



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
Parochial Vicar: Rev. Msgr. Joseph Curry, jcurry
Senior Priest: Msgr. Seamus Brennan, sbrennan
 Mary Pat Burke-Grospin, Business Administrator
mpburke-grospin
 Kelly Counts, Receptionist, kcounts
 Conroy Davis, Custodian
 Juan Diaz Flores, Custodian
 Leslie Guillen, Bulletin Editor, lguillen
 Nathalie Godet, Formation/Parish Support
 Secretary, ngodet
 Amy Hanna, Parish Support Secretary, ahanna
 Julio Montero, Maintenance Supervisor
 Deacon Russell Demkovitz, rdemkovitz
 Ana V Kelly, Pastoral Associate for Marketing &
 Development, akelly
 Mike Lanyi, Sacristan
 Dolores R. Nann, Pastoral Associate for Faith
 Formation, dnann
 Vinnie Natale, Bookkeeper, vnatale
 Silvia Nizama, Housekeeper
 Deacon John Radvanski, deaconjohn
 Joan Best Seamon, Pastoral Associate for Music
 Ministry jseamon
 Sr Marie Therese Sherwood, OSF, Pastoral
 Assoc. for Social Concerns, msherwood
 Phyllis Stone, Pastoral Associate for Liturgy/
 RCIA & Admin. Assistant to the Pastor, pstone
 Trish Stumper, Par. Support Secretary, tstumper

St. Matthias School (add @stmatthiasnj.org)
 Mary Lynch, Principal, mlynch
 Joseph Gidaro, Vice Principal, jgidaro

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS

SUNDAY, JULY 4, 2021 – Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Highlights—This Week

Miraculous Medal Novena— Mon.,
 July 5 at 8:30AM

Pray a Novena for St. Joseph—
 Wed. Jul 7 after the 8:00AM
 Mass. See pg. 8.



****Save the Date ****

Goodbye for Fr. Joe - July 24th Outdoor Mass



On Saturday, July 24th, the 5 PM Mass will be celebrated Outdoors (weather permitting) to bid Fr. Joe farewell from the parish.

B-Y-O-LC (Bring your own lawnchair) More details to follow!!

Beware — More Scams & Phishing Emails

Recently, several parishioners received phishing emails asking for money, supposedly sent by our pastor. Please know, as we have said many times, that NO staff person from our office will ever send an urgent request for money via email. These are all scams. Do not respond. Report them as a phishing email to your service provider.

Also, get into the habit of always checking the email address before you open the email. Our staff emails are listed on the left. If you are still unsure, call the Office or email the staff person USING THE CORRECT EMAIL to the left. NEVER reply to a phishing email, nor click on any link inside of it.

For Your Reflection

“The Lord is knocking at the door of our hearts.
 Have we put a sign on the door saying ‘Do not disturb?’”

— Pope Francis, Jan. 13, 2014, via Twitter



Please start you Amazon shopping 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 4, 2021 **Independence Day**

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

Monday, Jul 5, 2021 **Parish Office is Closed**

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

Tuesday, Jul 6, 2021

8:00AM Daily Mass Church

Wednesday, Jul 7, 2021

8:00AM Daily Mass Church
8:30AM St. Joseph's Intercession Prayer Church
9:30AM Prayer Group 1– Holy Spirit de Porres Rm

Thursday, Jul 8, 2021

8:00AM Daily Mass Church

Friday, Jul 9, 2021

8:00AM Daily Mass Church

Saturday, Jul 10, 2021

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

Sunday, Jul 11, 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,

Happy Fourth of July! This weekend is a time for us to express and celebrate our patriotism – not only through flags, fireworks, and partying with family and friends, but also through serious reflection on our freedom, its high price, its sacred meaning and the way we need to pass it on intact to the next generation.

When our Founding Fathers signed the Declaration of Independence two centuries ago, the American Dream was officially born on the foundation of freedom, democracy and hope. It is good to remember the four types of freedom President Roosevelt spoke of in January 1941, as he was building support for the World War:

"In the future days, which we seek to make secure, we look forward to a world founded upon four essential human freedoms. The first is freedom of speech and expression -- everywhere in the world. The second is freedom of every person to worship God in his own way -- everywhere in the world. The third is freedom from want--which, translated into world terms, means economic understandings which will secure to every nation a healthy peacetime life for its inhabitants -- everywhere in the world. The fourth is freedom from fear -- which, translated into world terms, means a world-wide reduction of armaments to such a point and in such a thorough fashion that no nation will be in a position to commit an act of physical aggression against any neighbor-- anywhere in the world."

