



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](mailto:mpburke-grospin@stmatthias.net)

Deacon Ron Caimi, *Senior Deacon*
 Kelly Counts, *Receptionist*, [kcounts](mailto:kcounts@stmatthias.net)
 Deacon Russell Demkovitz, [rdemkovitz](mailto:rdemkovitz@stmatthias.net)
 Juan Diaz Flores, *Custodian*
 Nathalie Godet, *Website Coordinator*, [ngodet](mailto:ngodet@stmatthias.net)
 Leslie Guillen, *Bulletin Editor*, [lguillen](mailto:lguillen@stmatthias.net)
 Amy Hanna, *Accountant/Databases*, [ahanna](mailto:ahanna@stmatthias.net)
 Ana V Kelly, *Pastoral Associate for Marketing & Development*, [akelly](mailto:akelly@stmatthias.net)

Mike Lanyi, *Sacristan*
 Sue Lenczewski, *Youth Coordinator*, [SMYLE](mailto:SMYLE@stmatthias.net)
 Julio Montero, *Maintenance Supervisor*
 Dolores R. Nann, *Pastoral Associate for Faith Formation*, [dnann](mailto:dnann@stmatthias.net)

Vinnie Natale, *Bookkeeper*, [vnatale](mailto:vnatale@stmatthias.net)
 Silvia Nizama, *Housekeeper*
 Deacon John Radvanski, [deaconjohn](mailto:deaconjohn@stmatthias.net)
 Joan Best Seamon, *Pastoral Associate for Music Ministry* [jseamon](mailto:jseamon@stmatthias.net)

Sr Marie Therese Sherwood, *OSF, Pastoral Assoc. for Social Concerns*, [msherwood](mailto:msherwood@stmatthias.net)
 Phyllis Stone, *Pastoral Associate for Liturgy/RCIA & Admin. Assistant to the Pastor*, [pstone](mailto:pstone@stmatthias.net)
 Trish Stumper, *Par. Support Secretary*, [tstumper](mailto:tstumper@stmatthias.net)

St. Matthias School (add @stmatthiasnj.org)

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

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS
SUNDAY, MAY 15, 2022 –
Fifth Sunday of Easter

ST. MATTHIAS
URNS 60!
MAY 14TH IS THE
FEAST DAY OF
ST. MATTHIAS!

Join us for the **Kick-off Celebration** for St. Matthias' 60th Anniversary **TODAY, SATURDAY, May 14**, as we celebrate the Feast of St. Matthias at the **5 PM Mass!**

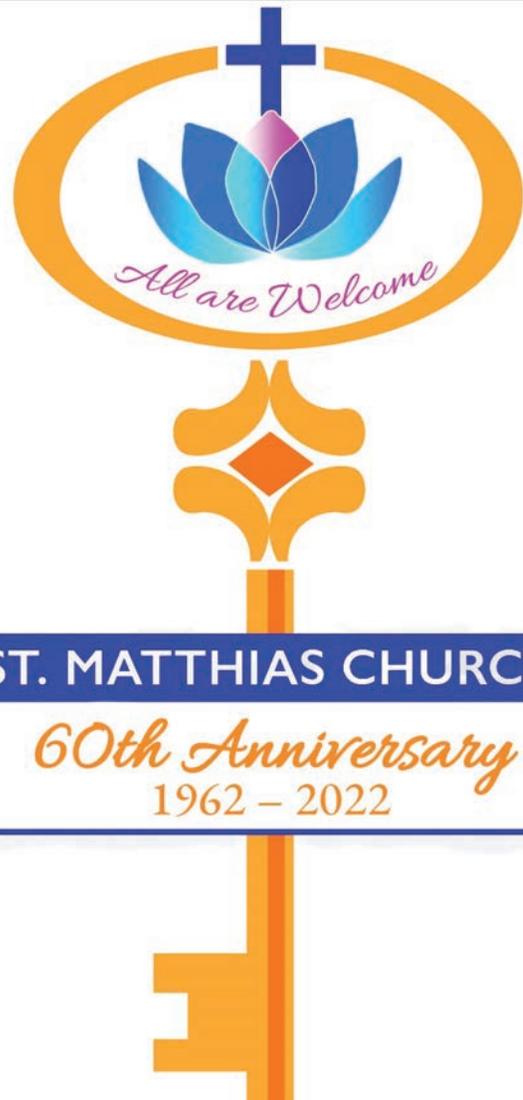
After Mass, join us in the cafeteria for an **Evening Reception**, hosted by the St. Martin de Porres Society.

We will continue the celebration at the Sunday morning Masses, with refreshments after each Mass.

On **June 26**, we will have the official celebration of the 60th Anniversary at the **12 Noon Mass**, with Bishop Checchio as the President.

