



**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](http://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](https://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](http://www.stmatthias.info)

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)  
 Kelly Counts, Receptionist, [kcounts](mailto:kcounts@stmatthias.net)  
 Conroy Davis, Custodian  
 Juan Diaz Flores, Custodian  
 Leslie Guillen, Bulletin Editor, [lguillen](mailto:lguillen@stmatthias.net)  
 Nathalie Godet, Formation/Parish Support  
 Secretary, [ngodet](mailto:ngodet@stmatthias.net)  
 Amy Hanna, Parish Support Secretary, [ahanna](mailto:ahanna@stmatthias.net)  
 Julio Montero, Maintenance Supervisor  
 Deacon Russell Demkovitz, [rdemkovitz](mailto:rdemkovitz@stmatthias.net)  
 Ana V Kelly, Pastoral Associate for Marketing &  
 Development, [akelly](mailto:akelly@stmatthias.net)  
 Mike Lanyi, Sacristan  
 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  
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 Sr Marie Therese Sherwood, OSF, Pastoral  
 Assoc. for Social Concerns, [msherwood](mailto:msherwood@stmatthias.net)  
 Phyllis Stone, Pastoral Associate for Liturgy/  
 RCIA & Admin. Assistant to the Pastor, [pstone](mailto:pstone@stmatthias.net)  
 Trish Stumper, Par. Support Secretary, [tstumper](mailto:tstumper@stmatthias.net)  
**St. Matthias School (add @stmatthiasnj.org)**  
 Mary Lynch, Principal, [mlynch](mailto:mlynch@stmatthiasnj.org)  
 Joseph Gidaro, Vice Principal, [jgidaro](mailto:jgidaro@stmatthiasnj.org)

## THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS

### SUNDAY, JULY 18, 2021 –

### Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

#### Highlights—This Week

Register (see page 4) for

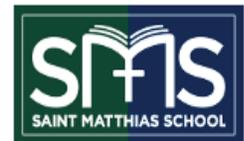
- **GIFT**—our family-based Religious Education program (Together),
- **First Eucharist** (all 2nd graders regardless of school), and
- **Confirmation** (all 7th & 8th graders must register, regardless of school attending)

**Goodbye Mass for Fr. Joe**—Next Saturday, July 24th, at 5 pm. See below.

**RCIA Team Retreat**—Next Sunday, July 25. See page 7.



Come and have your children join our **St. Matthias**



**Catholic School where our students can openly discuss and learn about God, our Shepherd!**

St. Matthias School continues to accept new students for the 2021-2022 school year for PreK 3, PreK 4, and Kindergarten through grade 8. Before School and After School programs available. ALL are welcome! Explore our website, [www.stmatthias.info](http://www.stmatthias.info), and contact [mkosty@stmatthiasnj.org](mailto:mkosty@stmatthiasnj.org) to schedule an appointment. We look forward to welcoming your child!



#### NEXT SATURDAY:

**Goodbye for Fr. Joe - Saturday, July 24th,**  
**5 PM**  
**Outdoor Mass (weather-permitting)**  
**Please bring your own chairs.**



If you shop on Amazon, please help us by starting at:  
[www.stmatthias.net/Amazon](http://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://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 18, 2021

8:00AM	Mass	Church
10:00AM	Mass	Church
11:00AM	RCIA Inquiry Session	Cafeteria
12:00PM	Mass	Church

### Monday, Jul 19, 2021

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

### Tuesday, Jul 20, 2021

8:00AM	Daily Mass	Church
7:00PM	Pastoral Council Mtg.	Zoom

### Wednesday, Jul 21, 2021

8:00AM	Daily Mass	Church
9:30AM	Prayer Group 1- Holy Spirit	de Porres Rm

### Thursday, Jul 22, 2021

8:00AM	Daily Mass	Church
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### Friday, Jul 23, 2021

8:00AM	Daily Mass	Church
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### Saturday, Jul 24, 2021

3:30PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation	Church
5:00PM	Outdoor Good-Bye Mass for Fr. Joe (weather permitting) or	Church

### Sunday, Jul 25, 2021

8:00AM	Mass	Church
10:00AM	Mass	Church
12:00PM	Mass	Church
2:00PM	RCIA Team Retreat	de Porres Rm



