



St. Matthias Parish Office:
 Open Mon-Thu: 8:30-5:00PM; Fri: 8:30-4PM
 168 JFK Boulevard, Somerset, NJ 08873
 732-828-1400, fax: 732-828-0866
www.stmatthias.net

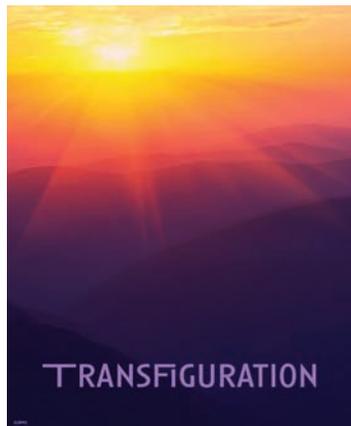
Mass Schedule (in person):
 Sat - 5PM, Sun - 8, 10 AM & 12 noon
 M/T/W/Th/F at 8:00AM
 And also on our YouTube channel
youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ

St. Matthias School (SMS):
 170 JFK Blvd., Somerset, NJ 08873
www.stmatthias.info 732-828-1402

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

St. Matthias School (add @stmatthiasnj.org)
 Mary Lynch, Principal, **mlynch**
 Joseph Gidaro, Vice Principal, **igidaro**

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS SUNDAY, MARCH 13, 2022– 2nd Sunday of Lent



St. Matthias Goes Green!

Have you noticed the new solar panels being installed on the roof of our church? See Fr. Abraham's column on page 2 to read more about the good news!

Where are We Headed as a Parish? Have You Served in a Ministry?

Then consider this opportunity to serve on the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC). We are currently seeking parishioners to serve on the PPC for the upcoming term. One third of parishioners rotate off the council every year, and their term ends this summer.

Members of the PPC must have experience serving in at least one other ministry in the parish.

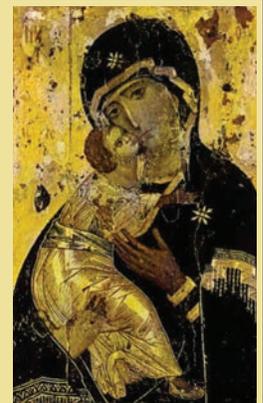
If you might be interested, please come to observe our PPC meeting **THIS Tuesday, March 15th** via zoom to help you discern about your possible calling to this ministry. Please contact: Claudine Langrin, ClaudMLangrin@gmail.com or MaryBeth Vetter Purcell, marybeth.vetter@gmail.com



Almighty God,
 strengthen with your grace
 all experiencing the tragedy of war and conflict.
 Let them feel our spiritual closeness in the hour
 of fear and give them courage to face the
 darkness of evil. Raise up leaders who will work
 together for peace and justice.

This Lent, strengthen our resolve to live as
 disciples of your Son. Forgive our failure to love
 and live in peace with people in our lives.
 We pray that Our Lady of Kyiv will turn her face
 toward the people of Ukraine and other troubled

lands. And to us as well. That we will heed the instructions she gave
 at Cana: "Do whatever he tells you to do." Amen.



If you shop on Amazon, please help us by starting at:
www.stmatthias.net/Amazon

This Week at St. Matthias

Masses are celebrated in-person and also livestreamed on our YouTube channel: [youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ](https://www.youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ)

The Church is open for individual prayer

Mon-Fri: 7:30 am to dusk, Sat: 9 am to 6pm, and Sun: 7:30 am to 1 pm, unless another service is taking place.

Sunday Mar 13, 2022 Daylight Savings Time

8:00AM	Mass	Church
10:00AM	Mass	Church
10:00AM	1st Eucharist Prep Mass, clsrms, John XXIII	
10:30AM	RCIA	Cafeteria
12:00PM	Mass	Church

Monday, Mar 14, 2022 St. Matilda, German Queen

8:00AM	Mass & Miraculous Medal Novena	
8:30AM	Confession/Reconciliation	Church

Tuesday, Mar 15, 2022 St. Louise de Marillac, Founder of the Sisters of Charity

8:00AM	Mass	Church
7:00PM	Pastoral Council Mtg.	Zoom

Wednesday, Mar 16, 2022 St. Heribert, Archbishop of Cologne

8:00AM	Mass	Church
9:30AM	Prayer Grp 1 Holy Spirit	Zoom
2:45PM	SMS Play Practice	St. John XXIII Rm
7:30PM	Folk Group Rehearsal	Church

Thursday, Mar 17, 2022 St. Patrick, Bishop & Apostle of Ireland

8:00AM	Mass	Church
3:30PM	Children's Choir Gr. 3&4 rehearsal	Church
4:15PM	Children's Choir Gr. 5-8 rehearsal	Church
7:00PM	Prayer Shawl Ministry	Neumann Rm
7:30PM	Sunday 10AM Choir	Church
7:30PM	NeXt Level Mtg.	Zoom