Pick up a copy of our **special anniversary prayer card** in church. See Fr. Abraham's column to learn more about how we are celebrating our 60th anniversary.

If you have not yet submitted a recipe for the "New" **St. Matthias Cookbook**, please do so by **May 22**. Everyone is invited to order a copy of the cookbook for \$20. Start your Christmas shopping early and buy several copies since the cookbook will be a great gift to share with family and friends or to bring to a party as a hostess gift. The deadline to order copies of the cookbook is **June 1**. See page 7 for details.



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

This Week @ St. Matthias

Masses are also livestreamed on our YouTube channel: youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ

The Church is open for individual prayer

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

Sunday May 15, 2022 Metuchen Youth & Young Adult Ministry: NJ Youth Rally - Great Adventure

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

Monday, May 16 2022 St. Simon Stock, Hermit & Carmelite

8:00AM Mass/Miraculous Medal Novena Church

Tuesday, May 17 2022 St. Paschal Baylon, Franciscan Brother

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

Wednesday, May 18, 2022 St. John I, Pope & Martyr

8:00AM Mass Church
9:30AM Prayer Grp 1 Holy Spirit Zoom
7:30PM Folk Group Rehearsal Church

Thursday, May 19, 2022 St. Celestine V, Pope & Founder

8:00AM Mass Church
7:00PM Prayer Shawl Ministry Neumann Rm
7:30PM Sunday 10AM Choir Rehearsal Church
7:30PM NeXt Level Mtg. Zoom

Friday, May 20, 2022 St. Bernadine of Siena, Priest

8:00AM Mass Church

Saturday, May 21, 2022 St. Eugene de Mazenod, Bishop

10:00AM Secular Franciscans Mtg. de Porres Rm
12:00PM Celebration of 1st Communion Church
3:30PM Reconciliation Church
5:00PM Mass Church

Sunday May 22, 2022 Collection for the Development of the People

8:00AM Mass Church
10:00AM Mass Church
10:30AM RCIA John XXIII Rm
12:00PM Mass Church



Bulletin Article Requests:

If you would like to send information to be included in our bulletin, please email it to bulletin@stmatthias.net by 8 AM, MONDAY, 6 before the bulletin date (earlier for holiday weekends). Approved content is published on a space-available basis.

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends,

This is our 60th Anniversary kick off weekend! We are entering into the celebration-phase of the 60 years of our existence as the Catholic Community of St. Matthias: 1962 - 2022. We are very privileged to have Msgr. Joseph Celano, a St. Matthias alumnus, as our Presider for the 5 pm Kick-off Mass. A special thanks to the St. Martin de Porres Society which is organizing and taking care of the reception after each Mass this weekend. Our Anniversary Celebration Committee, co-chaired by Anne Marie Francis and Jeff Hentz, has already announced many activities that will take place in the coming months. Responding to the Committee's invitation to come up with an Anniversary Logo, Carolyn Merrill designed a beautiful logo that you can see from now on. Thank you to Carolyn who, with her husband Dave and two adult children, is a long time parishioner of St. Matthias. Being an experienced Graphic Designer, she has helped with our GIFT program brochures and also created the GIFT logo some years ago.

While appreciating the importance of visible celebrations, it is equally or even more important that our anniversary should help us grow more spiritually. We have prepared a special anniversary prayer card to pray together in the church. You can take a card and use it for your family as well as for individual prayer. The Committee is also looking into arranging a Parish Mission/Retreat later this year.

Kicking off the celebration on the feast of our patron saint has special significance. The name 'Matthias,' similar to Matthew, means "gift of God." The Acts of the Apostles describes the process of choosing Matthias to replace Judas: "it is necessary to choose one of the men who have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus was living among us, beginning from John's baptism to the time when Jesus was taken up from us. For one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection." (Acts 1:21-22) Since there were two candidates fitting these conditions, the Apostles "cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the eleven apostles." (Acts 1:26)

It is believed that Matthias was also one of the 72 disciples that the Lord Jesus sent out to preach the good news (Luke 10:1). The Apostles were convinced of the credibility of choosing Matthias to join them. He remained with Jesus until His Ascension. According to various traditions, Matthias preached in Cappadocia, Jerusalem, the shores of the Caspian Sea (in modern day Turkey) and Ethiopia. He is said to have met his death by crucifixion in Colchis or by stoning in Jerusalem. There is evidence cited in some of the early Church fathers that there was a "Gospel according to Matthias" in circulation, but it has since been lost, and was declared apocryphal by Pope Gelasius.

As we celebrate the feast of our patron saint, we honor him as someone who knew Jesus personally, and was a witness to the resurrection - that Jesus wasn't dead, but is very much alive. This is where we can imitate him. May all our celebrations help us to increase our intimacy of friendship with Jesus. May we give witness to his risen life by our joyful attitude and the invitation we can give others about our experience here at St. Matthias Community in worship as well as service.

