



ST. MATTHIAS CHURCH

All are Welcome

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):

170 JFK Boulevard, Somerset, NJ 08873
732-828-1402; www.stmatthias.info

For all Parish emails, add @stmatthias.net

Pastor: Rev Abraham Orapankal, **abraham**

Parochial Vicar: Rev. Msgr. Joseph Curry, **jcurry**

Priest-in-Residence: Msgr. Seamus Brennan

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)

Elena Malinconico, Principal, **emalinconico**

Joseph Gidaro, Vice Principal, **jgidaro**

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS

SUNDAY, JUNE 13, 2021 –

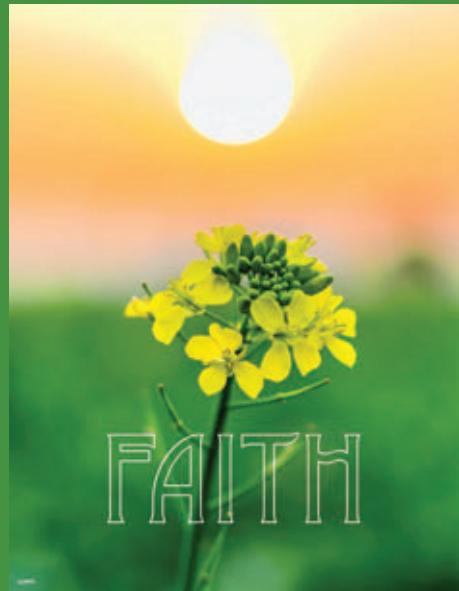
Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Highlights—This Week

New Liturgical Ministers Needed!

Do you want to become more involved in the parish? Please consider becoming a Liturgical Minister. There are many opportunities!

As more parishioners return to Mass in-person, we need more volunteers. Schedules are flexible. Please consider this. We need you! See page 7.



New Pastoral Council Members & Officers

On **Sunday, June 27, at the 10 AM Mass**, we will have the Commissioning of the 2021/2022 Pastoral Council.

We would like to welcome our three new members:
Frank Rees, Maria Tapia-Burch, and Marilyn Wegg.

Their term will begin after the Commissioning.

Our new Pastoral Council officers are all beginning their third year on the Council. They are:

Claudine Langrin, Co-Chair

MaryBeth Vetter Purcell, Co-Chair

Lorraine Farr, Co-Secretary

Anne Marie Francis, Co-Secretary

We would also like to thank our outgoing members who have served for the past three years. Thank you to Tom Aussem, Denise Brown, Nick Grippo, Joe Percoco and Lisa Robinson!

Next Saturday, June 19 at 5:00 PM Mass

We will be commemorating the Juneteenth holiday marking when enslaved African-Americans achieved freedom 150 years ago.

For more information, please see the article on page 8.



Please start your 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

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, Jun 13, 2021

8:00AM	Mass	Church
10:00AM	Mass	Church
12:00PM	Mass	Church
6:30PM	SMYLE Youth session	Zoom

Monday, Jun 14, 2021

8:00AM	Mass	Church
8:30AM	Miraculous Medal Novena	Church
7:00PM	Finance Council Mtg.	Zoom

Tuesday, Jun 15, 2021

8:00AM	Daily Mass	Church
6:00PM	Funeral Team Mtg.	Neumann Rm
7:00PM	Pastoral Council Mtg.	Zoom
7:30PM	Hand Bell rehearsal	Church

Wednesday, Jun 16, 2021

8:00AM	Daily Mass	Church
9:30AM	Prayer Group 1– Holy Spirit	de Porres Rm
6:00PM	SMDP Mtg. w/ Fr. Abraham	& Fr. Joe Cafeteria
7:30PM	Parish Vocation Ministry	Zoom

Thursday, Jun 17, 2021

8:00AM	Daily Mass	Church
7:00PM	Prayer Shawl Ministry	Ruiz Rm

Friday, Jun 18, 2021

8:00AM	Daily Mass	Church
7:00PM	Boy Scout Mtg.	Cafeteria

Saturday, Jun 19, 2021 Juneteenth Celebration

10:00AM	BS Trp. 154 & CS Trp. 195 Car Track Races	Cafeteria & Tents in Parking Lot
3:30PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation	Church
5:00PM	Mass	