Friday, Mar 18, 2022 St. Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

SMS dismissal @ 12:15PM

8:00AM	Mass	Church
8:30AM	Confession/Reconciliation	Church
7:00PM	Stations of the Cross	Church

Saturday, Mar 19, 2022 Solemnity of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

10:00AM	Caregivers Support Group	Zoom
10:00AM	Secular Franciscans Mtg.	de Porres Rm
3:30PM	Reconciliation	Church
5:00PM	Mass	Church

Sunday Mar 20, 2022

8:00AM	Mass	Church
10:00AM	Mass	Church
10:30AM	RCIA	John XXIII Rm
12:00PM	Mass	Church
2:00PM	Adult Confirmation Prep	Zoom
4:00PM	SMYLE Mtg.	Cafeteria

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends,

For some time now, you probably have noticed workers on the roof of our church and may have wondered what's happening there. We are going solar! Looking at our financials, I had realized that one of the important areas where we could save a lot of money was how we obtain our electricity. Hence, I initiated the process to go solar in the summer of 2020, but it was very time-consuming with proposals from various solar companies to be submitted to the Diocese, followed by approval, inspections, and other protocols. The project was entrusted to the "Amped on Solar" company whose CEO Mr. Luke Uzupis has been meticulously following up with the time-consuming process for going solar. As per the agreement, the solar company provided us with a new roof, both for the church and the school, free of cost. And now we are entering the final phase of installing the solar panels which is what you see happening on the roof, supervised by Mr. Mark Onori, the Vice President of Project Management for Amped On Solar. Mr. Uzupis, who is implementing this project, deserves our deep appreciation for moving it forward at record time despite many obstacles caused by the pandemic, the weather, supply chain hold ups and bureaucratic delays. Our hope is to go solar in May/June this year. I am truly grateful to Most Rev. James Checchio, our Bishop, Msgr. Joseph Celano, the Episcopal Vicar for Administration, Mr. Steve Michalek, the diocesan director of the Office of Properties and Facilities, Mary Pat Burke-Grospin, Trish Stumper and many others who in one way or another were and are instrumental in making this wonderful project move forward.

We all know that solar power offers cost savings, reduces carbon footprint and produces significant profits over the long run. Besides these advantages, going solar is one of the ways of responding to the challenge that Pope Francis has given in his 2015 encyclical *Laudato Si'* motivating us to address environmental issues. He wrote about the urgent need "to develop policies so that, in the next few years, the emission of carbon dioxide and other highly polluting gases can be drastically reduced, for example, substituting for fossil fuels and developing sources of renewable energy. Worldwide there is minimal access to clean and renewable energy." (no.26) Yes, we can be proud that we are one of the pioneering parishes in our diocese to respond to this urgent need to care for the earth, our home.

On another note: This Friday, March 17, is the feast of St. Patrick, "when everyone is Irish!" While indulging in corned beef and cabbage, Guinness, et. al., the church invites us to focus on the missionary nature of the life of St. Patrick who converted the Irish population to Catholicism in his 33 years of apostolate there. The Irish rightly brought his legacy to places they have settled.

This Saturday, March 19, is the feast of St. Joseph - a big Feast especially for Italians because in the Middle Ages, God, through St. Joseph's intercessions, saved the Sicilians from a very serious drought. So in his honor, the custom has been for all to wear red, in the same way that green is worn on St. Patrick's Day. Blessing of food ("la tavola di San Giuse" or "St. Joseph's Table") is a popular practice for Italian Catholics.

Happy Feast of St. Patrick! Happy Feast of St. Joseph!
Your brother in Christ,
Fr. Abraham Orapankal



Readings for the Week

Monday: Dn 9:4b-10; Ps 79:8, 9, 11, 13; Lk 6:36-38

Tuesday: Is 1:10, 16-20; Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21, 23; Mt 23:1-12

Wednesday: Jer 18:18-20; Ps 31:5-6, 14, 15-16; Mt 20:17-28

Thursday: Jer 17:5-10; Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4, 6; Lk 16:19-31

Friday: Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a; 17b-28a; Ps 105:16-17, 18-19, 20-21; Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

Saturday: 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29; Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22; Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a

Sunday: Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15; Ps 103: 1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8, 11; 1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12; Lk 13:1-9

