



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

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THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS

SUNDAY, MAY 22, 2022 – Sixth Sunday of Easter

THIS Weekend, May 21/22 – Special Collection for the Development of the People

Today we will have a special collection, “Development of the People”, that will be distributed to help four regions of the world to provide help for the neediest parishes and dioceses which are unable to provide basic pastoral services on their own. To learn more about each of these regions, please see page 8.

Next weekend, May 28/29, is the Catholic Communications Campaign. For more information, visit: <https://www.usccb.org/committees/catholic-communication-campaign>



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.**



Easter Season Movie Night

Saturday, May 28, 6:00 pm Pizza Dinner, 6:30 pm Movie, St. John XXIII Room.
See page 8 for details.



Boy Scout/Cub Scout Car Wash



Saturday, May



28th

10AM – 3PM ST. MATTHIAS CHURCH

168 JFK BLVD. SOMERSET, NJ 08873
CARS \$10 MINIVAN/SUV \$15

All proceeds from the event will help to fund the Activity Programs of Troop 154 and Pack 195!



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 22, 2022 Collection for the Development of the People

8:00AM	Mass	Church
10:00AM	Mass	Church
11:00AM	RCIA	John XXIII Rm
12:00PM	Mass	Church

Monday, May 23, 2022 St. John Baptist de Rossi, Priest

8:00AM	Mass/Miraculous Medal Novena	Church
6:30PM	60th Ann'y. Mtg	de Porres Rm

Tuesday, May 24, 2022 Our Lady Help of Christians

8:00AM	Mass	Church
7:30PM	Social Justice Mtg.	Zoom

Wednesday, May 25, 2022 St. Bede the Venerable, Priest & Doctor

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

Thursday, May 26, 2022 St. Philip Neri, Known as the 3rd Apostle of Rome

8:00AM	Mass	Church
9:00AM	SMS HSA & Student Council Inductions	Church
7:00PM	Faith & Racial Equity Immersion Experience w/ Dr. S. Donnyay	Zoom
7:30PM	Sunday 10AM Choir Rehearsal	Church
7:30PM	NeXt Level Mtg.	Zoom

Friday, May 27, 2022 Augustine, Archbishop of Canterbury

SMS Dismissal - 12:15PM

8:00AM	Mass	Church
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Saturday, May 28, 2022 St. Germanus, Bishop of Paris

9:00AM	Faith & Racial Equity Session 7	Zoom
10:00AM	Car Wash- Boy Scouts	Outside
3:30PM	Reconciliation	Church
5:00PM	Mass	Church
6:00PM	Social Justice Movie Night	John XXIII Rm

Sunday May 29, 2022 Ascension of the Lord Catholic Communication Campaign

8:00AM	Mass	Church
10:00AM	Mass	Church
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,

Biblically, Ascension took place 40 days after the Resurrection and so the actual Ascension Day falls on a Thursday - which is what we used to celebrate every year. Recently the bishops of New Jersey met and after discussing the pros and cons of this practice have discerned that the Solemnity of the Ascension be permanently transferred from Thursday of the Sixth Week of Easter to the following Sunday. The bishops' discernment included a great desire for more of the faithful to participate in this integral dimension of the completion of Our Lord's paschal mystery by the Ascension observed on a Sunday - which will be next Sunday.

This year, Thursday, May 26 will be observed as Thursday of the Sixth week of Easter and the Memorial of St. Philip Neri (1515-1595) who is known as the founder of the Congregation of the Oratory. We have Oratorian priests and brothers in our diocese and so it is their feast in a special way. As a layman, Philip spent several years in Rome performing all kinds of good works - especially in ministering to the sick, in catechizing the youth, and in providing for pilgrims. Under constant advice and persuasion from his spiritual director, he decided to be a priest and was ordained in 1551. He was almost 36 years old, a "delayed vocation" in the extreme by the standards of the day, but without the least difference in priestly zeal and vigor.

St. Philip Neri is commonly known as the "patron saint of joy," and the "humorous saint." He wasn't exactly a comedian, but he did enjoy poking fun at himself, using humor to maintain his humility. For example, according to author *Shaun McAfee*, "Neri was known to show up to important events with half his beard shaved, give incorrect walking directions to his disciples, read a book of jokes ... When he did each of these things he caused a mix of emotions in others, but it always ended up producing the same end state: increased humility, and increased patience." St. Philip Neri hung this sign on his door: "The House of Christian Mirth." He used to say: "A heart filled with joy is more easily made perfect than one that is sad."

