be reasonably well-to-do, but we should have a critical attitude to wealth. The kingdom of God has little to do with affluence. It's all about simplicity and sharing with the needy.

We are all sent out by Jesus to do the things He gave most of His time doing. So each of us is invited to pray so that we may remain in touch with the Good News. We are invited to preach each in his or her unique way. Mostly we do this by our love for those we meet each day.

The best portion of a good person's life "is his little, nameless, unremembered acts of kindness and of love"

(William Wordsworth).

So my sisters and brothers in Christ, be with Jesus in a quiet place for some time and then listen to His appreciation of how life-giving are your "little, nameless, unremembered acts of kindness and love.

Peace of Christ,
Deacon Russ

Reflect

Unfinished Houses

Jesus sends out the Twelve two by two to preach and heal. Mark 6: 7-13

Education Across Borders is a nonprofit group that organizes volunteers to build homes for the poor in the Dominican Republic. Every summer, teenagers and young adults join the group for two-week service trips. Their initial enthusiasm wanes a bit on the first day when they begin work on a house and realize they will never see it finished. Why can't we finish the house? they ask. Weren't we good enough? Didn't we work hard enough? Will the poor resent us for "failing" this project? John McLaughlin, who directs *Education Across Borders*, explains to them that service work, if it is to last, must be about accompaniment more than accomplishment. That unfinished house is a tangible reminder that there is still much to be done. McLaughlin remembers one group from an American parish who came focused on the work of completing the house. They rose before dawn and worked ten or more hours

every day in the tropical heat. They left disappointed that "we didn't get done as much as we wanted."

"But 'getting a lot done' was never the point," McLaughlin says. "Keeping up such an industrial pace had all but precluded [the students] from learning Dominicans' names, speaking Spanish or having their assumptions - about the causes and structures of poverty, for example - challenged. No emotional risk was involved for the students . . . little transformation could take place for anyone." Another group McLaughlin worked with got little done because of constant downpours every afternoon. "We lost many hours of building time that week, but the students took the opportunity to talk more with the villagers, including Etienne, a young immigrant from Haiti . . . Several students went to great lengths to embrace him, plodding through long, piecemeal Spanish-English-Creole conversations, shar-

ing their meals with him and even, in the case of one volunteer, giving him a church-suitable shirt (in a culture that values appearance highly) so that he could attend Mass for the first time.

"That Sunday, Etienne sat among the students at the service and afterward joined in the *despedida*, the traditional send-off party. The sun came out, and stayed out; perhaps we should have spent the day on the construction site, to make up for lost time. But by then the students knew, without me telling them, where they were most needed. They were in the community center, dancing not with each other, but with their new Dominican and Haitian friends. . . . "Service is fundamentally about relationship," McLaughlin has discovered. "Yes, it involves mixing concrete or ladling soup, but it also means walking with and listening to the suffering, sharing stories and laughter, tears and prayers. Understanding service as

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Unfinished Houses

(Cont. from previous page)

accompaniment reminds us to whom the house really belongs, and to Whom we really belong." [From "Unfinished Houses: Building the kingdom on God's time" by John J. McLaughlin, America, July 21-28, 2014.]

Just as he sends forth the Twelve, Jesus sends us forth with our "walking sticks," not to build or rule or dominate but to heal, comfort and encourage. Our own service to others, Jesus says, should be centered not in efficiency or results but in mercy, humility and gratitude. Let us build houses for the poor, but first may we welcome them into our homes and communities; let us feed the hungry, but first make places for them at our tables; let us reach out to the lost and troubled, but first recognize them as our brothers and sisters in Christ.

"You can take it; Let the People hear it!"



Fritz Kreisler (1875-1962), the world-famous violinist, earned a fortune with his concerts and compositions, but he generously gave most of it away. So, when he discovered an exquisite violin on one of his trips, he wasn't able to buy it. Later, having raised enough money to meet the asking price, he returned to the seller, hoping to purchase that beautiful instrument. But to his great dismay it had been sold to a collector. Kreisler made his way to the new owner's home and offered to buy the violin. The collector said it had become his prized possession and he would not sell it. Keenly disappointed, Kreisler was about to leave when he had an idea. "Could I play the instrument once before it is consigned to silence?" he asked. Permission was granted, and the great virtuoso filled the room with such heart-moving music that the collector's emotions were deeply stirred. "I have no right to keep this violin to myself," he exclaimed. "It's yours, Mr. Kreisler. Take it into the world, and let people hear it."