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, Mar 12	5:00PM	In gratitude for God's Grace & Healing, by Nathalie Godet
Sunday, Mar 13	8:00AM	Birthday Blessings for Alma Valdez, by Cecilia Lee
	10:00AM	Lisa Wehner, by The DiMeglio Family
	12:00PM	Kathleen O'Neill, by Alice Richards
	(5:30PM)	Intention of Parishioners
Monday, Mar 14	8:00AM	Brazil Vidal, by Menchie Ventura & family
Tuesday, Mar 15	8:00AM	Diane D'Impeio, by The Gavilanes family
Wednesday, Mar 16	8:00AM	Steven C.M. King, by Mother & brother, Brian
Thursday, Mar 17	8:00AM	Mr. & Mrs. John Collins, by Marty Collins
Friday, Mar 18	8:00AM	Robert McLaughlin, by Eileen Mancuso
Saturday, Mar 19	5:00PM	William Kashatus, by daughter, Ann
Sunday, Mar 20	8:00AM	Joan Bartash, by Ellin & Paul Junas
	10:00AM	Leonarda Borysewicz, by granddaughter, Irene
	12:00PM	Alice Leong, by Irving & family
	(5:30PM)	Intention of Parishioners

Pray for Those Getting Married...

Lorenzo Salcedo and Meredith Cantwell , March 26, 2022

Pray for those who are sick...

If you or a family member are sick, please call the Parish Office or email Kelly Counts at kcunts@stmatthias.net to add the name to this list. Names will be listed in the bulletin for 6 weeks. Please let us know if this time period needs to be extended. We want to know how you are doing and want to offer you the support of our prayers. New people on our prayer list are noted in blue.

Beth & Jay Adams
Carolyn Banghart
Gladys Battle
Marie Brody
Thomas Burns
Tara Capatosto
Ellen Catalina
Cenon DeGuzman
Alaina Derecola
Marlene DiMaggio
Jim Dolan
Mary Dolan
William Dolphin
John Farkas
Claudia Gemgnani
Emma Gergely
Rose Gessner
Mary Gidaro
Marie Godet
Sloopy Hoffman
Baby Isla-Rose Huffman
Al & Rose Larangeira

Erlina Liem
The Litakis Family
Kenneth & Kelly Magat
Al Maglio
Sue Maglio-Alese
King Manansala
Christine L. Matthews
Beatrice May
Margaret Menendez
Carol Millemann
Sabrina Moloney
Dave Moynihan
Danny Ongchangco
[Paul & Doris Paetow](#)
Bernadine Pasternak
Jim Pettit
Christina Pietrowiak
Ruth Piscadlo
Jaxon Rivera
Jorge Rivera
Maria Schwenzer
Lena Sciotto

Sr. Mary Amata Shina, OSF
Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF
Catherine Sloomaker
Dennis Stuewe
Jeff Tami
Susan Tosh
Jeaninne Walker
[Regina Wellman](#)
Mark T. Worthington

Everyone who is ill with Covid-19
...and for all who are homebound, elderly, in nursing care, or living with chronic illness

Pray for those who have died...

— “His mercy endures forever.” Chronicles

Emma Lacerda, mother of Maria Kosty

Reflect



Smile with Your Family



An American lawyer was sitting with his Irish client. ‘Marty’ he sighed, ‘Why is it that whenever you ask an Irishman a question, he replies with another question?’ ‘Oh my God! Who told you that?’ asked Marty. 😊

An Irishman proposed to his girl on St. Patrick’s Day. He gave her a ring with a synthetic diamond. The excited young lass showed it to her father, a jeweler. He took one look at it and told her that it was not real. She returned it and protested vehemently about his cheapness. His reply was: "It was in honor of St. Patrick's Day, I gave you a sham rock." 😊

A Texan rancher comes to Ireland and meets a Kerry farmer. The Texan says: "Takes me a whole day to drive from one side of my ranch to the other." The Kerry farmer says: "Ah sure, I know, sir. We have tractors like that over here too." 😊

An Irishman is struggling to find a parking space. "Lord," he prayed. "I can't stand this. If you open a space up for me, I swear I'll give up the Guinness and go to mass every Sunday." Suddenly, the clouds part and the sun shines on an empty parking spot. Without hesitation, the Irishman says: "Never mind, I found one!"

A Lenten “Recall Notice”!

The maker of all human beings is recalling all units manufactured, regardless of make or year, due to the serious defect in the primary and central component or heart. This is due to a malfunction in the original prototype units, resulting in the reproduction of the same defect in all subsequent units. This defect has been technically termed, 'Sub sequential Internal Non-Morality,' or more commonly known as S-I-N, as it is primarily symptomized by loss of moral judgment. Some other symptoms are:

- (a) Loss of direction
- (b) Foul vocal emissions
- (c) Amnesia of origin
- (d) Lack of peace and joy
- (e) Selfish, or violent, behavior
- (f) Depression or confusion in the mental component



The manufacturer, who is neither liable or at fault for this defect, is providing factory authorized repair and service, free of charge to correct this SIN defect, at numerous locations throughout the world. The number to call for the recall station in your area is: P-R-A-Y-E-R

WARNING: Continuing to operate the human unit without correction, voids the manufacturer's warranty, exposing owner to dangers and problems too numerous to list. For free emergency service, call on J-E-S-U-S for prompt assistance at any location worldwide.