Sunday, Jun 20, 2021 Father's Day

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,

We just went through the week of graduations. It was very heart-warming to see the graduation of the little ones in Pre-K and Kindergarten. Their innocent glow as they sang some beautiful songs and posed for the diplomas touched everyone. The graduation of our 8th graders was more of a defining moment that elicited mixed feelings of joy and sadness — joy at the fact of this class of 2021 crossing an important milestone in their lives. All the parents and family, school administration and faculty, priests and parishioners are happy to see them moving onto the next phase of the journey of their life.



At the same time, there is that tinge of sadness of missing these young vibrant students who were a part of our life here. Friday before graduation, their last day of class, was an emotional day for all. In the St. Matthias tradition, the parents and faculty made it special for them by clapping these seniors out, with the band playing. The parents wrote names and messages on the ground for the students to read.

My hope - as is that of everyone else – is that these graduates will carry the torch of St. Matthias wherever they go, in the way they live out the motto of our school: FAITH, CARING AND EXCELLENCE. My prayer is that the seeds of faith the Principal and Vice-Principal have sown in these students, with the help of the caring teachers, will keep them faithful to Jesus Christ and His Church. I wish to single out our Fr. Joe for special appreciation for his good will and initiative in imparting faith and religious practices to the whole school during the pandemic year.

As the school year is ending, Mrs. Elena Malinconico, our present principal, will be leaving us for another assignment. Everyone will agree with me that this year was the most challenging for every school principal and it is no exaggeration to say that Mrs. Malinconico did an excellent job in keeping our school open, offering both in-person and remote learning, and keeping all our students safe though this past uncertain and anxious year. Thanks to her vigilant leadership, St. Matthias did not have to close the school for any prolonged period, as many other schools had to do. As we thank her for her short but dedicated service to our school community, I wish her all success in her next assignment.

As already announced earlier, as well as in my letter in last week's bulletin, we welcome Mrs. Mary Lynch as the new principal of St. Matthias. St. Matthias School is an integral part of the mission of St. Matthias Parish, and all of us have a stake in its well-being and progress. Thank you to all who have been supporting our school in various ways. May our desire to pass our faith to the next generation bear good fruits.

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Orapankal

Readings for the Week

Monday: 2 Cor 6:1-10; Ps 98:1, 2b, 3-4; Mt 5:38-42

Tuesday: 2 Cor 8:1-9; Ps 146:2, 5-6ab, 6c-7, 8-9a; Mt 5:43-48

Wednesday: 2 Cor 9:6-11; Ps 112:1bc-2, 3-4, 9; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday: 2 Cor 11:1-11; Ps 111:1b-2, 3-4, 7-8; Mt 6:7-15

Friday: 2 Cor 11:18, 21-30; Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7; Mt 6:19-23

Saturday: 2 Cor 12:1-10; Ps 34:8-9, 10-11, 12-13; Mt 6:24-34

Sunday: Jb 38:1, 8-11; Ps 107:23-24, 25-26, 28-29, 30-31; 2 Cor 5:14-17; Mk 4:35-41

*Mass intentions for the 5:30PM Mass will combined with the that at the 12PM Mass.

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, Jun 12	5:00PM	Moksha & Family, by The Nathan Family
Sunday, Jun 13	8:00AM	Intention of Parishioners
	10:00AM	Maria Beth Oria, by Dee Nann
	12:00PM	Charles Coffaro, by Wife & children
	5:30PM*	In Loving Memory of Antoinetta & Antonio DiRienzo, by The DiRienzo Family
Monday, Jun 14	8:00AM	Sr. Teresia Krausova, by The OSF Community
Tuesday, Jun 15	8:00AM	David Dunn, by Pat & Frank Sellinger
Wednesday, Jun 16	8:00AM	Deceased Members of SMS Class of "76", by Martha Vogel Stepnowski
Thursday, Jun 17	8:00AM	Pat Toland, by The Stuewe Family
Friday, Jun 18	8:00AM	Health & Blessings for Manfred Manzel, by The Valdez & De Guzman Families
Saturday, Jun 19	5:00PM	Rita Lisi, by Girl Scout Troop #66404
Sunday, Jun 20	8:00AM	Ligaya Encarnacion Bautista, by Jimbo Delacruz
	10:00AM	Raquel Fischbach, by The Rosary Altar Society
	12:00PM	The Andrade—Gavilanes Dads, by The Gavilanes 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.