Jesus gives us the same instruction the collector gave Kreisler when He shares

Witness by Living

During the American Civil War, President Lincoln had a strapping athletic young man as his secretary. In those days before office machinery, such a man would literally be pushing a pen or pencil. This particular man was not happy about it. He wanted to get out where the action was – on the battlefield. He wanted to go out and do great things for his country. He was quite willing to die for his country. So he kept complaining to Lincoln about the women's work he was doing, when he could be in uniform confronting the enemy. After hearing the usual complaint one day, Lincoln stared at him, rubbed his hands in his beard and said in his philosophical way, "Young man, as I see it, you are quite willing to die for your country, but you are not ready to live for it."



Martyrs (just a Greek word for witnesses) give their lives by dying or by living. We have a mission to live as children of God. Realization of our dignity as children of God should change our outlook on life. We are to be children filled with love, rather than selfishness and disobedience. We are to respect our brothers and sisters in Christ. As God's children, we should live a life of absolute trust in the goodness of our Heavenly Father, who knows what is best for us. The realization that we are the children of God should bring us great comfort, peace and joy--even in our worst moments.

"I have no Hands but Yours!"

During the wind-swept City Bridge War, a small Korean village came under heavy artillery fire. When the smoke of the battle cleared away, the pastor of the parish sought the help of some American soldiers in restoring to its pedestal a fallen statue of Christ. Since the statue's hands were gone, the soldiers planned to mold two new hands. The pastor, however, came up with a very meaningful suggestion: "Let us leave the statue as it is and write on the front of the pedestal the words, "I have no hands but yours."

Sending his apostles as his ambassadors to preach the "Good News" and to heal the sick, Jesus, in today' Gospel, reminds us that he has no hands but ours to raise the fallen; no feet but ours to seek out the lost; no ears but ours to listen to the lonely; and no tongue but ours to speak words of sympathy and encouragement to those weighed down by sorrow, pain and failure.



with us the mission He gives the Apostles today in the Gospel. Each Christian is called not only to be a disciple but also to be an apostle. As disciples, we have to follow Jesus and imitate Jesus. As apostles, we have to evangelize the world. We are called to share with others not just words, or ideas, or doctrines but an experience, our experience of God and His Son, Jesus. Like the apostles, like St. Francis Assisi, like Blessed Mother Teresa, we are all chosen and sent to proclaim the Gospel through our living. It is through our transparent Christian lives that we must show in our own actions the love, mercy and concern of Jesus for the people around us. Since we are baptized, Jesus is calling us in our working and living environment to evangelize, to invite people to know Jesus, to love him, to serve him and to follow him. An important part of evangelism is the simple act of inviting a friend or family member to join us in worship. This is where reconciliation between persons and God is most likely to take place. We do not have to commit verbal assault on someone with our convictions. A simple invitation offered out of a loving and joyful heart is the most powerful evangelistic message of all.

Reflect

Paul Tillich on Healing



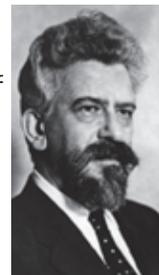
In his sermon to the graduates of a Seminary in New York City, Paul Tillich, the theologian, preached on the theme of healing and casting out demons. He told the graduating seminarians that they would experience two difficulties as they went to their new parishes with this message of healing and casting out demons:

- (1) Many people will say that they do not need to be healed and
- (2) Many will laugh at the absurdity of casting out demons that rule their lives; they may tell the proclaimer that he or she is possessed by a demon for saying so - just as they did to Jesus.

"Therefore," Tillich said, "the first task of the minister is to make people aware of their predicament." The predicament of people's insensitivity to their own needs and the forces of evil is further complicated by the fact that we don't know what demons are. The human predicament of insensitivity and lack of clarity regarding the forms of evil is even further complicated by the fact that every pastor who goes forth to heal the sick and cast out demons is himself or herself in need of healing and cleansing. In addition, some of the difficulty with this predicament comes from the multitude of misunderstandings about this ministry - especially the miracle/magic association we often make between healing and casting out demons. Today's Gospel explains how Jesus commissions his disciples with preaching healing and exorcising ministry.

"Witness is the Best Proof for God's Existence!"

Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel was one of the most influential religious thinkers of our time. In one of his writings, he said these startling words: "If there are no witnesses there is no God to be met... For God to be present we have to be witnesses... There are no proofs for the existence of God; there are only witnesses." Did you know that our English word "martyr" comes from a Greek word which simply means "to witness." The word became associated with death because that was the end result of one's witnessing during the first centuries of the Christian Era. This is not to suggest that God's existence depends solely on our witnessing. The point here is that God's reality for us, God's relevance in our lives, God's reality in the world, is dependent upon our witnessing to Him.



