



**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-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 <sup>TM</sup> [stmatthias.net](mailto:stmatthias.net)

**Pastor:** Rev Abraham Orapankal, [abraham](mailto:abraham)

**Parochial Vicar:** Rev Msgr Joseph Curry, [jcurry](mailto:jcurry)

**Priest-in-Residence:** Rev. Msgr Seamus Brennan

**Pastoral Staff**

Deacon Russell Demkovitz, [rдемkovitz](mailto:rдемkovitz)

Ana V Kelly, Marketing & Development, [akelly](mailto:akelly)

Dolores R. Nann, Faith Formation, [dnann](mailto:dnann)

Deacon John Radvanski, [deaconjohn](mailto:deaconjohn)

Joan Best Seamon, Music Ministry [jseamon](mailto:jseamon)

Sr Marie Therese Sherwood, OSF, Social  
 Concerns, [msherwood](mailto:msherwood)

Phyllis Stone, Liturgy/RCIA and Administrative  
 Assistant to the Pastor, [pstone](mailto:pstone)

**St. Matthias School (add [@stmatthiasnj.org](mailto:stmatthiasnj.org))**

Elena Malinconico, Principal, [emalinconico](mailto:emalinconico)

Joseph Gidaro, Vice Principal, [jgidaro](mailto:jgidaro)

**Parish Office Staff**

Kelly Counts, Receptionist

Nathalie Godet, Formation/Parish Support Sec.

Leslie Guillen, Bulletin Editor

Amy Hanna, Parish Support Secretary

Vinnie Natale, Bookkeeper

Trish Stumper, Parish Support Secretary

Mike Lanyi, Sacristan

**Maintenance Staff**

Julio Montero, Maintenance Supervisor

Conroy Davis, Custodian

Juan Diaz Flores, Custodian

Silvia Nizama, Housekeeper

**THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS**

**SUNDAY, MAR 28, 2021 –**

**Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord**

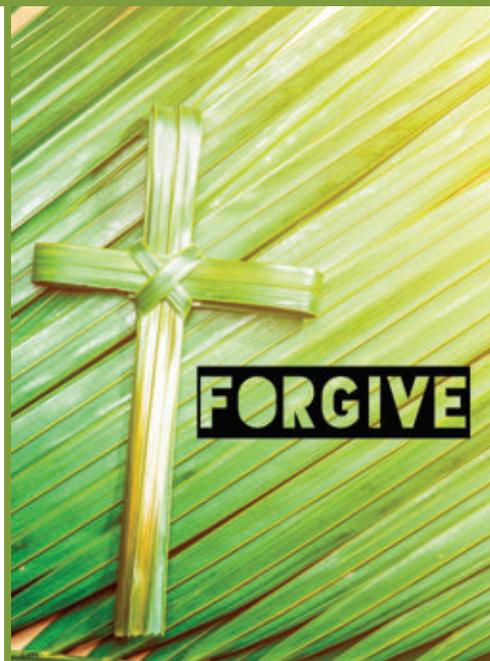
**Individual Confessions—THIS Saturday (Mar. 27) from 3:30 to 4:30 pm**

**Lenten Reconciliation Service — TODAY, Palm Sunday**

- On YouTube starting at 1 pm.
- Broadcast in church at 6:30PM.
- Individual Confessions in church from 6 pm to 8 pm.

**Collection for Retired Clergy** in our diocese will take place at all Masses (and via Parish Giving) **THIS** weekend.

**Palms will be distributed** at outdoor church exits for all Masses this weekend.



**Triduum & Easter Sunday Schedule**

Join us for the following Holy Week and Easter Services at St. Matthias.

**Holy Thursday - Thursday, April 1st**

- **Mass of the Lord's Supper** - 7:30 PM in church (overflow in cafeteria/John XXIII)
- **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** - After Mass till 10:45 PM in the Cafeteria
- **Night Prayer** - 10:45 PM (Cafeteria)

**Good Friday - Friday, April 2nd**

- **Morning Prayer** - 8:30 AM (Cafeteria)
- **Outdoor Stations** - 2:00 PM (School Parking Lot)
- **Passion of the Lord** - 7:30 PM (overflow in cafeteria/John XXIII)

**Holy Saturday - Saturday, April 3rd**

- **Morning Prayer** - 8:30 AM (Cafeteria)
- **Blessing of Food** - 12:00 PM (Cafeteria)
- **Great Easter Vigil** - 8:00 PM (overflow in cafeteria/John XXIII)

**Easter Sunday - Sunday, April 4th**

8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, 12:00 PM (overflow in cafeteria/John XXIII)

## 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** Mon-Fri from 7:30 am to 7pm, Sat from 9 am to 7pm, and Sun from 7 am till services are over, unless another event is taking place (Mass, Funeral, Wedding, etc.)