Happy Feast of St. Matthias!

Your brother in Christ,
Fr. Abraham Orapankal



Readings for the Week

Monday: Acts 14:5-18; Ps 115:1-2, 3-4, 15-16; Jn 14:21-26

Tuesday: Acts 14:19-28; Ps 145:10-11, 12-13ab, 21; Jn 14:27-31a

Wednesday: Acts 15:1-6; Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5; Jn 15:1-8

Thursday: Acts 15:7-21; Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 10; Jn 15:9-11

Friday: Acts 15:22-31; Ps 57:8-9, 10, 12; Jn 15:12-17

Saturday: Acts 16:1-10; Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 5; Jn 15:18-21

Sunday: Acts 15:1-2, 22-29; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Rev 21:10-14, 22-23; Jn 14:23-29

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, May 14	5:00PM	Joyce Shamy, by Evelyn Ayoub Froehlich
Sunday, May 15	8:00AM	Patricia J. Highland, by Joseph C. Gidaro
	10:00AM	Darlene McKinney, by The Lenczewski Family
	12:00PM	Jill Szabo, by Eileen King & Family
	(5:30PM)	Intention of Parishioners
Monday, May 16	8:00AM	John Lavelle, by The Mazzeo Faamily
Tuesday, May 17	8:00AM	Mr. & Mrs. Indaliscio & Gloria Plaza, by Clark & Leah Nonailada & Family
Wednesday, May 18	8:00AM	Margaret Moffett, by Barbara
Thursday, May 19	8:00AM	Bert Maglio, by Mom, Dad, Pete & Sue
Friday, May 20	8:00AM	Anne Hanlon, by Collins Family
Saturday, May 21	5:00PM	Russell & Hedwig Demkovitz, by Deacon Russ & Monica
Sunday, May 22	8:00AM	Jill Szabo, by Vincent & Cynthia Martell
	10:00AM	Sadie Callender, by Joan & Family
	12:00PM	Miguel Andrade, by The Gavilanes Family
	(5:30PM)	Intention of Parishioners

Pray for those who are sick...

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

Beth & Jay Adams
Carolyn Banghart
Brandon Barbarite
Gladys Battle
Marie Brody
Thomas Burns
Tara Capatosto
Ellen Catalina
Alaina Derecola
Marlene DiMaggio
Mary Dolan
William Dolphin
Josephine Geenty
Claudia Gemgnani
Emma Gergely
Rose Gessner

Mary Gidaro
Marie Godet
Sloopy Hoffman
Baby Isla-Rose Huffman
Vera Jones
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
Eleanor Nagy
Janice Navatkowski
Jean Oberlander
Danny Ongchangco
Paul & Doris Paetow
Bernadine Pasternak
Jim Pettit
Christina Pietrowiak
Ruth Piscadlo
Chris Retz
Jaxon Rivera
Jorge Rivera
Barbara Ruziska
Maria Schwenzer

Lena Sciotto
Buddy Scott
Sr. Mary Amata Shina, OSF
Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF
Catherine Sloomaker
Dennis Stuewe
Jeff Sullivan
Jeff Tami
Jeaninne Tosh
Regina Wellman
Mark T. Worthington

And for all who are ill, homebound, elderly, in nursing care, or living with chronic illness, we pray.

Pray for those who have died...

— “His mercy endures forever.” *Chronicles*

Donald Kane
Mary Halecki

Reflect



Smile with Your Family



Love in marriage: One Sunday a priest was finishing up a series on love and acceptance in marriage. At the end of the service he was giving out small wooden crosses to each married couple. He said, "Place this cross in the room in which you fight the most and you will be reminded of Jesus' new commandment of love and you won't argue as much." One woman came up after the service and said: "You'd better give me five crosses."

Abraham's Test: Q: Why did God test Abraham with sacrificing his only son, Isaac, when Isaac was just a child? A: Because, if Isaac had been a teenager, Abraham would probably have gone through with it.

Irish Whiskey: An American tourist in Dublin asks a local citizen: "Is Irish whiskey REALLY strong?" The Irishman answered him: "Aye, it's very strong; last Saturday night after only 2 Irish whiskeys, I went to 7am Mass." "What's so unique about that?" the American inquired. The Irishman replied: "I'm Jewish!"

Parenting Tune-Up



This Earth Day came and went! As a family, did you participate in any event on this year's Earth Day? It is not too late to take stock of what your family already recycles (paper, plastic, cans...) Can you add one more thing to recycle? Better yet, can you refrain from buying something that needs recycling? We call it "pre-cycling."

Marriage Tune-Up



After the last child leaves home, Mom and Dad may wake up and wonder who they are looking at. Somewhere over the years, they've gotten so involved in their children's lives that they forgot about each other. Prepare for an empty nest by paying attention to your honey today. Plan a date for this week.

