



St. Matthias Parish Office:

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

Mass Schedule (in person):

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

And also on our YouTube channel
youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ

St. Matthias School (SMS):

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

For all Parish emails, add TM stmatthias.net
Pastor: Rev Abraham Orapankal, [abraham](mailto:abraham@stmatthias.net)
Parochial Vicar: Rev. Msgr. Joseph Curry, [jcurry](mailto:jcurry@stmatthias.net)

Pastoral Staff

Deacon Russell Demkovitz, [rdevkovitz](mailto:rdevkovitz@stmatthias.net)
Ana V Kelly, Marketing & Development, [akelly](mailto:akelly@stmatthias.net)
Dolores R. Nann, Faith Formation, [dnann](mailto:dnann@stmatthias.net)
Deacon John Radvanski, [deaconjohn](mailto:deaconjohn@stmatthias.net)
Joan Best Seamon, Music Ministry [jseamon](mailto:jseamon@stmatthias.net)
Sr Marie Therese Sherwood, OSF, Social Concerns, [msherwood](mailto:msherwood@stmatthias.net)
Phyllis Stone, Liturgy/RCIA and Administrative Assistant to the Pastor, [pstone](mailto:pstone@stmatthias.net)

St. Matthias School (add @stmatthiasnj.org)

Elena Malinconico, Principal. [emalinconico](mailto:emalinconico@stmatthiasnj.org)
Joseph Gidaro, Vice Principal, [jgidaro](mailto:jgidaro@stmatthiasnj.org)

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 7, 2021 –
Third Sunday of Lent

March 8-14 Is National Sisters Week

Watch the video of Sr. Marie Therese and Sr. Maria. See pg 7.

8 AM Sunday Mass throughout the month of March

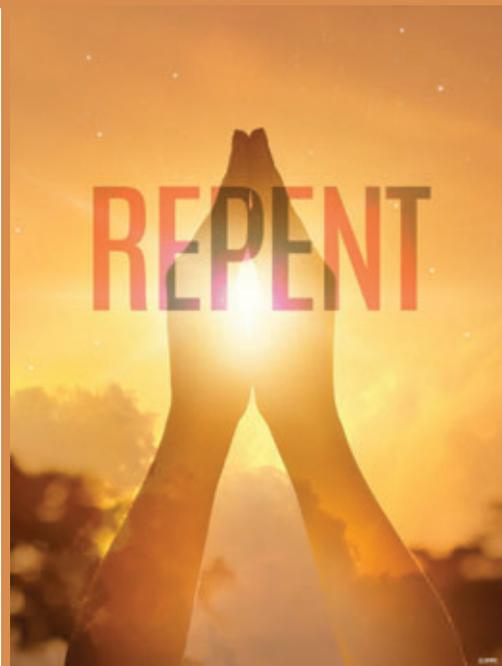
Stations of the Cross — Friday. See page 7.

Next Weekend: Bring items for service project to all masses. See pg. 8—ServiceWorX

Any parishioners feel disconnected?

The Pastoral Council is starting a new outreach to connect parishioners. See page 7.

Daylight Savings Time begins next weekend. Spring forward!



Mary Beth Oria

We are very saddened that we lost Mary Beth Oria, our Parish Business Administrator, this past Saturday evening, February 27.

Mary Beth joined our St. Matthias Parish staff from June, 2020. She brought in a fresh breath of fresh air by her professional expertise as Business Administrator, her personal spirituality that touched us all especially in leading the faith-sharing, and her human relations skills that made everyone feel respected and heard. We are indebted to her for her presence, her goodness and her excellent leadership ministry with us at St. Matthias Church and St. Matthias

School. Within such a short time with us, she made us all experience the love of God. Our prayerful condolences are with her beloved family, siblings and all those who knew and loved her. As we mourn her untimely demise, we pray she will continue to bless us from heaven. RIP.

The wake is this Friday, March 5th, 3-5 and 7-9 at S.W. Brown and Son Funeral Home at 267 Center St. in Nutley. The funeral will be at 9:30am, Saturday, at St. Mary's Church, 17 Monsignor Owens Place, in Nutley. See <https://www.tributearchive.com/obituaries/20117765/Mary-Beth-Oria/Nutley/New-Jersey/S-w-Brown-Son-Funeral-Home-Inc>

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.)

