



St. Matthias Parish Office:
Effective Jun. 20, 2022 Summer Hours
 Open Mon-Thu 8:30-4:00PM; Fri: 8:30-12:30 PM
 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 (June 20+)
 Mon-Thurs: 9 am–1 pm; Fri by appointment

For all Parish emails, add @stmatthias.net
Pastor: Rev Abraham Orapankal, [abraham](mailto:abraham@stmatthias.net)
Senior Priest: Msgr. Seamus Brennan, [sbrennan](mailto:sbrennan@stmatthias.net)
 Mary Pat Burke-Grospin, Business Administrator
[mpburke-grospin](mailto:mpburke-grospin@stmatthias.net)
 Deacon Ron Caimi, *Senior Deacon*
 Kelly Counts, *Receptionist*, [kcounts](mailto:kcounts@stmatthias.net)
 Deacon Russell Demkovitz, [rdemkovitz](mailto:rdemkovitz@stmatthias.net) Juan
 Juan Diaz Flores, *Custodian*
 Nathalie Godet, *Website Coordinator*, [ngodet](mailto:ngodet@stmatthias.net)
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 Development*, [akelly](mailto:akelly@stmatthias.net)
 Mike Lanyi, *Sacristan*
 Sue Lenczewski, *Youth Coordinator*, [SMYLE](mailto:SMYLE@stmatthias.net)
 Julio Montero, *Maintenance Supervisor*
 Dolores R. Nann, *Pastoral Associate for Faith
 Formation*, [dnann](mailto:dnann@stmatthias.net)
 Vinnie Natale, *Bookkeeper*, [vnatale](mailto:vnatale@stmatthias.net)
 Silvia Nizama, *Housekeeper*
 Deacon John Radvanski, [deaconjohn](mailto:deaconjohn@stmatthias.net)
 Joan Best Seamon, *Pastoral Associate for Music
 Ministry* [jseamon](mailto:jseamon@stmatthias.net)
 Sr Marie Therese Sherwood, *OSF, Pastoral
 Assoc. for Social Concerns*, [msherwood](mailto:msherwood@stmatthias.net)
 Trish Stumper, *Par. Support Secretary*, [tstumper](mailto:tstumper@stmatthias.net)

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

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS SUNDAY, JUN 26, 2022—13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

St. Matthias Celebrates 60th Anniversary!

Today, June 26, 2022, we will officially celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the creation of the Catholic Community of St. Matthias. Bishop Checchio will preside at the **12 Noon Mass**. All are invited to share in this very special Anniversary Mass!

Save the date for these additional events —

Parish 60th Anniversary Picnic—Saturday, September 17

Concert of St. Matthias Choirs — Friday, November 18

More details to come!



Franklin Township Proclamation

Presented to St. Matthias

On Tuesday, June 14th, the Franklin Township Council presented an official Proclamation to St. Matthias in honor of our 60 years as a parish. These photos show Fr. Abraham receiving the Proclamation from Councilman Jim Vassanella, accompanied by Councilman Charles Onyejiaka — both are our parishioners. The Proclamation is included on page 7.



If you shop on Amazon, please help us by going to [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) and selecting **St. Matthias Church/School** as your charity. You only need to do this once.

Then always shop at www.smile.amazon.com, and we will automatically receive a portion of the purchase total. Thank you!

This Week @ St. Matthias From the Pastor's Desk

Masses are also livestreamed on our YouTube channel: 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.

June - Month of the Sacred Heart

Sunday Jun 26, 2022

St. Matthias 60th Anniversary

8:00AM Mass Church
9:30AM ServiceWorX John XXIII & Offsite
10:00AM Mass - ServiceWorX Group Mass Church
12:00PM Mass - 60th Anniversary Mass with Bishop Checchio Church

Monday, Jun 27, 2022 **St. Cyril of Alexandria, Bishop & Doctor of the Church**

8:00AM Mass/Miraculous Medal Novena Church
8:00AM Camp Invention 2022 2PreK & 2 Kindergarten Clsrms
8:30AM ServiceWorX Café & Offsite

Tuesday, Jun 28, 2022 **St. Irenaeus, Bishop & Martyr**

8:00AM Mass Church
8:00AM Camp Invention 2022 2PreK & 2 Kindergarten Clsrms
8:30AM ServiceWorX Café & Offsite
7:30PM Social Justice Mtg. Zoom