#### Bulletin Article Requests:

If you would like to send information to be included in our bulletin, please email it to [bulletin@stmatthias.net](mailto: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's Desk



Dear Friends,

In ancient Athens a man noticed the great storyteller Aesop playing childish games with some little children. He laughed and jeered at Aesop, asking him why he wasted his time in such frivolous activity. Aesop responded by picking up a bow, loosening its string, and placing it on the ground. Then he said to the critical Athenian, "Now, answer the riddle, if you can. Tell us what the unstrung bow implies." The man looked at it for several moments but had no idea what point Aesop was trying to make. Aesop explained, "If you keep a bow always bent, it will break eventually; but if you let it go slack, it will be more fit for use when you want it." Aesop was talking about balance.

As followers of Christ we need to realize that Jesus advocated **balance in life**. He never asked us to be so involved in doing good that we neglect our need for leisure, for rest, for family, for friends. He showed it by his own example as we hear him telling the disciples in today's gospel: "**Let's get away to a lonely place by ourselves and rest a while.**" Read Mark 6:30-32 and you will see that Jesus realized that he and his disciples were overstretched in attending to the constant demands the people made on their time. They needed a break away from everyone and everything.

We are half-way through the summer time of vacation and relaxation. But are we really relaxed? Some parents may find that what they thought was a relaxed summer is actually a stressful one. I was impressed by a blogger who reminded the parents that summer is a break from routine, and not a break from parenting: "*Seeds grow slowly; chicks hatch when they are ready; important things take time. Children and teens don't understand time — they want what they want when they want it. We too often react by jumping on their timeline. When we contort ourselves to suit their whims, we not only upend our lives, we give away the opportunity to teach them about patience.*"

The same applies to our inner life too. Can this summer be a time to attend to and grow in our spiritual self? Can we use this summer as a wonderful opportunity to enrich ourselves with some knowledge of our faith? When media gurus suggest summer reading lists, why not make our own list of faith-related summer readings? I would suggest to get any of the writings of Pope Francis that you can freely download. Whether it is "*Evangelii Gaudium - The Joy of the Gospel*" or "*Laudato Si - On the Care of Creation*" or "*Amoris Laetitia - The Joy of Love*" or "*Gaudete et Exsultate - Rejoice and Be Glad*," (our newly Vocations Committee will be asking us all to read this last one), you will find that you are in for a treat.

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Orapankal

## Readings for the Week

**Monday:** Ex 14:5-18; Ex 15:1bc-2, 3-4, 5-6; Mt 12:38-42

**Tuesday:** Ex 14:21 — 15:1; Ex 15:8-10, 12, 17; Mt 12:46-50

**Wednesday:** Ex 16:1-5, 9-15; Ps 78:18-19, 23-24, 25-26, 27-28; Mt 13:1-9

**Thursday:** Sgs 3:1-4b or 2 Cor 5:14-17; Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9; Jn 20:1-2, 11-18

**Friday:** Ex 20:1-17; Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11; Mt 13:18-23

**Saturday:** Ex 24:3-8; Ps 50:1b-2, 5-6, 14-15; Mt 13:24-30

**Sunday:** 2 Kgs 4:42-44; Ps 145:10-11, 15-16, 17-18; Eph 4:1-6; Jn 6:1-15

## Mass Intentions for the Week

<b>Saturday, Jul 17</b>	5:00PM	Deceased Members of the Julian & Felisa DeGuzman Family, by Alma Valdez
<b>Sunday, Jul 18</b>	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
<b>Monday, Jul 19</b>	8:00AM	Remia Alomia, by The Capuno Fammily
<b>Tuesday, Jul 20</b>	8:00AM	Nellie Bathan, by The Bathan Family
<b>Wednesday, Jul 21</b>	8:00AM	Romeo Jarin, by The Jarin Family
<b>Thursday, Jul 22</b>	8:00AM	Thomas Polefka, by The Madison Family
<b>Friday, Jul 23</b>	8:00AM	Adoracion DeGuzman, by Purita Aligaen
<b>Saturday, Jul 24</b>	5:00PM	Sadie Mi Hon & Jean Callender, by Antoinette Surdo-Palladino & Family
	8:00AM	Robert Bachmann, by Senior Friends of the Bachmann family
	10:00AM	Raquel Fischbach, by Elaine Schellenberg
	12:00PM	Martin Clemis, by Marion & Patty
	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 [kcoun@stmatthias.net](mailto:kcoun@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  
Virginia Briggs  
Marie Brody  
Thomas Burns  
Baby Isla-Rose Callahan  
Tara Capatosto  
Ellen & Frank Catalina  
Sean Clancy  
Barbara Coan  
Tom Current  
Cenon DeGuzman  
Mary Ellen Delaney  
Alaina Derecola  
Surya & Juliany Dharma  
Nancy Diaz  
Jack DiDie