### Sunday, Mar 28, 2021 **Palm Sunday** Retirement Collection for Diocesan Clergy

8:00AM	Mass	Church
8:30AM	Communion outside front doors	
10:00AM	Mass	Church
10:30AM	Communion outside front doors	
10:30AM	RCIA Session	Zoom
12:00PM	Mass	Church
12:30PM	Communion outside front doors	
1:00PM	RCIA Teen retreat	John XXIII Rm
1:00PM	Lenten Reconciliation Service on YouTube	
6:00PM to 8 PM-	Individual Confession	Church
6:30PM	Lenten Reconciliation Service Broadcast in	Church

### Monday, Mar 29, 2021

8:00AM	Daily Mass	Church
6:30PM	Dee's Small Grp.	Zoom

### Tuesday, Mar 30, 2021 **Chrism Mass 11:00AM at Cathedral in Metuchen.**

8:00AM	Daily Mass	Church
9:00AM	SMS School Mass	Church
11:00AM	SMS Living Stations	Church
3:30PM	Children's Choir Rehearsal	Church or Outside
6:45PM	Easter Vigil/Easter Walk Through	Church
7:30PM	Hand Bell rehearsal	Church

### Wednesday, Mar 31, 2021 **SMS 12:30PM dismissal**

8:00AM	Daily Mass	Church
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### Thursday, Apr 1, 2021 **Holy Thursday** Collection for St. Vincent de Paul

#### Parish Office closed & SMS Easter Recess

7:30PM	Last Supper of the Lord Mass	Church
9:00PM	Holy Thursday Adoration	Cafeteria
10:45PM	Night Prayer	Cafeteria

### Friday, Apr 2, 2021 **Good Friday** Holy Land Collection

#### Parish Office closed & SMS Easter Recess

8:30AM	Morning Prayer	Cafeteria
2:00PM	Outdoor Stations—Children's Choir sings	Parking Lot
7:30PM	Passion of the Lord Mass	Church

### Saturday, Apr 3, 2021 **Holy Saturday**

8:30AM	Holy Sat. Morning Prayer	Cafeteria
12:00PM	Blessing of the Food	Cafeteria
8:00PM	Easter Vigil Mass	Church

### Sunday, Apr 4, 2021 **Easter Sunday**

8:00AM	Mass	Church
8:30AM	Communion outside front doors	
10:00AM	Mass	Church
10:30AM	Communion outside front doors	
12:00PM	Mass	Church
12:30PM	Communion outside front doors	

## From the Pastor & the Pastoral Staff



Dear St. Matthias Family,

When I was in High School, I went to a three-day Holy Week Program called *Service to the Suffering*. We went to the Trenton area and helped with different service projects. We saw many people in difficult situations. At the end of each day, we had a debriefing and prayers. When we would raise our concerns about the suffering we saw or the way some people had to live, one of the leaders, would constantly respond, "It may be Friday, but Sunday's coming!" I thought these words very profound then and still do over 45 years later! He never downplayed what people were going through but also never looked at such suffering without hope!

We hear the story of Jesus' Passion this weekend and are reminded of all he suffered for us. We remember this always knowing that His Passion led to His Resurrection!

We all experience our own "Passions" or "Fridays" and many times can be overwhelmed by them. We feel like we are in our own Good Friday and we feel like our Friday will never end! Especially this year, we can feel like our Friday goes from bad to worst.

There is no denying the pain and struggle involved in any "Friday." It can challenge us to the core of our very being. Without denying any of this, we know, because of Jesus, that there is always a Sunday! No matter how bad or dark or long any Friday can be, Sunday is coming!

Through out my priesthood I have seen and even experienced suffering and pain. Drawing on the wisdom of this youth leader, I remember not to diminish anyone's pain. I can try to alleviate the pain, but most times I am called to simply walk with them in the pain, knowing always that there is a Sunday for them! For all of us!

As we recognize, once again the great suffering Jesus endured for us, may we be reminded that our own suffering is not without hope, no matter how bad, because, like for Jesus there is a Sunday, for us as well!

May we all be blessed with this hope as we approach Easter this year!

