



St. Matthias Parish Office:
Effective Jun. 20, 2022 Summer Hours
Open Mon-Thu 8:30-4:00PM; Fri: 8:30-12:30PM
168 JFK Boulevard, Somerset, NJ 08873
732-828-1400, fax: 732-828-0866
www.stmatthias.net

Mass Schedule (in person):
Sat - 5PM, Sun - 8, 10 AM & 12 noon
M/T/W/Th/F at 8:00AM
And also on our YouTube channel
youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ

St. Matthias School (SMS):
170 JFK Blvd., Somerset, NJ 08873
www.stmatthias.info 732-828-1402
School Summer Office Hours
Mon-Thurs: 9 am– 1 pm; Fri by appointment

For all Parish emails, add @stmatthias.net
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Senior Priest: Msgr. Seamus Brennan, [sbrennan](mailto:sbrennan@stmatthias.net)
Mary Pat Burke-Grospin, Business Administrator
[mpburke-grospin](mailto:mpburke-grospin@stmatthias.net)
Deacon Ron Caimi, *Senior Deacon*
Kelly Counts, *Receptionist*, [kcounts](mailto:kcounts@stmatthias.net)
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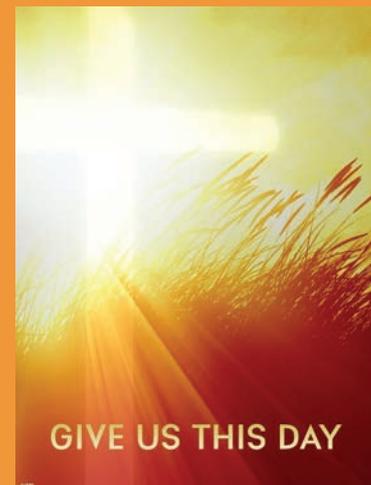
THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS

SUNDAY, JULY 24, 2022–17th Sunday in Ordinary Time



World Day
for Grandparents
and the Elderly
2022

Today has been designated by the Vatican as “World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly”. This is the second year we celebrate this special day. A link to the Pope’s letter is listed on page 7, along with an excerpt from his letter.



St. Matthias Elementary School Receives 2022 “Best of Somerset” Award!

Somerset Award Program Honors Achievement , May 5, 2022



St. Matthias Elementary School has been selected for the **2022 Best of Somerset Award in the Elementary School** category by the Somerset Award Program.

The Somerset Award Program is an annual awards program honoring the achievements and accomplishments of local businesses/ organizations throughout the Somerset area. These exceptional com-

panies/organizations help make the Somerset area a great place to live, work and play.

Various sources of information were gathered and analyzed to choose the winners in each category. The 2022 Somerset Award Program focuses on quality, not quantity. Winners are determined based on the information gathered both internally by the Somerset Award Program and data provided by third parties.

Congratulations to the Administration, Staff, Faculty and Students at St. Matthias School! We are so proud of you!!!

Last Chance to Tell Us Your Priorities on the Parish Survey!

The deadline to tell us your priorities is **next Sunday, July 31**. Don’t miss this opportunity to give us your opinion. Should we: 1) Refurbish the pews, 2) Install a new floor, 3) Add bathrooms, 4) Create a new, covered, gathering space on the side of the church (Narthex), 5) Clean the walls, or 6) Replace the church windows with stained glass windows? Complete the anonymous survey at: www.stmatthias.net/parishsurvey

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This Week @ St. Matthias From the Pastoral Staff

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

The Church is open for individual prayer

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

Sunday Jul 24, 2022

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

Monday, Jul 25, 2022 St. James, Apostle & Martyr

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------|
| 8:00AM Mass Miraculous Medal Novena | Church |
|-------------------------------------|--------|

Tuesday, Jul 26, 2022 Sts. Joachim & Anne, Parents of Mary

| | |
|-------------|--------|
| 8:00AM Mass | Church |
|-------------|--------|

Wednesday, Jul 27, 2022 St. Innocent I, Pope

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

Thursday, Jul 28, 2022 St. Alphonsa, Religious, 1st native woman Saint of India

| | |
|-------------|--------|
| 8:00AM Mass | Church |
|-------------|--------|

Friday, Jul 29, 2022 Memorial, Martha, Mary & Lazarus

| | |
|-------------|--------|
| 8:00AM Mass | Church |
|-------------|--------|

Saturday, Jul 30, 2022 St. Peter Chrysologus, Bishop & Doctor of the church

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

Sunday Jul 31, 2022

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| 8:00AM Mass | Church |
| 9:30AM ServiceWorX | Café & Off Site |
| 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 8 AM, **MONDAY, 6 before the bulletin date** (earlier for holiday weekends). Approved content is published on a space-available basis.