Holiness is related to humor. That is why many saints laughed at themselves; they knew that this earthly life is only a stop on our journey to heaven and so to take this world seriously is utter foolishness. Bishop Sheen once said, "A divine sense of humor belongs to poets and saints because they have been richly endowed with a sense of the invisible, and can look out upon the same phenomena that other mortals take seriously and see in them something of the divine."

This is what Pope Francis has been reminding us when he said, to be a Christian doesn't mean being "gloomy-faced," but being filled with a levity of heart that recognizes the beauty and joy of Christian life. Humor in the right context can be a good thing, and even a pathway to holiness. St. Philip Neri practiced it. His joyful spirit was one of the reasons why many were attracted to him. They saw the joy he had and wanted to know the source of that joy. They realized that the source was Jesus who said: "I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you" (John 16:22).

Your brother in Christ,
Fr. Abraham Orapankal



Readings for the Week

Monday: Acts 16:11-15; Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a, 9b; Jn 15:26 — 16:4a

Tuesday: Acts 16:22-34; Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8; Jn 16:5-11

Wednesday: Acts 17:15, 22 — 18:1; Ps 148:1-2, 11-12, 13, 14; Jn 16:12-15

Thursday: Acts 1:1-11; Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9; Eph 1:17-23 or Heb 9:24-28; 10:19-23; Lk 24:46-53 (for Ascension); or Acts 18:1-8; Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; Jn 16:16-20

Friday: Acts 18:9-18; Ps 47:2-3, 4-5, 6-7; Jn 16:20-23

Saturday: Acts 18:23-28; Ps 47:2-3, 8-9, 10; Jn 16:23b-28

Sunday: Acts 7:55-60; Ps 97:1-2, 6-7, 9; Rv 22:12-14, 16-17, 20; Jn 17:20-26 or (for Ascension) Acts 1:1-11; Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9; Eph 1:17-23 or Heb 9:24-28; 10:19-23; Lk 24:46-53

Mass Intentions for the Week

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
Monday, May 23	8:00AM	Patricia Nese, by Joan Seamon
Tuesday, May 24	8:00AM	Sadie Callender, by The St. Martin de Porres Society
Wednesday, May 25	8:00AM	Hugh Scott, by The Tibay Family
Thursday, May 26	8:00AM	Birthday Blessings for Farrah Stone, by Jim & Phyllis Stone
Friday, May 27	8:00AM	Special Intention for the Wood Family, by Maria & Jonathan Wood
Saturday, May 28	5:00PM	Dominic Fama, by Cathy Fama
Sunday, May 29	8:00AM	Spiritual Blessings for Edward Zura, by The Lenczewski Family
	10:00AM	Michael Koruda, by The Aiello Family
	12:00PM	Richard Giannone, by Debbie & Pat Enright
	(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 kcoun@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
[Anthony Brandi](#)
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
The Litakis Family
Kenneth & Kelly Magat
Al Maglio
Sue Maglio-Alese
King Manansala
Christine L. Matthews
Beatrice May
Margaret Menendez
Carol Millemann
Sabrina Moloney
[Angie Montalbo](#)

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

Erlina Liem

Reflect



Smile with Your Family



Here is an Irish lyric: "Paddy Murphy went to Mass, never missed a Sunday. But Paddy Murphy went to hell, for what he did on Monday."

Don't lose your mental peace: The Sunday school children had all been photographed with pastor sitting in their center. The pastor was trying to persuade the children to buy a copy of the group photo: "Just think how nice it will be to look at it when you are all grown up and say, 'There's Jennifer; she's a lawyer,' or 'That's Michael; he's a doctor.' Then a small voice at the back of the room rang out, "And there's our pastor; he's dead."

Conversion gone extreme: Joshua, a young Jew, fell in love with Mary, a devout Catholic. When Joshua proposed to Mary, she sought counsel from her parents, each of whom advised her differently. "Convert him to Catholicism!" commanded Mary's dad, but her mum said, "Love him tenderly and God's Spirit will work wonders!" But Mary's dad wouldn't give in and ordered her to work hard at converting Joshua to Catholicism. Mary obeyed and Joshua was duly converted. Weeks later Joshua called off the marriage. "What's up?" asked Mary's dad. Mary sobbed: "Joshua wants to become a priest!"

