



**St. Matthias Parish Office:**

Open 8:30-6:00PM Mon-Fri  
168 JFK Boulevard, Somerset, NJ 08873,  
732-828-1400, fax: 732-828-0866,  
[www.stmatthias.net](http://www.stmatthias.net)

**Mass Schedule (in person):**

Sat—5PM, Sun -- 8, 10 AM & 12 noon  
M/T/W/Th/F at 8:00AM

And also on our YouTube channel  
[youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ](https://youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ)

**St. Matthias School (SMS):**

170 JFK Boulevard, Somerset, NJ 08873  
732-828-1402; [www.stmatthias.info](http://www.stmatthias.info)

For all Parish emails, add @stmatthias.net

**Pastor:** Rev Abraham Orapankal, [abraham](mailto:abraham@stmatthias.net)  
**Parochial Vicar:** Rev. Msgr. Joseph Curry, [jcurry](mailto:jcurry@stmatthias.net)  
**Priest-in-Residence:** Msgr. Seamus Brennan  
Mary Pat Burke-Grospin, Business Administrator  
[mpburke-grospin](mailto:mpburke-grospin@stmatthias.net)

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Dolores R. Nann, Pastoral Associate for Faith  
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Silvia Nizama, Housekeeper

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Phyllis Stone, Pastoral Associate for Liturgy/  
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**St. Matthias School (add @stmatthiasnj.org)**

Elena Malinconico, Principal, [emalinconico](mailto:emalinconico@stmatthias.net)

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## THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS

### SUNDAY, JUNE 6, 2021 –

### The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

**Highlights—This Week**

**Baccalaureate Mass & 8th grade Graduation** at 2:00PM today.

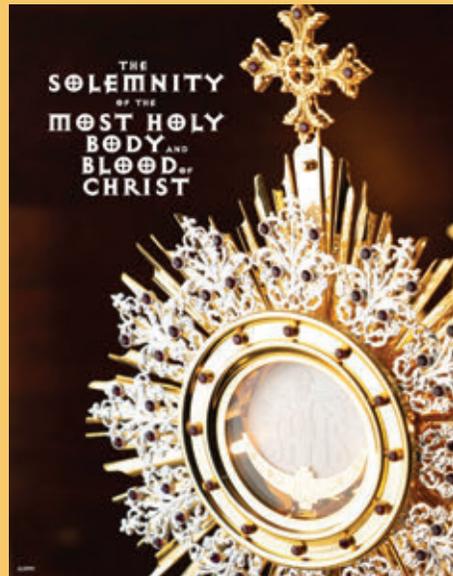
By invitation only.

**Miraculous Medal Novena** at 8:30AM after 8AM Mass every Monday.

**Bring Items for Pregnancy Aid Center - TODAY, Sat. & Sun.** See pg 9.

**St. Martin de Porres Society Meeting** - Wednesday, Jun 9. New members welcome! See pg 9.

**New Liturgical Ministers Needed!** See page 7.



### Announcing Our New St. Matthias School Principal

Dear Friends,

It is with great joy and hope for the future of St. Matthias School that I announce that I have offered the principal position at St. Matthias School to **Mrs. Mary Lynch**, and she has accepted!

Mrs. Lynch has 20 years teaching experience and has been here at St. Matthias for three years. She holds an Undergraduate degree in Education from the University of Scranton and a Master's in Education from Georgian Court University. She is presently working on her Supervisory Certification at St. Peter's University.

She brings an enthusiasm and a commitment to catholic education, as well as a deep love for St. Matthias School that is obvious from just a brief encounter with her. She begins this next chapter of her life here at St. Matthias with great passion and commitment to the task ahead. She will be mentored by a present principal from the diocese as well as benefit from the

experience of Mr. Gidaro and a great faculty. I think most of you know Mrs. Lynch personally and so I am sure you will support her all the more in her new role.

Ms. Elena Malinconico, who has been with us for a year, has led the school very efficiently. The way she did her duties is all the more admirable when we consider the challenging pandemic year. As she leaves for her next assignment, join me in thanking her and wishing her God's blessings.