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  
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

Robert Morgenberger  
Kenneth Brino, father of Elena Malinconico

## From the Pastoral Staff



*"The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want... ..Psalm 23*

I think it is safe to say that very few of us have ever met a shepherd. Shepherding is one of the oldest occupations in the world. There are still shepherds today, from the mountains of the American West to the highlands of Peru and Chile, tending flocks of thousands of sheep. It is hard, lonely work. A shepherd may go for days without seeing another human being—not unlike what we all went through last year!

The very first shepherd in the Bible was Abel, Cain's brother. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob were shepherds. And who were the very first persons to hear about the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem? The shepherds, "keeping the night watch over their flocks." Luke: 2.

King David was a shepherd, and the Responsorial Psalm for this Sunday, Psalm 23, is attributed to him. No matter how many times I play and sing this psalm, during the liturgical year or at funerals, it never fails to move and inspire me. When I asked our music ministers recently what particular

scripture verses were helping them through these troubled times, many replied with verses from Psalm 23.

*"Even though I walk in the dark valley, I fear no evil... ..only goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life."*

The message of this beloved psalm is enduring—Christ is our Shepherd. Instead of listening to the distorted voices of the world in this time of confusion and despair, we need only to listen to His voice, which alone will bring us comfort to "revive our drooping spirits." Christ is our true shepherd, who protects the sheep, suffers for our sake, and leads us to life.

Here are some beautiful settings of Psalm 23 for you to enjoy....

The King of Love My Shepherd Is- John Rutter

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sl5ToWHk4ug>

With a Shepherd's Care - James Cheppoonis

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OAL\\_\\_cTdDpY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OAL__cTdDpY)

*"And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for years to come."*

Joan Best Seamon, Pastoral Associate for Liturgical Music

## Reflect

### Have you lost your Ability to Sleep?

In the 1970s, Michael Caine and Sidney Poitier co-starred in the movie *Zulu*, which was shot in Kenya. They were assigned a local man to drive them around town. One night, after attending a late-night party, Michael and Sidney came out to the car and found their driver to be unconscious. No matter how hard they tried, they could not rouse him, nor could they find his pulse. They called a local doctor and reported the apparent death. After a quick examination, the irritated doctor announced that the man was only sleeping. Michael Caine protested that the man had no pulse and was impossible to wake. But the doctor explained that this is the way all people are supposed to sleep. 'Civilized' people, he said, who live in big, noisy cities and hold down draining, stressful jobs have lost the ability to sleep as deeply and peacefully as they should. Maybe that doctor is right. It would be interesting to know how many of us have to take something occasionally to help us sleep.

***Jesus knew it was important for people to get away from time to time. His apostles had been out preaching and teaching and healing and ministering to the public. And it was Jesus who suggested that they get away from the crowds for a while and rest.***

### Everyone has a Capacity for Compassion



Mencius, a Chinese philosopher who lived several hundred years before Christ, and was eager to show that there is good in everyone, said, "All people have a capacity for compassion. If people see a child about to fall into a well, they will experience a feeling of alarm and distress. This is not because they know the child's parents, nor out of desire for praise ... nor out of dislike for the bad reputation that would ensue if they did not go to the rescue. From this we may conclude that without compassion one would not be a human being." Mencius was right to say that compassion is a component of true humanity, but alas, recent wars have shown us that there are also those who would as soon throw a child into a well as to pull one out.

Some people are so self-occupied that they don't even notice those who are suffering. The compassion of which we are capable needs cultivating if it is to find expression. Following Christ is one way to nurture that characteristic. Flannery O'Connor, the insightful Catholic writer, lifted up the Christian dimension when she wrote: "You will have found Christ when you are concerned with other people's sufferings and not your own." The beginning of compassion involves becoming aware of the suffering of others. But it is not enough simply to see the suffering of others; we need to feel it.