Wednesday, Jun 29, 2022 **Solemnity—Sts. Peter & Paul, Apostles & Martyrs**

8:00AM Mass Church
8:00AM Camp Invention 2022 2PreK & 2 Kindergarten Clsrms
8:30AM ServiceWorX Café & Offsite
9:30AM Prayer Group 1—Holy Spirit de Porres Rm

Thursday, Jun 30, 2022 **1st Martyrs of the Church of Rome**

8:00AM Mass Church
8:00AM Camp Invention 2022 2PreK & 2 Kindergarten Clsrms
8:30AM ServiceWorX Café & Offsite

Friday, Jul 1, 2022 **St. Junipero Serra, OFM, Apostle of California**

8:00AM Mass Church
8:00AM Camp Invention 2022 2PreK & 2 Kindergarten Clsrms
8:30AM First Friday Holy Hour w/Benediction Church
8:30AM ServiceWorX Café & Offsite

Saturday, Jul 2, 2022 **Sts. Processus & Martinian, Martyrs**

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

Sunday Jul 3, 2022

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

Dear Friends,

A warm welcome to our Bishop Checchio who is presiding at our 60th Anniversary Mass today!

Celebrating 60 years of the founding of our parish is a time for us to stop and thank God, and all those who went before us, those who made this beloved parish what it is today. I was struck by the initial struggles our founding pastor Fr. McKenna and the original parishioners had to go through, as I was reading the history of our beginnings, like this passage:



“As with many new parishes, this parish began without money, land or a home for its pastor. The late Rev. John J. Reilly, pastor of St. Augustine's in Franklin Park, a classmate of Father McKenna's offered the hospitality of his rectory and the use of his offices. During November 1962, Father McKenna purchased an addressograph and other office equipment. Ben and Elly Beckage graciously offered their home and an office was established. Envelopes were printed by Lovell Claypool and the church bulletin was prepared by Elly. On Monday nights volunteer women came in to prepare the mail. Father McKenna lived at St. Augustine's for a year until a home on Easton Avenue was purchased as a rectory for the parish.”

This is only a glimpse of what they had to cope with in the beginning years. It is important for us to know more about their struggles and challenges that they bore happily and patiently for the community of St. Matthias. It is good to hear of their efforts in getting the two pieces of land that make up our present campus. The first piece of 12 acres was donated generously by Mr. Nathan Koslow of the Amwell Estates, and the second piece of 10.8 acres was bought from Mr. & Mrs. Albert Helmstetter. We are so very grateful for these and the many other challenges and sacrifices the pioneers made to make this into a well-established Catholic stronghold with a strong sense of Catholic identity through its witness to Jesus Christ, with numerous ministries and a thriving school. Kindly read more about our early history in this bulletin.

So let us celebrate with a sense of joy and gratitude and look forward with hope for greater things for us. As you already are aware, our church building needs some renovation that is long overdue. Hence as announced earlier, I, together with our Pastoral and Finance Councils, would like to hear from you what you think our building/renovation priorities are. **Please respond to the survey at www.stmatthias.net/ParishSurvey**

Yes, taking care of our church building is very important. But what is even more important is the church community. Even though we have 3000+ families on record, we know many of them do not attend church for various reasons. Many of them are plainly hurt by the church and so left the church; many feel that they are simply ignored by the church. Can we reach out to all of these brothers and sisters? They are part of this community. You can make them know that we miss them and they matter to us.

I wish to start a renewed effort of evangelization – a mission that the Lord Jesus has given to all of us. The word ‘Evangelization’ can be scary for many of us. Don’t be. Evangelization begins with a simple invitation that you and I can give to an individual or family to come to our church. I wish to prepare us all for this mission with follow-up steps soon. In the meanwhile, let us rejoice and thank God for the blessings of 60 years to our wonderful community of St. Matthias.