Drink Lots of Beer during Lent! What???

The Parish Priest of St. Patrick’s Church in Bangalore, India, gave a simple advice on what to do during the 40 days of Lent. He said we should take lots of *BEER*. Naturally, the congregation was shocked! But he explained: “Now do not let your minds go wondering. I am not thinking of what you are thinking. B-E-E-R means:

B-BIBLE Read your Bible. This is God's given time to be spiritually enriched with the Word of God

E-EUCHARIST Go for Mass frequently besides Sundays. If possible every day.

E-EMPATHY Feel empathy for the poor and neglected and do something about it.

R-RECONCILIATION-This is the best time to reconcile with those we have hurt, those with whom we are not on talking terms. Seek forgiveness. Restore our relationship with God and one another.”

Have a wonderful and joyful Lent with this kind of B-E-E-R.

Transfigured by a Smile



Who doesn’t dread seeing flashing lights in the rearview mirror and hearing a siren signaling you are the one being pulled over? And who does not harbor at least a bit of resentment at the traffic cop who caught you? It’s enough to make you call in a complaint. No such complaints have

been filed, however, for Deputy Elton Simmons of the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department. A motorcycle patrolman for the last twenty years, Simmons has made approximately twenty-five thousand traffic stops and not once has a citizen complaint been issued against him.

Steven Hartman of CBS News followed Simmons for a day to find out why. It starts with Simmons style, which is civil but

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Reflect

Transfigured by a Smile (cont'd from previous page)

never soft, possessing the “pitch-perfect mix of authority and diplomacy.” Hartman told viewers he saw Simmons melt away “a polar ice cap of preconceptions” in a matter of moments with his easygoing manner.

His overall attitude is transformative. *Los Angeles Times* reporter Robert Faturechi wrote that Simmons learned his casual manner from a pastor uncle in Louisiana who told him, “do good, be good, treat people good.” “One thing I hate,” Simmons said, “is to be looked down on. I can’t stand it so I’m not going to look down at you.” He actually seems to commiserate with the people he stops. They both know a law has been broken so he tries to make the inevitable as painless as possible.

“Just treat people right,” Simmons says, “Give a smile.” One driver interviewed said he didn’t mind the ticket. “You know what it is, it’s his smile. He’s got a great smile. He’s a nice guy. How could you be mad at that guy?” Transformative smiles may be a way of carrying out the Gospel message. No need to erect tents to memorialize the moments—just keep smiling while making stops along the way. (Dr. Constance M. Popp)

“Lord, give me the Grace for Transformation.”



The word transfiguration means a change in form or appearance. Biologists call it metamorphosis (derived from the Greek word *metamorphoomai* used in Mat-

thew’s Gospel) to describe the change that occurs when a caterpillar becomes a butterfly. As children we might have curiously watched the process of the caterpillar turning into a chrysalis and then bursting into a beautiful Monarch butterfly.

Fr. Anthony de Mello tells the story of such a metamorphosis in the prayer life of an old man. “I was a revolutionary when I was young and all my prayer to God was: ‘Lord, give me the grace to change the world.’ As I approached middle age and realized that half of my life was gone without changing a single soul, I changed my prayer to: ‘Lord, give me the grace to change all those who come in contact with me; just my family and friends and I shall be satisfied.’ Now that I am old and my days are numbered, I have begun to see how foolish I have been. My one prayer now is: ‘Lord, give me the grace to change myself.’ If I had prayed for this right from the start, I should not have wasted my life.”

Mountain Top Experience

Fred Craddock tells a wonderful story about a young minister, newly graduated from seminary, serving his very first church. He gets a call telling him that a church member, elderly woman who has given her life to the church, is in the hospital. She’s so weak she can’t even get up out of bed, and the doctors don’t hold much hope for her recovery. Would he go up and visit? Well, of course he will and he does.



All the way to the hospital he’s thinking about what he will say to this Christian lady, what words of comfort he can give her to prepare her for her eminent death. He arrives at the hospital, goes up to her room for the visit. He sits and talks with her a few minutes, just small talk really, nothing earth shattering. When he makes ready to leave, he asks if she would like him to pray with her. She answers, “Yes, of course. That’s why I wanted you to come.” He then asks politely, “And what exactly would you like me to pray for?” “Why, I want you to pray that God will heal me,” she answers in a surprised tone of voice. Haltingly, fumbling over the words, he prays just as she wanted, that God will heal her, even though he’s not really sure that can happen. When he says the “Amen” at the end of the prayer, the woman says, “You know, I think it worked! I think I’m healed!” And she gets out of the bed and begins to run up and down the hallway of the hospital, shouting, “Praise God! I’m healed! Praise God! I’m healed!”