National Catholic Sisters Week Women's History Month

Sunday, Mar 7, 2021 3rd Sunday of Lent

Sunday LiveLent Groups via Zoom

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	
2:00PM	RCIA Sessions	Zoom
2:00PM	Confirmation Retreat	Church

Monday, Mar 8, 2021 No School

Monday LiveLent Groups via Zoom

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

Tuesday, Mar 9, 2021

Tuesday LiveLent Groups via Zoom

8:00AM	Daily Mass	Church
7:30PM	Pastoral Council discussion	Zoom

Wednesday, Mar 10, 2021

Wednesday LiveLent Groups via Zoom

8:00AM	Daily Mass	Church
7:00PM	RCIA Sessions	Zoom

Thursday, Mar 11, 2021

Thursday LiveLent Groups via Zoom

8:00AM	Daily Mass	Church
3:30PM	Children's Choir 3rd & 4th gr.	Church
4:15PM	Children's Choir 5th-8th gr.	Church

Friday, Mar 12, 2021 No School-Spirituality Day

Friday LiveLent Groups via Zoom

8:00AM	Daily Mass	Church
7:00PM	Stations of the Cross	YouTube & Church

Saturday, Mar 13, 2021 4th Sunday of Lent

Saturday LiveLent Groups via Zoom

Set Clocks AHEAD 1 hour tonight

9:00AM	Confirmation Service	WorX make-up Café & John XXIII Rm
3:30-4:30PM	Confessions	Church
5:00PM	Mass	Church
Bring ServiceWorX items for donation to all Masses		

Sunday, Mar 14, 2021 4th Sunday of Lent

Daylight Saving Time Begins

Sunday LiveLent Groups via Zoom

Bring ServiceWorX items for donation to all Masses		
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	
2:00PM	RCIA Sessions	Zoom

From the Pastor & the Pastoral Staff



This week we are already into the third Week of Lent. Before we know it, Holy Week will be upon us and we will then celebrate the glorious feast of Easter.

Today's Gospel gives us a hint of Jesus' knowing of the fate that he was going to suffer.

As he was driving the vendors out of the temple they ask Him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" He answered them by saying, "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up." He was speaking about the temple of his Body — His death and resurrection.

This Gospel shows us a side we sometimes forget about — His human nature. We tend to mostly dwell on His divinity, but His actions in today's Gospel show his human side. At the end of today's Gospel it says, "He did not need anyone to testify about human nature. He himself understood it well."

In today's Gospel, we see a side of Jesus we don't normally see — a Jesus who is angry for what He sees happening in His Father's temple. Anger is far from the gentle compassionate Jesus we are used to seeing. Having a human nature was a necessary part of His Mission here on earth. We need to understand that through His human side. He cried. He laughed. He was happy, sad, and experienced all the same emotions that we all feel every day. I truly believe that we can take comfort that no matter what we are feeling, we know that Jesus understands, because he felt all the same emotions throughout His life.

Remember that when He was in the Garden Of Gethsemane, He was afraid of dying. He asked for this suffering to be taken away. His human nature was coming through. But He said to His Father, "Not My will but Yours be done."

During these difficult times we can take comfort in knowing that Jesus knows us, understands us, and loves us with unconditional love.

So during this remaining time we have left in Lent, take some time in prayer to sit and talk to Jesus, our friend, the human Jesus.

Peace of Christ,

Deacon Russ



Readings for the Week

Monday: 2 Kgs 5:1-15b; Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4; Lk 4:24-30

Tuesday: Dn 3:25, 34-43; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6, 7bc, 8-9; Mt 18:21-35

Wednesday: Dt 4:1, 5-9; Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20; Mt 5:17-19

Thursday: Jer 7:23-28; Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9; Lk 11:14-23

Friday: Hos 14:2-10; Ps 81:6c-8a, 8bc-9, 10-11ab, 14, 17; Mk 12:28-34

Saturday: Hos 6:1-6; Ps 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab; Lk 18:9-14

Sunday: 2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23; Ps 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6; Eph 2:4-10; Jn 3:14-21

Sunday Mass Intentions

Mass Intentions for the 8AM Mass will be combined with that at the 10AM Mass, and the 5:30PM intention will be combined with that at 12PM.