But when this American Dream is sought after by illegal immigrants, we have a problem. The ongoing national conversation shows how divided and polarized we are on this sensitive topic. Instead of taking any hardline position based on any political affiliation, it is good for us to know the united stand of our nation's Conference of Catholic bishops. On the one hand, our Bishops assert our fundamental right to control our nation's borders; on the other hand, they ask for humane and compassionate treatment of immigrants as our brothers and sisters created in God's image and likeness. The following is excerpted from the US Bishops' pastoral document, ***Welcoming the Stranger among Us: Unity in Diversity***, www.usccb.org/committees/pastoral-care-migrants-refugees-travelers/welcoming-stranger-among-us-unity-diversity

"Without condoning undocumented migration, the Church supports the human rights of all people and offers them pastoral care, education, and social services, no matter what the circumstances of entry into this country, and it works for the respect of the human dignity of all—especially those who find themselves in desperate circumstances. We recognize that nations have the right to control their borders. We also recognize and strongly assert that all human persons, created as they are in the image of God, possess a fundamental dignity that gives rise to a more compelling claim to the conditions worthy of human life."

More such passages from this pastoral letter, "Welcoming the Stranger Among us: Unity in Diversity" will give us a Christian perspective on this matter that goes beyond partisan politics. When we realize that the Church is not condoning undocumented immigration, we will be open to solutions that will prevent more illegal immigration even as we show loving compassion to those already here as our Bishops call our attention to the reality of the United States as largely a "nation of immigrants."

Happy July 4th !

Your brother in Christ, Fr. Abraham Orapankal



Readings for the Week

Monday: Gn 28:10-22a; Ps 91:1-2, 3-4, 14-15ab; Mt 9:18-26

Tuesday: Gn 32:23-33; Ps 17:1b, 2-3, 6-7ab, 8b, 15; Mt 9:32-38

Wednesday: Gn 41:55-57; 42:5-7a, 17-24a; Ps 33:2-3, 10-11, 18-19; Mt 10:1-7

Thursday: Gn 44:18-21, 23b-29; 45:1-5; Ps 105:16-17, 18-19, 20-21; Mt 10:7-15

Friday: Gn 46:1-7, 28-30; Ps 37:3-4, 18-19, 27-28, 39-40; Mt 10:16-23

Saturday: Gn 49:29-32; 50:15-26a; Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7; Mt 10:24-33

Sunday: Am 7:12-15; Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14; Eph 1:3-14 or 1:3-10; Mk 6:7-13

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, Jul 3	5:00PM	Gabriel Jayanthakumar, by The Family
Sunday, Jul 4	8:00AM	Wladyslaw Stefanski, by Daughter
	10:00AM	Raquel Fischbach, by Holy Trinity Prayer Group
	12:00PM	Concetta & Luigi Mongiardo, by The Collier Family
	5:30PM*	Intention of Parishioners
Monday, Jul 5	8:00AM	No Mass (Independence Day, observed)
Tuesday, Jul 6	8:00AM	Feast Day Blessings, Sr. Maria Derecola, by The OSF Community
Wednesday, Jul 7	8:00AM	Sadie Callender, by The Tuiton Angels
Thursday, Jul 8	8:00AM	Sr. Emerencia, by The OSF Community
Friday, Jul 9	8:00AM	Nick Ventura, by Menchie & Family
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

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 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
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

Agnes Paduch—Grandmother of Jackie Schorr
Hildegard Scheurle—Mother of Robert & Carol
Gerald “Jerry” Connelly—Husband of Mary

Reflect



Smile With Your Family



Rejection resulting in resignation:

There was a feud between the Pastor and the Choir Director of a Southern Baptist parish. The first hint of trouble came when the Pastor preached on **dedicating oneself to service** and the Choir Director chose to sing: *"I Shall Not Be Moved"*. Trying to believe it was a coincidence, the Pastor put the incident behind him. The next Sunday he preached on **Giving**. Afterwards, the choir squirmed as the director led them in the hymn: *"Jesus Paid It All"* By this time, the Pastor was losing his temper. Sunday morning attendance swelled as the tension between the two began public. A large crowd showed up the next week to hear his sermon on the **Sin of Gossiping**. Would you believe the Choir Director selected: *"I Love To Tell the Story"*? There was no turning back. The following Sunday the Pastor told the congregation that unless something changed he was considering resignation. The entire church gasped when the Choir Director led them in: *"Why Not tonight?"* Truthfully, no one was surprised when the Pastor resigned a week later, explaining that Jesus had led him there and Jesus was leading him away. The Choir Director could not resist singing: *"What a Friend We Have in Jesus."*