Meanwhile, the young minister, in a stupor, stumbles to the stairwell, walks down five flights of stairs, makes his way to the parking lot and somehow manages to find his car. As he fumbles to get his keys out of his pocket, he looks Heavenward and says, “Don’t You ever do that to me again!” He had a mountain-top moment, but he didn’t know what to do with it! Life is like that. Profound moments just fall in our lap and we’re not prepared; we are caught off guard and unsure what to do with them.

Why was Jesus Transfigured?

The primary purpose of Jesus’ Transfiguration was to allow him to consult his Heavenly Father in order to ascertain His plan for His Son’s suffering, death and Resurrection. The secondary aim was to make his chosen disciples aware of his Divine glory so that they might discard their worldly ambitions and dreams of a conquering political Messiah and might be strengthened in their time of trial. Further, the Transfiguration enabled Jesus to present himself to the apostles as Israel’s redeemer as had already been foretold by the prophets (St. Ephrem). The Transfiguration established Jesus’ glorious identity as the beloved Son of God and placed his divine Sonship in the context of Jewish expectations about the Kingdom and the Resurrection. The

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Why was Jesus Transfigured? (cont'd)

event took place in late summer, just prior to the Feast of Tabernacles. Hence, the Orthodox Church celebrates the Transfiguration at about the time of the year when it actually occurred in order to connect it with the Old Testament Feast of the Tabernacles. The Western tradition recalls the Transfiguration at the beginning of Lent, and then celebrates the formal feast on Aug.6.

No Cross, No Crown!



Arthur Ashe, the legendary Afro-American Wimbledon player was dying of AIDS, which he contracted from a tainted blood transfusion during open heart surgery in 1983. He received letters from his fans, worldwide, one of which read: "Why did God select you for

such a dreadful disease?" Ashe replied, "The world over, 50 million children start playing tennis, 5 million learn the game, 500,000 turn professional; 50,000 come to the circuit, 5,000 reach Grand Slams, 50 reach Wimbledon, 4 to the semifinals, 2 to the finals. When I won the Wimbledon crown, I never asked God, "Why me?" Today, in pain, I shouldn't be asking God, "Why me?" Wimbledon crown, AIDS cross.

That's Christianity! That is why immediately after his glorious transfiguration Jesus reminds his three apostles about his death and Resurrection. The Transfiguration offers us a message of encouragement and hope:

In moments of doubt and during our dark moments of despair and hopelessness, the thought of our transfiguration in Heaven will help us to reach out to God and to listen to His consoling words: "This is My beloved Son." Let us offer our Lenten sacrifices to our Lord, that through these practices of Lent and through the acceptance of our daily crosses we may become closer to him in his suffering and may share in the carrying of his cross so that we may finally share the glory of his Transfiguration.

Seeing Him Differently

A movie called *Mask* is based on the true story of a 16-year-old boy named Rocky Dennis. He has a rare disease that causes his skull and the bones in his face to grow larger than they should. As a result, Rocky's face is terribly misshapen and disfigured. His grotesque appearance causes some people to shy away from him, and others to snicker and laugh at him. Through it all, Rocky never pities himself. Nor does he give way to anger. He feels bad about his appearance, but he accepts it as a part of

life. One day Rocky and some of his friends visit an amusement park. They go into a "House of Mirrors" and begin to laugh at how distorted their bodies and faces look. Suddenly Rocky sees something that startles him. One mirror distorts his misshapen face in such a way that it appears normal – even strikingly handsome. For the first time, Rocky's friends see him in a whole new way. They see from the outside what he is on the inside: a truly beautiful person.

Something like this happens to Jesus in today's Gospel. During his Transfiguration, Jesus' disciples saw him in a whole new way. For the first time they saw from the outside what he is on the inside: the glorious, beautiful Son of God. The "transfiguration" in the Holy Mass is the source of our strength: In each Holy Mass, the bread and wine we offer on the altar become "transfigured" or transformed into the living Body and Blood of the crucified, risen and glorified Jesus. Just as Jesus' transfiguration strengthened the apostles in their time of trial, each holy Mass should be our source of Heavenly strength against temptations, and our renewal during Lent. In addition, our Holy Communion with the living Jesus should be the source of our daily transfiguration," transforming our minds and hearts so that we may do more good by humble and selfless service to others.

Transfigurations are Big Business!