I wish to place on record my sincere gratitude to our Search Committee, led by Msgr. Joe Curry, who did an excellent job in planning and executing the many interviews and in recommending the finalists to my final decision.

Join me in wishing Mrs. Lynch much success and ensuring her of our support for her new ministry.

In Christ,

Fr. Abraham Orapankal  
Pastor



Please start you Amazon shopping at: [www.stmatthias.net/Amazon](http://www.stmatthias.net/Amazon)

## This Week at St. Matthias

- **All Masses** will be celebrated **in-person** (overflow in the cafeteria).
- **Masses** will also be **livestreamed on our YouTube channel: [youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ](https://www.youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ)**

The Church is open for **individual prayer** Sun-Fri from 7:30 am to 7pm & Sat from 9 am to 7pm, unless another event is taking place (Mass, Funeral, Wedding, etc.)

### Sunday, Jun 6, 2021 **Feast of Corpus Christi**

8:00AM	Mass	Church
9:45AM	SMYLE Youth Project collection	Cry Rm
10:00AM	Mass	Church
12:00PM	Mass	Church
2:00PM	SMS—Baccalaureate Mass & Graduation -	
	Tickets will be distributed to 8th Grade	

### Monday, Jun 7, 2021 No School Bishop's Holiday

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

### Tuesday, Jun 8, 2021

8:00AM	Daily Mass	Church
7:30PM	Hand Bell rehearsal	Church

### Wednesday, Jun 9, 2021 **SMS Field Day**

8:00AM	Daily Mass	Church
9:30AM	Prayer Group 1— Holy Spirit	de Porres Rm
7:00PM	SMDP Mtg.	Zoom
7:00PM	SMYLE Parents Session	Zoom

### Thursday, Jun 10, 2021 **School Dismissal 12:30PM**

8:00AM	Daily Mass	Church
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### Friday, Jun 11, 2021 **School Dismissal 12:30PM**

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

### Saturday, Jun 12, 2021

12:00PM	Confirmation	Church
2:00PM	Confirmation	Church
3:30PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation	Church
5:00PM	Mass	Church

### Sunday, Jun 13, 2021

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



#### Bulletin Article Requests:

If you would like to send information to be included in our bulletin, please email it to [bulletin@stmatthias.net](mailto:bulletin@stmatthias.net) by **12 Noon, Thursday, 9 days before the intended issue** (earlier for holiday weekends). Approved content is published on a space-available basis.

## From the Pastor

Dear Friends,



The Catholic Church has a rich heritage of traditions and practices many of which are enshrined as annual celebrations. Today's feast of Corpus Christi (also known as the Feast of the Body of Christ) is a case in point. Corpus Christi is unique in several ways. The feast was not instituted within the Church until the 14<sup>th</sup> century AD, and its principal advocate for inclusion in the Church roster of holy days was a woman: St. Juliana, an Augustinian nun in Belgium. She looked upon the Holy Eucharist with great reverence, and desired to have a feast within the Church devoted specifically to its honor.

We know that Holy Thursday is generally associated with the institution of the Holy Eucharist. However, Holy Week was often seen as a time of great sorrow and repentance, and so Juliana felt that the celebration of the Eucharist should be a time of rejoicing. After receiving a vision concerning the Church and its lack of devotion to the Eucharist, she petitioned Robert de Thorete, the Bishop of Liege. The Bishop convened a synod in 1246 and decreed that the celebration should take place the following year. In 1264, Pope Urban IV issued the *bull transiturus*, a declaration ordering the Feast of Corpus Christi extended throughout the entire Church. The date was set for the celebration to be held on the first Thursday after Trinity Sunday.

When I came to the US, I was quite amazed and impressed by the cities named after the Holy Eucharist: Corpus Christi and Sacramento. My reading of history tells me that the Franciscan missionaries originally named the Gulf of Mexico the "Bay of Corpus Christi," and gave the mission there the same name. While in California, the mission at Sacramento and its corresponding river were named in honor of the Eucharist.