LORD, TEACH US TO FORGIVE



Today, in Saint Luke's gospel we read one of the most well-known readings to Christians around the world: Jesus teaching His disciples how to pray to the Father. This version of the "Our Father" in comparison to the one written by Saint Matthew is much shorter and a bit different. The Lord's Prayer is the prayer of the Church. It relates to us as the daughters and sons of God created in His image and likeness, and likewise it instructs us as to how we are to lead our lives. Jesus taught His disciples by example, and they knew that Jesus was a very prayerful man, as this was not the first time they observed Him in prayer. Witnessing Jesus in prayer, His disciples asked Him to show them how to pray.

As we know, the "Our Father" is more than just a supplication to God. It is a life lesson, a universal instruction on forgiveness. Once we have sinned, forgiveness is the remedy that puts us back on the road to God's grace. Sin is very hurtful and breaks our relationship with God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Forgiveness is always two-fold, and as Christians, in order to be forgiven, we must forgive others. As Saint John writes (20:23), "If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven". The outcome of forgiveness is peace; living a life in harmony with God, self and others. Forgiveness has a way of changing one's entire manner of being. It lifts you up to a true sense of restoration, a *renew-ness* in God's love. In the end, it puts a smile on your face, knowing that love has triumphed over vengeance and antipathy.

Consequently, we look to Jesus the Teacher instructing us on the original meaning of forgiveness when at His crucifixion as He hangs dying on the cross, He says, "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do" (Lk 23:34). There is no greater example of love for us than this.

Joseph C Gidaro
Vice Principal

Readings for the Week

Monday: 2 Cor 4:7-15; Ps 126:1bc-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5, 6; Mt 20:20-28

Tuesday: Jer 14:17-22; Ps 79:8, 9, 11 and 13; Mt 13:36-43

Wednesday: Jer 15:10, 16-21; Ps 59:2-3, 4, 10-11, 17, 18; Mt 13:44-46

Thursday: Jer 18:1-6; Ps 146:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6ab; Mt 13:47-53

Friday: Jer 26:1-9; Ps 69:5, 8-10, 14; Jn 11:19-27 or Lk 10:38-42

Saturday: Jer 26:11-16, 24; Ps 69:15-16, 30-31, 33-34; Mt 14:1-12

Sunday: Ecc 1:2; 2:21-23; Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14 and 17; Col 3:1-5, 9-11; Lk 12:13-21

Mass Intentions for the Week

| | | |
|--------------------------|----------|---|
| Saturday, Jul 23 | 5:00PM | Dominic Fama, by Cathy Fama |
| Sunday, Jul 24 | 8:00AM | Patrizia Nese, by The Borys Family |
| | 10:00AM | Grace McLaughlin, by Dee Nann |
| | 12:00PM | Filomena Giannattasio, by Christina Alfano |
| | (5:30PM) | Intention of Parishioners |
| Monday, Jul 25 | 8:00AM | Lou Carcich, by Vinnie |
| Tuesday, Jul 26 | 8:00AM | Jill Szabo, by The Mazzeo Family |
| Wednesday, Jul 27 | 8:00AM | Deceased Members of the Sunga & Munar Families, by Flora Sunga |
| Thursday, Jul 28 | 8:00AM | Giuseppina DiMeglio, by Agnes Vergel |
| Friday, Jul 29 | 8:00AM | Health & Blessings for Renee Jolly, by Marie, Nathalie & Ysa |
| Saturday, Jul 30 | 5:00PM | Frank Sciotto, by Lena & grandchildren |
| Sunday, Jul 31 | 8:00AM | Rose Trimarchi, by Anthony LaTorre & family |
| | 10:00AM | Grace McLaughlin, by Mary Pat Burke-Grospin |
| | 12:00PM | Health & Blessings for Jean Alix Jolly & Troy Battle, by The Godet Family |
| | (5:30PM) | Intention of Parishioners |

Pray for those who are sick...