The Church calls this event the Transfiguration of Christ. Jesus was "transfigured": the figure, the image, the look that he had, the face that showed to others was changed. The appearance of his face changed. Jesus had a different look. Transfigurations are big business today. I don't know anybody who doesn't want one, including me. And many of us work hard and spend a lot of money to get one -- a new face, a new look, a changed appearance. Larushka Shikne did not like the image he thought his name projected, so he changed his name to Laurence Harvey. Issur' Danielovitch Densky did the same thing and became Kirk Douglas. In the same way, Frances Gum transfigured herself and her image into Judy Garland. Archibald Leach became Cary Grant. Aaron Schwalt became Red Buttons. And would you have paid money to see Marion Morrison in the movies? Maybe, but Marion didn't take that chance; he became John Wayne.

Remember that in Holy Scripture many people got new names to go with a new life and a new image. Abram became Abraham. Sarai became Sarah. Jacob became Israel. Saul became Paul. Simon became Peter, "The Rock." Transfigurations are not the exception. They are the rule. We are all being altered in the appearance of our face, our countenance. We are all changing. To live is to be continually transfigured. So who are we becoming? I don't mean to suggest that Jesus' Transfiguration was a triumph of cosmetology. It wasn't. He did not have it done to himself; it was given to him. St. Luke's Gospel says that Jesus was praying when it happened. (Rev. Robert Johnson)

Pray

February Baptisms

The Catholic Community of St. Matthias welcomes the following children who were baptized in February.

We support them with prayers and ask their parents to nurture them so they can grow to be faith-filled people of God and our parish community.

Gabriella Sky Adajar

Kylie Pereyra

Henry Anthony Ruff

Lucas Tanis-Burgos



Daily Prayer Resources for Lent and Beyond

Try some of these great, free resources:

- **Lord, Teach Me to Pray** — learn to pray with this series, at www.lordteachmetoprayer.com
- **Click to Pray App** — sponsored by the Vatican. Short prayers each day: “With Jesus in the morning”, “With Jesus in the Afternoon”, and With Jesus at Night”. Download it from the App store.
- **Sacred Space** — visit this website, sponsored by the Irish Jesuits, for a daily reflection: <https://www.sacredspace.ie/daily-prayer>
- **Faith ND**—receive a daily email with the gospel reading and a reflection from the University of Notre Dame. Subscribe at: <http://faith.nd.edu/s/1210/faith/interior.aspx?sid=1210&gid=609&pgid=5683&cid=15492>
- **Creighton** — visit this website, sponsored by Creighton University for a daily reflection: <https://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/daily.html>

Ministry–Led Stations of the Cross 7:00PM Fridays in church

March 18 - led by the Music Ministry

March 25 - led by the Eucharistic Ministers

April 1 - led by the Rosarians

April 8 - led by the Altar Servers (TBC)



Healing (Anointing) Mass



Saturday, March 26, 11 AM

From the Pastoral Staff

On the second Sunday of Lent, we move from Jesus' retreat to the desert and temptation by the devil to the glory shown in Jesus' Transfiguration. On the first Sunday of Lent, our Gospel always tells the story of Jesus' temptation in the desert. On the second Sunday, we always hear the story of Jesus' Transfiguration.

The report of Jesus' Transfiguration is found in each of the Synoptic Gospels —Matthew, Mark, and Luke. The context for Luke's Transfiguration story is similar to that found in both Matthew and Mark. The Transfiguration occurs after Peter's confession that Jesus is the Messiah and Jesus' prediction about his Passion. After the prediction there is a discussion of the cost of discipleship in each of these Gospels. The placement of the Transfiguration story close to Peter's confession and Jesus' prediction encourages us to examine the Transfiguration in the larger context of the Paschal Mystery.

The Transfiguration occurs on a mountain in the presence of just three of Jesus' disciples—Peter, James and John. These are among the first disciples that Jesus called in Luke's Gospel. We recently heard this Gospel at Mass, on the fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time. Only Luke's Gospel, which often describes Jesus at prayer, indicates that Jesus is praying as his appearance changes to bright white. Luke indicates that the three disciples were sleeping while Jesus prayed. They will be sleeping again as Jesus prays in the Garden of Gethsemane before his Passion and death. As they awake, Peter and the disciples see Jesus Transfigured and Elijah and Moses present with Jesus. Elijah and Moses, both significant figures in the history of Israel, represent Jesus' continuity with the Law and the Prophets. In Matthew's and Mark's Gospels, there is reference to conversation among Jesus, Elijah, and Moses, but only Luke's Gospel explains that this conversation

is about Jesus' later accomplishments in Jerusalem. Luke describes this as his exodus, connecting Jesus' Passion, death, and Resurrection with Israel's Exodus from Egypt.



On witnessing Jesus' Transfiguration and seeing Jesus with Elijah and Moses, Peter offers to construct three tents for them. Having just awoken, perhaps Peter's offer was made in confusion. We also notice that Peter reverted from his earlier confession that Jesus is the Messiah, calling Jesus “master” instead. As if in reply to Peter's confusion, a voice from heaven speaks, affirming Jesus as God's Son and commanding that the disciples listen to him. This voice from heaven recalls the voice that was heard at Jesus' baptism which, in Luke's Gospel, spoke directly to Jesus as God's Son.