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, Mar 6	5:00PM	Intention of Parishioners
Sunday, Mar 7	8:00AM	Prospero Lopez, by Mayra Berros
	10:00AM	Rose Marie LaTorre, by John & Susan Young
	12:00PM	Happy 40th Anniversary for Tom & Angie Dupras, by The Family
	5:30PM	Mario Gomez Mirandilla, by The Nonailada Family
	Monday, Mar 8	8:00AM
Tuesday, Mar 9	8:00AM	James Fullerton, by brother Thomas
Wednesday, Mar 10	8:00AM	Mathai Joseph Orapankal, by Tom Aussem
Thursday, Mar 11	8:00AM	Mary Lenihan, by Barb & family
Friday, Mar 12	8:00AM	Raquel Fischbach, by Anne Marie Francis
Saturday, Mar 13	5:00PM	Joseph Moran, by Joe, Virginia & Eileen
Sunday, Mar 14	8:00AM	Kathy Hibbard, by The Weeden Family
	10:00AM	Brazil Vidal, by Menchie & family
	12:00PM	Emmanuel Latorre, by Edna Yumang
	5:30PM	Intention of Parishioners

Pray for those who are sick...

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

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

Pray for those who have died...

Mary Beth Oria, St. Matthias Business Administrator
 Frederick A. Langenbacher
 Courtney Phillips
 Frank Tumulty

—“His mercy endures forever.” Chronicles

Sunday Reflections



Smile with Your Family



Shrines: I recently drove about 2000 miles on various U.S. highways. Along the side of the road there were many shrines marking where people had died in auto accidents. Almost all the shrines included a cross. I only saw a couple with Stars of David. There's only one possible conclusion: Jews are better drivers than Christians!

Commercials in the church: A little girl was taken to the Church for the first time. As she was leaving with her parents, the pastor asked how she had liked the Mass. "I liked the music," she replied, "but the commercial was too long." ☺

Priest is mugged: The story is told of a priest who was coming back to his parish house one evening in the dark, only to be accosted by a robber who pulled a gun at him and demanded, "Your money or your life!" As the priest reached his hand into his coat pocket the robber saw his Roman collar and said, "So you are a priest? Then you can go." The priest was rather surprised at this unexpected show of piety and so tried to reciprocate by offering the robber his packet of cigarettes, to which the robber replied, "No, Father, I don't smoke during Lent." ☺

Marriage Tune-Up



How is your Lenten resolution coming? Is it bringing you closer to your beloved? Consider that both God and your spouse are your beloved. Sacrificing for one can give you a window into how to become closer to the other. Contemplate sacrificial love today.

Parenting Tune-Up



How do you and your children pray? Is it memorized, spontaneous, short, frequent, irregular? Talk together about your favorite style of prayer.

The Ten Commandments Indicator!



On 3rd February 1959, 10,000 meters above the Atlantic, Captain Lynch took a last look at the flight panel of the Boeing 707. The co-pilot was studying a map. Captain Lynch decided to stretch his legs,

thinking that the worst was over. Shortly after leaving Paris they had run into a 120-kph headwind. But by now they had climbed above the storm. The captain made his way down the aisle. Just then the Captain felt the right-wing tip and he was thrown against the seats on the right hand side. At the same moment all the lights in the plane went out. Next, he found himself lying on the floor. But then he realized it was the ceiling he was on. The Boeing was on its back. He began to make his way back to the cockpit. He decided to try to hold the plane at 2,000 meters. The co-pilot had been knocked unconscious. He came to again and he and the captain managed to bring the Boeing to the horizontal. A few more seconds and the plane would have crashed. The whole incident lasted four minutes. What caused it? While the co-pilot was studying the map, he did not notice the blue light on the indicator panel warning that the automatic pilot had stopped working.

God has given us an indicator panel to guide us through life. That indicator panel is the Commandments. The Commandments are a gift from God to help us enjoy life by not getting lost along the way.

Jesus the Meek Lamb and the Ferocious Lion!