So God should not be found at the end of a philosophical or theological argument, but in the midst of life. But the opportunity to relive some chapters in the lives of Dorothy Kazel and Jean Donovan, and the cover photo of the slain Archbishop Oscar Romero, now Blessed, shakes me from my two-car garage attitude that Christian suffering and death are confined to the first century. To refresh your memory: Dorothy Kazel and Jean Donovan were two of the four missionaries slain by "death squads" in El Salvador on December 2, 1980. The transition from "witness" to "martyr" is more than linguistic. It is life. Do you know that the first-century Christians were called atheists, immoral and cannibals by their enemies? They were called "atheists" because they refused to accept the popular gods of the day; "immoral" because they amazed the world by the way in which they loved one another; and "cannibals" because they regularly partook of the Body and Blood of Christ, even at great risk! And it is still going on.

We have a Liberating Mission!



Although many people don't believe in real demonic possession in our age, there are many demons which can control the lives of people around us making them helpless slaves. For example there are the demons of nicotine, alcohol, gambling, pornography and promiscuous sex, materialism and consumerism, or of any other activity which somehow can take control of people's lives and become an addiction over which they have no control. All of these, or any one of them, can turn people into slaves. We need the help of Jesus to liberate us and others from these things. Jesus

is inviting us today to cooperate with him. He wants us to be his instruments of liberation, to help others recover their freedom. We are meant to help people to cure their sicknesses - not only the bodily sicknesses but psychological and emotional illnesses as well. As a family member, a friend, a colleague, an evangelizer, when we work with Jesus, we can truly have a healing influence.

Parenting Tune-Up



Jesus sent out the Twelve two by two to preach and heal. In parenting your kids, speak to them about ways they can bring good news by speaking of positive things in their conversation with friends. Also help them to pray daily for those who are in trouble or sick.

Reflect

Marriage Tune-Up



Do you "overtalk"? Do you say something like this? "Honey, my mom went in and the doctor diagnosed varicose veins. She's going to have to get them stripped, which will make it very difficult for her to walk for a couple of weeks. As you know, she lives all alone now, and the only person who can help her is Mrs. Jenkins, who just visits twice a week, on Thursdays and Fridays. Mom's going to need more help than that."

If so, try: "Honey, my mom is having surgery next week and needs some time to recover. Do you mind if she stays with us for a few days?" Keep it short.
(Kevin Leman, *Making Sense of the Men in Your Life*)



Smile With Your Family — Favorite Hymns of Different Professions



The Dentist's Hymn ... Crown Him With Many Crowns
The Weatherman's Hymn ... There Shall Be Showers Of Blessing
The Contractor's Hymn ... The Church's One Foundation
The Tailor's Hymn ... Holy, Holy, Holy
The Golfer's Hymn ... There Is A Green Hill Far Away
The Politician's Hymn ... Standing On The Promises
The Optometrist's Hymn ... Open My Eyes That I May See

The IRS Agent's Hymn ... I Surrender All
The Gossip's Hymn ... Pass It On
The Electrician's Hymn ... Send The Light
The Shopper's Hymn ... In The Sweet By and By
The Realtor's Hymn ... I've Got A Mansion Just Over The Hilltop
The Pilot's Hymn ... I'll Fly Away
The Paramedic's Hymn ... Revive Us Again

Pray

Become an Altar Server



Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here am I. Send me!" Isaiah 6:8

Is there a voice urging you to be an altar server? It's God! But maybe you also heard Pope Francis' message a few years ago in St. Peter's Square when he said about altar servers:

"Serving at the altar is a privileged way to draw closer to Jesus, which in turn enables you to open yourselves to others, to journey together, to set demanding goals and to find the strength to achieve them."

If you are at least a 5th grade parishioner and would like join the ministry, please contact Cathy Allegro at callegro@stmatthiasnj.org. We plan to conduct training late summer and to reactivate the ministry in September.

Learn



INTERESTED IN BECOMING CATHOLIC?
Or maybe you still need to receive all of your Sacraments of Initiation?

Interested in being a part of the St. Matthias RCIA Team???

Our team members will participate in an RCIA Team retreat to get ourselves spiritually ready for bringing new members into the Church through the RCIA program.

If you want to know more about us, call Phyllis Stone in the Parish Office or better yet...come to our retreat:

Sunday, July 25th from 2-5 PM, Parish Office - St. Martin de Porres Room. All are Welcome!