Continued on next page

From the Pastoral Staff

Continued from previous page In his Transfiguration, we see an anticipation of the glory of Jesus' Resurrection. In each of the reports of the Transfiguration, the disciples keep secret what they have seen. Not until they also witness his Passion and death will the disciples understand Jesus' Transfigura-

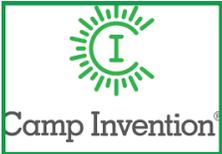
tion. We hear this story of Jesus' Transfiguration early in Lent, but we have the benefit of hindsight. In our hearing of it, we anticipate Jesus' Resurrection even as we prepare to remember Jesus' Passion and death.

Dee Nann

Learn

Thinking of Summer? We are! It's Time for **Camp Invention at St. Matthias School!**

Week: June 27-July 1, 2022



Thanks to rave reviews from campers, parents and teachers, we're bringing **Camp Invention** back for its 5th year at St. Matthias School! Even better, is our 2022 program. It is full of all-new, hands-on STEM fun!

Don't miss out! Our program is for students going into grades 2-6. Please register at invent.org/mylocalcamp by 3/31 using **SUM25** to save \$25! Contact Camp Director, Christine Taylor at ctaylor@stmatthiasnj.org for any questions.

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Catholic School 2022-2023

Tuition Assistance -

Online Application Process Open

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.factsmgt.com/aid>. Online applications must be completed (including all required documentation) by **no later than March 31, 2022**. Applications are available in English and Spanish. Families that need assistance completing the online application or need access to a computer to apply should contact their school.

Connect



SAVE THE DATE
**Ahoy,
St. Matthias
School and
Parish!**
**Save the date for
our SMS Yard Sale**

Are you ready to start spring cleaning? Well, shiver me timbers! Save your pirate booty and treasure to sell at our St. Matthias Yard Sale, which will be held on **Saturday, April 30th, from 10 till 2**. Start cleaning out your closets, house, and garage. More information will be available soon.

Twenty/20 Fish Fry FUNDRAISER
Join us for Fish Fry-day during the Lenten season. Present this flyer to your server for a portion of the proceeds raised to go toward the St. Matthias School.
Fridays during Lent
at Twenty/20 Tap House
18 Cedar Grove Lane
Somerset, NJ 08873
\$18 Dinner includes: beer battered cod, french fries and coleslaw
Take out available. Call to order: 732-907-2800

**Fish Fry at Twenty/20 Tap house
Every Friday during Lent
— to Benefit SMS**

Print out the flyer available at: www.stmatthias.net/sms-fish-fry and show it at **Twenty/20 Tap House any Friday during Lent.**

When you order the Fish Fry special, a portion of the sale will be donated to St. Matthias School.

Take out is also available and also benefits our school. Thank you!

Give (and Receive!)

Stewardship Totals for Fiscal Year July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022				Last Year's Total
Current Month	In-Pew/Mail	Parish Giving	Weekly Total	Weekly Total
Week 36 - Mar. 6, 2022	\$15,427.00	\$20,667.75	\$36,094.75	\$36,599.25
Ash Wednesday—Franklin Township Food Bank: \$2,892			Month-to-date Total	Mar Total Last Yr
Ukraine Collection (In-Pew/Drive-thru-Ashes/Text-to-Give): \$10,847.36			\$36,094.75	\$108,584.50
			Current Year-to-date	Year-to-date as of Mar 31, 2021
			\$933,071.32	\$979,285.45

Reflexiónese — 13de Marzo de 2022 2do. Domingo de Cuaresma

“Yo soy el Señor que te trajo de Ur de los caldeos para darle esta tierra como posesión”. (GENESIS 15: 7)

Así como el Señor le dio a Abraham, Moisés y los Israelitas una tierra para poseerla, Él también le ha dado a cada uno un hogar. Si su casa es grande o humilde, es un regalo de Dios. Abraham preparó un gran sacrificio al Señor en agradecimiento por el hogar que Dios le dio... ¿Cómo le muestra su gratitud a Dios por el hogar que Dios le ha dado? ¿Hace algún sacrificio de cualquier tipo? ... ¿Le regresa algo de sus finanzas a Dios, invirtiendo en su casa eterna de la misma forma que invierte en su casa terrenal?

Stewardship Reflection Mar 13, 2022 2nd Sunday of Lent

“I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land as a possession.” (GENESIS 15:7)

Just as the Lord gave Abraham, Moses and the Israelites a land to possess, He has also given each of us a home. Whether your home is grand or humble, it is a gift from God. Abraham prepared a great sacrifice to the Lord in gratitude for the home God gave him. How do you show your gratitude to God for the home He has given you? Do you make a sacrifice of any kind? Do you return any of your finances to God, investing equally in your eternal home just as you invest in your earthly home?