The Bomber and the Victim

Two World War II veterans, a German and an American, were attending a three-day seminar. As they were washing dishes one evening after dinner they exchanged stories about the war. The American told of the horror he felt as a young pilot during the particularly savage bombing of a city in Germany. He had orders to bomb a hospital, which he would know by the huge Red Cross painted on the roof. The German -- somewhat shocked by the story -- revealed that his wife had been giving birth to their baby in that very hospital when it was being bombed, resulting in the death of the mother and the baby. After a few minutes of silence the two men fell into each other's arms weeping.

Imagine being in Heaven, at the end of the world, where we fall weeping upon one another, waves of reconciliation breaking upon us as we adjust ourselves to this dimension of pure love which Jesus demands from his followers in today's Gospel passage. The early Christians practiced this love literally. Tertullian stated that the heathens held the Christian congregations in high regard: "See, how these Christians love one another." The fact is that Jesus' death and Resurrection served, not just as an example of how to love, but as the agent that actually freed us from our selfish love through His indwelling presence. It was this new kind of love which was manifested by the first disciples of Jesus in Jerusalem (Acts 2:44-45), and in the Churches in Macedonia (2 Corinthians 8:1-5). It was a love that was attentive to the poor and the needy. During his life on earth, Jesus Himself was lovingly present to those who were not at all lovable. He allowed himself to be moved with pity and compassion when he encountered those in need, and he was moved to tears in the midst of sadness. He openly shed tears at the tomb of Lazarus. He shed tears also over the city of Jerusalem. Even the anger that Jesus displayed in the Temple was rooted in love -- the love for His Father and for His Father's house. Jesus loved by serving others, by helping them and by healing others. His was a love that healed and built up, that challenged and inspired people. It was a deeply forgiving and sacrificial love. "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John 15: 13).

Love is the Christian uniform

The renowned French artist Paul Gustave Dore once lost his passport while traveling in another country in Europe. When he came to a border crossing, he explained his predicament to one of the guards. Giving his name to the official, Dore hoped he would be recognized and allowed to pass. The guard, however, said that many people attempted to cross the border by claiming to be persons they were not. Dore insisted that he was the man he claimed to be. "All right," said the official, "we'll give you a test, and if you pass it we'll allow you to go through." Handing him a pencil and a sheet of paper, he told the artist to sketch several peasants standing nearby. Dore did it so quickly and skillfully that the guard was convinced he was indeed who he claimed to be. Dore's action confirmed his identity.

In today's Gospel, Jesus gives us the mark of Christian identity: "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another (John 13:34-5). Love is the Christian identity. Love is the Christian uniform. Love is the Christian habit. If you are wearing the habit of love, you are in. If you are not wearing love as a habit, you are out. Let us remember the words of Shakespeare in Measure for Measure (Act V: Scene 1, l. 263): "Cucullus non facit monachum" [a hood does not make a monk]. A Christian name or a cross on a chain will not make us Christians unless we practice Jesus' new commandment of love in today's Gospel.

Catherine Lawes who transformed a notorious prison with love

In 1921, Lewis Lawes became the warden at Sing Sing Prison in New York state. No prison was tougher than Sing Sing during that time. But when Warden Lawes retired some 20 years later, that prison had become a humanitarian institution. Those who studied the system said credit for the change belonged to Lawes. But when he was asked about the transformation, here's what he said: "I owe it all to my wonderful wife, Catherine, who is buried outside the prison walls." Catherine Lawes was a young mother with three small children when her husband became the warden. Everybody warned her from the beginning that she should never set foot inside the prison walls, but that didn't stop Catherine! When the first prison basketball game was held, she went ... walking into the gym with her three beautiful kids, and she sat in the stands with the inmates. Her attitude was: "My husband and I are going to take care of these men and I believe they will take care of me! I don't have to worry."

She insisted on getting acquainted with them and their records. She discovered one convicted murderer was blind so she paid him a visit. Holding his hand in hers she said, "Do you read Braille?" "What's Braille?" he asked. Then she taught him how to read. Years later he would weep in love for her. Later, Catherine found a deaf-mute in prison. She went to school to learn how to use sign language. Many said that Catherine Lawes was the body of Jesus that came alive again in Sing Sing from 1921 to 1937. Then, she was killed in a car accident. The next morning Lewis Lawes didn't come to work, so the acting warden took his place. It seemed almost instantly that the prison knew something was wrong. The following day, her body was resting in a casket in her home, three-quarters of a mile from the prison. As the acting warden took his early morning walk he was shocked to see a large crowd of the toughest, hardest-looking criminals gathered like a herd of animals at the main gate. He came closer and noted tears of grief and sadness. He knew how much they loved Catherine. He turned and faced the men, "All right, men, you can go. Just be sure and check in tonight!" Then he opened the gate and a parade of criminals walked, without a guard, the three-quarters of a mile to stand in line to pay their final respects to Catherine Lawes. And every one of them checked back in. Every one! They learned the commandment of love as practiced by Catherine. [Stories for the Heart compiled by Alice Gray (Portland: Multnomah Press, 1996), pp. 54-55.]