Beth & Jay Adams	Mary Dolan	Beatrice May	Maria Schwenzer
Elbren, Sr. & Natalia Agdeppa	Marty Dolphin	Margaret Menendez	Sr. Mary Amata Shina, OSF
Lucille Albani	William Dolphin	Gail Miranda	Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF
Kristy Alexander	Dorothy Domenici	Dave Moynihan	Encarnacion (Gina) So
Carolyn Banghart	Josephine Geenty	Baby Ezran Natural	Alessandro Spagnolo
Maria Barreiro	Claudia Gemgnani	Patricia Nese	Dennis Stuewe
Marie Brody	Emma Gergely	Danny Ochangco	Jeff Tami
Baby Isla-Rose Callahan	Rose Gessner	Julianne Opydike	Madeline Tarantino
Tara Capatosto	Mary Gidaro	Maria Pennington	Fred & Carolyn Vanmiddlesworth
Ellen & Frank Catalina	Emma Himey	Jim Pettit	Carmencita Ventura
Sean Clancy	Sloopy Hoffman	Christina Pietrowiak	Eulalia Villanueva
Barbara Coan	Taylor LaCort	Oscar Poisler	Al Wojciechowski
Wes Coddington	Al & Rose Larangeira	Anthony & Andrew Referente	Leon Wojna
Tom Current	William Lecorchick	Kathleen & Mannix Referente	Mark T. Worthington
Joseph DeFrancesco	The Litrakis Family	Chris Retz	Everyone who is ill with Covid-19
Adoracion & Cenon DeGuzman	Kenneth & Kelly Magat	Ann Ritchick	...and for all who are homebound,
Mary Ellen Delaney	Al Maglio	Angela Romanek	elderly, in nursing care, or living with
Alaina Derecola	Sue Maglio-Alese	Elizondo Ruiz	chronic illness
Surya & Juliany Dharma	Shirley Mahoney	Datius Rutashobya	
Nancy Diaz	Susan, Tosh, & Bongking	Lettice Kinunda Rutashobya	
Jim Dolan	Manansala	Rudy Schaar	

Pray for those who have died...

—“His mercy endures forever.” Chronicles

From the Pastoral Staff



The Conferral of Confirmation 2021



This past year, Faith Formation at St. Matthias and, from what I understand at all churches, happened predominantly online. In October 2020 we held three Confirmations for the then 9th graders. Honestly, I didn't at the time think we would still be Covid-challenged for sacramental liturgies this spring. It has for all of us been a challenging time, where we were certainly forced to grow in flexibility!

This **Saturday, June 12** at two services, St. Matthias celebrates the Sacrament of Confirmation with 46 of our young people. Despite the virtual activities, this group of Confirma-

*Andrea Aguilar
Brandon Barbarite
Ryan Bathan
Zachary Beadling
Natalia Calvimonentes
Aidan Chang
Desiree Daly
Paul Dominick
Aidan Dwyer
Nathan Ekhelar
Bianca Enriquez
Molly Eriksen*

*Isabella Fama-Linn
Gianna Grippo
Miles Hector
Isabella Hermann
Jonathan Howarth
Tyler Huseth
Samuel Kostik
Ndilei Lavalii
John Lehman
Dominick Lin
Finn Lyons
William Makowski*

tion candidates met in person on 4 different Saturdays in February and March to complete their **ServiceWorX** experience through the Center for FaithJustice. Many also participated in some new youth **SMYLE** activities including monthly service projects. And, in March the experience of their parent/candidate in-person retreat with Colleen Kelly-Rayner was most powerful for both parents and the children!