Many visitors have commented positively about the Sunday worship here at St. Matthias. Some of their comments to me are:

*Attending Mass at St. Matthias is very experiential;*

*This community is very welcoming;*

*People are very alive, everyone participates even by clapping.*

*Is different and where the Lord who comes at the altar touches all of us.*

We can be very proud of such comments as we try to be a Eucharistic people. I have this request to all of you: How nice it will be if all of us, when we enter the church, dip our fingers in the holy water, (that is when we restore the use of holy water) trace the sign of the cross on our foreheads and show a sign of respect (bow or genuflect) towards the Blessed Sacrament! That will be one important visible connection between last Sunday's feast of the Holy Trinity and this Sunday's feast of Corpus Christi.

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Orapankal



## Readings for the Week

**Monday:** 2 Cor 1:1-7; Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9; Mt 5:1-12

**Tuesday:** 2 Cor 1:18-22; Ps 119:129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 135; Mt 5:13-16

**Wednesday:** 2 Cor 3:4-11; Ps 99:5, 6, 7, 8, 9; Mt 5:17-19

**Thursday:** 2 Cor 3:15—4:1, 3-6; Ps 85:9ab, 10, 11-12, 13-14; Mt 5:20-26

**Friday:** Hos 11:1, 3-4, 8c-9; Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6; Eph 3:8-12, 14-19; Jn 19:31-37

**Saturday:** 2 Cor 5:14-21; Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12; Lk 2:41-51

or, for the Memorial of the Immaculate Heart: Is 61:9-11; 1 Sam 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd; Lk 2:41-51

**Sunday:** Ez 17:22-24; Ps 92:2-3, 13-14, 15-16; 2 Cor 5:6-10; Mk 4:26-34

## Mass Intentions for the Week

<b>Saturday, Jun 5</b>	5:00PM	Frank & Leona Sciotto, by Lena & children
<b>Sunday, Jun 6</b>	8:00AM	Jose Alomia, by The Capuro Family
	10:00AM	Bernadette Robinson, by Jim & Phyllis Stone
	12:00PM	Dominick Clementi, by Angela & David Burtenshaw
	5:30PM*	Intention of Parishioners
<b>Monday, Jun 7</b>	8:00AM	Mom & Dad, by the Family
<b>Tuesday, Jun 8</b>	8:00AM	Will cuddeback, by Mom & Dad
<b>Wednesday, Jun 9</b>	8:00AM	James Kane, by Pat & Frank Sellinger
<b>Thursday, Jun 10</b>	8:00AM	John Hauss, by Vincent & Nancy Inzano
<b>Friday, Jun 11</b>	8:00AM	Sadie Callender, by Anne Marie Francis
<b>Saturday, Jun 12</b>	5:00PM	Moksha & Family, by The Nathan Family
<b>Sunday, Jun 13</b>	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

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

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

## Pray for those who have died...

Robert Bachmann—"His mercy endures forever." *Chronicles*

### Dottie Dugan (died 4/13/2020)

A memorial Funeral Mass will be held on June 12, 2021 at 9:00AM for Dottie. She was a beloved member of this parish for many years.

# From the Pastoral Staff

Dear St. Matthias Family:

***In you I seek refuge... in the shadow of your wings  
I seek refuge.*** Psalm 57:2

We celebrate this weekend the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ as well as also celebrating the Baccalaureate Mass for our graduating Eighth graders from St. Matthias School. As I reflect on these two celebrations, the above quote comes very strongly to me!

Not only being part of, but also regularly receiving the Body of Christ reminds me that I am part of something that is so much bigger than myself — that I am protected and defended and that I do not always have to have the answer. This can be especially important to our eighth graders and all graduates, as they move into “uncharted waters” in their lives. They can take these next steps knowing that they never do so alone! It can be a reminder that:

The Body of Christ invites me into a personal relationship with our Triune God.

The Body of Christ is not just something I am invited to receive, but I am also invited to become part of it. My receiving of the Body of Christ, as often as I can, helps me to

“Become that which I receive!”