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

Beth & Jay Adams
Erika Adams
Brandon Barbarite
Carolyn Banghart
Gloria Barone-Tuckey
Edith Benko
Anthony Brandi
Barbara Butler
Tara Capatosto
Ellen Catalina
Michael DiMaggio
Mary Dolan
William Dolphin
Vivian Dong
Tom Duffy
Josephine Geenty
Claudia Gemgnani
Emma Gergely

Rose Gessner
Mary Gidaro
Sloopy & John Hoffman
Baby Isla-Rose Huffman
Rose Larangeira
The Litrakis Family
John Litrakis
Kenneth & Kelly Magat
[Clarissa & Kevin Magat](#)
Al Maglio
King Manansala
Susan & Tosh Manansala
Beatrice May
Margaret Menendez
Carol Millemann
Sabrina Moloney
Dave Moynihan
Eleanor Nagy

Janice Navatkowski
Jean Oberlander
Dan O'Brien
Danny Ongchangco
Paul & Doris Paetow
Robert Pellegrino
Jim Pettit
Christina Pietrowiak
Ruth Piscadlo
Gabriel Rivera
Jaxon Rivera
Barbara Ruziska
Maria Schwenzer
Lena Sciotto
Buddy Scott
Sr. Mary Amata Shina, OSF
Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF
Jeff Sullivan

Jeff Tami
Angie Montalbo Tinio
[Jerry Tongson](#)
Jeaninne Tosh
Regina Wellman
[Robert Wesner](#)
Mark T. Worthington

And for all who are ill, homebound, elderly, in nursing care, or living with chronic illness, we pray.

Pray for those who have died...

— “His mercy endures forever.” *Chronicles*

Gabrianna Andrews
Teresa Olkewicz
John Podskoc

Reflect



Smile with Your Family



"God is not deaf but grandma is:" Two young boys were spending the night at their rich grandma's house during Christmas. She was getting them ready for bed, and reminded them to say their prayers. Grandma left the boys alone and went into the next room before coming back to tuck them in. The older of the two said his prayers, thanking God and asking Him to bless grandma, his friends and family. Then, it was his younger brother's turn. He offered the same prayer as his big brother, but at the end of the prayer, he shouted in a very loud voice, "And God, please send me a new scooter and a CD player." His older brother turned and said, "You don't have to shout. God isn't deaf." "I know," the younger one replied. "But Grandma is."

behind them. One man says, "Eddie, did you know I've been taking these new memory pills to help me remember my prayers? They're tremendous." "I would like to improve my memory too," said the other man. "What are those pills called?" The first man scratches his head, embarrassed because he can't remember the name of the memory pills. "Wait!" he exclaims. "Let me ask my wife." He thinks a moment and then says, "My God! I forgot her name. It's the same name as a flower with red petals, long green stems and thorns." "The rose?" Eddie guesses. "Yes, that's her name!" the first man replies. Smiling brightly, he turns around to ask his wife. "Rose! What is the name of those memory pills I take?"

Memory pills to remember the prayers. Two elderly men were walking along the beach and their wives were walking



Marriage Tune-Up

Do you ever bargain with your beloved? "If you watch the kids, I'll be able to do this repair project." OR "If only you could give me 5 more minutes, 1 hour, 1 day to finish this, we could spend some quality time together. It's not bad to negotiate, but keep your end of the bargain. (Genesis. 18: 20-32)

Parenting Tune-Up



The 4th Sunday in July is Parents Day. Go beyond the "Hallmark Holiday" notion. Perhaps use it as a time to tell your children what it was like for you to await their birth. How did you prepare?

God the giving, exhausted "Parent"

"When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come . . . For everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened." Luke 11: 1-13

A mom looks back on the joys and challenges of parenthood:

"I remember giving birth as one of the most empowering and vulnerable-making experiences of my life . . . [but] looking back now over my years of parenting, I can see that vulnerability has been the name of the game all along. My cocky sense of certainty ended seconds after my daughter was born. I couldn't get her to breast-feed. Or sleep through the night. I didn't know what to do when she cried. As she got older, she asked questions I couldn't answer. She had opinions I found bewildering. She faced challenges I couldn't fix. Every moment of pain, fear, loneliness, or defeat she and her little brother experienced resounded inside of me, a deafening gong. To give

myself over to mothering was to know powerlessness like I'd never known it before. Yes, I had authority and strength. But my strength never canceled out my vulnerability.