Servus,

Fr. Joe

## Readings for the Week

**Monday:** Is 42:1-7; Ps 27:1, 2, 3, 13-14; Jn 12:1-11  
**Tuesday:** Is 49:1-6; Ps 71:1-2, 3-4a, 5ab-6ab, 15 and 17; Jn 13:21-33, 36-38  
**Wednesday:** Is 50:4-9a; Ps 69:8-10, 21-22, 31, 33-34; Mt 26:14-25  
**Thursday:** Chrism Mass: Is 61:1-3a, 6a, 8b-9; Ps 89:21-22, 25, 27; Rv 1:5-8; Lk 4:16-21  
 Lord's Supper: Ex 12:1-8, 11-14; Ps 116:12-13, 15-16bc, 17-18; 1 Cor 11:23-26; Jn 13:1-15  
**Friday:** Is 52:13 — 53:12; Ps 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-16, 17, 25; Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9; Jn 18:1 — 19:42  
**Saturday:** a) Gn 1:1 — 2:2 or 1:1, 26-31a; Ps 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 13-14, 24, 35; or Ps 33:4-5, 6-7, 12-13, 20, 22;  
 b) Gn 22:1-18 or Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Ps 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11;  
 c) Ex 14:15 — 15:1; Ex 15:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 17-18;  
 d) Is 54:5-14; Ps 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13;  
 e) Is 55:1-11; Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6;  
 f) Bar 3:9-15, 32 — 4:4; Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11;  
 g) Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28; Ps 42:3, 5; 43:3-4 or Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 or Ps 51:12-13, 14-15, 18-19;  
 h) Rom 6:3-11) Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23; Mk 16:1-7  
**Sunday:** Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23; Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8; Jn 20:1-9 or Mk 16:1-7

## Mass Intentions for the Week

<b>Saturday, Mar 27</b>	5:00PM	Mary & Eugene Sullivan, by Mary & family
<b>Sunday, Mar 28</b>	8:00AM	Susan & James Shinnars, by Mary
	10:00AM	Robert Karecki, by Ethel & Vinnie
	12:00PM	Dr. Proceso Villarica, by Luzminda
	5:30PM	Intention of Parishioners (No Mass)
	6:30PM	Reconciliation Prayer Service
<b>Monday, Mar 29</b>	8:00AM	Veronica, Seamus, Kevin & Ronnie Ann Regan, by Brian Regan
<b>Tuesday, Mar 30</b>	8:00AM	Spiritual Intention for Heather Pardo, by Gale M. Dillman
<b>Wednesday, Mar 31</b>	8:00AM	Bob Piagentini, by the Family
<b>Thursday, Apr 1</b>	7:30PM	Mass of the Lord's Supper—Intention of Parishioners
<b>Friday, Apr 2</b>	8:30AM	Morning Prayer (No Morning Mass)
	7:30PM	Passion of the Lord
<b>Saturday, Apr 3</b>	8:30AM	Morning Prayer
	12:00PM	Blessing of Foods—Cafeteria
	8:00PM	Easter Vigil Mass—Nazim Ali, by The Seiwert Family
<b>Sunday, Apr 4</b>	8:00AM	Intention Of Parishioners
	10:00AM	Howard Stevenson, by The Caballero Family (church)
	10:00AM	Deceased Members of Sunga/Mynar Families, by Flora Sunga
	12:00PM	Bud & Mary Renda, by Lena & Children
	5:30PM	No Mass

## Pray for those who are sick...

If you or a family member are sick, please **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.

Elbren, Sr. & Natalia Agdeppa	Josephine Geenty	Linda Misuraca	Sr. Mary Amata Shina, OSF
Kristy Alexander	Emma Gergely	Dave Moynihan	Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF
Robert Bachman	Rose Gessner	John Mulholland	Encarnacion (Gina) So
Barbara Branham	Mary Gidaro	Baby Ezran Natural	Alessandro Spagnolo
Marie Brody	Jeff Hentz	Patricia Nese	Dennis Stuewe
Baby Isla-Rose Callahan	Emma Himey	Julianne Opydike	Fred & Carolyn Vanmiddlesworth
Sadie Callender	Michael Kirugi	Jim Pettit	Carmencita Ventura
Tara Capatosto	Taylor LaCort	Christina Pietrowiak	Eulalia Villanueva
Ellen Catalina	Al & Rose Larangeira	Anthony & Andrew Referente	Al Wojciechowski
Frank Catalina	William Lecorchick	Kathleen & Mannix Referente	Leon Wojna
Wes Coddington	Pat Leposa	Samantha Renaud	Mark T. Worthington
Adoracion & Cenon DeGuzman	The Litrakis Family	Chris Retz	Kenneth Yacavino
Mary Ellen Delaney	Al Maglio	Aubree Rezac	Everyone who is ill with Covid-19
Alaina Derecola	Sue Maglio-Alese	Diane Rice	...and for all who are homebound,
Nancy Diaz	Shirley Mahoney	Nina Ripley	elderly, in nursing care, or living with
Jim Dolan	Gladys Mari	Ann Ritchick	chronic illness
Mary Dolan	Margaret Menendez	Elizondo Ruiz	
William Dolphin	Elizabeth Miller	Datius Rutashobya	
Dorothy Domenici	Gail Miranda	Maria Schwenzer	

## Pray for those who have died...

Robert Ferro —“His mercy endures forever.” Chronicles

## Reflect



### Smile With Your Family



The six-year-old came home from Palm Sunday services proudly carrying his palm. Mom and Dad quizzed him on his Sunday school lesson for the day. He responded enthusiastically, "Jesus came to Jerusalem on a donkey. And the happy people waved their palm branches and sang, "O Susanna..." 😊

**I just burned 2,000 calories. That's the last time I'll leave brownies in the oven while I nap.** 😊

Science joke: Do not trust atoms, for they make up everything! 😊

Math Teacher: "If you had five dollars and you asked your father for another five, how many dollars would you have?"