As all of us move into the uncharted waters of life after COVID, we all need to be reminded of the great gift of hope that the Body of Christ is for us and the great refuge it can be when we are challenged or struggling. It can transform us and our situation into something hope filled!

May this be especially true for ours and all graduates, that as they move forward as a member of the Body of Christ, they may benefit not only from the protection and refuge but also from the joy and the hope that it offers us all!

Servus,



# Reflect



## Smile With Your Family



**A middle-aged Londoner** was faced with a difficult decision when choosing between two lovely ladies, Anna and Mary, both willing to join him in matrimony. Although not a religious man, this Londoner stumbled into a church and, kneeling down in the pew, asked God for advice on whether he should have Anna or Maria for his wife. When the man got up he was most pleased to see that the Almighty had put the answer right before his eyes: ‘Ave Maria. 😊

**Once a notoriously tough businessman** told Mark Twain, "Before I die I mean to make a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. I will climb Mount Sinai and read the Ten Commandments aloud at the top." Disgusted, Twain replied, "I have a better idea. You could stay at home in Boston and keep them." 😊

**Little Johnny's new baby brother** is screaming up a storm. He asks his mom, "Where'd we get him?" His mother replies, "He came from Heaven, Johnny." Johnny says, "Wow! I can see why they threw him out!" 😊

**Worrying works!** 90% of the things I worry about never happen.



## St. Padre Pio's Prayer of Thanksgiving after Mass

“Stay with me, Lord, for it is necessary to have You present so that I do not forget You. You know how easily I abandon You.

Stay with me, Lord, because I am weak and I need Your strength, that I may not fall so often.

Stay with me, Lord, for You are my life, and without You, I am without fervor.

Stay with me, Lord, for You are my light, and without You, I am in darkness.

Stay with me, Lord, to show me Your will.

Stay with me, Lord, so that I hear Your voice and follow You.

Stay with me, Lord, for I desire to love You very much, and always be in Your company.

Stay with me, Lord, if You wish me to be faithful to You.

Stay with me, Lord, for as poor as my soul is, I want it to be a place of consolation for You, a nest of love.

Stay with me, Jesus, for it is getting late and the day is coming to a close, and life passes; death, judgment, eternity approach. It is necessary to renew my strength.



## The Eucharist Converted St. Elizabeth Ann Seton!

Two hundred years ago, a beautiful, young, Episcopalian woman accompanied her husband, a merchant, to Italy, leaving four of their five children at home with family members. They had sailed for Italy, hoping that the change in climate might help her husband, whose failing business had eventually affected his health adversely. Tragically, he died in Livorno. The grieving young woman was warmly received by an Italian family, business acquaintances of her deceased husband. She stayed with them for three months before she could arrange to return to America. The young widow was very impressed by the Catholic faith of her host family, especially their devotion to the Holy Eucharist: their frequent attendance at Mass, the reverence with which they received Holy Communion, the awe they showed toward the Blessed Sacrament on feast days when the Eucharist was carried in procession. She found her broken heart healed by a hunger for this mysterious presence of the Lord, and, upon returning home, requested instruction in Catholic Faith. Soon after being received into the Church, she described her first reception of the Lord in the Eucharist as the happiest moment of her life. It was in St. Peter's Square on September 14, 1975, that Pope Paul VI canonized this woman, Elizabeth Ann Seton, as the first native-born saint of the United States. The Eucharist for her was a sign and cause of union with God and the Church.