Parenting Tune-Up



Gratitude can be an overused word these days, but that doesn't mean we should neglect it. Play a "Gratitude Game" with your child. See if each of you can list 10 things you're grateful for today. If something bad happens, see if you can find a silver lining.

Marriage Tune-Up



"Love one another." (John 13:35) You're married. Of course you love your spouse. But Jesus keeps repeating this command to love. Perhaps it is because love is never finished. Look for a new opportunity to show your love today. Surprise your beloved.

Runners

"Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come and make our dwelling with him." John 14: 23-29

The group began about 15 years ago: a bunch of middle-aged guys, set in their ways, comfortable maintaining only those friendships that were long-standing. Most of them didn't know each other very well. But their commitment to running together - Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6 a.m., later on weekends, through the cold winter darkness and under the hot summer sun - had morphed into something wonderfully permanent, a brotherhood that makes days bright and the thought of old age less daunting.

Their travels together have formed affections now deeply embedded. On runs, two or three may breakaway to resolve some tension, administer therapy or just squawk. Their conversations as a group are predictable: they untangle the world's political problems, renew college rivalries, and banter about their adventures as husbands and dads. ADHD, the tendency to exaggerate with comic predictability, braggadocio, hypochondria - one or more members may, on any day, manifest these conditions, but acceptance is unconditional.

Bodies grow fatigued. Hair thins. Shoulders hunch. The wear and tear of miles logged exacts a toll. But the Runners are still there for one another - even though one or two can no longer run. Together, they have celebrated their chil-

dren's birthdays and many other milestones. Now they help one another adjust to the reality that those children are now adults making their way to college and beyond. The Runners' relationship remains intact on account of the ground they've covered; together, they form a rampart that both uplifts and protects them from the siege of time below.



The simple shared experience of running binds a group of guys together, creating a community of support and acceptance, of mutual respect and charity. For many of those same reasons, Jesus has brought us together as church: to create a community of compassion, of reconciliation, of charity for one another. What we share is our faith in the Risen Christ; his Spirit of humble and grateful service is what binds us together. In his peace, we are "connected" to one another; in his memory, we mirror the love that he lived and taught. As we anticipate the dawning of that Spirit at Pentecost, may we renew our Baptismal commitment to one another as the people of God: the community of disciples of the Gospel Jesus, who supports and lifts up one another in our own struggles to live that Gospel of humble and compassionate service.

What Goes around Comes Around

One day a man saw an old lady, stranded on the side of the road. She needed help with a flat tire. So he pulled up in front of her Mercedes and got out. His Pontiac was still sputtering when he approached her. Even with the smile on his face, she looked worried. No one had stopped to help for the last hour or so. Was he going to hurt her? He didn't look safe; he looked poor and hungry. He could see that she was frightened, standing out there in the cold. He knew how she felt. It was that chill which only fear can put in you. He said, 'I'm here to help you, ma'am. Why don't you wait in the car where it's warm? By the way, my name is Bryan Anderson.' Bryan crawled under the car looking for a place to put the jack, skinning his knuckles a time or two. Soon he was able to change the tire. But he had to get dirty and his hands hurt. As he was tightening up the lug nuts, she rolled down the window and began to talk to him. She told him that she was from St. Louis and was only just passing through. She couldn't thank him enough for coming to her aid.

Bryan just smiled as he closed her trunk. The lady asked how much she owed him. Any amount would have been all right with her. She already imagined all the awful things that could have happened had he not stopped. Bryan never thought twice about being paid. This was not a job to him. This was helping someone in need, and God knows there were plenty, who had given him a hand in the past. He had lived his whole life that way, and it never occurred to him to act any other way. He told her that if she really wanted to pay him back, the next time she saw someone who needed help, she could give that person the assistance they needed, and Bryan added, 'And think of me.' He waited until she started her car and drove off. It had been a cold and depressing day, but he felt good as he headed for home, disappearing into the twilight.

A few miles down the road the lady saw a small cafe. She

went in to grab a bite to eat, and take the chill off before she made the last leg of her trip home. It was a dingy looking restaurant. Outside were two old gas pumps. The whole scene was unfamiliar to her. The waitress came over and brought a clean towel to wipe her wet hair. She had a sweet smile, one that even being on her feet for the whole day couldn't erase. The lady noticed the waitress was nearly eight months pregnant, but she never let the strain and aches change her attitude. The old lady wondered how someone who had so little could be so giving to a stranger. Then she remembered Bryan... After the lady finished her meal, she paid with a hundred dollar bill. The waitress quickly went to get change for her hundred dollar bill, but the old lady had slipped right out the door. She was gone by the time the waitress came back. The waitress wondered where the lady could be. Then she noticed something written on the napkin.