Your brother in Christ,
Fr. Abraham Orapankal

Readings for the Week

Monday: Am 2:6-10, 13-16; Ps 50:16bc-17, 18-19, 20-21, 22-23; Mt 8:18-22

Tuesday: Am 3:1-8; 4:11-12; Ps 5:4b-6a, 6b-7, 8; Mt 8:23-27

Wednesday: Acts 12:1-11; Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9; 2 Tm 4:6-8, 17-18; Mt 16:13-19

Thursday: Am 7:10-17; Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11; Mt 9:1-8

Friday: Am 8:4-6, 9-12; Ps 119:2, 10, 20, 30, 40, 131; Mt 9:9-13

Saturday: Am 9:11-15; Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14; Mt 9:14-17

Sunday: Is 66:10-14c; Ps 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16, 20; Gal 6:14-18; Lk 10:1-12, 17-20 or Lk 10:1-9

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, Jun 25	5:00PM	Dominic Fama, by Cathy Fama
Sunday, Jun 26	8:00AM	Madeline Tarantino, by Vinnie
	10:00AM	Jill Szabo, by The Dimeglio Family
	12:00PM	Agnes Paduck, by Sr. Jean Marie, SSCM
	(5:30PM)	Intention of Parishioners
Monday, Jun 27	8:00AM	Rosann Szani, by Gondee Tibay
Tuesday, Jun 28	8:00AM	Licerio Dimzon, by Janice Caasi
Wednesday, Jun 29	8:00AM	Gerard Rascoll, by The Piagentini Family
Thursday, Jun 30	8:00AM	Petra Andrade, by The Gavilanes Family
Friday, Jul 1	8:00AM	Proceso Villarica, by Luzminda Villarica
Saturday, Jul 2	5:00PM	Hugh Scott, by St. Matthias Folk Group
Sunday, Jul 3	8:00AM	Frank Campbell, by The Shafranski Family
	10:00AM	Gabriel Jayanthakumar, by The Family
	12:00PM	Jean McCann, by The Shafranski Family
	(5:30PM)	Intention of Parishioners

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

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

Carolyn Banghart

Brandon Barbarite

[Gloria Barone-Tuckey](#)

Edith Benko

Anthony Brandi

Barbara Butler

Tara Capatosto

Ellen Catalina

Marlene 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

[Al Maglio](#)

King Manansala

Susan & Tosh Manansala

Christine L. Matthews

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

Chris Retz

Gabriel Rivera

Jaxon Rivera

Barbara Ruziska

Maria Schwenzer

Lena Sciotto

Buddy Scott

Sr. Mary Amata Shina, OSF

Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF

Dennis Stuewe

Jeff Sullivan

Jeff Tami

Angie Montalbo Tinio

Jeaninne Tosh

Regina Wellman

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

Judith Werensly

Reflect



Smile with Your Family



A man's bragging about his promotion to vice president got so out of hand even his wife was annoyed. "Look, being a vice president isn't that special," she said. "They even have a vice president of peas at the supermarket!" Not believing her for one second, the man called the supermarket and demanded, "Get me the vice president of peas!" The clerk replied, "Fresh, canned, or frozen?" 😊

What did the pecan say to the walnut? We're friends because we're both nuts. 😊

Did you hear the joke about the peanut butter? I'm not telling you. You might spread it! 😊

I asked my wife if she'd like a new Diamond Ring to celebrate our anniversary. "Nothing would make me happier!" She replied. So I got her nothing. 😊

A father asks his newly engaged daughter: "Tell me something; does this guy have any money?" "Oh my gosh!" Exclaims his daughter, "Is that all you men think about? That's exactly what he asked about YOU!" 😊

Message from Msgr. David Fulton The 3rd Pastor of St. Matthias, 1982 -1985

Father Abraham,

I apologize for the fact that previous commitments to local parish ministry will keep me away from the St Matthias anniversary Mass and celebration. As requested, I have attached some congratulatory words.

My congratulations and sincere best wishes to the parish community of St Matthias on its sixtieth anniversary. When I arrived at the vibrant, faith-filled community of St Matthias in 1982 as its new pastor I was terrified. I had no idea how to be a pastor, or what the job entailed. The community of St Matthias taught me how to be a parish priest, a parish leader by permitting me --indeed, requiring me--to pastor them. I am grateful to the St Matthias community for mentoring me. Because of St Matthias Parish I came to have hope in myself, in the Church, in the world.

Msgr. David Fulton

Message from Fr. Edward Griswold Parochial Vicar of St. Matthias- 1973

Dear Abraham,

I certainly do remember meeting you. It is a great honor to be invited to the St. Matthias anniversary celebration. As you know a young priest's first assignment is profoundly significant in his life and future ministry. Unfortunately I will be in the Midwest for two preaching conferences at the time of the celebration. I truly wish I could be there. Please tell the St. Matthias community that they continue to be close to my heart and so much a part of who I am as a priest today.