### Marriage Tune-Up

Summer is a time of rest — sort of. Maybe you take a vacation or ease up on your work schedule. But you may still feel busy. Consider, "Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while." (Mark 6: 31) Can you take some quiet, restful "couple time" this week?



## The Unseen Casualties

**"Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while . . ." Jesus was moved with pity for the vast crowd, for they were like sheep without a shepherd. Mark 6: 30-34 (53-56)**

**Too many numbers.** Ten at Santa Fe. Thirteen at Columbine. Twenty-six at Sandy Hook. Seventeen at Parkland. We know the numbers of those who were killed. But there is collateral damage to the uniquely American crisis of school shootings. Since the Columbine shootings in 1999, more than 187,000 students attending almost 200 elementary or high schools have experienced a shooting on campus during school hours. And many of these students are never the same. Every day, threats send classrooms into lockdowns that terrify students - even when they turn out to be false alarms. Thousands of schools conduct active-shooter drills in which kids as young as four learn to hide in darkened closets and bathrooms from imagined murderers. Feeling safe in school is no longer presumed.

**Samantha Haviland understands such fear.** At 16, she survived the carnage at Columbine. Now 35, she is the director of counseling at Denver's public school system and has spent her entire professional life treating traumatized kids. Yet she herself has never fully escaped the effects of what happened to her on that morning in Littleton, Colorado. The nightmares have lingered for years. There are the panic attacks. Even now, the image of children walking out of schools with their hands up is too much for her to bear.

**Karson Robinson was six when a teenager opened fire** on the playground of his elementary school in Townville, South Carolina, in 2016. Karson had leaped a fence and ran at the first sound of gunfire. But his buddy Jacob Hall didn't make it; he was shot and killed. That's when the guilt took hold. Maybe, Karson thought, if he hadn't fled he could have saved Jacob, the smallest child in their class. At home, Karson began to explode in anger. Other

times, he insisted that everyone hated him. Before a doctor finally diagnosed the boy with PTSD, Karson had a party for his eighth birthday, and at the end, they released balloons in the sky for Jacob. It was more than a year after the shootings. Afterward, Karson walked off by himself. His mother followed, asking what was wrong. "I should have waited for Jacob," Karson said.

**These survivors of school violence are among the "shepherd-less" that Jesus' heart breaks for. There are so many broken and lost victims of violence in our midst who carry their guilt and fear alone; there are also those suffering the effects of abandonment, abuse, addiction and illness whose trauma isolates them from the rest of us. As disciples of Christ, may we take up his work of compassion and reconciliation, intentionally reaching out to and walking with those who have faced the dark hopelessness of their lives alone for too long.**



Will Rogers was known for his laughter, but he also knew how to weep. One day he was entertaining at the Milton H. Berry Institute in Los Angeles, a hospital that specialized in rehabilitating polio victims and people with spinal cord injuries and other extreme physical handicaps. Very soon, Rogers had everybody laughing, even patients who were paralyzed; but then he suddenly left the platform and went to the restroom. Milton Berry followed him to make sure he was all right. When he opened the door, he saw Will Rogers leaning against the wall sobbing like a child over the tragic situations he was seeing. Berry closed the door, and in a few moments Rogers appeared back on the platform as jovial as ever. Christians are called to a ministry of compassion, and if we are faithful to it, it will cause us to weep with those who weep.

**Today's Gospel tells us how Jesus felt compassion for the "sheep without shepherd." Every church**

## A Weeping Comedian?

**needs a compassionate pastor. He must be able to feel deeply the suffering of others, to understand why they fear and tremble. The pastors are also called to lead and "govern wisely" (Jer 23:5), living the teaching they communicate. They are to guide people in right paths and are to be concerned about what is right and just. Their pastoral care should be involved and peaceful care and guidance. There are very many people searching for truth today, people hungering for instruction, good people who are looking for direction. They may be parents who are sick with grief over the future of a troubled child; a man stripped of his dignity by unemployment; a woman facing a pregnancy alone; elderly people who feel the diminishing surge of life in their bodies; people who are angry and confused because they have lost confidence in their leaders, whether political or religious. They are people who are looking for answers and for meaning. They are like sheep without a shepherd. They all need ideal pastors filled with the spirit of Christ the "Good Shepherd."**

## Parenting Tune-Up

Next Sunday, July 25, is Parents' Day in the USA. Sure, we already have Mother's Day and Father's Day. But why not plan now to make this a day that doesn't involve cards or gifts, but rather do something fun as a family? Honor yourselves, even if it just means taking a nap.