Join us for RCIA Inquiry Sessions: Sunday, July 18 (After the 10:00 Mass until 12:00 Noon) and Sunday, Aug. 29 (After the 10:00 Mass until 12:00 Noon), School Cafeteria



Attention 2nd graders: First Eucharist Preparation 2021-2022

For all families in GIFT and for those who are students at St. Matthias School who have (baptized) children who are in 2nd grade [fall 2021] or older who desire to receive the Sacraments of First Reconciliation/First Eucharist in 2022, sacramental preparation is required through the parish-you must register online. Typically, classes are held for all children and at least one parent on certain Sunday mornings in the cafeteria or the St. John XXIII room [school building] and certain classrooms from 10:30AM -11:30AM. We are planning in person sessions for 2021-2022. Be sure to register early.

The sacramental preparation fee for this program is \$80. The 2021-2022 Registration for **First Eucharist/First Reconciliation** are available online at <https://www.stmatthias.net/first-eucharist-first-reconciliation/>

Questions? Please email Dee Nann at dnann@stmatthias.net, or call or email Faith Formation Assistant, Nathalie Godet at 732-828-1400 or ngodet@stmatthias.net



Participation in GIFT program is also required, along with this family sacramental preparation [for those not attending St. Matthias School].

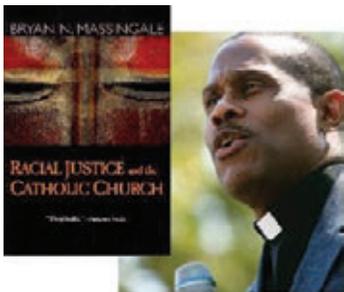
2021-2022 GIFT for K-8 Religious Ed

We are happy to invite all parents/families with children in K-8, who are not attending a Catholic school, to register their children for our wonderful religious education/formation program for 2020-2021.

The 2021-2022 registration form for our K-8 family-based parish program of religious formation, G.I.F.T. [Growing In Faith Together], is currently available to complete online at 2021-2022 GIFT for K-8 Religious Ed <https://www.stmatthias.net/faith-formation/>

Please register your family/children in grades K-8. This year we are planning to offer 3 sessions each month: on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings at 6:30PM without a meal because of the COVID-19 precautions; and on Sunday afternoons at 2PM, again without a meal. You choose which one of the three sessions to attend.

The fees for the program are noted on parish website page. Please register online; the fee can also be paid online. *Please note: GIFT is required for all children in grades 1-8 who are not attending a Catholic school; it is optional for kindergarten students.*



Racial Justice and the Catholic Church - A Debrief

youtu.be/TOLfWNycD4A

His book, *Racial Justice and the Catholic Church*, can be borrowed from the parish library by contacting Phyllis Stone, at pstone@stmatthias.net.

Reflection and Discussion Questions:

- Have the events of the past year changed you in any way? If so, what was the catalyst for you?
- Did anything [in this video] make you uncomfortable and in what way... angry, defensive, ashamed, insulted, afraid?
- Do you feel that antiracism is an important part of being Catholic? Why or why not?
- Why do you think that the church seems to find oth-

er potentially uncomfortable topics easier to discuss?

- Do you agree with Fr. Massingale that we need to build courage to face this issue? How so?
- How can we push through our discomfort to create real change?
- When you hear homilies or see things in church that challenge your “status quo”, how do you react?
- How many people of a different ethnic background do you personally know and interact with in the parish? What are some ways in which we can come closer as a parish family and closer to the worldwide Body of Christ?
- Do you ever think about the harm racism does to White people? What do you

think about that?

- Do you agree with Fr. Massingale that racism is an issue of faith?
- Do you think the congregation tends to see references to race issues in homilies or prayers as a political issue rather than a faith issue, and what can we do to change this?
- What would Jesus tell us to do?

Meaningful Prayer

May God bless you with a restless discomfort about easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships, so that you may seek truth boldly and love deep within your heart.

May God bless you with holy anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so

(cont'd on next page)

Thank you to those who were able to join the Juneteenth Zoom videoconference. The topic is not an easy one (and the technology was a bit choppy) but all of you who attended hung in there. Conversations like this one get us one step closer to better understanding. If you weren't able to join the session on Juneteenth, here is what you missed:

Fr. Bryan Massingale's interview with [American Media](#) on *Racial Justice and the Catholic Church. One Year After George Floyd*, <https://>

Learn

Racial Justice and the Catholic Church - A Debrief (cont'd from previous page)

that you may tirelessly work for justice, freedom, and peace among all people.

May God bless you with the gift of tears to shed for those who suffer from

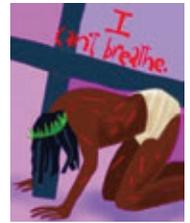
pain, rejection, starvation, or the loss of all that they cherish, so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and transform their pain into joy.