C. S. Lewis illustrated the contrasting qualities of Jesus in his character Aslan, the Lion. In *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*, two children, Lucy and Edmund, come to a grassy area. The field covers an area almost as far as the eye can see in greenery, except

for one small white spot. The children can't figure out what the white spot is from a distance, so they hike down to it and discover that it's a lamb. This white woolly creature is not just any lamb but a lamb that can cook breakfast and have a conversation with them. The children want to know how to get to the land of Aslan. While the lamb is giving them directions a marvelous thing happens: "His snowy white flushed into tawny gold and his size changed and he was Aslan himself towering above them and scattering light from his mane" (C.S. Lewis, *Voyage of the Dawn Treader*).



Lewis graphically illustrates one of the great truths of our Faith: Jesus, the Lamb of God Who takes away the sins of the world is also the Lion of Judah. In Christ we find both the meekness of the lamb and the ferocity of the lion. Jesus could be both the strong and gentle man who welcomed children and the angry man who swung a mean whip to clear the Temple.



Sunday Reflections

Nitroglycerine and Salad Bar!

Someone has compared anger to nitroglycerine. Nitroglycerine is an unstable liquid which, in paste form, constitutes dynamite. However, nitroglycerine in very small amounts is what is given to heart patients to keep their hearts beating. The little molecule that dilates blood vessels wherever they are in the body is nitric oxide. It is the active ingredient in nitroglycerine, which is a widely used little pill for the treatment of heart pain (angina). When the heart arteries are constricted, the heart becomes starved for blood and a crushing chest pain results. Put a nitro pill under the tongue and "ah, relief" as the nitric oxide relaxes the arteries and allows the blood to flow again. Anger, of itself, is not sinful. The sin is in getting angry over the wrong things. We get angry when someone cuts us off in traffic, or when someone takes credit for something we've done at the office. We get angry at the kids when they're too noisy and at our spouses when they don't meet our expectations. Sometimes we get angry when we're simply tired and cranky. We don't even need anything to set us off.



The media reported sometime back on a fight that broke out in a nursing home. The Spring Haven Retirement Community in Florida found their peace disrupted over a nasty incident at the salad bar. Mealtime turned ugly when an 86-year-old man complained to another gentlemen about picking through the lettuce. Name-calling soon gave way to punching and the police was summoned. Those in the way paid a price. One resident was bitten in his attempt to stop the fight, another knocked down. While no one was seriously injured, one of the men was expelled from the home. You and I get angry over all kinds of things, some of them exceedingly silly. Sinful human beings exploit religion just as they exploit everything else and for the same reasons--wealth, power, and prestige. Jesus got angry when he saw people exploiting religion for their own gain. That's a little different from getting miffed over a salad bar.

Question from Temple Cleansing!

What does cleansing of the temple teach us? The theologian Karl Rahner wrote: "The number one cause of atheism is Christians. Those who proclaim God with their mouths and deny Him with their lifestyles are what an unbelieving world finds simply unbelievable." Our relationship with God must be that of a child to his parent, one of mutual love, respect and a desire for the family's good, with no thought of personal loss or gain. Obeying the commandments and doing acts of charity merely as prerequisites for Heavenly reward (a gain), are acts driven by a profit motive, of which Jesus would not approve. Hence, let us ask these questions during this third week of Lent: Do we think of God as a vending machine into which we put our sacrifices and good deeds to get back His blessings? Do we use our acts of obedience to the Ten Commandments as bargaining chips with God?

"Never Argue with Him when he's Drunk!"

A man was driving without his seatbelt when he spotted a patrol car right behind him. He grabbed for the belt and put it on. But it was too late, and the red lights began to flash.

"You weren't wearing your seatbelt," said the officer. "Yes I was," said the man, "and if you don't believe me, ask my wife." "So how ABOUT it, ma'am?" asked the cop. "Officer," she said, "I've been married to this man for forty years, and there's one thing I've learned: Never argue with him when he's drunk! Just give him a ticket for not wearing the seat belt."