May God bless your Community. I am so pleased that you are their pastor.

Gratefully yours,
Ed Griswold

Message from Fr. Henry Hemmerling Weekend Assistant at St. Matthias

Dear Vinnie,

Fr. Abraham invited me to the Parish Anniversary Celebration on Sunday, June 26. Will you please tell him "Thank you" for me (I'm not sure of his email address) but I have to decline. I appreciate the invitation but the Parkinson's disease makes it difficult to sit or stand for long periods of time. I'll be with you in Spirit.

I enjoyed my time at St. Matthias; the people were wonderful.

Please give my best to everyone and I humbly ask your prayers.

In Jesus' Name,
Fr. Henry Hemmerling



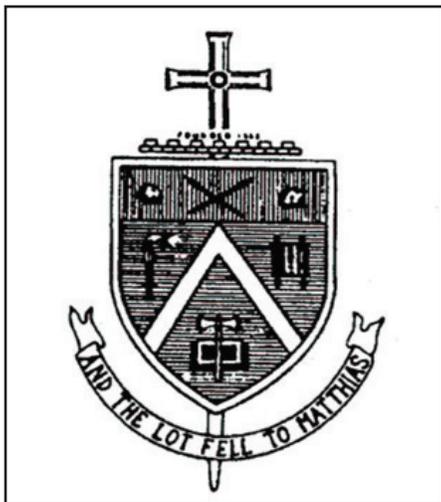
St. Matthias 60th Anniversary Prayer

God of love, our hearts are filled with gratitude as we celebrate 60 years of our life as the parish community of St. Matthias. Thank you for the manifold blessings we received and the grace you gave us in times of our crises. We humbly ask you to give us greater fervor to live as missionary disciples of your Son Jesus. Help us to be more of a forgiving community that respects and accepts all as brothers and sisters created in your image and likeness. May we celebrate our diversity as your gift.

We praise you for our past, rejoice in our present and hope for better tomorrows for us and for our youth. Help us to be better stewards of the whole of creation as we reach out to everyone in our parish and in the larger community in love and compassion, especially those in most need of our presence, listening and support. May this important anniversary spur us on to grow stronger and give credible witness to your loving presence in us.

Amen.

ST. MATTHIAS - A GLIMPSE INTO OUR PAST



On June 8, 1962, His Excellency the Most Rev. George W. Ahr established the parish of Saint Matthias in Franklin Township and named Rev. William H. McKenna as pastor. The entire area comprising St. Matthias Parish was formerly a part of St. Peter's Parish, New Brunswick. With its status as a distinct parish, it encompasses an area beginning at Cedar Grove Lane and the Raritan River, eastward along the River to Mill RW1 Brook, south to Franklin Boulevard, along Franklin Boulevard to Somerset Street and the Pennsylvania Branch Railroad; west to Cedar Grove Lane and north to the starting point.

The First Masses: With the cooperation of the Board of Education of Franklin Township, arrangements were made to conduct church services at Hillcrest School on Franklin Boulevard. The first Masses were celebrated there on June 17, 1962 at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Assisting as altar boys were Harry Haase and Cullen Smith. Both Masses were celebrated with standing room only and it was decided to change the place of worship. On July 1, 1962 three Masses were offered in the auditorium of Franklin High School. Mass continued to be celebrated there with the assistance of Father James Sadowsky, S.J., and Father Leo J. Rombach, S.J., both from Ford-

ham University.

Parish Office at the home of a Parishioner: As with many new parishes, this one began without money, land or a home for its pastor. The late Rev. John J. Reilly, pastor of St. Augustine's in Franklin Park, a classmate of Father McKenna's, offered the hospitality of his rectory and the use of his offices. During November 1962, Father McKenna purchased an addressograph and other office equipment. Ben and Elly Beckage graciously offered their home and an office was established. Envelopes were printed by Lovell Claypool and the church bulletin was prepared by Elly. On Monday nights volunteer women came in to prepare the mail. Father McKenna lived at St. Augustine's for a year until a home on Easton Avenue was purchased as a rectory for the parish.