"Is God's experience similar? I was taught that God is unchanging, transcendent, all-knowing, all-powerful. But the truth is, it's not possible to parent without experiencing risk, weakness, pain, and transformation. It is not possible to offer up your own body as nourishment, or to nudge your frightened child out of the nest, or to carry your reckless young on your outstretched wings, or to watch your children refuse your protection, or to offer first-rate hospitality in the full knowledge that it might be rejected — and not embrace vulnerability as a way

of life. If God is indeed our parent, then God daily puts God's heart at risk for the sake of love."

*[Debie Thomas, minister of lifelong formation at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Palo Alto, California, writing in **The Christian Century**, May 4, 2022.]*

A central theme of Jesus' teaching is that God our Creator loves us as a father or mother loves their children. As the moms and dads among us will attest, such love is demanding, complete — and exhausting. God is our Parent who knows what it costs to hold and what it costs to let go, to birth, to nurse, to love, to guide, to launch us on our own paths — God's heart is on the line until we learn to fly, choose our course, and make our way home. "Our Father in heaven" models

Reflect

God the giving, exhausted “Parent” (con’t.)

for us the love of generous and selfless parenthood, reminding us that we are all mother and father and sister and brother to one another “on earth as in heaven.”

A Prayer in every Stitch



The soon-to-be grandmother begins knitting a sweater for her grandchild coming into the world. In the choice of yarn and design and color, she welcomes this special gift of God. In every stitch are all her prayers for a safe delivery, for the good health of her daughter, for a life of joy and a future of meaning and fulfillment for the newest member of her family, for the grace and wisdom to be a good grandmother to this child. The sweater itself becomes her prayer for the safety and well-being of mother and child, an offering of love, a ritual welcoming this new life into her family. [Adapted from *The Knitting Sutra: Craft as a Spiritual Practice* by Susan Gordon Lydon.]

Prayer, Jesus teaches, is not something that moves us from outside of our lives but should come from within our lives. Prayer is to realize God’s presence in the joys and discoveries, the messiness and frustrations of our lives as parents, children, professionals, workers, citizens, students and teammates. To truly understand the words of Jesus’ prayer in today’s Gospel is to approach prayer as a connection between the compassion of God and the love we experience in our lives, between God’s forgiveness and the forgiveness we extend, between the holy creativity of God and the work we do for our daily bread. Prayer is to be conscious of God’s grace in every moment of our lives, an awareness of God’s love in our midst in both the bread of the Eucharist and the lunch we make for our families, in the waters of baptism and the laundry, in the precious moments for quiet reflection and the rambunctious joy of playing with our kids.

“Never give up!”

Years ago in Illinois, a young man with six months schooling and self-education competed in the state and national elections nine times and got defeated six times. First he ran for an office in the legislature when he was 23 and was beaten. Next he entered business with a partner but failed in that too, and spent the next seventeen years paying the debts of his worthless partner. He fell in love with a charming lady and they became engaged, but she died.

The next year he had a nervous breakdown. Relying on the power of prayer, he ran for the post of Speaker (at 29), of Elector (at 31) and for a seat in Congress (at 34). He was defeated each time. He then tried to obtain an appointment to the U.S. Land Office as commissioner, but didn’t succeed. He became a candidate for the Vice-Presidency and lost. Two years later he was defeated in an election to the Senate (at 46). He ran for office once more and was elected the sixteenth President of the United States in 1860 when he was 51. That man was **Abraham Lincoln** who put his trust in the power of persistent prayer coupled with never-fading Faith in God’s goodness. It took Winston Churchill three years to get through the eighth grade, because he couldn’t pass English! Ironically, he was asked many years later to give the commencement address at Oxford University. His famous speech consisted of only three words: “Never give up!” ***In today’s Gospel, after teaching the Lord’s Prayer, Jesus instructs us that we should never give up in our prayer life.***

Are these my Excuses for not Praying?

Modern Christians give four lame excuses for not praying.

- a) **The first excuse:** We are too busy. The richer a culture is, the less time it has for prayer, because money and wealth provide distractions. Researchers say that the average Christian living in a wealthy country prays four minutes a day. Often the first thing given up by a busy Christian is his prayer life.
- b) **A second excuse:** We don’t believe prayer does that much good, other than giving us psychological motivation to be better persons. Besides psychological motivation, prayer establishes and augments our relationship with God, the source of our power.
- c) **A third excuse:** A loving God should provide for us and protect us from the disasters of life, such as disease or accidents, without our asking Him. Prayer expresses our awareness of our need for God and our dependence on Him.
- d) **A fourth excuse:** Prayer is boring. People who use this excuse forget the fact that prayer is a conversation with God: listening to God speaking to us through the Bible and talking to God. You can’t have a close relationship with anyone, including God, without persistent and intimate conversation. Four minutes a day is not much intimate conversation. Since our society concludes that prayer doesn’t work, it turns to sex, violence and unhealthy addictions resulting in broken marriages, broken families, psychological problems, moral decadence, spiritual poverty, law-and-order problems, and prison populations.

