



ST. MATTHIAS CHURCH

All are Welcome

St. Matthias Parish Office:

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

Mass Schedule (in person):

Sat—5PM, Sun -- 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 Boulevard, Somerset, NJ 08873
732-828-1402; www.stmatthias.info

For all Parish emails, add @stmatthias.net

Pastor: Rev Abraham Orapankal, abraham

Parochial Vicar: Rev. Msgr. Joseph Curry, jcurry

Priest-in-Residence: Msgr. Seamus Brennan

Pastoral Staff

Mary Pat Burke-Grospin, Business Administrator, mpburke-grospin
Deacon Russell Demkovitz, rdemkovitz
Ana V Kelly, Marketing & Development, akelly
Dolores R. Nann, Faith Formation, dnann
Deacon John Radvanski, deaconjohn
Joan Best Seamon, Music Ministry jseamon
Sr Marie Therese Sherwood, OSF, Social Concerns, msherwood
Phyllis Stone, Liturgy/RCIA and Administrative Assistant to the Pastor, pstone

St. Matthias School (add @stmatthiasnj.org)
Elena Malinconico, Principal. emalinconico
Joseph Gidaro, Vice Principal, jgidaro

Parish Office Staff

Kelly Counts, Receptionist
Nathalie Godet, Formation/Parish Support Sec.
Leslie Guillen, Bulletin Editor
Amy Hanna, Parish Support Secretary
Vinnie Natale, Bookkeeper
Trish Stumper, Parish Support Secretary
Mike Lanyi, Sacristan

Maintenance Staff

Julio Montero, Maintenance Supervisor
Conroy Davis, Custodian
Juan Diaz Flores, Custodian
Silvia Nizama, Housekeeper

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS

SUNDAY, MAY 23, 2021 –

Pentecost Sunday

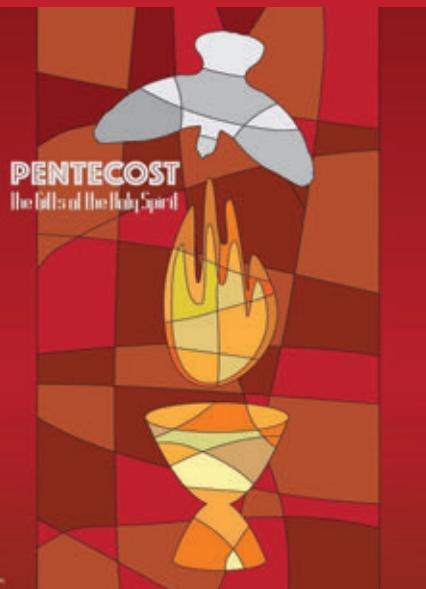
Highlights—This Week

Mon. May 24— Miraculous Medal Novena at 8:30AM after 8AM Mass and every Monday.

Saturday May 29—
Boy & Cub Scout Car Wash from 9am-3pm outside Church.



Next Sunday—
Catholic Communication Campaign Collection



UPDATE ABOUT FR. DOUG'S SITUATION

Following the completion of the Somerset County Prosecutor's investigation, Fr. Doug appeared in court on Wednesday, May 19. For detailed information on this matter, check our website, www.stmatthias.net. You will find links to a letter from Bishop Checchio to all parishioners and school families and a copy of the Diocese of Metuchen's press release.

Have You Received Your Covid Vaccine Yet?

If you are age 12 or older, you are now eligible to receive a free Covid vaccine right away at many locations. To find a place near you, visit: www.vaccines.gov and then click on the button labeled "Find Covid Vaccines."

If you are homebound, or don't have access to the internet, please call the SOMERSET COUNTY COVID VACCINE HOTLINE at: **908-231-7155**. They can answer your questions and will help you get the vaccine.

In a January 10, 2021 interview, Pope Francis expressed the importance of everyone getting a Covid vaccine. "I believe that morally, everyone must take the vaccine. It is the moral choice because it is about your life but also the lives of others." Pope Francis has been fully vaccinated and has provided vaccines to all employees at the Vatican as well as to 600+ people in Rome who are poor or homeless. Both Pope Francis and Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI received their Covid vaccines on the same day in January 2021.