First site for the Parish: The Amwell Estates, owned by Mr. Nathan Koslow of Paterson, N. J. seemed to be the best centrally located area for a parish site. Mr. Koslow was contacted in reference to setting up a meeting together with his associates to discuss acreage with Father McKenna, Mr. Thomas Vail, Mr. Joseph Donoghue, Chairman of the Planning Board; Mr. Eugene Szabo, member of the Sewerage Commission; Mr. William Allen, a member of the Township Council and Mr. George Consovoy, Mayor of Franklin Township. A 12-acre site, the present location of Saint Matthias Church and School, was discussed as a possible location. Mr. Koslow graciously consented to donate the property to Saint Matthias Church, as a benefit to the Township in helping to alleviate the ever-growing school problem in the Township. The Church of Saint Matthias is indebted to Mr. Koslow for his generosity and to the above mentioned men for their assistance in acquiring this most desirable land.

Extending the Parish site: Adjacent to the 12 acres which faces John F. Kennedy Boulevard, (formerly Leupp Lane) was a 10.8-acre parcel of land owned by Mr. & Mrs. Albert Helmstetter. The Helmstetters agreed to sell this parcel of land to Saint Matthias Church. With this acquisition Saint Matthias now owns almost 23 acres of property in a location in the center of the parish.

The sacramental life of the parish continued while the parishioners patiently awaited the opening of their new Church. Baptisms were held at Franklin High School after Sunday Masses. The first baptisms were in July, 1962 when four children were baptized by Father McKenna. They were Cynthia Lynn Bacon, Patricia Ann Downey, Laura Doyle and Lisa Jean Schiller.

Holy Communion and Confirmation were administered to Saint Matthias children at Saint Peter's Church. The first Holy Communion class comprised of 46 children, received the Eucharist on May 4, 1963 from Msgr. James Harding. Our first Confirmation class of 146 members received the Sacrament of Confirmation on April 26, 1964 from the Most Rev. James J. Hogan, Auxiliary Bishop of Trenton. During the spring of 1965 the church and school were near completion.

The first event in the new church was a joyous occasion. On Saturday May 8, 1965 one hundred sixty-one children received their First Holy Communion from their pastor, Father McKenna. The following morning May 9, 1965 five masses were celebrated. A Levitt home was also purchased as a convent to house the sisters. A "shower" was held to supply household necessities. With a completely furnished convent the sisters moved in on August 30, 1965.

(Cont'd on next page)

ST. MATTHIAS - A GLIMPSE INTO OUR PAST (cont'd from previous page)

Blessing of the Church and School: The Most Rev. George W. Ahr, Bishop of Trenton, blessed the church and school at 3 o'clock on September 4, 1965, when the cornerstone of the school was laid. The school opened two days later staffed by the Sisters of Mercy with an enrollment of 350 students in grades one to four. With the dedication of the faculty, the P.T.A. and the full support of the pastor, Saint Matthias School became a strong influence on the entire community of Somerset, as well as a fine center of learning. Sisters became more than teachers in the school - they became a part of the parish family and were a vital part of the growth of the parish and school. The sisters and teachers nourished the spiritual and academic lives of our children.

Father McKenna died on October 18, 1972, after ten years of pastorate. Msgr. Nevin Kennedy was the next pastor.

The Commitment of a Star Maker!

Bill Haber, a famous movie producer, was one of the most powerful people in Hollywood. For thirty years, his life consisted of making and breaking the careers of movie stars, and he did his job well. In 1995, when his two partners at Creative Artists Agency left him in order to run their own studios, Bill started a nonprofit organization called *Save the Children*, where he now supervises forty thousand employees in forty-one countries. He left behind the glitz and glamour of Hollywood for the day-in day-out realities of starving kids. Why would he make such a move? Simple, he says. "You only live once, and I felt God calling me to work with children." He realized that wealth and power aren't everything, and when confronted with the chance to make a lasting difference in people's lives, he simply said, "I couldn't afford to let the opportunity pass." Amazingly, Bill Haber says that nobody in Hollywood ever thought he was crazy for doing what he did. In fact, several have said to him, "I wish I could do that." The truth is that anyone at any time can do what Bill Haber did.