## Eucharistic Miracle of Lanciaio

A monk who doubted the real presence of Jesus in the sacred host and wine, was celebrating Mass, and during the consecration the host turned into flesh and the wine turned into blood. Despite the fact that the miracle took place almost 1300 years ago, you may still see the flesh in a monstrance which is exposed every day and the blood in a glass chalice both kept in the church in Lanciaio, Italy. The glass chalice is beneath the monstrance on the right. The blood has congealed and is now in five clots in the glass chalice. In 1971 and 1981 a hospital laboratory tested the flesh and blood and discovered that the flesh is myocardium, which is heart muscular tissue, so we could say it is the heart of Jesus, the Sacred Heart, and the blood is of the blood group AB. In 1978 NASA scientists tested the blood on the Turin Shroud and interestingly also discovered that it is of the blood group AB. (The Sudarium, Face Cloth of Christ, in John 20:6 is also of the blood group AB.) Despite the fact that human flesh and blood should not have remained preserved for 1300 years, the hospital lab tests found no trace of any preservatives. One final interesting point about the five blood clots in the chalice is that when you weigh one of them, it is the same weight as all five together, two of them together weigh the same as all five. In fact no matter what way you combine the blood clots individually or in a group to weigh them, they always weigh the same. This Eucharistic miracle has been authenticated by the Church after investigation.



## Why this Feast of Corpus Christi?

Today, we celebrate the solemn feast of *Corpus Christi*. It is three feasts in one: the feast of the Eucharistic sacrifice, feast of the Sacrament of the Eucharist and the feast of the Real Presence of Jesus. It is a doctrinal feast established for three purposes:

- 1) to give God collective thanks for Christ's abiding presence with us in the Eucharist and to honor him there;
- 2) to instruct the people in the Mystery, Faith and devotion surrounding the Eucharist, and
- 3) to teach us to appreciate and make use of the great gift of the Holy Eucharist, both as a Sacrament and as a sacrifice.

In the three-year cycle of the Sunday liturgy, there is a different theme each year for this *Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ*. In Cycle A the theme is the Eucharist as our food and drink; in Cycle B the emphasis is on the Eucharist as the sign of the covenant; and in Cycle C the theme focuses on the priesthood of Jesus.

Although we celebrate the institution of the Holy Eucharist on Holy Thursday, the Church wants to emphasize its importance by a special feast, formerly called "*Corpus Christi*." It was Pope Urban IV who first extended the feast to the universal Church. This is one of the few feasts left in which we observe a procession and a sung "*Sequence*."



## Communion on the Moon!

The Lord's Supper ensures that we can remember Jesus from any place. Apollo 11 landed on the moon on Sunday, July 20, 1969. Most remember astronaut Neil Armstrong's first words as he stepped onto the moon's surface: "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind." But few know about the first meal eaten on the moon. Dennis Fisher reports that Buzz Aldrin, the NASA Astronaut had taken aboard the spacecraft a tiny pyx provided by his Catholic pastor. Aldrin sent a radio broadcast to Earth asking listeners to contemplate the events of the day and give thanks. Then, blacking out the broadcast for privacy, Aldrin read, "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit." Then, silently, he gave

thanks for their successful journey to the moon and received Jesus in the Holy Eucharist surrendering moon to Jesus. Next he descended on the moon and walked on it with Neil Armstrong. (Dan Gulley: "Communion on the Moon": *Our Daily Bread*: June/July/August, 2007).

His actions remind us that in the Lord's Supper, God's children can share the life of Jesus from any place on Earth — and even from the moon. God is everywhere, and our worship should reflect this reality. In Psalm 139 we are told that wherever we go, God is intimately present with us. Buzz Aldrin celebrated that experience on the surface of the moon. Thousands of miles from earth, he took time to commune with the One who created, redeemed, and established fellowship with him.

## We are the Body of Christ, Really?

Sometime ago I was in Washington, D.C. in the National Shrine. A dozen or so pilgrims came out of the grandiose basilica. They had participated in a Mass, they had received Holy Communion, forming with Him, his Body and Blood. I saw them, and I even saw a blind man who had received Communion with them. They came out of the Church together with him. He walked among them tapping the pavement in front of himself with his stick. He did not see them since he was blind but he must have been aware of them all talking excitedly, feeling a bit lost in a strange place. They did not see him, either, though they were not blind. He ended up in the midst of them. Someone stepped on his cane, bending it, while he was pushed on. They left him alone trying to straighten his cane. They had all been to Holy Communion together in Jesus, who said of all of them: "This is my Body, this is my Blood!" Yet, when it came to everyday life, that reality got lost, the Body did not seem to have been formed. They were not really in communion. They did not really form His Body, our Body. Did they? Do we?