Parenting Tune-Up

"Is he [Jesus] not the carpenter; the son of Mary...?" (Mark 6:3) We inherit both physical and personality traits from our parents. It can be a source of parental pride, but also consternation.

Talk with your child about what strengths and weaknesses they might have received from you.

Marriage Tune-Up



In a healthy marriage both spouses strive to be good and strong. But, sometimes it is through recognizing our weakness that we can grow stronger. What a mystery! "...for when I am weak, then I am strong." (2 Cor. 12:10) Can you identify a weakness in yourself that has punctured your pride and made you a better spouse?



The Decision to Hope

God knows, these days there are reasons enough for cynicism. Many of us feel let down by the institutions we thought we could trust. We have been betrayed, disappointed and outraged too many times to simply hope. Jim Wallis

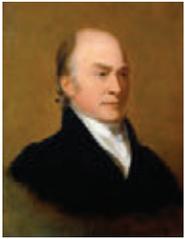
is a theologian and founder of **Sojourners**, a Christian-based social justice advocacy group. He writes in his best-selling book **God's Politics** that the obstacle of faith is the fundamental choice between cynicism and hope. "First, let's be fair to the cynics. Cynicism is the place of retreat for the smart, critical, dissenting, and formerly idealistic people who are now trying to protect themselves. They are not naive. They tend to see things as they are, they know what is wrong, and they are generally opposed to what they see. . . They know what is going on, and at one point, they might even have tried for a time to change it. But they didn't succeed; things got worse, and they got weary. Their activism, and the commitments and hopes that implied, made them feel vulnerable. So they retreated to cynicism as the refuge from commitment . . .

"Cynicism does protect you in many ways. It protects you from seeming foolish to believe that things could and will change. It protects you from disappointment. It protects you from insecurity because now you are free to pursue your own security instead of sacrificing it for a social engagement that won't work anyway. Ultimately, cynicism protects you from commitment. If things are not really go-

ing to change, why try so hard to make a difference? Why become and stay so involved? Why take the risks, make the sacrifices, open yourself to the vulnerabilities? "Perhaps the only people who view the world realistically are the cynics and the saints. Everybody else may be living in some kind of denial about what is really going on and how things really are. And the only difference between the cynics and the saints is the presence, power, and possibility of hope . . . "More than just a moral issue, hope is a spiritual and even religious choice. Hope is not a feeling; it is a decision. And the decision for hope is based on what you believe at the deepest levels - what your most basic convictions are about the world and what the future holds - all based on your faith. You choose hope, not as a naive wish, but as a choice, with your eyes wide open to the reality of the world - just like the cynics who have not made the decision for hope."

In today's Gospel, Jesus' hearers cannot believe that such "wisdom" can exist in their midst, that the justice and peace Jesus envisions are simply not possible. They are isolated by their cynicism; hope is beyond their reach, and so they reject Jesus with scorn and ridicule. Jesus calls us - dares us - to embrace "prophetic" hope: to change our perspective, our belief systems, and ourselves in order to realize the possibilities we have for creating God's kingdom of peace and compassion for all his sons and daughters in this time and place of ours.

“No” to God due to Fear of Rejection



John Quincy Adams, the sixth president of the United States and the son of a former President, reportedly said that he would rather clean filth from the street than become the President.