In today's Gospel Jesus gives us an invitation to abandon the building of our own individual kingdoms, and to join with him in building his eternal Kingdom, right here and right now, with total commitment. We are here this morning because, in one way or another, we have said to Jesus, "I will follow you." But the truth of the matter is that most of us don't want to follow Jesus because we want him to follow us. Hence, we are only partially faithful to him. But the Good News is that we are following him as best we can. We will leave this hour of Eucharistic worship and return to the world with all sorts of tough choices and difficult demands. Hence, we need to pray for strength, we need to ask for forgiveness when we fail, and we need to renew our determination to walk with Jesus by being loyal to our spouse and family, earning our living honestly, and living not only peacefully, but lovingly, with our neighbors.

What is Your Excuse?

People generally make excuses for their mistakes. Some years ago, the *Toronto News* published a listing of actual accident reports with excuses filed by those involved in accidents. 1) "Coming home I drove into the wrong house and collided with a tree I don't have." 2) "A pedestrian hit me and went under my car." 3) "The guy was all over the road. I had to swerve a number of times before I hit him." 4) "In my attempt to kill a fly, I drove into a telephone pole." 5) "I told the police I was not injured, but on removing my hat I found that I had a fractured skull." 6) "The pedestrian had no idea which direction to run, so I ran over him." 7) "The indirect cause of the accident was a little guy in a small car with a big mouth" (*Great Stories*, April/June, 1994).

Today's Gospel describes how Jesus' call to follow him met with such excuses, and how Jesus responded to their excuses. The response of Jesus to the three would-be followers, described in the second part of today's Gospel, (9:57-62), exemplifies the wholehearted constancy and sacrificial ministry that the Christian mission requires. We are surprised at Jesus' sharp response to the first man's willing discipleship. Undoubtedly, Jesus saw more deeply into the man's heart than we can. Jesus is simply honest about the demands and the cost of a commitment we might make too lightly and a journey we might undertake too easily. "Let the dead bury their dead": This response may sound too harsh. But this man's father was not dead or sick. He simply wished to stay with his father until his death. Jesus knew that later he would find another reason to delay the call. Jesus did not want another would-be follower to go home and bid farewell to his dear ones. Hence, Jesus rebukes him saying that the plowman must look ahead rather than back. Looking back while plowing causes crooked lines in the field. We see classical cases of initial reluctance and lame excuses in accepting God's call from Moses (Exodus 3: 1, 4: 10), Gideon (Judges 6: 15), Jeremiah (Jeremiah 1:6), and Isaiah (Isaiah 6: 5). Hence, we should be slow to condemn those who offer excuses in the service of the Lord; we need to offer them proper motivation, support, and encouragement.



Franklin Township
SOMERSET COUNTY
MAYOR AND TOWNSHIP COUNCIL

PROCLAMATION

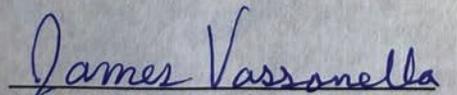
WHEREAS, the Church of Saint Matthias is celebrating its 60th Anniversary of the establishment of the parish and the installation of the first Pastor, William H. McKenna, on June 8, 1962 by Most Reverend George W. Ahr, S.T.D., Bishop of Trenton; and

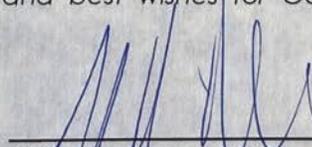
WHEREAS, the first mass, celebrated to solemnize the First Communion of 161 children on May 8, 1965, was the culmination of years of planning and executing all the aspects of bringing together all the hearts, minds and energy of parishioners and staff; and

WHEREAS, Father Abraham Orapankal, Pastor of Saint Matthaïs Church has embraced and expanded the spiritual, educational and social programs created by his predecessors to encourage parishioners to "Live the Stewardship Life"; and

WHEREAS, the Church of Saint Matthias currently has 3,000 families in its parish with new families continuing every day;

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, Councilman James Vassanella and Mayor Kraner on behalf of the Township Council and citizens of the Township of Franklin, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey join together to acknowledge the last sixty years and the continuing service to the residents and community of the Township of Franklin and wish the staff and parishioners of the Church of Saint Matthias a **HAPPY 60th ANNIVERSARY** and best wishes for God's continued blessings and grace.


James Vassanella, Councilmember


Phillip Kramer, Mayor

June 14, 2022

From the Pastoral Staff

Summer Plans? Help Shape Our Global Church!