There were tears in her eyes when she read what the lady wrote: 'You don't owe me anything. I have been there too. Somebody once helped me out, the way I'm helping you. If you really want to pay me back, here is what you do: Do not let this chain of love end with you.' Under the napkin were four more \$100. Well, there were tables to clear, sugar bowls to fill, and people to serve, but the waitress made it through another day. That night when she got home from work and climbed into bed, she was thinking about the money and what the lady had written. How could the lady have known how much she and her husband needed it? With the baby due next month, it was going to be hard... She knew how worried her husband was, and as he lay sleeping next to her, she gave him a soft kiss and whispered soft and low, 'Everything's going to be all right. I love you, Bryan Anderson.'

Today I send you this story, and I'm asking you to pass it on. *(This inspirational story was sent by Kurt Erz).'*

Head and tail fight of bulldog ants!

The philosopher Schopenhauer once compared us to a Bulldog Ant. If we cut a Bulldog Ant in half, the front and rear segments will enter into a savage fight. The head will seize the tail with its teeth, while the tail will sting the head with fury. The fight might last for hours. That is the way some of us are on the inside. There is part of us that wants to move ahead and a part that wants to stand absolutely still. There is a part of us that wants success and recognition. There is another part that wants to sit on the river bank and while away the hours. There is a part of us that wants to serve Christ. There is another part that says, "No, I've enough to do right now. Let someone else take their turn." There is a fierce bat

Con't. on next page

What are the Corporal Works of Mercy?

The Corporal Works of Mercy are found in the teachings of Jesus and give us a model of how we should treat others, as if they were Christ in disguise. They respond to the basic needs of humanity as we journey together through this life.

Feed the Hungry (donate to a food pantry?)

Give Drink to the Thirsty (donating bottled water?)

Shelter the Homeless (Habitat for Humanity?)

Visit the Sick (Hospital? Nursing home? Assisted Living?)

Visit the Imprisoned (what about older shut-ins?)

Bury the Dead (Can you help someone who is grieving?)

Give Alms to the Poor (Pick a favorite charity)

Reflect

Head and tail fight of bulldog ants! (con't)

tle going on within many of us. Few of us know what it is to live lives of contentment and peace. Jesus said to his disciples, "I am leaving you with a gift -- peace of mind and heart! And the peace I give isn't fragile like the peace the world gives. So don't be troubled or afraid." What a promise! What a gift! Peace of mind and heart. He can give it to us.

If only He had an Understanding Guide!

Brendan Behan, an Irish playwright, virtually drank himself to death. His biographer attributes it to an unrelenting sense of guilt. Behan went to England on a mission for the I.R.A. One day he planted a bomb set to go off during rush hour. It exploded as a young woman with her baby was passing by. Both died in the blast! Brendan Behan was overwhelmed with guilt for killing that innocent woman and her baby. And as time went on he increasingly tried to drown his memories and silence his conscience in a bottle without success! Guilt is a terrible thing.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if we had a guide in life, a guide that will help us avoid those things that we know are wrong, those things that fill us with regret? Christ has promised us such a guide. That guide is the Holy Spirit who Jesus is promising in today's gospel (John 14:23-29). That means we are not alone. One of the great social and ethical problems of our time is isolation. Today approximately 25% of all adults live alone. Spouses, parents and children often live as virtual strangers to one another. This is unfortunate because we never need to be alone. Jesus can always be present to us. He shares with us his joy and replaces the burden of our guilt with the freedom of forgiveness. He takes our grief and turns it into joy. We need only allow Jesus into our lives to be rid of this loneliness. Oneness with Jesus is the greatest gift we can give our children, our friends, or those who see no purpose in life. We can help to bring people to unity with Jesus, a unity that will change their lives. As we celebrate this Eucharistic meal, our Mass, let us celebrate in a special way the price Jesus paid for our redemption. May this Eucharistic celebration empower us to lead a true Life in the Spirit.