Vincent: "Five dollars." Teacher: "You don't know your arithmetic." Vincent: "You don't know my father." 😊



### Marriage Tune-Up

Palm Sunday is such a baffling feast. Everybody is rejoicing in the glory of Jesus' arrival. But, we know that a lot of pain quickly follows. Certainly your wedding was joyous. Presumably some dark days have followed. Contemplate the ups and downs of your relationship and remember that Good Friday is not the end.

### Parenting Tune-Up



As your child matures it's often hard to know when to help or give advice and when to hold your tongue, Ask yourself: Will this action empower my child to become more independent, or will it foster continuing dependence on me?

## “Unleavening” to Experience “Newness”

It's the custom in Jewish households just before Passover to remove all the *chametz*, the leaven, from their homes. It means getting rid of any food made of grain and water that is allowed to ferment and rise: bread, cereal, cake, cookies, pasta, and beer. *Chametz* is the opposite of *matzo*, the unleavened flat bread eaten by the Israelites the night before their escape from Egypt.

On the last days before Passover, Jewish families thoroughly clean their homes - especially the kitchen - of every bit of *chametz*. Because *chametz* is such a big part of our diets, getting rid of *chametz* is not a simple task. Every carpet is vacuumed and every floor is swept. Every surface is scrubbed clean with boiling water. Some parents hide pieces of bread throughout the house and, the night before Passover, send their children to find them, to make them part of the ritual of Passover house cleaning. Whatever food with *chametz* is found is either given away or burned. A separate set of pots, dishes and cutlery are brought out for Passover.

The point of the Passover "unleavening" is to experience again the "newness" of what God has done: freeing his peo-

ple from slavery and bringing them into a new land of promise and hope. This act of preparing for Passover invites Jews to remove the "spiritual" leaven from their lives as well as the physical stuff. If leaven is the agent for making bread rise, think of *chametz* as the puffy, overextended, inflated parts of our ego. Passover calls us to clean away those distractions and let go of our illusions about ourselves and embrace, instead, the spirit of the humble *matzo*.

**As we enter this Holy Week to celebrate Christ's "passing over" from the cross to resurrection, may we embrace the spiritual practice of "unleavening" of our Jewish brothers and sisters: to sweep away the *chametz* of business-as-usual that distracts us and takes our time and energy away from realizing the love of God that is at the center of Christ's death and resurrection; to set aside the time to enter fully and prayerfully the Easter mysteries to understand anew the meaning of Jesus' passion in our own lives. Let us "sweep our houses" of the unnecessary and distracting *chametz* in our lives and embrace the humility and joy of the *matzo* in order to fully experience Easter re-creation in our hearts and homes.**

### What is Easter Triduum?

**"Triduum" is a Latin word referring to a three-day period of prayer, usually in preparation for an important feast or in celebration of that feast. Easter Triduum is the liturgical name for the last three days of Holy Week: Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday with Easter Vigil whereby we enter the joy of Easter Sunday.**

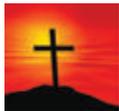
## Palm Sunday Reflection: Christ the Clown!

- . . . [Christ Jesus] emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness. *Philippians 2: 6-11.*
- When the centurion who stood facing him saw how he breathed his last he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!" *Mark 14: 1 - 15: 47*

When he was in his early thirties, the French painter Georges Rouault was walking through town when he passed a circus caravan. An old clown sitting in a corner of the caravan mending his sparkling and gaudy costume caught his attention. Watching the clown, Rouault began to think about the contrast between the clown's eye-catching costume and props, all designed to amuse, and the clown's own marginal place in society: the man underneath the silly, gaudy costume was a poor, itinerant wayfarer.

"I saw quite clearly that the 'Clown' was me, was us, nearly all of us," wrote Rouault in a letter to a friend. "This rich and glittering costume, it is given to us by life itself; we are all more or less clowns, we all wear a glittering costume." Rouault began to paint clowns - yellow clowns, wounded clowns, a clown with a drum, young clowns and old clowns. Rouault's contemporaries noticed resonances between his paintings of clowns and his paintings of Jesus; Rouault's depictions of costumed harlequins and of the Savior of the world began to resemble each other.

Rouault was taking up a long-standing, if quiet, tradition in the church: the idea of Jesus as clown. Arguably, the tradition goes back all the way to Paul, who reminded the Corinthians that the world deemed "foolish" the things of Christ and that disciples were to indeed be fools for Christ. Rouault's "clowning" Christs expressed two dimensions of the life of the Gospel Jesus: Jesus is the marginal wayfarer, and Jesus specializes, as clowns do, in interruptions, in behavior that violates etiquette and social norms, in impropriety, surprises, and mockery of conventions. In his crucifixion, Christ the clown is unmasked; he is the object of humiliation and mockery. But humankind is revealed to be the fools.