Jul 18, 2021

## Reflect



### Are You a Pony Express Horse?

Larry Burkett, in a recent magazine article, used the analogy of the Pony Express. As you know, for a few years in the Wild West, mail was dispatched across this country by a relay system known as the Pony Express. Occasionally an express rider would be attacked by Indians. Because his big mount was stronger than the Indian ponies, the rider could spur his horse to a gallop and outrun his attackers before his horse would tire. This scenario wasn't repeated too many times before the Indians changed their plan of attack. Realizing they couldn't outrun the express rider, they wisely stationed some of their number every few miles along the route. Then, just when the rider had outrun the first group of attackers, the second band would appear, causing him to spur his horse on without rest. This tactic was repeated until at last the rider's horse would collapse from exhaustion.

*Sometimes we are like those Pony Express horses. We get one crisis resolved and here comes another. If it is not a child in trouble at school, it's an aging parent needing our attention. If it is not an unhappy client, it is an expensive car repair. One stressful thing after another. There is no rest for the weary, we say. And that is so, UNLESS we plan balance into our lives. Jesus did that. When the apostles returned from their mission, they were no doubt exhilarated by the experience. They had witnessed at first hand, the power of God's Word. Nonetheless, they were hungry, exhausted, and in need of rest, both physical and spiritual. In fact, Jesus, too, was in need of a break from the crowds who were constantly pressing on him, demanding his attention and healing. Hence, he led the Apostles by boat to a "deserted place" on the other side of the Lake for a period of rest and sharing. Do you withdraw from your hectic pace of life to a regular time of rest and silence?*

### "Close the Door to turn on the Light!"

One evening years ago a speaker who was visiting the United States wanted to make a telephone call. He entered a phone booth, but found it to be different from those in his own country. It was beginning to get dark, so he had difficulty finding the number in the directory. He noticed that there was a light in the ceiling, but he didn't know how to turn it on. As he tried again to find the number in the fading twilight, a passerby noted his plight and said, "Sir, if you want to turn the light on, you have to shut the door." To the visitor's amazement and satisfaction, when he closed the door, the booth was filled with light. He soon located the number and completed the call. A writer in the devotional, *Our Daily Bread*, commenting on this story, writes, "In a similar way, when we draw aside in a quiet place to pray, we must block out our busy world and open our hearts to the Father. Our darkened world of disappointments and trials will then be illuminated. We will enter into communion with God, we will sense His presence, and we will be assured of His provision for us. Our Lord often went to be alone with the Heavenly Father. Sometimes it was after a busy day of preaching and healing, as in today's Scripture reading. At other times, it was before making a major decision." (Luke 6:12). And so should we.



### "Waiting, but no one Comes!"

Mother Teresa tells how one day she visited an old people's home in Sweden. It was efficiently run. The food was good. The staff was trained, and treated the old people well. It seemed an ideal place in which to end one's days. There were about forty elderly people in the home. They seemed to have everything they wanted. Yet as she went around she noticed that none of them smiled. She also noticed something else. They kept looking towards the door. She asked one of the nurses why this was so. 'They are longing for someone to come to visit them,' the nurse replied. 'They are always looking and thinking, "Maybe my son, maybe my daughter, and maybe somebody will come and visit me today." But no one comes. It's the same every day.' 'No one comes!'

The phrase haunted Mother Teresa. These elderly people had been put away in this home by their families and then abandoned. That sense of having been abandoned was by far their greatest suffering. Sometimes a person may have no choice but to put an elderly parent in a home. However, it's the spirit in which this is done that matters. Having put an elderly parent in a home, one person may abandon that parent, whereas another visits that parent regularly. A Christian who doesn't care is like a lamp that doesn't give light. But caring is never easy. Yet all of us are capable of caring. All that is required is an open heart. When we care, we are living the Gospel.