In today's Gospel, Jesus doesn't bother to argue with the unjust merchants and money-changers who have converted the Temple of Jerusalem into a noisy "market place" and a "hideout of thieves." Instead, he frightens them with his angry order and chases them away, holding a whip in his hands. But what made Jesus so infuriated? Here are some reasons:

a) The merchants selling animals and the money changers had converted the Court of the Gentiles into a noisy market making it impossible for the Gentiles to worship Yahweh. i) The merchants sold the animals and birds for sacrifice at unjust and exorbitant prices (18 to 20 times the regular price outside the Temple). ii) The animal-inspectors, bribed by the merchants, disqualified even the healthy animals brought by poor shepherds and farmers for sacrifice. This was an unjust extortion at the expense of poor and humble pilgrims, who were practically blackmailed into buying animals and birds from the Temple booths. Jesus considered this a glaring social injustice aggravated by the fact that it was perpetrated in the name of religion.

b) The Temple authorities, by sharing the profit made by merchants and money-changers, converted it into a "hideout of thieves" (Mark & Luke). Roman coins, bearing the images of pagan gods and the emperor, were forbidden as offering in the Temple. The money-changers, who exchanged the Temple coin (Galilean shekel) with Roman coins, demanded 1/6 of the value of the coin as their commission, even from the poor people who had to pay one and a half days of their daily wage as their annual Temple tax. What especially enraged Jesus was not that a fee was being charged, but that the amount being charged to the poor was exorbitant and, hence, unjust. What was happening was a great social injustice done in the name of religion. In fact, the money-changers were street-level representatives of a corrupt Temple banking system which had become an instrument of injustice, fleecing the poor to benefit the powerful. By chasing the money-changers and merchants from the Temple, Jesus was questioning the validity of the entire sacrificial system itself -- of Israel's ability to atone for its sins, be forgiven and stand in right relationship with God.

Sunday Reflections

Mother who Abandoned Son is Awarded his Estate!

About thirty years ago, a Connecticut Supreme Court reluctantly ruled that a Suzanne Benson is entitled to half the estate of her dead son! If the newspapers are correct, this mother had abandoned her two-year-old son. 13 years later, the son was killed in a car/bicycle collision. His dad's insurance company awarded \$300,000 to the son's estate. Mrs. Benson showed up after all this time to claim half the money. Under Connecticut law, if Mrs. Benson had officially terminated her parental responsibility, she could not have profited from the money. Abandonment of a baby, however, does not constitute formal parental termination. So she collected \$150,000!!!

That violates my sense of justice, doesn't it yours too? It's not fair. It's not right. But listen. There are far worse injustices taking place in our world than that one isolated case. We all know it's true. There are religious injustices, racial injustices, economic injustices. In today's Gospel Jesus reacts forcefully against religious injustice. Jesus got whip-cracking mad! Jesus' reaction to this commercialized faith was fierce. Since no weapons were allowed inside the Temple, Jesus had to construct his own: a whip of cords. He then wrought havoc on those who were committing abuses. He pushed people and animals out of the way, overturning tables, and spilling the money-changers' coins. With over a hundred thousand pilgrims in the city to make their sacrifices at the Temple, it seems likely that there would have been hundreds, perhaps thousands, of sheep and cattle. Considering the crowd and the damage, it is one of the unsung miracles of Jesus' ministry that he was not set upon and killed by a mob of outraged businessmen and Temple police! Because of his righteous zeal, Jesus inspired people with respect for his actions. His words bit into the consciences of those who were taking advantage of the system. John adds an additional note that Jesus' disciples remembered Psalm 69:9 ("Zeal for Your house consumes me"), as a justification for Jesus' rage. Filled with zeal for the house of God, that special place where humans and God meet, Jesus challenged religious practice that was simply external. Jesus, answering the call of a higher Authority, obeyed, regardless of the consequences.



"In his Note There was a Very Naughty Word!"

Paul Harvey tells about a robber in Oceanside, California wearing a motorcycle helmet and carrying a gun who strode into a branch bank. He selected a teller who appeared fiftyish, soft, kindly, an easy mark. He handed her a note demanding money or her life. The woman reached for the cash drawer. Then she looked again at the note and her eyes flashed, her lips clenched. She pulled the entire cash drawer out, but instead of giving him money, she clobbered the robber over the head with the drawer. And again and again. She was scolding him. Money was flying everywhere and she was beating him and shouting shame on him and bouncing blows off his helmet "until the young man turned and ran. Police caught him in nearby shrubbery. Then they asked the woman teller how come she was about to give him money at gunpoint and then, suddenly, instead, became enraged? She said, "In his note there was a very naughty word." (Paul Harvey's *For What It's Worth*®). Different people get upset at different things. Jesus shouted, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's House a marketplace!" Jesus got their attention. Sometimes we need to get angry. Anger can lead to creative and constructive solutions.