Please keep these wonderful young people in prayer as together we continue to walk with them on their faith journey! The following are the St. Matthias Confirmandi for 2021:

*Iana Maningas
Claudia Martinez
Brandon Mora
Isaiah Mosley-Aviles
Tyler Neville
James Nonaillada
Patience Nwachukwu
Ethan Kyle Origenes
Emma Patsch
Marina Pleconis
Joshua Reeves
Christopher Riera
Ava Rollino
Giovanni Rosario
Olivia Scire
Sydney Scire
Walter Scott
Jeffrey Shea
Edward Sukendro
Danielle Vazquez
Mikaela Villajoquin
James Wong*

Reflect

Parenting Tune-Up

Jesus said: "The smallest seed springs up and becomes the largest of plants...." Talk to the kids about the tiny vegetable seeds you plant this summer becoming big plants. Impress upon them that similar growth will happen with seeds of love, kindness, forgiveness and gratitude.



Marriage Tune-Up

"Love does not consist in gazing at each other but in looking outward together in the same direction." (Antoine De Saint-Exupery)



The little prince knew something of marriage. Look out over your life and see beyond the crabgrass. What is your most cherished common goal?



The parable of the mustard seed is a word of encouragement for us. Things might not be what you and I want them to be, but there is still hope. God works in mysterious ways. God is still with us even when our efforts are frustrated, because He is the source of growth. Growth often starts out small like a mustard seed and

A Parable of Encouragement

then blossoms into something huge. The second thing these words of Jesus do is to remind us that while we are called to do something, we are not called to do everything. We scatter the seed, but the growth is up to God. The same process works in the Christian life. We practice daily prayer and Bible reading. We find ways to be of service

to others. We pledge money and time to the Church and charitable purposes. We join the people of God at the altar regularly. These are some of the seeds that God uses to mold and shape our lives in love, peace and hope. But the shaping happens at God's own pace and as we are able to cooperate with Him.



Smile With Your Family



Tiny killer of a giant bull dog: President Reagan loved to tell the story of a lady who knocked on a man's door and said, "Do you own a black Pit Bull dog?" The man said, "Yes." Well, the lady said, "I have to tell you, it's dead." The man demanded, "What do you mean its dead? What happened?" And the lady said, "My tiny dog Pekinese killed it." And the man said, "Your Pekinese killed it? How?" She said, "It got stuck in his throat."

Small plot and big plot of land: A proud Texan was visiting a friend who was a small Iowa farmer. He asked the farmer: "Is this all the land you have? Back in Texas, I can get in my car at 6:00 a.m. and drive all day and never see the end of my land." The Iowa farmer replied: "Is that right? I used to have a car like that too."

A visitor to the Vatican was quite impressed with the beauty and power of the place. He asked Pope John XXIII this question: "How many people do you have working here?" With a twinkle in his eye, the pope replied, "About half of them."

A third-grader taught the teacher an important truth: The teacher asked, "How many great people were born in our city?" "None," replied the pupil. "There were no great people born. They were born babies who became great people."



"*[The kingdom of God] is like a mustard seed . . . the smallest of all the seeds on earth [but] springs up and becomes the largest of*

plants and puts forth large branches, so the birds of the sky can dwell in its shade." Mark 4: 26-34

The bowl sat on the piano in the center of their farmhouse. Their mother had placed a large fluted glass vase in the center; the vase was large enough to hold entire branches. The bowl reflected the unfolding of each season: silver pussy willows in March, apple blossoms in May, ivory dogwood and magnolia branches in the summer, oak leaves in the fall, holly and red berries at Christmas. The bowl was her pride and the seasonal centerpiece of the house - but she insisted that the bowl hold only what she and her children cut and gathered from the land around them. Gifts of flowers from family and friends would be placed elsewhere in the house; the bowl in the heart of their home was reserved for the beauty around them.