"The most unpromising boy in my class:"

A schoolmaster in France was discouraged with one of his students. He wrote in his roll book concerning this student: "He is the smallest, the meekest, the most unpromising boy in my class." Half a century later, an election was held in France to select the greatest Frenchman. By popular vote, that meekest, smallest, most unpromising boy was chosen. His name? Louis Pasteur, the founder of modern medicine. When he was seventy-three, a national holiday was declared in his honor. He was too weak to attend the ceremony in Paris, so he sent a message to be read by his son. The message read: "The future belongs not to the conquerors but to the saviors of the world" [Edward Chinn, *Wonder of Words* (Lima, Ohio: C.S.S. Publishing Co., Inc., 1987), p. 18.] Louis Pasteur was driven by a great purpose. Your name and my name may never be a household word like Pasteur's, but we, too, can be driven by a great purpose. Christ can give us that purpose. But there is one thing more Christ gives us. He gives us the presence of the Holy Spirit as promised in today's Gospel. A healthy sense of identity and a driving purpose are not enough in themselves. One thing more is needed. It is the in-dwelling Spirit of the living God.

The First Crisis in the Infant Church: Acts 15:1-2, 22-29

The first major controversy in the infant Church was about "what one do to be saved." For the first 15 to 20 years of the Christian era, all Jesus' followers were Jewish. During that period, any Gentiles who wanted to become Jesus' disciples were expected first to become Jews. They had to attend Sabbath synagogue services and keep the 613 Torah laws. This situation began to change when a few "liberal" Christian communities like the newly founded Church of the Gentiles in Antioch, began to admit Gentiles into their number without demanding that they first be converted to Judaism. Some of the Judeo-Christians from Judea and Jerusalem argued that the new Gentile converts must observe the Mosaic Law of circumcision, dietary regulations, purification rituals, etc. The issue couldn't be settled on a local level, although Paul and Barnabas tried that at first. Hence, they had to go to Jerusalem to consult the apostles. The apostles convened the first synod at Jerusalem and, with the clear leading of the Holy Spirit, decided that the Gentiles need not become Jews first, to be saved as Christians. The decision was momentous for two reasons. First, it marked a significant break of Christianity with Judaism. Second, it put the burden of salvation on God rather than on man. In other words, it is God's love that saves us -- not prayers, sacrifices or keeping of the Law, which are only expressions of our gratitude to God. We see Saint Paul wrestling with this question, first in Galatians, then, in a more polished way, in Romans.

Have You Heard of Spiritual Direction (SD)?

Of course, yes. St. Matthias had Pat Leposa doing the ministry of Spiritual Direction until she moved. Many of our parishioners had benefited from having spiritual direction sessions with her in the Parish Office. Mr. Bill Isele, himself a former seminarian, and a spiritual director trained at the Quellen Spiritual Center in Mendham, New Jersey, explains what Spiritual Direction (SD) is and about its benefits.

SD offers a time and a place to reflect deeply on the experiences of your daily life. It is an opportunity to become aware of the wonderful and surprising ways God is present and communicating with us. In the busyness of our everyday lives, it can be difficult to recognize the holy presence of God all around us. It can also be difficult to recognize our purpose and mission in life. SD gives us a place where we can come to the realization that God is with us every day and everywhere. Awareness and reflection often lead us to discern what God is calling us to, as we live our story in our family, community, and workplace. SD is a journey with God in the presence of a spiritual companion. Learning how to be attentive or notice God's presence or action in our lives, is a big part of what SD seeks to do. SD has been described as holy lis-

tening, spiritual kinship, spiritual friendship, or sacred journeying. In 2011, Pope Benedict XVI said: "As she has never failed to do, again today the Church continues to recommend the practice of **spiritual direction**, not only to those who wish to follow the Lord up close, but to every Christian who wishes to live responsibly his baptism, that is, the new life in Christ."

Who are Spiritual Directors?

SD has a long history as a ministry dating back to the early desert mothers and fathers, who were sought out to assist others in developing a deeper relationship with God. Today, spiritual directors are found working in retreat houses, in religious communities, and in parishes. They receive training and formation in a program which is specifically designed for SD, and are committed to their own personal ongoing spiritual formation and growth. The privilege and responsibility of a spiritual director is to journey with you as you deepen your relationship with God.

An individual seeking direction normally meets with his/her director for up to one hour, once or twice a month. The directee brings to the session the things happening in his/her life, a desire to reflect prayerfully and honestly on

their life and where God is leading them, and willingness to share their story with their spiritual companion. The confidentiality and privacy of the directee are professionally maintained according to high standards which can be found at SDI.world.org.

The goal of SD is to learn how to relate more consciously and respond more fully to God's presence. The director is there to create a safe environment of attentive listening and prayer. The director may ask clarifying questions and sometimes have suggestions for further reflection. The directee always has the opportunity to evaluate whether or not to continue the relationship.