"Why don't you just try putting on the emergency brake?"

Father Barry Foster, a priest in Dublin, Ireland, parked his car on a rather steep slope close to his church. His little dog was lying on the rear seat and could not be seen by anyone outside the vehicle. Father Foster got out of the car and turned to lock the door with his usual parting command to the dog. "Stay!" he ordered loudly, to an apparently empty car. "Stay!" An elderly man was watching the performance with amused interest. Grinning, he suggested, "Why don't you just try putting on the emergency brake?" (Colin Jeffery, *Catholic Digest*, May 1992, p. 72).

The theme of today's Gospel is prayer and model prayer. To the unbeliever, prayer is an exercise in futility like ordering "Stay," to an automobile fully expecting it to obey. But to the believer, prayer is the most powerful and the most reliable force in the world today by which we communicate with God.

Prayer: Persistent and Persevering



In the second part of today's Gospel, by presenting the parable of a friend in need, Jesus emphasizes our need for persistent and persevering prayer, acknowledging our total dependence on God. In the ancient Hebrew world, hos-

pitality was the essence of one's goodness. To welcome a visitor without food and drink was unthinkable. A traveler who was traveling in the evening to avoid the heat of the afternoon, might well arrive late at night. But the villagers used to go to bed early, as they had no electricity. So in this parable, when a man received unexpected guests late at night and found his cupboard bare, he went to his neighbor and woke him in order to borrow a loaf of bread. In those days, people generally slept in one room, the children bedded down with the adults. Rising to answer the door would disrupt the whole family and hence the neighbor was reluctant to get up. Finally, however, because of the persistence of his guest, he got up and gave bread to his neighbor.

This parable does not mean that God is a reluctant giver. Rather it stresses the necessity of our persisting in prayer as the expression of our total dependence on God. Persevering in prayer helps us to purify our prayer, to make clear to ourselves our values and hopes, and to lead us to ask for what is really in our very best interests. St. Paul tells us to "pray without ceasing" (Romans), "pray at all times" (Ephesians), "be steadfast in prayer" (Colossians), and "pray constantly" (Thessalonians). Jesus assures us, "Knock and the door shall be opened."

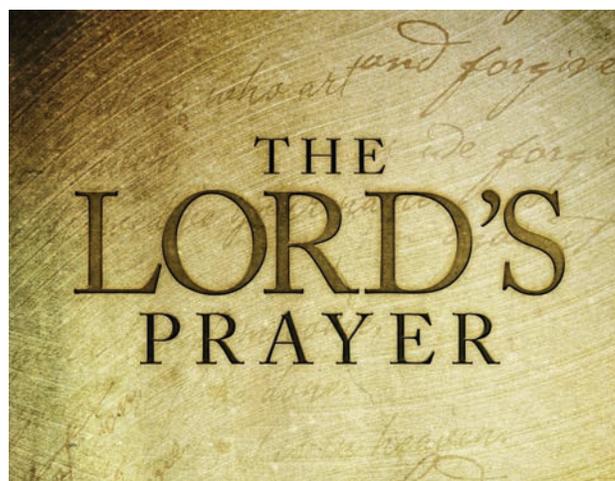
"Prayer doesn't change God; it changes me."

A colleague asked C.S. Lewis if he really thought he could change God with his prayer for the cure of his wife's cancer. Lewis replied: "Prayer doesn't change God; it changes me." William McGill summed it up this way. "The value of persistent prayer is not that God will hear us but that we will finally hear God." Keep in mind that Jesus has taught us to address God as Father. A loving Father listens to his child, but does not blindly endorse every request. Instead, the loving Father provides what is needed, including discipline. Bishop Sheen has this comment on prayer: "The man who thinks only of himself says prayers of petition. He who thinks of his neighbor says prayers of intercession. He who thinks only of loving and serving God says prayers of abandonment to God's will, and that is the prayer of the saints." To pray is not to impose our will on God but to ask God to make us open to his will; in other words, we pray not to change God's mind but for God to change ours.