 **The events of Holy Week reveal as much about us as about Jesus. In the sacrifice of Jesus the "clown," we realize the foolishness of our own selfishness, the absurdity of our greed, the senselessness of the injustice and hurt we countenanced to maintain the illusion of our "circuses." May we see in the cross of Holy Week the very worst we fail to see in ourselves: that part of us we deftly justify in order to rationalize the crucifixions we execute. As we journey with Jesus this Holy Week, may we seek to wipe away the deceptive "greasepaint" from our faces and take off the fakery of our "glittery costumes" to put on the spirit of humble servanthood of the Christ of compassion and mercy.**

## Fast and Abstinence on Good Friday!

Good Friday is a day of prayer and penance to be observed as of obligation in the whole Church, with abstinence and fasting. The obligation to fast applies only to Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59. To fast in the Catholic tradition means to limit oneself to one full meal during the day so as to experience hunger. The obligation of abstinence affects all Catholics who have reached the age of 14. Abstinence in the Catholic tradition means to abstain from meat. The obligation of fast and abstinence, is a serious obligation. Those unable to abstain for a valid reason on any given Friday of Lent are to perform some other penitential act, or to abstain on another day.

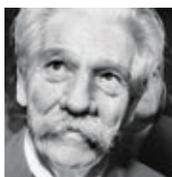


### The Scar on Harry Potter's Forehead!

There is a villain in the Harry Potter series of magic novels, an evil wizard named Lord Voldemort. At the end of the first book, Harry Potter learns that Voldemort murdered both Harry's parents when Harry was only a baby. He first murdered Harry's father and then tried to murder Harry, to be sure that Harry, as his father's heir, would not be a threat to Voldemort as he grew to maturity. But, of course, he did not succeed in murdering Harry. When he tried to do so, Harry's mother threw herself in the way, taking the blow and dying in Harry's place. When Voldemort then tried to kill Harry, he could not. In fact, the curse that he hurled at Harry rebounded onto Voldemort and drained him of his powers. All he could do was leave a lightning-bolt scar across Harry's forehead. Because of his mother's sacrificial love, Harry lived and Voldemort's powers were greatly diminished. Throughout the Harry Potter novels, others immediately recognize young Harry because of his scar. Throughout the series Voldemort makes repeated attempts to capture and kill Harry Potter, but each time he fails. At last Harry asks the wise Headmaster of his school, Dumbledore, why Voldemort could not kill him. This is what Dumbledore tells him: "Your mother died to save you. If there is one thing Voldemort cannot understand, it is love. He didn't realize that love as powerful as your mother's for you leaves its own mark . . . To have been loved so deeply, even though the person who loved us is gone, will give us some protection forever. It is in your very skin . . . [Voldemort] could not touch you for this reason. It was agony to touch a person marked by something so good." **The reason Harry could not be killed was his mother's sacrificial love for him. The reason you and I can be victorious over sin and death is Christ's sacrificial love for us. That's the reason Palm Sunday is so important to us. That is the reason Holy Week is so important to us. It is not a scar on our forehead but the cross on our altar that tells us that Someone died on our behalf. We are the recipients of an everlasting love.**

## Reflect

### In the Footsteps of Jesus - The Donkey Rider



There is a biography of a man who was one of the most learned people of his generation. He had two PhDs – one in philosophy, another in theology. Further, he was a world-class musician, and concert halls around the world were sold out when he went on tour. Then, to the surprise of everyone, he decided he wanted to go to a medical college to earn yet another doctoral degree in medicine. As soon as he had his medical degree, he left the comfortable surroundings of Western Europe and went into the jungles of Africa. There he cleared away part of the jungle and began building a clinic and a hospital. Once these were built, he started providing medical care to the young and old of Africa. Many years later, Dr. Albert Schweitzer won the Nobel Peace Prize for his ministry of healing in the jungles of Africa. When he accepted the Nobel Peace Prize, he shared with that distinguished crowd in Stockholm the reason he had built a hospital in Africa. The reason was summed up, he stated in the first words he always said to his native patients as they awakened from an operation. He would say: "The reason that you have no more pain is because the Lord Jesus told the good doctor and his wife to come to the banks of Ogooue River and help you. If you owe thanks to anyone, you owe it to the Lord Jesus."