**We tarnish God's image in others when we refuse to help those in need. We also tarnish God's image within us through acts of injustice, impurity, disobedience and the like. Hence, there is always need for repentance, and a need for the Sacramental confession of grave sins, before we receive Holy Communion. We should remember the warning given by St. Paul: "Whoever, therefore, eats the Bread or drinks the Cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be answerable for the Body and Blood of the Lord. Examine yourselves, and only then eat of the Bread and drink of the Cup. For all who eat and drink without discerning the Body, eat and drink judgment against themselves." [1 Cor. 11:27-9]. Hence, let us receive Holy Communion with fervent love and respect -- not merely as a matter of routine. St. Paul is speaking also of the Mystical Body of Christ, i.e., the people of God gathered at the altar. Such a union, plainly, means that our outward piety towards the consecrated Bread and Wine cannot coexist with rudeness, unkindness, slander, cruelty, gossiping or any other breach of charity toward our brothers and sisters.**



## How Can God be Present in a Tiny Host?

Some time ago, a street-corner preacher who knew how to make religious truths come to life was faced by a hostile crowd. "How," one of them demanded, "is it possible for bread and wine to become the Body and Blood of Christ?" The preacher looked calmly at the stout questioner for a moment and answered, "You have grown somewhat since you were a child and have more flesh and blood than you had then. Surely, if a human body can change food and drink into flesh and blood, God can do it too." "But how," countered the heckler, "is it possible for Christ to be present

in his entirety in a small host?" The preacher glanced up at the sky and down at the street before them and answered, "This city scene and the sky above it is something immense, while your eye is very small. Yet your eye in itself contains the whole picture. When you consider this, it won't seem impossible for Christ to be present in his entirety in a little piece of bread." Once more the heckler attacked. "How, then, is it possible for the same Body of Christ to be present in all your churches at the same time?" The preacher's answer: "In a large mirror you see your image reflected but once. When you break the mirror into a thousand pieces,

## Reflect

### How can God be Present in a Tiny Host? (cont'd from previous page)

you see the same image of yourself in each of the hundred fragments. If such things occur in everyday life, why should it be impossible for the body of Christ to be present in many places at once? Just tell me, what isn't possible for God?

***The Biblical foundation: Our belief in this Real Presence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist derives from the literal interpretation of the promise of Christ to give us his Body and Blood for our spiritual food and drink, as found in St. John's Gospel, Chapter 6, and also in the four independent accounts of***

***the fulfillment of this promise at the Last Supper (Mt. 26; Mk. 14; Lk. 22; 1 Cor. 11). Eucharistic theologians explain the Real Presence by a process called transubstantiation: the entire substance of bread and wine is changed into the entire substance of the risen and glorified Body and Blood of Christ, retaining only the "accidents" (taste, color, shape) of bread and wine. Can there be a religion in which God is closer to man than our Catholic Christianity? Jesus does not believe that he is humiliating himself in coming to us and giving himself to us in his Flesh and Blood.***

### "I will not Permit Christ to Return to Albania!"

Mother Teresa was given a reception by the cruel Communist dictator Enver Hoxha who ruled Albania for 40 years from 1945 to 1985. He imposed atheism as the official religion in 1967. The possession of a Bible or cross often meant a ten-year prison term. Welcoming Mother Teresa in 1985, he stated that he appreciated her world-wide works of charity, and then added, "But I will not permit Christ to return to Albania as long as I am in charge." In her reply after thanking the president for the reception Mother said, "Mr. President, you are wrong. I have brought not only the love of Christ into my native land but also the real presence of Christ in the Holy Eucharist right into your presidential palace. I am allowed to carry Jesus in a pyx during my visit of this Communist country where public worship is a crime. I keep Jesus in the consecrated host in my pocket. Jesus will surely return to this country very soon." Communist rule collapsed in Albania in 1992, and Christians and Muslims reopened their churches and mosques for worship. The non-Communist president of Albania, Mr. Ramiz Alia, awarded Albanian citizenship to Mother Teresa during her visit to her liberated home country in 1992. Mr. Alia also

created a "Mother Teresa Prize" to be awarded to those who distinguished themselves in the field of humanitarian and charitable work.