The Our Father is the "summary of the whole Gospel" (Tertullian) and it is the "perfect prayer" (St. Thomas Aquinas). "The Lord's Prayer is the most perfect of prayers... In it we ask, not only for all the things we can rightly desire, but also in the sequence that they should be desired. This prayer not only teaches us to ask for things, but also in what order we should desire them." (St. Thomas Aquinas, as quoted in Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2763)

"Forgive us our trespasses..."

Edith Bunker, on the television show *All in the Family*, described the confessional boxes in the Catholic Church as "telephone booths to God." Well, they are not quite that. But every prayer must contain an element of confession. We are not all God means for us to be. We are finite creatures in every respect. We need His mercy, His compassion, His amazing grace. So we pray for forgiveness and sometimes we pray for the ability to forgive.



Pray



World Day
for Grandparents
and the Elderly
2022

Today we celebrate the 2nd World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. Below is an excerpt from Pope Francis' Message. The complete message is available at: <https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/nonni/documents/20220503-messaggio-nonni-anziani.html>

Dear Friends,

"In old age they will still bear fruit" (Ps 92:15). These words of the Psalmist are glad tidings, a true "gospel" that we can proclaim to all on this second World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. They run counter to what the world thinks about this stage of life, but also to the attitude of grim resignation shown by some of us elderly people, who harbour few expectations for the future.

Many people are afraid of old age. They consider it a sort of disease with which any contact is best avoided. The elderly, they think, are none of their concern and should be set apart, perhaps in homes or places where they can be cared

for, lest we have to deal with their problems. This is the mindset of the "throw-away culture", which leads us to think that we are somehow different from the poor and vulnerable in our midst, untouched by their frailties and separated from "them" and their troubles. The Scriptures see things differently. A long life – so the Bible teaches – is a blessing, and the elderly are not outcasts to be shunned but living signs of the goodness of God who bestows life in abundance. Blessed is the house where an older person lives! Blessed is the family that honors the elderly! Old age is not a time of life easily understood even by those of us who are already experiencing it. Even though it eventually comes with the passage of time, no one prepares us for old age, and at times it seems to take us by surprise...

Old age is no time to give up and lower the sails, but a season of enduring fruitfulness: a new mission awaits us and bids us look to the future...

Many of us have come to a sage and humble realization of what our world very much needs: the recognition that we are not saved alone, and that happiness is a bread we break together. Let us bear witness to this before those who wrongly think that they can find personal fulfillment and success in conflict..."

Learn



St. Martin de Porres Society Racial Justice Initiative Update — July 2022

In 2018, the USCCB published a pastoral letter "Open Wide Our Hearts" calling Catholics to take up the work of racial justice. The bishops identified racism, and the systems and structures that enable racism to persist in our culture, as "social sin". Perhaps you will recall this extraordinary pastoral letter, which included these words:

"We instruct our priests, deacons, religious brothers and sisters, lay leaders, our parish staffs, and all the faithful to endeavor to be missionary disciples carrying forth the message of fraternal charity and human dignity.

We ask them to fight the evil of racism by educating themselves, reflecting on their personal thoughts and actions, listening to the experience of those who have been affected by racism, and by developing and supporting programs that help repair the damages caused by racial discrimination."

At St Matthias, the St Martin de Porres Society launched the Racial Justice Initiative, responding to the pastoral letter,

and to the needs of our parish community. Last month, a small group of St Matthias parishioners completed a program in Faith and Racial Equity. The program began with a retreat in February, followed by 9 meetings spread over 16 weeks. The program addresses economic systems, public policies, cultural norms, and hidden biases that empower some and oppress others. The first half of the program lays the groundwork for understanding and identifying racial privilege. Later sessions take a deeper dive into specific issues related to power and privilege, including affirmative action, the school-to-prison pipeline, disparities within the criminal justice system, and biases in media representation.

Together, we explored how our Catholic faith should inform our response and help us discern action steps for working toward racial equity in our own community. Each session of the program started and ended in prayer and involved discussion of the assigned readings for that session. The sessions were facilitated by St Matthias parishioners, whose role in the sessions was to keep us on time and to encourage participation in "holy conversation".

The program was well-received by all the participants, encouraging us to run the program again in the fall. As we get

(Cont'd on next page)



St. Martin de Porres Society Racial Justice Initiative Update (con't.)

closer to the date, we will provide sign-up information. In the meantime, if you would like to join the Racial Justice Initiative, or have questions, please email us at matthiasracialjustice@gmail.com.

How Does/Should the Church Make Decisions?