However, Jesus' anger is not the focus of this story. The Johannine account, in which Jesus quotes Zech. 14:21, "Stop making my Father's house a marketplace," seems at first glance to support the interpretation of the event as a cleansing. However, the greater emphasis here is not so much on the cleansing of the Temple, as on the replacement of the Temple. The Temple in Jerusalem was the place where God made His name or glory to dwell. With Jesus' coming on the scene, the Temple was no longer important in Jewish life as John tells the story. The Temple ceased to have a function. Jesus' promise of a new Temple suggested that God's glory would be manifested, not in a building, but in a person. By the end of the first Christian century, whenever Christians heard the word Temple, they no longer thought of the destroyed stone and mortar edifice which Solomon had originally constructed, but of the risen Jesus: the Temple which had been destroyed and raised up again in three days. Jesus had replaced and superseded everything the Temple had formerly symbolized. By his prophetic actions in the Temple, Jesus made it clear that the God Who gave the Law on Sinai could not be bought by sacrifice or bribe. Jesus is the Temple in Whom His followers come into contact with God. Our faith is Person-centered, and we are dealing with a relationship. The cleansing of the Temple by Jesus conveys to us the message that our parish Church should be the source of strength for our spiritual life and the proper venue for its public expression.



Celebrating Our Faith: Liturgy

Celebrate National Catholic Sisters Week - March 4-14: Sister Maria and Sr. Marie Therese Invite Us to Fight Hunger



We invite everyone to view the short video of Sister Maria and Sr. Marie Therese on our YouTube channel – youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ



Stations of the Cross
Fridays during Lent -
7:00 pm
March 12, 19, 26

In person and live-streamed on our St. Matthias YouTube Channel, youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ



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, 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!

Please pray for our RCIA Elect and Candidates who will receive the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil and at Pentecost
Prayer cards for journey of faith are at all church door exits

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, Domique Marchie, and Michael Marchie

Return of the 8:00 AM Sunday Mass during March

We are celebrating 8:00 AM Mass on a trial basis for **all Lenten Sundays in March - March 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th**. It has always been the intention of restoring the other weekend Masses as the pandemic lightens and with expected increased attendance at Mass during the Lenten Season, adding the 8:00 AM Mass will provide opportunities for more parishioners to worship in-person safely. The 8:00 AM Mass will also be live-streamed on our parish YouTube channel. We will evaluate the feasibility of maintaining the 8:00 AM mass past Easter Sunday

The Lenten Season

Palm Sunday Passion of the Lord:

Procession - Sat, March 27, 5 pm. Sunday, March 28, 8am, 10 am, 12pm

Last Opportunity for Reconciliation Before Easter:

Confessions - Sat, Mar 27, 3:30-4:30 pm;
Reconciliation Service and Confessions - Sunday, Mar. 28, 6:30pm

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.

Discovering God: Formation

Donations Needed!

ServiceworX is coming to St. Matthias for our confirmation students and we need supplies for their service project!

Hygiene Kits

Gallon Bags
Masks
Hand Sanitizer
Shaving Cream
Deodorant
Comb
Toothpaste
Toothbrush
Soap/Shampoo
Floss
Razor
Adult Bath Towels

Snack Bags

Gallon Bags
Single Serving Food Items
Milk Boxes
Cereal/Oatmeal Cups
Fruit Cups
Raisins
Nut Packages
Chicken or Tuna Pouch
Soup Cups/Cans
Stew Bowls
Pasta
Peanut Butter
Water Bottles

Drop off in grocery plastic bags to the Church CryRoom from March 13-14, 2021 before and after masses by 1pm



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.