"*[The kingdom of God] is like a mustard seed . . . the smallest of all the seeds on earth [but] springs up and becomes the largest of*

Filling the bowl during the year was a family adventure. Writing in The Boston Globe [March 28, 2018], Leila Philip of the College of the Holy Cross, remembers those walks with her mother and siblings:

"Like most things in a large family, getting out of the house involved a great deal of bustle and excitement, and hullabaloo - the finding of socks and boots, hats and lost mittens, the calling of the dogs, does someone have clippers? - Then off we'd go.

"When I was younger, I thought my mother's insistence of never buying cut flowers was another facet of her inherited thrift. A child in the Depression, a teenager at the outbreak of World War II, a professor's daughter, my mother was generous, but rarely bought luxuries. It wasn't until she died that I realized that her bowl and our seasonal walks through the farm were her way of teaching us how to have a connection to the natural world around us, and an awareness of the seasons, our planet's movement, and ours, through time.

"It's been a year since my mother died, and I'm nowhere near ready to let her go. I walk down our road to a neigh-

bor's farm, looking for glimmers of silver pussy willows in the swamp, the way my mother taught me."

A mother teaches her children to appreciate the gifts of God in their midst in their walks on their farm and through the woods and pond near their home. The bowl and its contents reflected the spirit of gratitude for the lives each member of the family had been given by God and the bounty of the earth to sustain their lives. Jesus calls us to embrace the joy of such gratitude: though we "know not how" God makes the grain grow and the sun rise and the rain fall, we do know why: all of creation, the perfect and complete love that is and of God that compels God to set all of creation into motion and to breathe that love into our souls and set us on this life of ours.



Reflect

"Impossible" Is Not in God's Dictionary

You remember David, a pre-teen shepherd boy, taking down the mighty soldier Goliath? You remember Moses, the stuttering herdsman who, in a personal interview with God, was directed to liberate his nation from a two-thousand-year-old nation? As a boy, Thomas Edison was informed by a teacher that he was too stupid to learn anything. His teacher advised his mother to take him out of school. Albert Einstein seemed so slow and dull that his parents feared that he was mentally deficient. Winston Churchill was admitted to school in the lowest level classes and never moved out of the lowest group in all the years he attended Harrow. But the word "impossible" is not in God's dictionary. Eighty percent of success is perseverance. How do you think Michelangelo got the angel out of the rock? The most successful salespersons are those who try and try again. Walt Disney was fired from his first job because he didn't have any good ideas. Abraham Lincoln entered the Black Hawk War as a captain and came out a private. George Washington Carver, a little known Afro-American agricultural scientist, revolutionized the agriculture of the Southern United States with the peanut and the sweet potato.

Today's Gospel teaches us how God causes His Kingdom to grow in human hearts and communities in a slow but steady way. We need not get discouraged: Since the acceptance God's rule by human beings is a very slow process, there is the danger of discouragement and hopelessness among preachers, evangelizers and believers. The conviction that growth of the Kingdom of God is the work of the Holy Spirit with our humble cooperation should make us optimistic in continuing our work of witnessing. We should continue sowing tiny seeds in the form of words of love, acts of encouragement, deeds of charity, mercy and forgiveness.



"Don't ever top; it means a lot to those round you!"

In a restaurant, a family of five bowed their heads in prayer before beginning to eat. One of the children, a girl of about ten, expressed thanks for the entire family in a hushed voice, her head bobbing expressively. A few moments later a couple, on their way to pay their check, paused at the family's table. "It's been a long time since we've seen anyone do that," said the man, extending his hand to the father. The father smiled and replied, "It was strange at first, but we always express thanks at home before we eat. The children continued it when we went to restaurants, so we just went along with it, and now it's our way." The woman who had come up to the table patted the little girl on the shoulder and, obviously touched, looked at the mother and said, "Don't ever stop. It means a lot to those around you." It seems like such a little thing, but it was a witness. The seeds of the Kingdom are little, and we are called to scatter them.

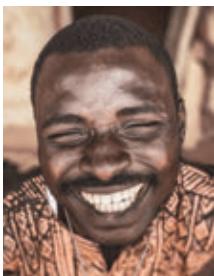
Seeds of Love and Prayers Made the Difference!