As summer begins and many are making plans for the coming weeks and months, why not add a FREE and wonderful activity to your list? **Sign up for a *Free* Online Course sponsored by the Vatican on Common Discernment and Decision Making in the Church.**

In order to prepare for the upcoming Synod on Synodality, the Vatican, numerous bishops' conferences, the Jesuits, the Superior Generals of male and female religious congregations and other Catholic leadership organizations around the world are co-sponsoring a three week online course, inviting everyone who is interested. The course will be offered in English, Spanish, Portuguese, French and Italian. Boston College's School of Theology and Ministry is hosting the online event and you can register here: <https://formaciononline.bc.edu/en/home>. The course begins **July 4** and you are free to watch the videos at whatever time you prefer.

The Synod on Synodality "represents a new stage in ecclesial life that invites us to generate processes of conversion and reform in order to build a Synodal Church for this third millennium." Pope Francis is adamant that we need to revisit our roots where decision-making was grounded in communal discernment. The voices of the people and the

voices of the leaders all are vital in helping to discern, as a community, where the Holy Spirit is leading us.

How do we do this? How do we listen to the Holy Spirit speaking through the many voices all around us? How do we apply this knowledge and move in the direction where we – all together – discern where the Holy Spirit is leading us? That is what this online video course is all about.

The course begins with an introduction to the program. Then three different topics will be discussed, one per week. The title of **Week 1** is "Common Discernment and Decision Making in a Synodal Church", and it offers some criteria that will help to assess and deepen the theology and practice of communal discernment and the building of ecclesial consensus.

Week 2 focuses on decision making in the Church – one of the great challenges for a new institutional model. This topic also addresses dealing with conflict within the Church.

Week 3 offers reflections on leadership and governance in the Church, and how many of the changes in the Church in the third millennium depend on this. Topics include co-responsibility, teamwork, accountability, co-governance, power, and women's leadership and

governance.

All themes are grounded in the Christian tradition, deepened in the light of the Second Vatican Council and read from our present ecclesial contexts.

This program is "asynchronous" which means that participants can complete all elements of the course **on their own time**. Each "week" includes approximately three hours of videos. Total time commitment is 12 Hours (Including the Introductory Videos). There is no homework and no tests! And you can watch the videos while relaxing at the Shore or wherever you have an internet connection at **whatever time you prefer**.

Register today for free at: <https://formaciononline.bc.edu/en/home> (Note: since over 100,000 people are expected to register, use your email or a long username so it is unique.)

Don't miss this global event and this amazing opportunity to shape the future of our Church! "Let's walk together as a church with the Holy Spirit." (Please also share this invitation with family, friends, and everyone else who might be interested!)

Ana Kelly
Pastoral Associate



Pray



Altar Servers Wanted!

Are you a student in grade 5 or higher? Would you like to play a prominent role at Mass each week? We are looking for students that would like to join the Altar Servers Ministry. If you are interested in joining this ministry, Click here to register, www.stmatthias.net/liturgical

Learn



Have you considered registering your child to attend SMS this September and have him/her learn about Jesus throughout the school day?

Saint Matthias School continues to accept new students for the 2022-2023 school year for PreK 3, PreK 4, and Kindergarten through grade 8. Before School and After School programs available.

ALL are welcome! Explore our website, www.stmatthias.info, and contact Maria Kosty at

mkosty@stmatthiasnj.org to schedule an appointment. We look forward to welcoming your child!

Learn



St. Matthias shares a long history of partnering with the **Center for Faith Justice** with our **ServiceWorX** middle school program and more recently with our parish involvement with our older youth through the **NeXt Level** process.

The mission of the **Center for FaithJustice** is to inspire the next generation of leaders by creating programs to serve those in need and educate for justice in the Catholic tradition. Named for the biblical passage that inspired them, “Faith without works is dead” (James 2:26), our signature WorX programs unfold through week-long mission retreats incorporating equal parts direct service to those in need and

intensive reflection on Catholic Social Teaching. On **ServiceWorX**, which begins on **Sunday, June 26 at St. Matthias**, middle school students [specifically rising 8th graders] will explore service and social justice through the lens of the Catholic faith. Skilled youth ministry staff facilitate engaging prayer services, lively discussions, and dynamic community service experiences. We design and run the week-long, daytime program at the participating host parish or school, with outreach to local social service agencies and non-profit organizations. It is fun-filled way to help young people learn the meaning of faith and service.