The Old Testament tells us that most of the prophets shared John Quincy Adams' hesitation about their calling, probably for fear of rejection or failure. *Moses tried to convince God that he stammered and, hence, could not become Israel's leader. Jeremiah complained to God that he was too young. The prophets trembled at the trials ahead of them and that with good reason. (II Chr 36:16, Jer 2: 30, Am 2:12, Mt 23:37, Lk 13:34, I Thes 2: 15, Heb 11: 32 ff.). Jeremiah was threatened with death several times, thrown into a dry cistern, imprisoned, dragged off to exile in Egypt, and, perhaps most painful of all, was forced to watch the destruction of Jerusalem, because its inhabitants would not listen to his message. At least twice in his lifetime, the prophet Elijah gave the warning of God to King Ahab concerning the king's promotion of idolatry. As a result, Elijah was forced to flee into the wilderness where he suffered great privation (I Kg 16: 29- 17: 3; I Kg 18: 16 – 19: 4).* Today's Gospel gives another example of why the prophets did not jump for joy at their career prospects. It describes in five sentences how the people of Nazareth turned from amazement to furious indignation at Jesus' statement of the truth hinting that he was the promised Messiah. Speaking God's truth is a risky business even today. It results in arrests and persecution in Communist and Islamic countries. Insulting the religious beliefs and practices of Christians is perpetrated in developed countries in the name of the freedom of speech.

Have You Experienced Rejection?

The book *Crossing Over* is the story of the rejection one woman faced when she fell in love with a person outside the Amish Community and ran away to marry him. Ruth Garrett had always been a little rebellious, but not even she could imagine the pain she was about to experience from being shunned by her family and community. Rejection – even the word, has a foreboding sound. Yet, it is an experience with which most, if not all of us, are familiar. Everybody experiences rejection sometime. It may come from a boss, from a peer, from a lover, from a Church, even from strangers who communicate clearly that you are not welcome in certain circles.

Today's Gospel (Mark 6:1-6), explains how Jesus experienced rejection from his own people. Many people of Jesus' hometown Nazareth did not accept him as a prophet because they knew him and his family. They knew that he was a carpenter with no schooling in Mosaic Law and that he could not be the promised Messiah who would come from Bethlehem as a descendant of David's royal family. Besides, they were angry when Jesus did not work any miracles in Nazareth, chided them with prophetic courage for their lack of faith and warned that he would go to other people to do his preaching and healing ministry.

Can Good Come out of Tragedy?

A young boy of 9 was sitting in his father's workshop watching his dad work on a harness. "Someday Father," said Louis, "I want to be a harness-maker, just like you." "Why not start now?" said the father. He took a piece of leather and drew a design on it. "Now" he said, "take the hole-punch and hammer out this design, but be careful that you don't hit your hand." Excited, the boy began to work, but when he hit the hole-punch, it flew out of his hand and pierced his eye! He lost his sight in that eye. Later, as fate would have it, sight in the other eye failed. Louis was now totally blind.

A few years later, Louis was sitting in the family garden when a friend handed him a pine cone. As he ran his sensitive fingers over the cone, an idea came to him. He became enthusiastic and began to create an alphabet of raised dots on paper so that the blind could feel and interpret. Thus, Louis Braille in 1818 opened up a whole new world for the blind.

What is it that Jesus intends to do during his three years of ministry? It is this: **To open up a whole new world for you and for me. To bring us out of our poverty that has long held us down and to restore vision that you and I have long since lost.**

Rejected Politicians who never gave Up!

Winston Churchill: This Nobel Prize-winning, twice-elected Prime Minister of the United Kingdom wasn't always as well regarded as he is today. Churchill struggled in school and failed the sixth grade. In 1894, the rhetoric teacher at Harrow in England wrote on a 16-year old's grade card: "A conspicuous lack of success." The name on the top of the card was that of young Winston Churchill. After school he faced many years of political failures, as he was defeated in every election for public office until he finally became the Prime Minister at the ripe old age of 62. **Abraham Lincoln:** While today he is remembered as one of the greatest leaders of our nation, Lincoln's life wasn't so easy. He received no more than 5 years of formal education throughout his lifetime. In his youth he went to war as captain and returned as the lowest rank of a private! Lincoln joined politics and had 12 major failures before he was elected the 16th President of the United States of America.

July 3: Feast of St. Thomas the Apostle

We may know him better as the “doubting Thomas” and that he evangelized southern India. Many parishioners have asked me if I was converted or my parents were converted to Christianity. The truth is that I am proud to belong to the “St. Thomas Christian Community” that traces its origin to St. Thomas himself. How could Thomas, one of the 12 Apostles, have reached India? Merchants from the Middle East used to go to India to buy spices and so Thomas reached India in one of their ships in the year 52 AD. He converted several Hindu families and established seven churches. He was martyred near Chennai and his tomb is in the Cathedral of San Thom. In fact it is interesting for us to know that there are only three Cathedrals in the world, built over the tomb of an apostle: St. Peter’s in Rome, St. James in Campostella (Spain) and St. Thomas in Chennai (India).