"Tendrils along the sidewalk of loss . . ."

"I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another. This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13: 31-33a, 34-35

In her memoir **Some Assembly Required: A Journal of My Son's First Son**, Anne Lamott includes this entry: "The only son of some people Sam [my son] and I know from town has died.

"How on earth can the parents survive that? How can the grandparents?" "Same old inadequate answer: They will survive with enormous sadness and devastation. I don't see how this is possible. But looking back over the years, I see that people do go on against absolutely all odds, and truly savage loss.

"Some of us have a raggedy faith. You cry for a long time, and then after that are defeated and flattened for a long time. Then somehow life starts up again. Other people set up foundations so other kids don't die the way theirs did, and so their kids didn't die in vain, or they do political work for the common good. Your friends surround you like white blood cells...

"Life is a very powerful force, despite the constant discouragement. So if you are a person with connections to life, a few tendrils eventually break through the sidewalk of loss, and you notice them, maybe space out studying for them for a few moments, or maybe they tickle you into movement and response, if only because you have to scratch your nose."

If we look carefully, with persevering trust, we will realize the love of God breaking through like flowers through the cracks in the sidewalk of our brokenness and pain. Such compassion and care is ours to give and receive in our "raggedy" attempts to follow Jesus' "new" commandment: to love one another as he has loved us. In times of loss, may we realize reasons to carry on in meaningful hope - and, when others suffer times of trauma and pain, may we possess the grace of God be a "tendril" of God's love for them.

What's new in the new commandment?

In the second part of Jesus' farewell discourse, he gives his followers a new commandment: they must love one another as he has loved them. They would be known, not by the sign of the fish or even of the cross, but by their mutual love, the fruit of their conversion. Just as Solomon, in the story of the disputed child, was able to discern the identity of the true mother by her love, so will the world be able to identify the true disciples of Jesus by their love for one another. The command of Jesus is both new and old. It repeats the precept of Lev. 19:18 to *love one's neighbor as one's self*. What is new is that this love characterizes the new life inaugurated by Jesus and is proof of one's love for God (1 Jn. 4:7). Jesus' new commandment calls for love without limits, conditions, or prerequisites. This love opens our eyes to facts that we might otherwise overlook: that the poor in the world belong to our family; that those who live in despair may be saved by our care of them; that peace can come to the world through our efforts.

Reflect

Christian Love of a Coach

Author James Moore tells about K.C. Jones, the former coach of the Boston Celtics basketball team. Jones became famous for his unique ability to give his players some unforgettable words of encouragement when they needed it most. If a player scored 50 points or made the game-winning basket, Jones would not say much more than, "Nice game!" But when a player was down and really struggling, Coach Jones would be there to comfort and help and inspire. All-star forward Kevin McHale asked Coach Jones about this one day, and K.C. Jones answered: "Kevin, after you've made the winning basket, you've got 15,000 people cheering for you, TV commentators come rushing toward you, and everybody is giving you high fives. You don't need me then. When you need a friend most is when nobody is cheering."

We are asked to love as Jesus loved, in the ordinary course of our lives. This means that we should love others by our compassionate understanding towards others. We love others by responding to their everyday needs. We can show love by materially sharing with those who have less. We love others by comforting and protecting those who have experienced loss. We love others by serving others in every possible way no matter how small. We love others by forgiving rather than condemning, by challenging rather than condoning. We love others by responding to the call of God in our lives and by walking in the footsteps of Jesus. We love others by making sacrifices for them. This is how the world will know that we are the Disciples of Christ.

"This is an Arab bus. Please do not throw stones!"

The Reverend Timothy J. Kennedy tells of traveling by bus throughout Israel one summer. On one part of the journey, the bus driver placed a big white sign by the passenger side windshield. Since it was in Arabic, Kennedy asked their guide to translate. The sign said, "This is an Arab bus, owned and operated by Arabs. Please do not throw stones." When they got close to Tel Aviv, the driver pulled another sign from behind his seat, and replaced the first sign in the windshield. Since it was in Hebrew, Kennedy asked their guide to translate again. The new sign said, "This is a Jewish bus, owned and operated by Israelis. Please do not throw stones." How do you tell the difference between an Arab bus and a Jewish bus? A big plastic sign in the windshield.