Serve

Help our St. Vincent de Paul Society to Help Others during Lent

As we journey into Lent again this year, we are mindful of our neighbors in need. One way you can help is through donation using one of the St Vincent de Paul Society envelopes supplied at each of the doors of the church. You can also use your own envelope addressed to the St Vincent de Paul Society. Donations can be placed in the collection basket or dropped off or mailed to the parish office.

For more information about the St. Vincent DePaul Society, visit: <https://svdpatsm.wordpress.com> Thank you!

Any Electricians/Carpenters to Help the Parish Install New Video Equipment in Church?



We have been planning to upgrade our tech capability in the church. The goal is to have better participation during Mass with the lyrics and prayers more easily visible. Also we wish to improve our live-streaming capability.

Thanks to the goodwill of many, our

Giving Tuesday Spirit Tech Connect campaign raised **\$15,910** towards our \$40,000 goal. We are very grateful for the generosity of our 77 donors!

At this time, we wish to begin Phase 1 of the project to purchase and install the TV monitors and accessories in the front of the church. We could save a lot if any parishioners who have skills in electricity/carpentry are willing to give their time to do the wiring and

carpentry work. **If you can spare some time, please contact Fr. Abraham at abraham@stmatthias.net**

If you did not have the chance to donate earlier and would like to do so now, please go to: <https://secure.givelively.org/donate/st-matthias-church-school/givingtuesday-spiritual-tech-connect-campaign>

Thank you.

Caregiver/Care Support Ministry Zoom Meeting



We'd like to invite parishioners who are caring for ill loved ones, or are coping with chronic illness themselves, and in need of spiritual and emotional support, to join us for discussion and prayer via Zoom.

DATE: SATURDAY, March 19th, TIME: 10am - 11 noon, PLACE: Via Zoom

Please contact: Donna Kahora: friendsofnikki@comcast.net or Sister Marie Therese: msherwood@stmatthias.net 732-828-1400 for Zoom details if you are interested in joining us.

Local Community

United Way Tax Preparation



The United Way of Northern New Jersey is again offering Free Tax Preparation for low & moderate income households. This is a secure online tax preparation with IRS certified tax preparers.

Visit uwnnj.org/freetaxprep to access everything you need. For questions or if you need additional help, email UnitedWayTaxPrep@UnitedWayNNJ.org call 973-993-1160 x 521



Job Opening at St. Matthias

The Catholic Community of St. Matthias is looking for a **general maintenance worker with a black seal license**. Responsibilities include janitorial duties in maintaining the safety and cleanliness of the facilities, and responding to work orders from the school and parish. This position will have a competitive salary and excellent benefits. Please contact Mary Pat at mpburke-grospin@stmatthias.net or (732) 826-1400.



2022 Bishop's Annual Appeal Is Underway

Along with other related offices under the Secretariat for Family and Pastoral Life, the *Office of Discipleship Formation for Children* strives to make lifelong faith formation central in all parishes throughout the diocese by providing all children with opportunities to experience God's love and conversion of heart through a growing knowledge of Jesus and the Gospel. Your gift to the Bishop's Annual Appeal is an investment in our future Church.

.. For more info, please go to: <https://diometuchen.org/baa>

HOUR Immaculata High School

60 minutes of conversation, info sessions, campus tour, and refreshments

Monday, March 28—7 PM

Prospective Class of '26 & Transfer Students. To RSVP, call 908-722-0200 x 1218 or visit: <https://www.immaculatahighschool.org/cms/One.aspx?pageId=1726152&portalId=95415>

Parish Leadership

Parish Pastoral Council:

@gmail.com

John Taylor

Parish Finance Council:

Joe Porter

Co-Chairs:

Co-Secretaries:

Marilyn Wegg

Kester Hector, Chair

Joan Pritchard

Claudine Langrin

Lorraine Farr and

Ana Kelly, Ex-Officio

Finance Council

Mary Pat Burke-Grospin,

ClaudMLangrin@gmail.com and

Anne Marie Francis

Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio

@stmatthias.net

Ex-Officio

Mary Beth Vetter-Purcell

Rose Peng

Trustees:

Barry Dusault

Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio

marybeth.vetter@gmail.com

Frank Rees

Isaac Peng

Gwen Orłowski

Maria Tapia-Burch

Marge Richards

Audrey Francis

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

Parish Registration — Welcome to St. Matthias! Please register on our website. www.stmatthias.net/join-us, or visit the Parish Office.

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

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

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) - If you are interested in becoming a Catholic or completing the Sacraments of Initiation--Baptism/Confirmation/Eucharist, please call the Parish Office.



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



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