The Bible presents ST. Thomas as 1) A model of courage and dedicated love for his master: John 11: 16: “We too shall go and die with Him.” 2) A genuine seeker of truth: Jesus’ reply to Thomas’ question: John 20: 24-29: “I am the way, the truth and the life.” 3) A disciple who progressed from doubts to conviction and from conviction to total surrender and dedication of life to his Lord and Savior. 4) An apostle who gave the strongest proof of Christ’s resurrection by his profession of faith: “My Lord and my God.” As we rightly celebrate our political freedom this July 4th weekend, let us not forget that the good news of freedom in Jesus that St. Thomas proclaimed will be ours always.

July 4: Prayer for our Leaders

Freedom is a gift. One way to uphold this gift is to pray for our leaders. St. Paul urged Timothy “to pray for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity” (2:2). Here’s a prayer that we all can pray today:

“I thank you Gracious God, for all the ways you have blessed us through the United States. Though our nation is far from perfect, nevertheless, it has been the source of much goodness, both for American citizens and for the world. In particular, I thank you today for the freedom we have to worship you and live out our faith without fear. In today’s world, this is nothing to take for granted . . . even though I do so often take it for granted.

I pray for our leaders today. I pray for our President and his administration, for those who serve in the House of Representatives and in the Senate, for members of the Supreme Court and the federal courts, for the leaders of the U.S. Military and for all who serve in the federal government. I pray for our State leaders: the Governor, the legislators and the judges. I pray for leaders of our town and county and for all school board members. Grant to all of these and other leaders your wisdom. Give them hearts that seek you and your truth. Guide them in your ways.”



Handle Rejection in the Right Spirit!

We need to handle rejection in the right spirit. Here are some tips:

a) We can handle rejection with respect – respect for ourselves and respect for others. Our first reaction to rejection is often anger – anger at ourselves for assuming we deserve what we got and bitterness toward others who perpetuate the rejection. In the face of rejection, we will be wise to follow the advice of St. Paul who said, “Be angry and sin not. Let not the sun go down on your anger.”

b) We need to avoid self-defeating assumptions. One rejection need not be an indictment on one’s life. Rejection is not synonymous with continuous failure.

c) We need to avoid magnifying the rejection. Rejection need not be a forecast of our future, and it must not become a self-fulfilling prophecy. Rejection in the past need not be a predictor of rejection in the future.

d) We need to avoid allowing rejection to derail our dreams

and instead to keep coming back.

e) We need to learn from our rejections. We are not perfect, and we do not always get it right, but we need to keep coming back until we do get it right. Every rejection can be a lesson if we stay open to new possibilities and new opportunities. What can I do differently? How can I improve? What needs can I meet? These are the questions we need to ask if we are to prevent a trouble from going to waste.

J. K. Rowling may be rolling in a lot of Harry Potter dough today, but before she published the series of novels she was nearly penniless, severely depressed, divorced, trying to raise a child on her own while attending school and writing a novel. Rowling went from depending on welfare to survive to being one of the richest women in the world in a span of only five years through her hard work and determination.

Pray



Novena for the Saint Joseph

We will be praying a novena to St. Joseph on the **first Wednesday of the month** until the end of this year. It is at **8:30AM**, after the 8:00 AM Mass. Please join us in praying the novena prayer, **this Wed., July 7.**

Learn

Faith Formation Registration Information

Faith Formation Registration for 2021-2022 Available on Parish Website

Registration for **G.I.F.T** (our faith formation/religious education program for families with students in K-8 who are not attending a Catholic School) and all **Sacramental Preparation [First Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation 7 & 8]** is now available on the Parish Website, www.stmatthias.net. Please register today. Thank you.

— Dee Nann, Pastoral Associate, Faith Formation

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



Have You Considered Registering your Child to Attend SMS this September and Have Him/Her Learn about Jesus throughout the School Day?

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 are available. ALL are welcome! Explore our website, www.stmatthias.info, and contact mkosty@stmatthiasnj.org or 732-828-1402 to schedule an appointment. We look forward to welcoming your child!



Summer Office Hours for St. Matthias School

St. Matthias School is open Monday through Thursday from 9 AM to 1 PM, and closed on Fridays. To reach the office, call 732-828-1402.