But back to our primary question, how do you identify a Christian? I guess we could wear plastic signs. But would that really do the trick? No. Instead, we need to demonstrate our love for others and they will know we are genuine. When we are assembled and have guests, we have an opportunity to demonstrate our love for another. They must see Christians as people who are glad to see one another, who are willing to take the time to visit with each other and who know each other's names. Our assemblies may be the only time some guests have the opportunity to see Christians interact with love and concern for one another, an interaction that reveals the strong love and appreciation for one another which the members have. Christians will often sin against one another and offend one another. But others should see in us a quickness to forgive, even as Christ has forgiven us.

From the Pastoral Staff

"You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this apostolic ministry from which Judas turned away to go to his own place." Then they gave lots to them, and the lot fell upon Matthias, and he was counted with the eleven apostles. -Acts of the Apostles

As we celebrate the Feast of St. Matthias this weekend, we think about how Matthias was chosen. All of the apostles before Matthias were chosen by Jesus. St. Peter proposed a way for the apostles to make their choice on how to replace Judas. The new apostle needed to be a disciple from the beginning, and become with the apostles a witness to Jesus' resurrection. Two men fit this criteria, and the apostles prayed upon this and drew lots. Mat-

thias was chosen.

The apostles put their faith in God, prayed constantly so they would make the right decision. According to Father Landry, a priest from the Visitation Mission of the Sisters of Life, Manhattan, "We've all been chosen by God similarly to St. Matthias. We were allotted to become more aware of that love of God — "Just as the Father loves me," Jesus says today, "so I love you" — and to have the chance to live in it through Christ's Mystical Body."

We have all been called to serve and spread the good news of our Lord, Jesus Christ. How can each of us do that each and every day? Let us all make this feast day of St. Matthias a new beginning for each of us, a new beginning for our community of St. Matthias both parish and parish school. Spread the

good news about our teachings here to your family, friends and neighbors. Encourage people to come back to church in person, and to visit us here at St. Matthias School, where all are welcome to share in the goodness of our dear Lord. We all need to continue to pray for all Catholic Schools as they continue to spread Jesus' message to all.

"O Christ, our Teacher, We thank you for the gift of Catholic schools, where the message of your life, death, and resurrection is proclaimed, discipleship is modeled, worship of you is cultivated, and community is experienced."

Mary Lynch, Principal St. Matthias School



*** Calling all 'Foodies'!! ***



The 60th Anniversary Edition of the **St. Matthias Cookbook** is looking for your favorite recipes!!

Please go to the St. Matthias website, to enter them now: www.stmatthias.net/cookbook

If you do not have Internet access, our committee can enter them for you. Forms are also available to print out on the cookbook link. Submit hardcopies of your recipes to the Parish Office on the **Official Recipe Collection Sheet**. Please [submit your recipe by May 22nd](#) so we can meet our deadline.

To reserve your copies, download the **Advanced Order Coupon** from the website and hand it in, with complete payment (\$20 per cookbook), to the Parish Office. **Orders must be in by June 1st**. Please make checks payable to St. Matthias Church with "Cookbook" in the memo line. If you have any questions, please email Pat Cullen at fitpro436@gmail.com and put "Cookbook" in the subject line!

Senior Ministry Retreat Round Up

On May 4, Sr. Marie Therese and 12 members of our St. Matthias Senior Ministry carpooled to St. Francis Center for Renewal in Bethlehem, PA to attend the **Retreat for Seniors**. They were joined by 3 other members who participated online. Our presenter, Sr. Marguerite Stewart, OSF, a member of the retreat team, welcomed us & led us in prayer, and offered a presentation on the 4 stages of aging.

Afterward, we were given time for personal reflection. One of the questions for reflection was: "The 2nd half of life is a sacred time of grace and gratitude..." Group sharing was followed by a delicious lunch which nourished us in body & spirit, allowing the opportunity to meet other participants and enjoy each other's company. Below are some participants' comments:



I found it interesting to review the four stages of aging. Each stage offers the challenge to grow in wisdom and gratitude for the lessons and blessings each stage offers. The program addressed the challenges and fears so common to aging persons. I get to choose to live in fear or find meaning and purpose as I venture each day on my Spiritual journey. MARILYN WEGG

What I particularly liked was how Sr. Marguerite made me at peace with the idea of growing older. There is a time to work and then a time to step back and see what life has in store for them, now that the days of hustle-and-bustle get out the door

for work have ended. CHRIS RETZ

I am so happy I was able to attend the Senior Retreat in Bethlehem. As I was strolling the grounds during Reflection Period, I was overwhelmed with contentment and became aware that my soul was thirsting for this moment. The Beauty of Aging, as stated by Sr. Marguerite, Aging with Grace, became a Sweet Vision. JOCELYNE NAU

What a beautiful day to reflect on the stage of life we are in and to become aware of our journey. JODY MARTIELLI