***We need to become Christ-bearers and – conveyers. If you wonder how, here's the answer: By receiving Holy Communion we become Christ-bearers as Mary was, as Mother Teresa was, with the duty of conveying Christ to others at home and in the workplace, as love, mercy, forgiveness and humble and sacrificial service. As we celebrate this great feast of faith, let us worship what St. Thomas Aquinas did not hesitate to call, "the greatest miracle that Christ ever worked on earth ..... My Body..... My Blood". Before the greatness of this mystery, let us exclaim with St. Augustine, "O Sacrament of devotion! O Sign of unity! O Bond of charity!" Let us also repeat St. Thomas Aquinas' prayer of devotion in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament: "O Sacrament most holy! O Sacrament Divine! All praise and all thanksgiving be every moment Thine!"***



## Pray

**DISCOVER  
YOUR  
SPIRITUAL  
GIFTS**

### 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](mailto:pstone@stmatthias.net).

### Saturday Evening Outdoor Masses

Our next outdoor Mass (weather permitting) will be **Saturday, Jun. 19 at 5:00PM**. Please bring your chairs.

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



### Novena for the Saint Joseph

We will be praying a novena to St. Joseph on the **first Wednesday of the month** until the end of this year. **It is at 8:30AM**, after the

# Pray

## HONORING SENIOR ALTAR SERVERS



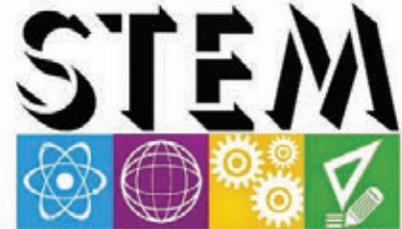
### JUNE 27TH - NOON MASS

Join us as we honor our Senior Altar Serves and thank them for their many years of service to the Altar Service Ministry.

Justin Abraham	Michael Cocuzza	Phillip Enad
Dylan Hayes	David Hermino	Austin Ramos
Jean-Sebastien Rateau	Austin Squeri	Andrew Terhune

# Learn

## 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](http://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](mailto:ctaylor@stmatthiasnj.org), (732) 322-8793. REGISTER AT [INVENT.ORG/CAMP](http://INVENT.ORG/CAMP) OR 800-968-4332.

# Give

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 44 - May 2, 2021	\$9,499.00	\$9,656.25	<b>\$19,155.25</b>	\$30,721.36
Week 45 - May 9, 2021	\$8,523.00	\$27,064.75	<b>\$35,587.75</b>	\$27,166.36
Week 46 - May 16, 2021	\$16,611.25	\$14,850.25	<b>\$31,461.50</b>	\$27,014.36
Week 47 - May 23, 2021	\$9,647.00	\$12,694.25	<b>\$22,341.25</b>	\$26,457.36
Week 48 - May 30, 2021	\$7,966.00	\$9,551.25	<b>\$17,517.25</b>	\$26,890.79
			<b>Month-to-date Total</b>	<b>May Total Last Yr</b>
Development of People: \$961	<b>Note:</b> 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.	<b>\$126,063.00</b>		\$138,250.23
Ascension: \$1,237		<b>Current Year-to-date</b>		<b>Year-to-date as of May</b>
		<b>\$1,219,418.18</b>		\$1,298,087.89

# Give

## Stewardship Reflection June 6, 2021 Most Holy Body & Blood of Christ

*“Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them and they all drank from it.” - MARK 14:23*

Jesus, the perfect steward, gave thanks, just before He gave Himself up for us, completely for our salvation. He offers us the same chance to drink from His cup. In the bread and wine, we meet Christ personally. If we follow Him, drinking from His cup means our own self-sacrifice, using all of our gifts for the benefit of others and to do His work on earth.