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

Give

Stewardship Reflection July 4, 2021 Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

“As the Lord spoke to me, the spirit entered me and set me on my feet, and I heard the one who was speaking say to me, ‘Son of man, I am sending you...’” EZEKIEL 2:2-3

God has a plan for each of us. He calls us to do something for Him. But, He doesn't leave us on our own to figure it out. He gives us the resources we need to do His work. Are you listening for God's call? When you hear it, do you get on your feet and do the work He asks of you? Do not be afraid. God doesn't call the equipped, he equips the called. ANSWER HIS CALL.

Reflexiónese — 4 de julio de 2021 Domingo 14° del Tiempo Ordinario

"Cuando El Señor me habló, el Espíritu entró en mí y me mantuvo de pie para que pudiera escuchar al que me hablaba, y oí al que me hablaba que me dijo: «Hijo de hombre, te envío...” EZEQUIEL 2:2-3

Dios tiene un plan para cada uno de nosotros. Él nos llama a cada uno para hacer algo por Él. Sin embargo, Él no nos deja de nuestra cuenta para que lo descubramos. Él nos da los recursos necesarios para hacer Su trabajo. ¿Está esperando por el llamado de Dios? ¿Cuándo usted lo oye, se mantiene de pie y hace le trabajo que Él le pide a usted? No tenga miedo. Dios no llama a los equipados, El equipa a los llamados. Responda a su llamado.

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 13,	\$11,373.00	\$21,532.25	\$32,905.25	\$26,898.79
Week 51 - June 20,	\$9,721.50	\$14,130.25	\$23,851.75	\$30,307.79
Week 52 - June 27,	\$11,056.00	\$8,487.25	\$19,543.25	\$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
			\$106,273.17	\$109,682.16
			Current Year-to-date To-	Year-to-date as of Jun 30, 2020
			\$1,325,691.37	\$1,407,770.05

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 neighbors, 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.

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.

Local Community

LIFE LINE SCREENING

On July 10th at Double Tree by Hilton, Life Line Screening will offer area residents an opportunity to do something that will build health awareness about stroke, vascular disease and osteoporosis. The screenings are safe, painless, and non-invasive. If you would like more information, please visit: www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle or call toll-free 866-229-0469.



Mary-Thon of Prayer to Honor Mary

The National Blue Army Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima, invites you to join us **Tuesday, July 13**, in celebrating a Mary-thon of Prayer in honor of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist, on the 104th anniversary of the third apparition at Fatima. We welcome **Raymond Leo Cardinal Burke, Celebrant, and Rev. Joshua Caswell, SJC, Speaker**. Schedule: 10:30am confessions; 12pm Rosary Procession; 12:30 Speaker; 1:15 Holy Mass, followed by Exposition, Eucharistic Procession, Benediction, Divine Mercy Chaplet, blessing of religious articles, Fatima Farewell and enrollment in the Brown Scapular. Events can be viewed online. Visit bluearmy.com/marython for details, or call 908-689-1700, ex. 210. World Apostolate of Fatima, USA / Blue Army Shrine | 674 Mountain View Rd E., Asbury, NJ 08802

Joy of Love & Family Conference



Pope Francis has declared this year the year of St. Joseph and recently inaugurated the *Amoris Laetitia* Family Year. In his inauguration message, he urged all to support families and accompany them along the journey of life.

In honor of this special occasion, the Diocese of Metuchen, in partnership with the other four Roman Catholic Dioceses in the State of New Jersey, is hosting The Joy of Love & Family Conference Series.

We invite you to get connected with your local church family and enjoy 30+ incredible teachers, speakers and authors!

The Joy of Love & Family Conference Series will premiere over six months touching on topics for every stage of family life. **It began June 24.**

Details at: www.lightingheartsonfire.org
Questions? Contact acaballero@diometuchen.org or



Beginning Experience of the Hudson Valley is inviting men and women of all ages who have suffered the loss of a spouse through death, divorce or separation to a one day in-person program.

Coping with Life Alone- will be held on **Saturday, July 10, 2021**. Zoom option is also available.

For information or to register please call Jim at 845 569 9452 or Denise at 845 325 3147.

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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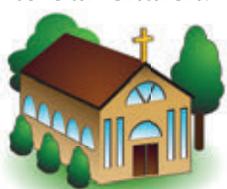
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