Please keep our parish young people in your prayers the weeks of **June 26-July 1** and **July 31-August5!**

Dee Nann, Faith Formation

Give (and Receive!)

Stewardship Totals for Fiscal Year July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022				Last Year's Total
Current Month	In-Pew/Mail	Parish Giving	Weekly Total	Weekly Total
Week 49 - June 5, 2022	\$18,111.00	\$18,209.75	\$36,320.75	\$29,972.92
Week 50 - June 12, 2022	\$6,880.00	\$22,285.25	\$29,165.25	\$32,905.25
Week 51 - June 19, 2022	\$9,123.00	\$12,903.25	\$22,026.25	\$23,851.75
Week 52 - June 26, 2022	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$19,543.25
			Month-to-date Total	June Total Last Yr
			\$87,512.25	\$106,273.17
			Current Year-to-date To-	Year-to-date as of Jun 30,
			\$1,344,525.31	\$1,325,691.37

Stewardship Reflection Jun 29, 2022 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters. But do not use this freedom as an opportunity for the flesh; rather serve one another through love.” (GALATIANS 5:13)

We like to celebrate that we are free to “live the good life.” We can do what we want, anytime we want, with no regard for laws. But, Jesus calls us to a different kind of freedom. St. Paul reminds us that by imitating Jesus we are freed from becoming a slave to our own self-interests and desires, so that we can serve one another. We are free to share our gifts and promote God’s work on earth to glorify His name and not honor ourselves.

Reflexiones — 19de junio de 2022 - 13° Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario

Hermanos, Dios los ha llamado para ser libres, pero no permitan que la libertad sea una excusa para dar rienda suelta a sus pasiones. Mejor ayúdense por amor los unos a los otros. (Gálatas 5:13)

Queremos celebrar que somos libres para “vivir la buena vida”. Podemos hacer lo que queramos, en cualquier momento, sin respeto a las leyes. Mas bien, Jesús nos llama a una clase de libertad diferente. San Pablo nos recuerda que al imitar a Jesús nos liberamos de transformarnos en esclavos de nuestros propios intereses y deseos, de manera que podamos servirnos los unos a los otros. Somo libres de compartir nuestros dones y promover la obra de Dios en la tierra para glorificar Su nombre y no para honrarnos a nosotros mismos.



St. Matthias Amazon Associates Account Switched to Amazon Smile

We have switched our Amazon Associates account to the existing Amazon Smile account. If you shop on Amazon, please designate St. Matthias Church/School as your “charity” by going to www.smile.amazon.com. You only need to do this once. Then always start your Amazon shopping by going to www.smile.amazon.com Thank you!

Connect



How to Schedule Meetings & Events at St. Matthias

Is your ministry group planning to schedule a meeting or event, either in-person or via Zoom? If so, please first check our “live” Parish Calendar which

can be found on the home page of our website -

www.stmatthias.net This calendar is up-to-date and will help you avoid conflicts and double-bookings.

Then email Trish Stumper at tstumper@stmatthias.net with your meeting/event information. She will upload the information to the Parish Calendar, which reserves the room (if

needed) and the time slot. If you need to make changes, please let Trish know right away so she can update the “live” calendar.

Note that some rooms may be unavailable even if this is not visible on the calendar. For example, we may be temporarily using a room to stage/sort through tech equipment. Trish has all of this information.

So remember – For ALL meetings and events,

- 1) **Check the online calendar first**, and then
- 2) **Email Trish to schedule your event/meeting**. Thanks!

SAINT MATTHIAS SCHOOL POSITIONS AVAILABLE 2022-2023 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 pre-school 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, 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.

4. 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

Parish Leadership

Parish Pastoral Council:

Co-Chairs:

Rose Peng, rosepeng@optonline.net
John Taylor, jptaylor1068@yahoo.com

Co-Secretaries:

Frank Rees
Marilyn Wegg
Stephan Busono
Anne Marie Francis
Bill Isele
Maria Tapia-Burch

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

Trustees:

Isaac Peng
Marge Richards

Parish Finance Council:

Kester Hector, Chair
Finance Council
@stmatthias.net
Barry Dusault
Gwen Orłowski
Audrey Francis

Joe Porter
Joan Pritchard
Mary Pat Burke-Grospin,
Ex-Officio
Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio

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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event dates

Apply online prior to an event for on-the-spot interviews!

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