***Schweitzer accepted the challenge to be a humble servant of Jesus Christ. And this is our challenge - this is your challenge - this is my challenge in this Holy Week! Look beyond your needs to the needs of others, and you will be on the road to being a humble servant of Jesus Christ.***

### What Does the Word “Hosanna” Mean?

Benedict XVI explains: Originally this was a word of urgent supplication, meaning something like: Come to our aid! The priests would repeat it in a monotone on the seventh day of the Feast of Tabernacles, while processing seven times around the altar of sacrifice, as an urgent prayer for rain. But as the Feast of Tabernacles gradually changed from a feast of petition into one of praise, so too the cry for help turned more and more into a shout of jubilation. By the time of Jesus, the word had also acquired Messianic overtones. In the Hosanna acclamation, then, we find an expression of the complex emotions of the pilgrims accompanying Jesus and of his disciples: joyful praise of God at the moment of the processional entry, hope that the hour of the Messiah had arrived, and at the same time a prayer that the Davidic kingship and hence God’s kingship over Israel would be reestablished.

### Silent Protest!

Henri Nouwen tells a disturbing story about a family he knew in Paraguay. The father, a doctor, was active in protests against the military. He spoke out repeatedly against its abuses of human rights. Local police took their revenge by arresting his teenage son and torturing him until he was dead. It was a horrible crime. Townsfolk wanted to turn the funeral into a huge protest march. But the doctor chose another means of protest. The father displayed his son’s body in the local church. However, he was not dressed in a fine suit. And the funeral director applied no make-up. The father displayed his son as he had found him in the jail. The son was naked, his body marked with scars from the electric shocks and cigarette burns and beatings. It did not lie in a coffin but on the blood-soaked mattress from the jail. It was the strongest protest imaginable, for it put injustice on grotesque display.

***See Christ hanging on the cross, showing all marks of cruel torture. Are we willing to follow him, not just to Church but in our daily life? Are we willing to entrust ourselves to Him even when the future is frightening or confusing, believing God has a plan? Are we willing to serve Him until that day when His plan for us on earth is fulfilled? Does his death on the cross matter to us? These are the questions of Palm Sunday. Let us take a fresh look at this familiar event. We might be surprised at what we see. It could change us forever.***

### Jesus Weeps!

In C.S. Lewis' *Chronicles of Narnia*, the young boy Digory is heartbroken by the realization that his mother is dying, and that he can do nothing to save her. He raises his despairing face to the story's Christ-figure, the great Lion, Aslan, and is startled to see the great shining tears in Aslan's eyes. "They were such big, bright tears compared with Digory's own, that for a moment he felt as if the Lion must be sorrier about his mother than he was himself." "My son, my son," says Aslan. "I know grief is great. Only you and I in this land know that yet. So let us be good to one another and take care of one another."

Wherever people grieve, Jesus weeps. Wherever children suffer, Jesus weeps. Wherever lives are torn apart, and hearts are empty, and hope dies, Jesus weeps.

***Billy Graham said: God proved His love on the cross. When Christ hung, and bled, and died, it was God saying to the world, 'I love you.'***

### New Beginnings

“Remember finally, that the ashes that were on your forehead are created from the burnt palms of last Palm Sunday. New beginnings invariably come from old false things that are allowed to die.” (Richard Rohr)

## Connect

### Need Help Scheduling Your Covid Vaccine?

If you are eligible, but need help with booking an appointment, parishioner Maribeth Llaguno is willing to help. Contact her at: [mabeth70@yahoo.com](mailto:mabeth70@yahoo.com)



### Pastoral Council Outreach — Help Us Connect with Each Other!

Are you aware of some parishioners who might be feeling disconnected from the St Matthias Parish Family?

Do you feel they may welcome a call from a fellow parishioner? With covid-19 continuing into 2021, some may feel estranged if attending Mass in person is not a comfortable option for them or if viewing Mass online or reading the bulletin requires technical equipment or knowledge not available to them. This past year may have been and might continue to be particularly isolating for some parish members.

Any persons come to mind?

The Pastoral Council would like to reach out and help parishioners stay connected during this difficult time.

Please email Pastoral Council member, Lorraine Farr, [Lvfarr7@gmail.com](mailto:Lvfarr7@gmail.com), or call the Parish Office, 732-828-1400, with those individuals' names and phone number. Please help re-connect friends, family, neighbors to our St Matthias Family!

## Pray

### Communal Reconciliation Service Tonight, Palm Sunday, at 6:30 pm

Join us this evening in person in the church, or on our YouTube channel for our peace-filled Communal Reconciliation Service during this holy season.

We will also have individual Confession available from 6 pm to 6:30 pm, and after the Reconciliation Service if needed.

### Outdoor Stations of the Cross

This year the Outdoor Stations will be at 2:00 pm on Good Friday in the parking lot. Bring your own lawn chair if you want to sit during Stations. Outdoor Stations will be in the lot behind the school.



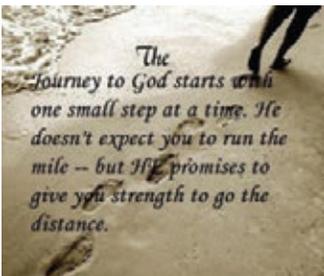
### Blessing of Food

On **Holy Saturday, April 3**, at **12 noon**, you are invited to bring a basket with some of the food you plan to prepare for Easter Sunday and the food will be blessed.