It's not too late to sign up for the Vatican Synod video classes addressing how the church can make future decisions through the process of communal discernment. The videos examine what discernment is and how to use it, especially when there are conflicting views. The videos also reflect on current leadership and governance within the church and discuss how to retrieve the early church's Tradition of listening to the Holy Spirit's guidance through communal discernment – a process critically needed for future leadership and governance in our Church. Some of the videos also offer handouts if you prefer to read rather than watch videos. Don't miss this opportunity!

The videos were released on July 4 and you can watch them whenever they fit your schedule. Register (for free) at: <https://formaciononline.bc.edu/en/home>



2022-2023 GIFT for K-8 Religious Formation

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 2022-2023.

The 2022-2023 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 2022-2023 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. It is required for non-Catholic school children also during the sacramental prep years.**

Attention 2nd Graders: First Eucharist Preparation 6466-2023

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 2022] or older who desire to receive the Sacraments of First Reconciliation/First Eucharist in 2023, 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 2022-2023. Be sure to register early.

The sacramental preparation fee for this program is \$80. The 2022-2023 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 the Parish Office, 732-828-1400.

Attention 7th & 8th Graders: Confirmation Preparation 2022-2023

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 **2022-2023 Confirmation registration form online**, available at <https://www.stmatthias.net/confirmation/>

A parent meeting for 7th grade parents will be held in November for all registered 7th graders-or those in Year 1 of Confirmation Preparation who may be a bit older. **Questions?** Please email Dee Nann at dnann@stmatthias.net

Learn

HELP SPREAD THE WORD!



Saint Matthias School registration is open. We are enrolling students in PreK 3, PreK 4, Kindergarten and grades 1-8.



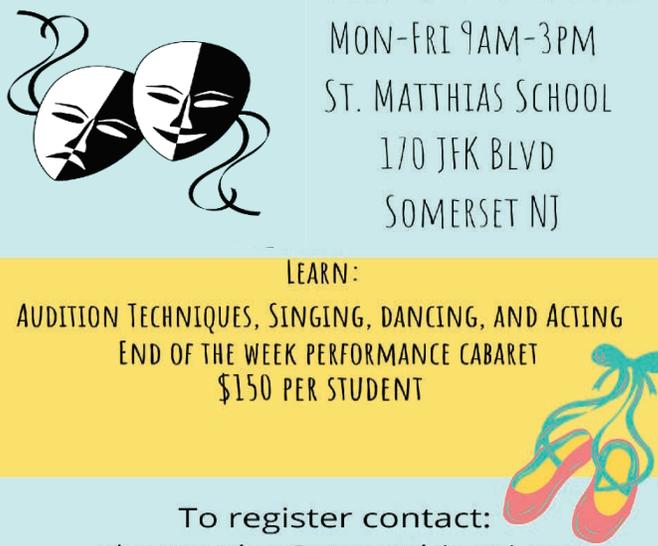
Please help us spread the word about our school filled with faith, caring, and excellence to your relatives, friends, and neighbors. ALL are welcome! Thank you!

Explore our website, www.stmatthias.info, and contact Maria Kosty at mkosty@stmatthiasnj.org to schedule an appointment. We look forward to welcoming your child!



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cbermudez@stmatthiasnj.org
jpugnet@stmatthiasnj.org

Give (and Receive!)

| Stewardship Totals for Fiscal Year July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023 | | | | Last Year's Total |
|---|-------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Current Month | In-Pew/Mail | Parish Giving* | Weekly Total | Weekly Total |
| Week 1 - July 3, 2022 | \$10,494.53 | \$14,756.25 | \$25,250.78 | \$22,576.25 |
| Week 2 - July 10, 2022 | \$13,907.27 | \$24,267.75 | \$38,175.02 | \$33,857.28 |
| Week 3 - July 17, 2022 | \$7,348.00 | \$12,160.25 | \$19,508.25 | \$22,864.25 |
| Week 4 - July 24, 2022 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$21,278.66 |
| Week 5 - July 31, 2022 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$21,517.25 |
| | | | Month-to-date Total | July Total Last Yr |
| | | | \$82,934.05 | \$122,093.69 |
| | | | Current Year-to-date Total | Year-to-date as of |
| | | | \$82,934.05 | \$122,093.69 |

Stewardship Reflection Jul 24, 2022 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.” Luke 11:9

Jesus assures us that if we ask, God will take care of what we need. The problem is that our culture often confuses what we really need with what we simply want. The truth is that many of us need very little. However, we usually want so much more! Stewardship is simply being grateful for all that we are and all that we have been given, and generously sharing all of our God-given gifts with others. Generosity is a gift that opens doors to new relationships with others and with God.