Clarence and his wife adopted a daughter who, they were told, had emotional problems. The administrator at the orphanage told Clarence frankly that the child would be better off staying there. But Clarence and his wife said Faith and love would conquer any problems, and they adopted the child. It didn't take too long, however, before they realized they had made a mistake. As year after impossible year passed, they consulted with principals, counselors, and teachers. Terms such as "character disorder," "sociopath," and "psychopathic personality" were used to describe their daughter's behavior. The experts all agreed that there was no hope for improvement. Over the years Clarence and his wife prayed, prayed long and hard, with no observable results. Eventually the girl ran away. A short time later she was caught and placed in a detention center, and later into half-way houses and foster homes. Clarence and his wife lost track of her, and they lost all hope of ever seeing her again. However, years later they did manage to reestablish contact with their daughter. They discovered, much to their amazement, that she had finished high school, attended college, married, and was raising two well-adjusted children. "We lost faith," Clarence says, "but God was faithful. God never stopped answering our prayers." ["Faithful When We Are Faithless." Clarence E. Drumheller. *Upper Room* (January/February 1994), p. 22.] Whoever would have thought their daughter could have changed so much? It must have been the seeds of love that they planted and their prayers that made the difference.

God works in ways we do not understand. God's ways are not our ways, and He works slowly but surely to achieve His will in this world. The reign of God will grow to its fullness, despite all obstacles. Those who accept Jesus as their God and Savior will accept his rule in all areas of their lives with the help of the power of the Holy Spirit dwelling within them. The Church of Jesus Christ had a tiny beginning in the work of an obscure teacher and a pitifully small group of ordinary people. But one of the proofs of the Divine origin of the Church of Christ is its growth from such a very humble beginnings. No wonder the Church has become the greatest of all shrubs, the world-wide Church that welcomes people of all races and nations into her folds, celebrating the marvel of growth!



Reflect



The seeds may be little acts of kindness which take root and bear fruit. Oscar Wilde tells of an incident that had profound meaning for his life. He was being brought down from his prison to the Court of Bankruptcy, between two policemen, when he saw an old acquaintance waiting in the crowd. "He performed an action so sweet and simple that it has remained with me ever since," wrote Wilde. "He simply raised his hat to me and gave me the kindest smile that I have ever received as I passed by, handcuffed and with bowed head. Men have gone to Heaven for smaller things than that. It was in this spirit, and with this mode of love, that

the saints knelt down to wash the feet of the poor, or stooped to kiss the leper on the cheek. I have never said one single word to him about what he did ... I store it in the treasure-house of my heart ... That small bit of kindness brought me out of the bitterness of lonely exile into harmony with the wounded, broken, and great heart of the world."

We can bring happiness to others by planting the littlest of seeds that helps the Kingdom of God to grow. That is what Jesus is teaching his disciples who were feeling discouraged. Sure, crowds were gathering to hear their teacher, but there was little evidence of progress and a lot of evidence of resistance. Jesus had been talking about the Kingdom

of God, the time when God's reign would be manifest upon the earth, and people would live in conformity to God's will. It was apparent that it wasn't happening then. It would be even more difficult at the conclusion of Jesus' ministry for his disciples to believe that the Kingdom of God had come any closer to being a reality. They would be a small, discouraged group of fugitives without a leader. Now was the time to provide them with a message that would give them hope in times of discouragement and sustain them in the face of future persecution. Hence, Jesus told them the parable of the mustard seed. His words have a message, not only for his original disciples, but for us as well.

Pray



Liturgical Ministries Seeking New Members!

Are you being Called to be a Liturgical Minister - Hospitality Minister, Minister of Holy Communion, Lector? **AND** - are you ready to return to church?

If you answered "yes" to both, please contact Phyllis Stone in the Parish Office. We are looking to rebuild these ministries as we enter this new "open" phase of what we hope is the end of the pandemic. Contact information – 732-828-1400 x 127 or pstone@stmatthias.net.