## Pray

### Become an Altar Server

Is there a voice urging you to be an altar server? It's God! Pope Francis said: *"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 demand-*

*ing goals and to find the strength to achieve them."* If you are at least a 5th grade parishioner and would like

join the ministry, contact Cathy Allegro, [callegro@stmatthiasnj.org](mailto:callegro@stmatthiasnj.org). Training — late August; start in Sept.

## Pray



### 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:

**Next 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**

## Learn

### Letter on Violence and How to Respond

On July 9, 2021, Cardinal Cupich, from the Archdiocese of Chicago, wrote a letter to parishioners addressing how to combat the recent violence that keeps occurring in the metropolitan area. His words can be helpful for all of us.

In Chicago, in the metro area, and even more widely across our nation, we face a profoundly painful moment in our life together. So many families are grieving the loss of loved ones to violence, and those loved ones include babies and small children. The grief is compounded by the senselessness of the loss. Fear accompanies many of us as we go about our daily lives. We are afraid of becoming a victim of gun violence, or a carjacking, or an assault. And we are afraid not only for ourselves but also for the people we care for.

As we recover from the pandemic and embrace a more familiar way of life, the comfort of normalcy we had hoped for is being spoiled by a menacing violence that threatens all of us.

Understandably, we want this horrifying situation resolved without delay. Government leaders and community activists have offered many ideas, for example: more effective policing, reforming the criminal justice system, stemming the flood of illegal guns, dismantling gangs, investment in

historically disadvantaged neighborhoods, strengthening education and shoring up family life. I cannot claim special expertise in all these matters. But as a pastor, I can point to the underlying spiritual crisis that this violent and unstable situation has provoked.

When violence prompts grief, fear, and a loss of hope, as it always does, people feel alienated from one another. On one level, the fractures appear to be along the lines of race, ethnicity, economic class, and political affiliation. But it runs much deeper than that. We seem unable or unwilling to comprehend that we are inextricably connected with each other. Yet we truly are *fratelli tutti*, as Pope Francis put it — all brothers and sisters to each other. If we lose that sense of interconnectedness, we also lose our sense of compassion, empathy and responsibility for each other. And that counts as an incalculable spiritual loss, with profound consequences for how we live together as neighbors, as members of the same human family. In this light, I recall the prophetic

words of Dr. Martin Luther King in 1964: “We must learn to live together as brothers [and sisters] or perish together as fools.” (St. Louis, March 22, 1964)

The challenge, especially for believers, rests at the very center of the Church’s identity. At the beginning of the Second Vatican Council’s Constitution on the Church, we see powerful and defining words: the Church is in the manner of a sacrament, that is, an effective sign of the unity of all humanity in God. If we, the people of God, are to remain faithful to our identity and our calling, we must respond to the challenge to human solidarity that violence has provoked. At the same time, we can legitimately ask ourselves: What can we do? What difference can we make? How can we bridge the divides that separate us?

Faith does not give us ready-made solutions to complex problems. Faith does give us hope that with God’s help we can move forward, and that we ought to move forward as best as we can. With that in mind, I want to propose to

Catholics and to all people of good **will five steps that we can take:**

- 1. Ask questions:** Explore our experience and seek understanding, but in asking questions, also be prepared to authentically listen, even when what we are hearing proves painful.
- 2. Dialogue:** Seek honest exchanges with people of different backgrounds. No one person or group has all the answers, and when we speak with and listen to those who have experiences and expertise that differs from our own, we begin to move toward understanding. We cultivate empathy.
- 3. Pray:** Ask for enlightenment, place struggling people in God’s hands, and imagine Jesus walking with us, because he is.
- 4. Follow the prompts:** If we truly open ourselves to God and to each other, and if we remain attentive, we will begin to identify where God is leading us. This is discernment.
- 5. Stay connected:** The great temptation during a time of crisis is to retreat to

(cont’d on next page)

## Letter on Violence and How to Respond (cont'd from previous page)

what we consider a safe space. In fact, what we most need is to go out of our comfort zones and accompany one another, even when that calls for effort and even some risk.