May God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you really can make a difference in this world, so that you are able, with God's grace, to do what others

claim cannot be done.

-- A Franciscan blessing from aheartforjustice.com

Stay tuned for more...



Art by Br. Mickey McGrath

Give



Thank you to the Spinella Family and to Grace Cassese who donated a Classroom Promethean Board in Loving Memory of Mrs. Santina C. Spinella. The family is excited for the children to have this technology and expressed how Mrs. Spinella, a loving wife, mother and grandmother, would have been, too.



Stewardship Totals for Fiscal Year July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021				Last Year's Total
Current Month	In-Pew/Mail	Parish Giving	Weekly Total	Weekly Total
Week 49 - June 6,	\$11,528.17	\$18,444.75	\$29,972.92	\$27,115.79
Week 50 - June	\$11,373.00	\$21,532.25	\$32,905.25	\$26,898.79
Week 51 - June	\$9,721.50	\$14,130.25	\$23,851.75	\$30,307.79
Week 52 - June	\$11,056.00	\$14,364.25	\$25,420.25	\$25,359.79
Note: The online Parish Giving amount varies week-to-week since some parishioners donate once a month and the full amount is recorded the week it arrives.			Month-to-date Total	June Total Last Yr
			\$112,150.17	\$109,682.16
			Current Year-to-date Total	Year-to-date as of Jun 30, 2020
			\$1,331,568.37	\$1,407,770.05

Serve

Pictures from ServiceWorX this week!



Serve



Vocations Ministry - Called to build God's Kingdom

Pope Francis in "Gaudete et Exsultate on the call to holiness in today's world says: I like to contemplate the holiness present in the patience of God's people: in those parents who raise their children with immense love, in those men and women who work hard to support their families, in the sick, in elderly religious who never lose their smile. In their daily perseverance I see the holiness of the Church militant. Very often it is a holiness found in our next-door neighbours, those who, living in our midst, reflect God's presence. We might call them "the middle class of holiness".

Let us think this week of the "saints next door" and our own call to holiness as we live our vocations, spreading the good news of Jesus Christ and building his kingdom on earth.

Donate SMS Uniforms

Have your children outgrown their SMS uniforms? Please donate them so other students can use them in the fall.

A tote is available in the church's Cry Room for SMS parents to place their uniform donations over the summer. Just drop the uniforms in the tote the next time you come to Mass. The uniforms will then be available at the Back-to-School Uniform Swap. Questions? Contact Christie Low, SMS Uniform Swap Chair, at smsuniformswap@outlook.com



Connect



Attention all Caregivers – Join us for our Summer Brunch Saturday July 17th at 11:30 AM.

We would like to invite all caregivers in our parish to join our ministry members for our summer gathering. We will meet at the Stage House Tavern in Somerset on Saturday July 17th at 11:30 AM. We look forward to seeing our current attendees, as well as introducing our ministry to other caregivers interested in a place for support.

Please contact: Donna Kahora: friendsofnikki@comcast.net or Sister Marie Therese: msherwood@stmatthias.net 732-828-1400 if you are interested in joining us that day, as the restaurant requires a headcount in advance.

Parish Leadership

Parish Pastoral Council:	Rose Peng Frank Rees	Trustees:	Isaac Peng Marge Richards	Parish Finance Council:	Audrey Francis Kester Hector Joan Pritchard
Co-Chair: Claudine Langrin	Maria Tapia-Burch			Finance Council	
Co-Chair: Mary Beth Vetter-Purcell	John Taylor Marilyn Wegg			@stmatthias.net	
Co-Secretary: Lorraine Farr	Ana Kelly, Ex-Officio			Susan Klimcsak	Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio
Co-Secretary: Anne Marie Francis	Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio			Barry Dusault	Mary Pat Burke-Grospin, Ex-Officio
				Gwen Orłowski	

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

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

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

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

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults The RCIA process is an opportunity for instruction and spiritual transformation for any adult seeking a deeper understanding of the Catholic tradition or full incorporation into the Catholic Church. If you are interested in becoming a Catholic or completing the Sacraments of Initiation—

Baptism/Confirmation/Eucharist, please call the Parish Office.

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

stewards of the gifts they have been given by God, returning a portion in gratitude to God for the work of ministry here at St. Matthias and beyond our local community.



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



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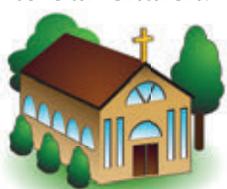
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