April & May Baptisms

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

April

Sophia Ivanka Dirocco	Jameson Robert Jackson
Ezra Lamar Gille	Willow James Robinson
Zuri Dulene-Mildred Gille	Wyatt Jameson Seibert
Reign Leanne Joshlyn Gille	Lily Anna Suydam

May

Noelle Denise Bunsco
Carolyn Catherine Coella
Giulia Cara Cooper
Jaxon Paul Legere
Carly Celine Voluntad

Congratulations to the SMS 2021 Graduates!

We wish you many blessings on your future journey!



Brandon Barbarite	Samuel Kostik	Joshua Reeves
Rex Bianchi	John Lehman	Walter Scott
Renee Marie Bou Mansour	William Low	Jeffrey Shea
Gabrielle Chambers	Finn Lyons	Edward Sukendro
Nigel Djaba	William Makowski	Danielle Vazquez
Paul Dominick	Iana Maningas	Mikaela Villajoquin
Nathan Ekhelar	Matese Montas	Hailey Zesztarski
Bianca Enriquez	Alexis Nagy	
Molly Eriksen	Tyler Neville	
Isabella Hermann	James Anthony Nonaillada	
Tyler Huseth	Marina Pleconis	



What is Juneteenth and Why Should American Catholics Celebrate It?

The Emancipation Proclamation, which granted freedom to all enslaved persons, took effect on January 1, 1863. However, some Confederate states refused to abide by this Executive Order; in fact, over two years passed before Union troops were able to reach all the Confederate states and enforce the new law. As a result, the last quarter of a million enslaved people were finally set free by Union troops in Galveston Bay, Texas on June 19, 1865. This triumphant day became known as “Juneteenth” by the freed people of Texas.

Juneteenth marks our country’s second Independence Day. Although it has long been celebrated in the African-American community, this event remains largely unknown to most Americans. The historical legacy of Juneteenth shows the value of never giving up hope in uncertain times.

Just as we praise and thank God for the emancipation of the enslaved Israelites during the Exodus, we raise our hands in prayers of gratitude for the freedom of our formerly enslaved Black Brothers and Sisters!

SING A SONG OF FREEDOM! GOD HAS WON THE VICTORY!

Adapted from a webpage of the National Museum of African-American History and Culture at the Smithsonian. <https://nmaahc.si.edu/blog-post/historical-legacy-juneteenth>

Camp Invention 2021: Recharge! A high energy, hands-on STEM Camp

June 28 – July 2, 2021 from 8:30am - 3:00pm

In-person at St. Matthias School

(for students going into Grades 2-6 at SMS)

Attention Parents: Spark your kid's creativity and confidence with our new Camp Invention® program, entitled RE-CHARGE! Campers will team up to take on fun, hands-on STEM challenges. From taking apart their own microphone to exploring solar-powered crickets and designing duck-launching devices, each activity is designed to give your young innovator an unforgettable summer experience! Visit invent.org/mylocalcamp or call 800-968-4332 to secure your spot.

Register by **June 15** for materials count, but walk-ins are welcome!

Director: Christine Taylor ctaylor@stmatthiasnj.org, (732) 322-8793. REGISTER AT INVENT.ORG/CAMP OR 800-968-4332.



Give

Stewardship Reflection June 13, 2021 Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive recompense, according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil." - 2 CORINTHIANS 5:10

We are all accountable for all of the gifts God has given us – our time, our talent and our treasure; everything we have and everything we are. Each of us is accountable not only for our own life but for the lives of others as well. One day God will ask each of us what did we do with the gifts we were given. How will you respond?

Reflexiónese — 13 de junio de 2021 Domingo 11º del Tiempo Ordinario

"Pues todos tendremos que estar delante de Cristo para que nos juzgue. Cada uno de nosotros recibirá lo que merezca por lo bueno o lo malo que haya hecho mientras estaba en este cuerpo terrenal."
- 2 CORINTIOS 5:10

Todos somos responsables de todos los dones que Dios nos ha dado - nuestro tiempo, nuestro talento y nuestros tesoros; todo lo que tenemos y lo que somos. Cada uno de nosotros es responsable no solo por su propia vida sino también por la vida de los demás. Un día Dios nos preguntará a cada uno de nosotros que hicimos con los dones que recibimos. ¿Como responderá usted?