Some Benefits of Spiritual Direction

- Hear God more clearly in your everyday life.
- Identify, trust, and savor your experience of God.
- Weave spirituality into your everyday life.
- Find understanding and encouragement.
- Celebrate joys, gifts, graces, and growth.
- Share your hopes, victories, challenges, losses, and disappointments.
- Grow in relationship with God, yourself, and others.

From the Pastoral Staff



Peace

On this sixth Sunday of Easter, the Gospel of Saint John narrates Jesus leaving us His peace, a peace like no other: "Not as the world gives do I give it to you (14:27)." Whereas Jesus did share this message when He was among us, He also stressed that the Father will send the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, as a reminder of His message of peace and who will teach us all that we need to know. What is the proper meaning of Advocate in the church? The Catechism

of the Church states in number 243, "Before his Passover, Jesus announced the sending of 'another Paraclete' (Advocate), the Holy Spirit. At work since creation, having previously 'spoken through the prophets,' the Spirit will now be with and in the disciples, to teach them and guide them 'into all the truth.' The Holy Spirit is thus revealed as another divine person with Jesus and the Father."

Yet, in these rather difficult times in which we are living, I believe it is challenging to find unmitigated peace.

Nearly each day we live we hear about sad and desperate situations in our nation and around the world. One such situation is what is happening in Ukraine. The loss of innocent lives due to egotistical reasons is evidence that we are in dire need of the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, to teach us and guide us as to how to live authentic peace.

As we know, this is only one aspect of peace: external peace. The other component is much more personal: internal peace. Do you think we can have one without the other? Is one more im-

From the Pastoral Staff (con't.)

portant than the other? I propose that we need both, and that they are equally essential. Have you noticed how people act when they are not at peace with themselves and how they treat others around them? Sadly, they are unable to take Jesus' message to heart, and they enjoy a false spirituality. Their reputa-

tion is more important than true impartiality and benevolence. They project their insecurities onto others and seek to humiliate them. Fortunately, the world has far fewer of these peace-less individuals, and far more people with sincere interior and exterior peace, living in the guidance of the Holy Spir-

it. With love and faith, they sincerely share a peace with all wanting a better world filled with the truth as taught by Jesus. As Christians, peace lives in us and extends beyond us. May Christ's peace prevail!

Joseph Gidaro
SMS Vice Principal

Connect



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

The 60th Anniversary Edition of the St. Matthias Cookbook is looking for you 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 fit-pro436@gmail.com and put "Cookbook" in the subject line!

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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. **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>



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!**

Pray

Special Collection **THIS** Weekend at All Masses

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

Pray



Altar Servers Wanted!
 Are you a student in grade 5 or higher? Would you like to play a prominent role at Mass each week? We are looking for students that would like to join the Altar Servers Ministry. If you are interested in joining this ministry, Click here to register, www.stmatthias.net/liturgical

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. 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
Week 46 - May 15,	\$10,185.00	\$15,444.25	\$25,629.25	\$31,461.50
Week 47 - May 22,	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$22,341.25
Week 48 - May 29,	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$17,517.25
			Month-to-date Total	May Total Last Yr
Mother's Day Collection- \$734.00			\$79,000.30	\$126,063.00
			Current Year-to-date Total	Year-to-date as of May 31,
			\$1,218,032.39	\$1,219,418.20



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>



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WEEKEND SILENT DIRECTED RETREAT Begins Friday, June 17th at 7pm

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Begins Friday, June 17th at 7pm and ends by 1pm on Sunday, June 19th

\$180/weekend; non-refundable deposit \$80

Proof of COVID vaccination is required at time of registration



36TH ANNUAL LEBANESE FESTIVAL

June 10, 11 & 12, 2022

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tions available

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Caritas Chamber Chorale – Dancing Toward Paradise

When: Sat., June 18, 7:30pm – 9:00pm

Where: Shrine of St. Joseph, 1050 Long Hill Rd., Stirling, NJ

Description: Join Caritas for an uplifting program of sacred cho-
ral music and reflection honoring life's journey. Flutist Stefanie
Santoro will provide interludes. Held at the beautiful Shrine of
St. Joseph, the concert will begin at the Tower of Remem-
brance.

A freewill offering will benefit
the Adorno Fathers' African
Mission. All are invited.



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 break-
fast 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](mailto: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](mailto: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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