For people of faith, no matter the severity of the crisis, the last word is trust in God. The

stirring words of Psalm 91 have consoled me and strengthened my resolve these days:

*He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High and abides in the shade of the Almighty says to the Lord: "My refuge, my stronghold, my God in whom I trust."*

*It is he who will free you from the snare of the fowler who seeks to destroy you; he will conceal you with his pinions and under his wings you will find refuge.*

*You will not fear the terror of the night nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the plague that prowls in the darkness nor the*

*scourge that lays waste at noon.*

*A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand fall at your right, you, it will never approach; his faithfulness is buckler and shield.*

And finally, in the words of Pope Paul VI: "If you want peace, work for justice."



### Attention 2nd graders: First Eucharist Preparation

**ALL 2nd Grade families (GIFT & SMS) who have (baptized) rising 2nd graders or older** who desire to receive the Sacraments of First Reconciliation/First Eucharist in 2022, sacramental preparation is required through the parish. In-person sessions will be held in the school building for all children and at least one parent on certain Sunday mornings from 10:30AM -11:30AM. The sacramental preparation fee for this program is \$80. Register online now at:

<https://www.stmatthias.net/first-eucharist-first-reconciliation/>

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



### 7th & 8th Graders: Confirmation Preparation

**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](http://www.stmatthias.net/confirmation).

A parent meeting for 7th grade parents will be held in October or November for all registered 7<sup>th</sup> graders. **Questions?** Please Dee Nann at [dnann@stmatthias.net](mailto:dnann@stmatthias.net), or Faith Formation Assistant, Nathalie Godet at 732-828-1400 or [ngodet@stmatthias.net](mailto:ngodet@stmatthias.net)



### GIFT Registration: Sign Up Today for K-8 Religious Ed

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

The form can be completed online at 2021-2022 GIFT for K-8 Religious Ed, <https://www.stmatthias.net/faith-formation/>

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 the parish website page and can be paid online. Please register 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.*

# Give

## Stewardship Reflection July 18, 2021 Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

**"He instructed them to take nothing for the journey but a walking stick – no food, no sack, no money in their belts." MARK 6:8**

Imagine taking nothing but a stick when you go on a trip. The Apostles must have really trusted in God's providential care. Think of all the material things "we can't live without" in today's world. We make our life's journey more difficult because of all the material baggage that we drag along. Putting God first in everything and putting our money and possessions second gives us freedom because we don't become "slaves" to wanting to acquire more things.

## Reflexiónese — 18 de julio de 2021 Domingo 16° del Tiempo Ordinario

**"Les ordenó que no llevaran nada para el camino, ni pan, ni bolsa, ni dinero en el cinturón, sino solo un bastón." M 6:8** Imagínese no llevar nada sino un bastón cuando sale de viaje. Los Apóstoles deben realmente haber confiado en el cuidado Providencial de Dios. Pienso en todas las cosas materiales "sin las cuales no podemos vivir" en el mundo de hoy. Hacemos el viaje de nuestra vida más difícil por causa de todo el equipaje material que arrastramos. Poner a Dios en primer lugar en todo y poner nuestro dinero y nuestras posesiones en segundo lugar nos da la libertad, ya que no nos haremos "esclavos" siempre queriendo adquirir más cosas.

# Give

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 1 - July 4, 2021	\$8,212.00	\$14,364.25	<b>\$22,576.25</b>	\$26,905.88
Week 2 - July 11, 2021	\$7,656.53	\$26,200.75	<b>\$33,857.28</b>	\$23,090.88
			<b>Month-to-date Total</b>	<b>July Total Last Yr</b>
			<b>\$56,433.53</b>	\$92,141.77
			<b>Current Year-to-date</b>	<b>Year-to-date as of Jul 31,</b>
			<b>\$56,433.53</b>	\$92,141.77

# Serve

## From a ServiceWorX Participant:



next person would say their name and their item. In addition, they would also have to say the names and items of what the people before them said. We had an extremely fun time doing this activity.

The next day, on Monday, we went to our service sites for the first time. In my group, led by Arien, was me, Alexis, Kevin, Natalie, and Avery. The place we went to on Monday was the Ronald McDonald House in New Brunswick. While we were there, Kevin and Natalie watered flowers while Arien, Avery, Alexis, and I pulled out weeds and cut vines on the ground. It was a

very long, tiring, and grueling process, but we were able to complete it. In the end, I can confidently say that it was worth it. Even though we didn't like it one bit, we knew that many people would be grateful for the effort and time we put into it.