### Morning Prayer and Night Prayer

One of the special traditions that we offer during this holy season is Morning Prayer and Night Prayer. Please join us on Holy Thursday for Adoration of the Eucharist at 9:00PM, followed by Night Prayer at 10:45PM in the Cafeteria. On Good Friday, Morning Prayer is at 8:30AM in the same location.

### Prayer for the Journey of Faith



Please continue to pray for our Elect and Candidates. Take a prayer card at each church entrance/exit. Use these words to pray:

**Dear Lord, bless those who are moving forward into the fullness of faith in You through baptism and full communion in the life of our Catholic Family through the Holy Eucharist and Confirmation. Protect them on their journey. Reveal to them the love of Your Son, Jesus. Empower them with the gifts of Your Holy Spirit. I offer this sacrifice of prayer for them, in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

#### To Be Baptized

Nalini Malik, Dashawn Durden, Danielle Gille, Joselyn Montero

#### To Be Received in Full Communion with the Church

Loren Long, Shannon Long, Maritza Alimonte, Waid Barfield, Ava Ortman, Nicholas Chodl, Luis Cuevas, and Rosanna Garon

#### To Receive the Sacrament of Confirmation

Jodie Scalon, Natalie Ortman, Michael Chodl, Vanessa DiRocco, Michael DiRocco, Kristen Joyce Camerino, Nick Recine, Helena Cassutt, Udenna Ebii Okonkwo, Dominique Marchie, and Michael Marchie

# Pray

## If You Test Positive for Covid & Attended Church, Please Let Us Know

If you attend church and then test positive for Covid, please call the Parish Office, 732-828-1400, as soon as possible to let us know. This will help us ensure that we can let others know who may have been exposed, as well as keep our church building as safe as possible. (Your name will not be shared with others.) Please also let us know if there is anything we can do to help and if you would like to be added to the Prayer List.

## Feedback from the February 27 Day of Reflection: "Racial Justice in the Catholic Church"

sponsored by the St. Martin de Porres Society

110 parishioners attended; 53 also completed a survey and their responses are below

(Adapted from a US Catholic Survey, "Is Your Parish Anti-Racist?")

QUESTION	AGREE	DISAGREE	MULTIPLE CHOICE
Racial justice is a necessary part of Christian life.	98%	2%	
I would like to understand the difference between not being a racist and being an anti-racist.	94%	6%	
My parish participates in anti-racism programs and initiatives	74%	26%	
Anti-racism programs need to be part of every parish's agenda	98%	2%	
I would do my best to attend anti racism programs and initiatives in my parish	98%	2%	
I would be interested in prayer vigils			Vigils - 49% Education programs - 83% Speaking events - 70% Reading and discussion groups - 47%
I would be interested in my parish providing and-racism resources	96%	4%	
My parish is			Very ethnically homogenous - 6% Somewhat ethnically homogenous - 11% Somewhat ethnically diverse - 36% Very ethnically diverse - 47%
I would want to hear homilies/talks within our parish addressing racial justice, racism, anti-racism and other topics along these lines	96%	4%	
I am uncomfortable with terms like "white supremacy", white privilege", and "Black Lives Matter."	26%	74%	

# Learn

## Catholic School 2021-2022 Tuition Assistance

Families interested in applying for tuition assistance to attend an eligible Diocese of Metuchen elementary or high school may apply online now through **FACTS Grant & Aid Assessment** at <https://online.factsmgmt.com/aid>.

Online applications are due by **March 31, 2021**. Applications are available in English and Spanish. If you need assistance completing the online application or need access to a computer, please contact the School at 732-828-1402.

## Serve



### Ministry Spotlight— The St. Matthias Employment Ministry

Do you know someone who is out of work? Unhappy in their job? Thinking of a career change? Returning to work after a hiatus? These and other employment and career issues are quite common.

Founded in 2007, the St. Matthias Employment Ministry has been serving the community in many ways including helping people to write and improve their resumes, prepare for interviews, and make career changes.

We are a committed small group of volunteers who are here to help others with any aspect of the job search process including networking, using LinkedIn, preparing for interviews, writing cover letters and improving resumes

Since starting up, the St Matthias Employment Ministry has been reaching out to anyone, in Somerset NJ and nearby areas, who is struggling with employment issues. You do not have to be a parishioner. You do not have to be Catholic. All are welcome!

The St. Matthias Employment Ministry is always looking for people who want to help others with job search and career issues. If you are interested, contact Terry Seamon [thseamon@yahoo.com](mailto:thseamon@yahoo.com), or Deacon John Radvanski [deaconjohn@stmatthias.net](mailto:deaconjohn@stmatthias.net) You may not realize it, but **you** could be the answer to someone's prayers!