2021 Bishop's Annual Appeal

Transformed by Christ Body and Blood – Sent on Mission to Light a Fire in the Heart of the Church

The devastating global pandemic of 2020 caused the loss of countless lives, widespread critical illness and has impacted every family around the world in so many ways. The important work of Catholic Charities could not and did not stop during this time. Requests for basic services such as food, shelter and clothing increased and the staff at Catholic Charities truly lived out the Corporal Works of Mercy. Rental assistance and housing support continued. The Catholic Charities food pantry, one of the largest in Warren County, provided curbside delivery and made home deliveries to protect those most at risk of coronavirus. Critical counseling services were made available through tele-health and safe, socially distant visits. Twenty-four percent – \$1.7 million dollars – of the funds raised by the 2021 Bishop's Annual Appeal is earmarked for Catholic Charities, Diocese of Metuchen. Your generosity and sacrifice helps to ensure that no one is left homeless, hungry, or without emotional support in these extremely difficult times.

Being Good Stewards



Ministry Spotlight: The Parish Pastoral Council

The Pastoral Council is a ministry of service, drawing upon the diverse backgrounds, talents, and cultural experiences of the St. Matthias Catholic Community. Under the direction of the Pastor, the Council is a forum for prayerful consultation, and encourages the spiritual growth of the Parish.

The Pastoral Council concept developed from Vatican II. It is “a consultative organ in which the faithful, expressing their baptismal responsibility can assist the parish priest, who presides at the council, by offering their advice on pastoral matters” (source: [The Priest, Pastor and Leader, Instruction of 2002](#)).

At our meetings we break open the scriptures, prayerfully reading and reflecting on the Word of God. We discuss the scripture and Father Abraham also shares his thoughts with us.

Our agendas include updates from parish ministries, the PRROP initiative, the Youth Initiative, the Reopening Task Force, and similar matters. Before the meetings, members may add items to the agenda. All new items are considered prayerfully and respectfully using the “Shared Wisdom” model.

Father Abraham also raises topics on which he would like our input. The final decision is the pastor's because he is responsible for the spiritual wellbeing of the parish, but he values our advice and support.

We are a diverse group. Some have been in the parish for many years, but some have not. Some are older; some are younger. Some have children in the school. All are active in church ministries. We have a diversity of talents and life experiences. We each bring a perspective that is valuable, and together we invoke the Holy Spirit to help us to better serve the parish and assist the pastor.

Council members are a group of at least nine, appointed by the pastor, following a process of discernment, for three-year terms. Each year we seek new members, as a third of the group moves on. We are seeking new members now. We invite you to prayerfully consider if this ministry is in your future. If you are interested in learning more about the Pastoral Council, we encourage you to contact any of our members, including Chair

Being Good Stewards

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 27 - Jan. 3, 2021	\$3,677.00	\$20,272.30	\$23,949.30	\$27,751.99
Week 28 - Jan. 10, 2021	\$17,655.00	\$26,848.80	\$44,503.80	\$26,647.99
Week 29 - Jan. 17, 2021	\$13,724.00	\$12,498.25	\$26,222.25	\$24,913.99
Week 30 - Jan. 24, 2021	\$12,973.00	\$10,559.25	\$23,532.25	\$32,122.99
Week 31 - Jan. 31, 2021	\$6,890.00	\$8,596.25	\$15,486.25	\$28,355.99
Note: The online Parish Giving amount varies week-to-week since some parishioners donate once a month and the full amount is recorded the week it arrives.			Month-to-date Total	Jan Total Last Yr
			\$133,693.85	\$139,792.95
			Current Year-to-date Total	Year-to-date as of Jan
			\$767,978.43	\$865,289.12

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 32 - Feb. 7, 2021	\$7,734.00	\$23,225.75	\$30,959.75	\$29,719.99
Week 33 - Feb. 14, 2021	\$8,269.00	\$18,525.25	\$26,794.25	\$25,955.99
Week 34 - Feb. 21, 2021	\$4,613.00	\$12,211.25	\$16,824.25	\$28,748.99
Week 35 - Feb. 28, 2021	\$19,810.00	\$8,334.25	\$28,144.25	\$27,411.09
Note: The online Parish Giving amount varies week-to-week since some parishioners donate once a month and the full amount is recorded the week it arrives.			Month-to-date Total	Feb Total Last Yr
			\$102,722.50	\$111,836.06
			Current Year-to-date Total	Year-to-date as of Feb
			\$800,522.33	\$977,125.18

Stewardship Reflection Mar 7, 2021 3rd Sunday of Lent

"You shall not carve idols for yourselves in the shape of anything..." - EXODUS 20:4

How many "gods" do you put before God? "Idols" do not always take the shape of physical things, things we can touch and feel. Those are easy to recognize. Many times they take the form of things we cannot touch and are much harder to spot like pride, power, ego, time, comfort or health. Pray for God's help to prune our vices and to grow in virtue.