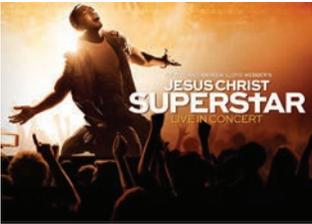
So glad I was able to join in "The Beauty of Aging" retreat led by Sr. Marguerite. It gave me an opportunity to spend time in a peaceful setting, affording time to listen, learn, pray, contemplate, and share with other faithful women. I came away feeling wiser and more peaceful about this time in my life. PATTI NOLAN

I participated in the Seniors Retreat via Zoom and was happy I did. The sessions were enriching, and very inspirational. I enjoyed listening to the stories shared by the participants. Stories of faith, hope, bravery, resilience, triumph, and love. The experience was a very rewarding one for me. Thank you, Sr. Marie Therese, for organizing this event. I look forward to attending in person next year, God willing. PEARL SCOTT

I enjoyed the Aging with Grace Retreat very much. I found the topic relevant, the setting peaceful, and the presenter excellent. Sr. Marguerite was talented at encouraging her audience to reflect on the aspects of aging that she described in her talk. I loved her speaking voice; it was soothing to listen to. I appreciate Sr. Marie Therese arranging for the Center to hold the retreat as a follow-up request from members of the Senior Ministry. JOCELYN THOMAS

Sr. Marguerite pointed out that our world needs models of the fullness of life, a fullness which only comes as one grows older. Part of being a model to others is learning to let go of any fears or regrets that keep us from living authentically. CATHY MINNEHAN

Connect



Easter Season Movie Night

Saturday, May 28, 6:00 pm Pizza Dinner, 6:30 pm Movie, St. John XXIII Room

Please join us for a special movie night this Easter Season! We will watch *Jesus Christ Superstar Live in Concert*, starring John Legend. There will be pizza, beverages, cookies, and lots of fellowship. This event is FREE and ALL are welcome to attend. Please RSVP by **Friday, May 27th** to matthiasracialjustice@gmail.com so we can prepare accordingly. HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

SMS Golf Classic — Wednesday, June 8, 2022 Royce Brook Golf Club, Hillsborough Township, NJ

Register now for this great, community-building event to benefit our very own St. Matthias School. Registration includes Golf, Breakfast, and a Luncheon with a two-hour open bar. Each golfer will receive a swag bag containing a personalized bag tag, sleeve of golf balls and gift cards. \$10,000 Hole in One Contest, Closest to the Pin and Longest Drive Contests. Raffle and Silent Auction to close the day. **Sponsorship opportunities available. Donations of golf items, sports memorabilia, gift certificates, etc., for the Silent Auction are welcome.**

SMS is an excellent place for children in Pre-K through 8th grade. Our challenging academics, outstanding faculty and engaging learning environment provide children with the opportunity to grow and mature. **To register** and for more information, visit (*right-click the link if you are reading this bulletin online*): <https://events.golfstatus.com/event/d853f253-3deb-4f9c-bc2b-ce3911c971ef/details/registration-details>



Pray

Special Collection Next Weekend at All Masses

On **May 28/29, 2022**, we will have a special **Collection for the Development of the People**. This collection directly funds the four national collections: Church in Latin America, the Church in Africa, the Church in Eastern Europe, and the Catholic Home Mission Appeal. To learn more about how the funds are utilized to directly benefit parishes and ministry in great need, visit the following:

Latin America: www.usccb.org/committees/church-latin-america/collection-church-latin-america-resources

Africa: www.usccb.org/committees/church-africa/solidarity-fund-church-africa-resources

Eastern Europe: www.usccb.org/committees/church-central-eastern-europe/collection-church-central-and-eastern-europe

Home Missions: www.usccb.org/committees/catholic-home-missions/catholic-home-missions-appeal-resources



Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord

Effective this Easter season, the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord will be permanently transferred from Thursday of the Sixth Week of Easter to the following Sunday, the Seventh Sunday of Easter, in all Catholic dioceses in New Jersey. **This year, the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord will be observed on Sunday, May 29.** This liturgical observance is an integral dimension of the completion of Our Lord's paschal mystery and, after much discussion, the Catholic Bishops of New Jersey collectively discerned that the transferring the observance to the following Sunday would allow for greater participation among the faithful.

Learn



CAMP INVENTION 2022: EXPLORE! A high energy Hands-on STEM Camp

June 27-July 1, 2022 from 8:30AM - 3:00PM
In person at St. Matthias School, Somerset, NJ 08873
(for students going into Grades 2-6)

Attention Parents: Spark your kid's creativity & confidence with our new Camp Invention program, entitled **Explore!** Give your young innovator an unforgettable adventure!