ServiceWorX absolutely changed me and who I am as a person for the better. It helped show me how the small and simple efforts of a single person could make a big difference for everyone.

Thank You.  
Toby Moreno  
Grade 8 St. Matthias School

Hello, my name is Toby Moreno and I am one of the many students here at ServiceworX. In the beginning, on Sunday, ServiceworX began. Most of us knew each other from schools we currently go to, like St. Matthias School, but there were still some people who we didn't know at first.

One of the activities we did to get to know each other's names was a memory game. We pretended we were going on a picnic. A person would say their name and an item they would bring to the picnic. The requirement would be that the item would have to start with the first letter of the person's name. For example, since my name is Toby the first letter of my item would have to start with a "T". Then, the

## St. Matthias School Positions Available for the 2021-2022 School Year

- 1) INSTRUCTIONAL AID needed for Pre-Kindergarten class. Candidates must have a minimum of 60 college credits and will assist the classroom teacher in all aspects of preschool teaching. Twenty-nine hours per week maximum, Monday thru Friday. Compensation is hourly.
- 2) AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM ASSISTANTS needed. The program begins at 2:30 and ends at 6:00. Compensation is hourly. Working options include 1, 2 or 3 days per week. Some duties include homework help, indoor and outdoor games, playtime, and overall monitoring of children in grades Pre-K 3 to 8.
- 3) SUBSTITUTES needed to teach Pre-Kindergarten 3 to grade 8. Candidates must have a minimum of 60 college credits and be available Monday thru Friday.

For all positions, candidates must be VIRTUS trained and go through a background check. If interested, please contact [jgidaro@stmatthiasnj.org](mailto:jgidaro@stmatthiasnj.org)



## Parish Pastoral Council Retreat



**“...like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house...” 1 Peter 2-4**

On the evening of June 22, our Pastoral Council attended an evening retreat, led by Sister Marie Therese. The theme of the retreat was “Build with Living Stones”. Sr. Marie Therese began by highlighting an experience of St. Francis of Assisi, when, during his early conversion, he prayed before the San Damiano crucifix, “Lord, what do you want me to do?”

Jesus spoke from that cross and said, “Francis, go rebuild my Church which is falling into ruin.” It took a few years for Francis to realize that Jesus was not referring to physical buildings, but to his “people” the “Church”.

Jesus is the cornerstone of our lives. In him, we are all living stones. As members of his household, we are called to be builders of acceptance, justice, and peace, a house of God

for all people. Our Catholic Community of St. Matthias is built one relationship at a time, one living stone upon another. As they (*and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord, for years to come*). *begin this new year of their ministry, the Pastoral Council reflected upon and discussed the challenging question, “How are we called to be “living stones” as we strive to “build up” the Catholic Community of St. Matthias and beyond?”*

In the closing ritual, Sr. Marie Therese invited each member to choose a stone, being mindful each day, of their call to build with living stones. A word was printed on each stone, i.e., TRUST, RISK, HOPE, COURAGE, etc., challenging each one to allow that word to become alive within them.



### Vocations Ministry - Called to Build God’s Kingdom — July 18, 2021

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

“To be holy does not require being a bishop, a priest or a religious. We are frequently tempted to think that holiness is only for those who can withdraw from ordinary affairs to spend much time in prayer. That is not the case. We are called to be holy by living our lives with love and by bearing witness in everything we do, wherever we find ourselves.”

May we clearly discern our calling in life, and once our personal call is found out, may we be committed to the building of God’s kingdom.



## Thank You!



The Parish & School Staff say “THANK YOU” to Fr. Joe!

## Parish Leadership

<b>Parish Pastoral Council:</b>	Rose Peng Frank Rees Maria Tapia-Burch John Taylor Marilyn Wegg	<b>Trustees:</b>	Isaac Peng Marge Richards	<b>Parish Finance Council:</b>	Audrey Francis Kester Hector Joan Pritchard
<b>Co-Chairs:</b>	Claudine Langrin Mary Beth Vetter-Purcell			<b>Finance Council</b>	Mary Pat Burke-Grospin, Ex-Officio
<b>Co-Secretaries:</b>	Lorraine Farr Anne Marie Francis			<a href="mailto:FinanceCouncil@stmatthias.net">@stmatthias.net</a>	Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio
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