Reflexiones — 24 de julio 2022 - 17º Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario

“Pidan, y se les dará; busquen, y encontrarán; llamen, y se les abrirá la puerta” Lucas 11: 9

Jesús nos asegura que, si le pedimos, Dios se ocupará de nuestras necesidades. El problema es que nuestra cultura a menudo confunde lo que realmente necesitamos y lo que simplemente queremos. La verdad es que muchos de nosotros necesitamos muy poco. Sin embargo, ¡usualmente queremos mucho más! Corresponsabilidad es simplemente estar agradecido por todo lo que somos y por todo lo que se nos ha dado, y compartir generosamente con los demás todos los dones que Dios nos ha otorgado. La generosidad es un don que abre puertas a nuevas relaciones con los demás y con Dios.

SAINT MATTHIAS SCHOOL POSITIONS AVAILABLE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR

1. **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, overall monitoring of children in grades Pre-K 3 to 8.

2. **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.

3. **FOOD SERVICE WORKER** needed to join our cafeteria staff in September. This is a part-time position. We are looking for candidates that are friendly; able to establish and maintain effective working relationships with coworkers, students and staff; and able to work as a team in a fast paced environment. No experience necessary.

Duties and Responsibilities

Primary responsibilities include providing assistance to the school lunch program by preparing and serving food to school students and staff.

In addition, your duties include restocking and maintaining supplies for the kitchen and cafeteria, as well as maintaining and cleaning the kitchen, equipment, and washing dishes. You are required to stand and be able to lift up to 35 pounds.

Prior to employment, all candidates for all positions will be:

- *Fingerprinted
- *Subject to a background check
- *Complete the "Protecting God's Children" Program
- *Be in compliance of the school's vaccination requirement

If interested, please contact Joe Gidaro,

jgidaro@stmatthiasnj.org OR

Mary Lynch, mlynch@stmatthiasnj.org

St. Matthias School Summer Office Hours

Effective June 20, 2022

Monday through Thursday: 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Friday: Closed or by appointment. 732-828-1402

St. Matthias Parish Office Summer Hours

Effective June 20, 2022

Monday-Thursday 8:30AM—4:00PM

Friday—8:30AM-12:30PM

Connecting with our Local Community

St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church Tricky Tray Auction, Oct. 7, 2022



St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church, 1900 Brooks Boulevard, Hillsborough will present a TRICKY TRAY AUCTION on **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2022**. Gift certificates and many prizes including flat screen TV, computer, Kindle, appliances, theme baskets, designer purses, and 50/50 will be available.

Doors open at 5:00 PM. Auction begins at 7:00 PM. Tickets are \$20 which includes one sheet of tickets, door prize ticket, delicious desserts, coffee, tea and a goodie bag. Tickets can be purchased by contacting the rectory at 908 725 0615 or Marge at 908 722 5894. Must be 18 to attend. Ticket limit 250. Contact: <https://stmaryhillsboroughnj.org>

Parish Leadership

| | | | | |
|---|------------------------|-------------------------|--|-------------------------|
| Parish Pastoral Council: | Co-Secretaries: | Ana Kelly, Ex-Officio | Parish Finance Council: | Joe Porter |
| Co-Chairs: | Frank Rees | Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio | Kester Hector, Chair | Joan Pritchard |
| Rose Peng, rosepeng@optonline.net | Marilyn Wegg | | Finance Council | Mary Pat Burke-Grospin, |
| John Taylor, jptaylor1068@yahoo.com | Stephan Busono | Trustees: | @stmatthias.net | Ex-Officio |
| | Anne Marie Francis | Isaac Peng | Barry Dusault | Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio |
| | Bill Isele | Marge Richards | Gwen Orlowski | |
| | Maria Tapia-Burch | | Audrey Francis | |

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

Parish Registration — Welcome to St. Matthias! Please register on our website. www.stmatthias.net/join-us, or visit the Parish Office.

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

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

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) - If you are interested in becoming a Catholic or completing the Sacraments of Initiation--Baptism/Confirmation/Eucharist, please call the Parish Office.



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



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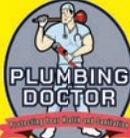
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event dates

| | | |
|---------|---------|-----------|
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| June 21 | July 19 | August 16 |
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