All-New, hands-on activities will launch their imagination and get their confidence soaring as they explore STEM fun from the oceans with aquatic robots to outer space where they will create usable tools. Each activity is designed to give your young inventor an unforgettable summer experience! **The camp will be held at St. Matthias School.**

Visit invent.org/mylocalcamp or call 800-968-4332 to secure your spot. **Get a discount by using code D15CAMP by May 18 to save \$15.** Questions? Contact Director: Christine Taylor ctaylor@stmatthiasnj.org, 732-322-8793.

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 44 - May 1, 2022	\$10,651.05	\$9,999.25	\$20,650.30	\$19,155.25
Week 45 - May 8, 2022	\$8,058.00	\$24,662.75	\$32,720.75	\$35,587.75
			Month-to-date Total	May Total Last Yr
			\$53,371.05	\$126,063.00
			Current Year-to-date Total	Year-to-date as of May 31,
			\$1,192,403.14	\$1,219,418.20

Stewardship Reflection May 15, 2022 5th Sunday of Easter

"I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another." (JOHN 13:34)

"As I have loved you," this is the hard part – Jesus's love is unconditional; our love usually comes with strings attached. It is easy to love someone when they love you back. But it takes mercy and compassion to love someone when you feel unappreciated, feel used or feel like your opinion doesn't matter. It takes courage and the grace of God to "love my neighbor" when they may be someone you don't like, someone you don't know or someone that doesn't look like you.

Reflexiones — 15 de mayo de 2022 5to. Domingo de Pascua

«Les doy un nuevo mandamiento, que se amen los unos a los otros. Como yo los he amado, así ustedes deben amarse los unos a los otros.» (Juan 13:34)

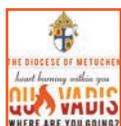
"Como yo los he amado", esa es la parte difícil- el amor de Jesús es incondicional: nuestro amor usualmente viene con ataduras. Es fácil amar a alguien que te ama. Sin embargo, requiere misericordia y compasión para amar a alguien cuando usted no se siente apreciado, o se siente utilizado o que su opinión no importa. Se requiere valentía y la gracia de Dios para "amar a mis vecinos" cuando pueden ser personas que a usted no le gusten, que no conoce o que no se parecen a usted.

Serve

Next Social Justice Ministry Meeting

The St. Matthias Social Justice Ministry will be having their next meeting, via Zoom, on **Tuesday, May 24 at 7:30 pm**. If you would like to attend, please contact Rose Peng at rosepeng@optonline.net or Lorraine Farr at lvfarr7@gmail.com. Newcomers are welcome!

Quo Vadis Days: Young men ages 14-17! July 19-22, 2022



You're invited to spend a few days living, praying and interacting with priests, seminarians and faith-filled teens your own age. The days will include dynamic talks, a visit from Bishop Checchio, sports and activities, prayer, small group discussion and so much more. For more information, email quovadis@diometuchen.org

Local Community

ST. FRANCIS CENTER FOR RENEWAL



Interactive Workshop: Prayer through the Lens of Your Camera



Saturday, June 4, 2022
10 AM—12 Noon

395 Bridle Path Road, Bethlehem, PA

For details and to register, visit:
<https://www.stfrancisctr.org/upcoming-events/prayer-through-the-lens-of-your-camera>

CENTER FOR GREAT EXPECTATIONS

RECEPTION & TOUR — June 1, 12 pm to 1 pm

Please arrive a little before 12 noon, since this is a tour (not an Open House). We will be providing a continental breakfast. For details and to register, visit:
www.cge-nj.org/events/cge-information-receptions.



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GOD'S ON-GOING CALL Wednesday, May 18th, 7—9pm

God calls in different ways at different times in our lives. How do we hear the call, and how do we respond, no matter how old we are? *Presenter: Barbara Lee, a spiritual director, author and retired lawyer who has served as a member of the Ignatian Volunteer Corps.*

SACRED TIME, SACRED SPACE Thursday and Friday, May 19th, 9:30 AM — 3 PM

A personal, quiet day to enjoy God's presence. Day begins with communal prayer. Bring bag lunch.

Details and to register: www.msmhope.org, 908-753-2091 or msmhope@msmhope.org.

Relics of Saint Bernadette

From April to August 2022, the relics of Saint Bernadette will tour the United States for the first time, bringing the grace of Lourdes to parishes across the country. The Relics will visit the Diocese of Metuchen, the only diocesan stop in New Jersey, from **May 17-20, 2022**. Details at: diometuchen.org/saintbernadette



Franklin Township Dr. Martin Luther King Community Foundation Scholarship Program

Since the annual Breakfast has been canceled these past two years due to the pandemic, the foundation is inviting donations to the scholarship fund. Visit: www.FTMLK.org for more information. Next year's breakfast will be held on January 16, 2023. Mark your calendars!



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.



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