## 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 (Covid quaran-
Week 36 - Mar. 7, 2021	\$12,433.50	\$24,165.75	<b>\$36,599.25</b>	\$25,211.09
Week 37 - Mar. 14, 2021	\$13,068.50	\$20,060.25	<b>\$33,128.75</b>	\$18,973.09
Week 38 - Mar. 21, 2021	\$6,201.00	\$13,206.25	<b>\$19,407.25</b>	\$12,376.09
			<b>Month-to-date Total</b>	<b>Mar Total Last Yr</b>
			<b>\$89,135.25</b>	\$77,126.36
			<b>Current Year-to-date Total</b>	<b>Year-to-date as of Mar 31,</b>
			<b>\$959,836.18</b>	\$1,054,251.54

**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.

### Stewardship Reflection Mar 28, 2021 Palm Sunday

*“Pilate again said to them, ‘Then what shall I do with the man whom you call the King of the Jews?’ And they cried out again, ‘Crucify him.’” – MARK 15:12-13*

Jesus told us “whatever you do for the least of my brothers, you do for me.” Every day we are presented opportunities to help someone. Every day we have the opportunity to see the face of Jesus in others and be the face of Jesus to others. Every day we pass by someone in need. Pray for the strength and courage to be the answer to someone's prayer.

### Reflexiónese — 28 de marzo de 2021 Domingo de Ramos

*“Pilatos nuevamente les dijo, ‘Entonces, ¿qué haré con el hombre al que ustedes llaman Rey de los Judíos?’ Y la multitud nuevamente gritó, ‘Crucifícalo!’” – MARCOS 15:12-13*

Jesús nos dijo "cualquier cosa que hagas por el más pequeño de mis hermanos, lo harás por mí" Todos los días se nos presentan oportunidades para ayudar a alguien. Cada día tenemos la oportunidad de ver el rostro de Jesús en otros y de ser el rostro de Jesús para otras personas. Cada día nos encontramos con alguien necesitado. Recemos para pedir la fuerza y el valor para ser la respuesta a la oración de alguien.



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[www.stmatthias.net/amazon](http://www.stmatthias.net/amazon)  
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### 2021 Bishop's Annual Appeal

As Catholics, we must be people of prayer before anything else. Through prayer we can together achieve anything and advance the mission of the Kingdom of God right here in our Diocese of Metuchen. Please consider submitting a prayer intention by visiting <https://diometuchen.org/prayer-intention>.

## Give



### Hungry for Popcorn?

Whether this is a treat for yourself or a gift for a friend or neighbor, buy some popcorn today and a portion of the sale will go to St. Matthias School.

- 1) Go to [www.supportmyfundraiser.org](http://www.supportmyfundraiser.org)
- 2) Click on "Online Store" at the top.
- 3) Enter 713917 for the "seller number" and have fun shopping!

Please be sure to select "Ship to Home". Share this info with friends and family. Thank you!



### St Matthias School Annual Fund

Thank you to everyone who has donated to our 2020-2021 SMS Annual Fund. The fund continues through the year and is used by the school for general operating expenses.

Everything from teachers' salaries to electricity to art supplies to Covid-safe cleaning supplies to printer cartridges to copy paper to computers, benefit from your donations to the SMS Annual Fund.

Read the letter from our Pastor and our Principal at: [https://](https://www.stmatthias.net/wp-content/uploads/SMS-Annual-Fund-2020-1docx.pdf)

[www.stmatthias.net/wp-content/uploads/SMS-Annual-Fund-2020-1docx.pdf](https://www.stmatthias.net/wp-content/uploads/SMS-Annual-Fund-2020-1docx.pdf)

## Local Community

### Covid-19 Funeral Assistance from FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency

FEMA will provide financial assistance for Covid-19-related funeral expenses incurred after January 20, 2020. They are currently finalizing the details and will begin to implement the financial assistance in April. To be eligible,

the death must have occurred in the U.S. The death certificate must indicate the death was attributed to Covid-19. The applicant (not the deceased) must be a U.S. citizen, non-citizen national, or qualified alien who incurred

the expenses. Funds will be sent by check or direct deposit. Details at: [www.fema.gov/disasters/coronavirus/economic/funeral-assistance](http://www.fema.gov/disasters/coronavirus/economic/funeral-assistance)

## Parish Leadership

### Parish Pastoral Council:

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

**Co-Chair:** Lisa Robinson  
[laro504@comcast.net](mailto:laro504@comcast.net)

**Secretary:** Tom Aussem

### Co-Secretary:

Denise Brown

Lorraine Farr  
Anne Marie Francis  
Claudine Langrin  
Garrett Linderoth

Joe Percoco  
Rose Peng  
Marybeth Purcell  
John Taylor  
Ana Kelly, Ex-Officio  
Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio

### Parish Finance Council:

Joe Porter, Chair  
**Finance council**  
[@stmatthias.net](mailto:@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 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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