## Reflexiónese — 6 de junio de 2021 Fiesta de Corpus Christi

*“Entonces tomó la copa, dio gracias, y la pasó a sus discípulos y todos ellos bebieron de ella.” - MARCOS 14:23*

Jesús, el perfecto administrador, dio gracias, justamente antes de entregarse a Sí mismo por nosotros completamente para nuestra salvación. Él nos ofrece la misma oportunidad para tomar de Su copa. En el pan y el vino, nos encontramos personalmente con Cristo. Si lo seguimos, beber de Su copa significa nuestro propio sacrificio personal, utilizando todos nuestros dones para el beneficio de los demás y para hacer Su trabajo en la tierra.

# Serve



## Help the Pregnancy Aid Center in Raritan

All parishioners are invited to bring in items for donation to the Pregnancy Aid Center before/after all Masses on **June 5/6, this weekend.** These items will be sorted by our youth ministry, SMYLE, for delivery to the Pregnancy Aid Center.

Please drop off the items in the Cry Room before 1 PM on Sunday, June 6.

Here is the list of the MOST NEEDED items:

- Enfamil (Yellow)
- Kids toothbrushes and toothpaste
- Kids socks—ages 2 and up
- Diapers size 5
- Diaper cream, e.g., Desitin
- Boys & Girls summer pajamas—sizes 2-10
- Boys & Girls summer shorts & short sleeve tees—sizes 2-10
- Baby lotion



*Thank you!*



# Connect



**The St. Martin de Porres Society**  
**June 9, 7:00 PM**  
via Zoom

The St. Martin De Porres Society is committed to serving God, the infirmed, the poor and the less fortunate. It promotes unity by encouraging dialogue and awareness of Black Catholic cultural differences and contributions to the Catholic Church. It promotes fellowship and friendship among its members through its community outreach.

The group's next meeting is **June 9 at 7:00PM via Zoom.**

**New members are always welcome!** Contact: Phyllis Stone. – 732-828-1400 x 127 or [pstone@stmatthias.net](mailto:pstone@stmatthias.net) for the zoom invite.

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

Are you interested in joining the Vocations Ministry Committee?

If so, or to learn more, please contact Joe Percoco, [Percoco@oit.rutgers.edu](mailto:Percoco@oit.rutgers.edu) or MaryBeth Vetter Purcell, [MaryBeth.vetter@gmail.com](mailto:MaryBeth.vetter@gmail.com), for a zoom invite to our next meeting on **June 16, 7:30-8:30 pm.**

# Local Community



## GRIEF RECOVERY

### Learning a process to deal with grief

Gentle 4-step experiential process for resolving grief caused by loss.

**Sun., Jun 27, 1--5:30 p.m.** (\$50-\$60 as you are able)

Facilitator: Mary Jo Kearns, RSM

Mount Saint Mary House of Prayer  
1651 US Hwy. 22, Watchung, NJ 07069  
Register at: 908-753-2091 [www.msmhope.org](http://www.msmhope.org)

## Pro Life Peaceful Protest Wednesday, June 9, 12 Noon

Please join us for a peaceful protest on **Wednesday, June 9<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon** at the War Memorial in Trenton to show our opposition to the NJ Reproductive Freedom Act (S3030/A4848). In the meantime, continue to contact your three state legislators to oppose this legislation.

You can send a pre-written email by contacting [mtasy@njrtl.org](mailto:mtasy@njrtl.org)

You can also get the addresses of our State Senate President, Stephen Sweeney and Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin from the same email address – more details on the legislation are available there.

Please continue to pray for unborn babies and their mothers and families.

Parish Pro Life Representatives  
Fran Johnson  
Frank McCann

## THIRD ANNUAL



**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:** 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 web page:

<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

# Parish Leadership

## Parish Pastoral Council:

**Chair:** Nick Grippo  
[nickgrippo@gmail.com](mailto:nickgrippo@gmail.com)

**Co-Chair:** Lisa Robinson  
[lar0504@comcast.net](mailto:lar0504@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](mailto:@stmatthias.net)

Susan Klimcsak

Barry Dusault

Gwen Orłowski

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 8<sup>th</sup> 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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