Reflexiónese — 7 de marzo de 2021 3er. Domingo de Cuaresma

"No te harás ídolos de cualquier forma" - ÉXODO 20:4

¿Cuántos "dioses" anteponeamos a Dios? Los ídolos no siempre toman la forma de cosas físicas, cosas que podemos tocar y sentir. Esos son fáciles de reconocer. Muchas veces toman la forma de cosas que no podemos tocar y son mucho más difíciles de detectar como el orgullo, el poder, el ego, el tiempo, la comodidad o la salud. Rece pidiendo la ayuda de Dios para eliminar nuestros vicios y crecer en virtud.

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://www.stmatthias.net/wp-content/uploads/SMS-Annual-Fund-2020-1docx.pdf>



Being Good Stewards

From Fr. Abraham —

We see the Pandemic changing many aspects of our life, including the way of parish contributions. Due to health and safety concerns related to the pandemic, the number of volunteers that are available to count the collections has significantly diminished. **Donating your weekly collections through the Parish Giving online platform is helpful now more than ever.** Thank you to the increasing number of our parishioners who are using online giving, which is the safest and easiest method of giving for St. Matthias Church. To start using Parish Giving, go to our parish website, www.stmatthias.net/give and click on the “Parish Giving” link that will take you to the easy sign-up form.

Thank you for sustaining the parish during this unprecedented emergency that we are all experiencing.

Shop on Amazon?

Please start by clicking on the link at: www.stmatthias.net/amazon



Thank you!!!

Connecting with our Local Community

Diocesan Mass for the Solemnity of St. Joseph for the Year of St. Joseph



In this Year of St. Joseph, Bishop James F. Checchio will celebrate a Mass for the Solemnity of St. Joseph on **Friday, March 19 at 5 p.m. at the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi, Metuchen.**

Seating is limited so registration is required. Please visit

www.diometuchen.org/evangelization to register. Face coverings and social distancing are required. The Mass will be livestreamed here:

<https://www.stfranciscathedral.org>

Life Choices Resource Center's "Hope Changes Everything" Sunday, March 14, 2021 "Virtual Banquet"

Our pre-recorded video can also be viewed at your convenience any time **after March 14th.** Go to: LifeChoicesRC.com

Please join us for an inspirational “Virtual” experience highlighting God’s love in action at Life Choices Resource Center.

Please consider making a donation online @ LifeChoicesRC.com

For more information call 732-516-0911 www.LifeChoicesRC.com



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Parish Leadership

Parish Pastoral Council:

Chair: Nick Grippo
nickgrippo@gmail.com

Co-Chair: Lisa Robinson
laro504@comcast.net

Secretary: Tom Aussem

Co-Secretary:

Denise Brown

Lorraine Farr

Anne Marie Francis

Claudine Langrin

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](https://www.stmatthias.net)

Susan Klimcsak

Barry Dusault

Gwen Orłowski

Audrey Francis

Kester Hector

Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio

Trustees:

Isaac Peng

Marge Richards

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

Parish Registration — Welcome new members! Please register by calling the Parish Office.

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

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

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults The RCIA process is an opportunity for instruction and spiritual transformation for any adult seeking a deeper understanding of the Catholic tradition or full incorporation into the Catholic Church. If you are interested in becoming a Catholic or completing the Sacraments of Initiation—

Baptism/Confirmation/Eucharist, please call the Parish Office.

Stewardship — Stewardship is a way of life, a way of thanking God for all our blessings by returning a portion of the time, talent and treasure allotted to us. Whether it is clothes for the poor, food for the hungry, outreach to youth, in education, in worship, or simply arms stretched out to someone who is lonely, the Catholic Community of St. Matthias encourages everyone to become

stewards of the gifts they have been given by God, returning a portion in gratitude to God for the work of ministry here at St. Matthias and beyond our local community.



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



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The #WHATSMYNAME Movement asks everyone to simply ask drivers "What's my name?" before entering their vehicle to make sure it is the car they are supposed to enter.

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