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, 2021	\$11,528.17	\$18,444.75	\$29,972.92	\$27,115.79
Week 50 - June 13, 2021	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$26,898.79
Week 51 - June 20, 2021	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$30,307.79
Week 52 - June 27, 2021	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$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 To-\$29,972.92	June Total Last Yr \$109,682.16	
		Current Year-to-\$1,249,391.12	Year-to-date as of Jun 30, \$1,407,770.05	

Serve



SEE THE ARTICLE ON PAGE 7 ABOUT VOLUNTEERING IN ONE OF THE MANY LITURGICAL MINISTRIES, INCLUDING LECTOR, EUCHARISTIC MINISTER, AND HOSPITALITY MINISTER.

Connect

The Vocations Ministry Committee June 16, 7:30 PM via Zoom

Are you interested in joining the Vocations Ministry Committee? We welcome your participation.

To join or to learn more, please contact Joe Percoco, Percoco@oit.rutgers.edu or MaryBeth Vetter Purcell, MaryBeth.vetter@gmail.com, for a zoom invite to our next meeting on Wednesday, June 16, 7:30-8:30 pm.



Fr. Joe gave the blessing at the JFK Memorial Dedication which was moved to this past weekend due to rain.

Local Community



What: We will be holding an in-person sale of hundreds of beautiful hand-crafted items. All proceeds go to the Franklin Food Bank.

When: Saturday, June 19th, 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM (Priority Shopping Hours* with \$25 donation), Open Shopping 12:00 to 4:00 PM, *\$25 will have the advantage of priority shopping hours, along with receiving a complimentary bowl and a voucher from a local restaurant for an item from their menu (conditions apply).

Where: Outdoors on Rue Chagall in Somerset, rain or shine.

Act Now: Franklin Food Bank - Empty Bowls webpage:
<https://franklinfoodbank.org/empty-bowls>

Credit cards and cash will be accepted. Masking and social distancing will follow the current guidance for outdoor events set by the NJ State government.

St. Francis Center for Renewal is having a YARD SALE!!



And we need your help!

Many rooms throughout the Center are set up with a variety of items for sale. We need volunteers to oversee each of these rooms on both Friday and Saturday.

If you are able to spare a few hours to assist us, we encourage you to click on the link below and sign up! Thank you in advance for your generosity! <https://www.signupgenius.com/.../1oCoC4AAAAB2DA2FAC70>

Sale will take place in the Renewal Center 395 Bridle Path Rd., Bethlehem, PA



Friday, June 18

Noon to 7:00pm

Saturday June 19

10:00am to 5:00pm

3:30 to 5:00pm ~ Fill-a-Bag for \$5

Spiritual Music, Books & Prayer Aids

Table Scapes

There will be many types of items for sale, including pottery, candles, statues, religious prints, flower arrangements, spiritual books, spiritual music, glasses/goblets, rosaries, table linens, bookshelves, single beds, end tables, sofas, lounge chairs, a kitchen table and more. View some of the items at: <https://www.stfrancistr.org/upcoming-events/sfcr-yard-sale>

Parish Leadership

Parish Pastoral Council:

Chair: Nick Grippo
nickgrippo@gmail.com

Co-Chair: Lisa Robinson
laro504@comcast.net

Secretary: Tom Aussem

Co-Secretary:

Denise Brown
Lorraine Farr
Anne Marie Francis
Claudine Langrin
Joe Percoco
Rose Peng

MaryBeth Vetter Purcell

John Taylor
Ana Kelly, Ex-Officio
Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio

Parish Finance Council:

Joe Porter, Chair
FinanceCouncil
@stmatthias.net
Susan Klimcsak
Barry Dusault
Gwen Orlowski

Audrey Francis

Kester Hector
Joan Pritchard
Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio

Trustees:

Isaac Peng
Marge Richards

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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