Please start your Amazon shopping at: www.stmatthias.net/Amazon

This Week at St. Matthias

- All Masses will be celebrated in-person (overflow in the cafeteria).
- Masses will also be livestreamed on our YouTube channel: youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ

The Church is open for individual prayer Sun-Fri from 7:30 am to 7pm & Sat from 9 am to 7pm, unless another event is taking place (Mass, Funeral, Wedding, etc.)

Sunday, May 23, 2021 Pentecost Sunday

| | | |
|---------|----------------------------|--------|
| 8:00AM | Mass | Church |
| 10:00AM | Mass | Church |
| 10:30AM | RCIA | Zoom |
| 12:00PM | Mass & Adult Confirmations | Church |
| 2:00PM | First Communion | Church |

Monday, May 24, 2021

| | | |
|--------|-------------------------|--------|
| 8:00AM | Daily Mass | Church |
| 8:30AM | Miraculous Medal Novena | Church |

Tuesday, May 25, 2021

| | | |
|--------|---------------------|--------|
| 8:00AM | Daily Mass | Church |
| 7:30PM | Hand Bell rehearsal | Church |

Wednesday, May 26, 2021

| | | |
|--------|--|--------|
| 8:00AM | Daily Mass | Church |
| 9:30AM | Prayer Group 1- Holy Spirit de Porres Rm | |

Thursday, May 27, 2021

| | | |
|--------|------------|--------|
| 8:00AM | Daily Mass | Church |
|--------|------------|--------|

Friday, May 28, 2021

| | | |
|--------|------------|--------|
| 8:00AM | Daily Mass | Church |
|--------|------------|--------|

Saturday, May 29, 2021 Catholic Communication Campaign Collection

| | | |
|---------|-----------------------------|---------|
| 10:00AM | Boy Scout Car Wash Trp. 154 | Outside |
| 3:30PM | Sacrament of Reconciliation | Church |
| 5:00PM | Mass | Church |

Sunday, May 23, 2021 Catholic Communication Campaign Collection

| | | |
|---------|------|--------|
| 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 12 Noon, Thursday, 9 days before the intended issue (earlier for holiday weekends). Approved content is published on a space-available basis.

From the Pastor

Dear Friends, Happy feast of Pentecost!

Most Churches - Catholic, Orthodox, Episcopal, Pentecostal and Charismatic churches as well as many Protestant churches – view this as the watershed event in Christianity, the birthday of the Church in many ways. *The Acts of the Apostles* recounts the story of the original Pentecost when the Apostles and the Blessed Virgin Mary, gathered in the Upper Room, were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak in different tongues ([Acts 2](#)). Peter’s speech that day brought about three thousand people to the way of Jesus. ([Acts 2:41](#)). And the Church began to grow.



But what is the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives? I would compare it to the role of a coach. There is no game or sports without a coach! Why? Left to themselves, even the best are prone to make mistakes. No matter how good they are, coaches are essential to their success. The truth of the matter is that we all can do better with someone else’s wisdom. And yet, there are some people who think that human beings have the natural ability to fulfill our human destiny just by using our abilities and that we do not need help from anyone else - be it from the community of faith or from the grace of the Sacraments. Experience and history show us that fewer mistakes would have been made with proper guidance. That’s why Jesus said he would send us the Spirit to be our Helper, Comforter, and Guide ([John 14:16](#)). Let us call upon this Spirit: “Come Holy Spirit, come into my heart and fill me with your grace and power.” Repeat it like a mantra and see what happens to you!

Congratulations to 35 of our children receiving First Holy Communion this weekend! Dee Nann, Sr. Marie Derecola OSF and others, especially the parents, have been preparing these kids for this important step in their faith formation to receive Jesus for the first time. Last Sunday these children, with one of their parents present, had a wonderful retreat given by Colleen Kelly-Rayner. Everyone enjoyed that retreat as we can see from what one parent, Jennifer Hill, wrote to Dee: “I just wanted to reach out and thank you for such a wonderful retreat today. It was such a gift to spend time with my son and share this experience with him. Due to COVID, this past year has been challenging and isolating and it was very special to come together as a community to prepare for his First Communion. You said that Mrs. Colleen was outstanding and she more than lived up to that! She was phenomenal - hilarious, engaging and powerful. Thank you for putting this together for us!” And her son Dylan’s reaction was: “That was way more fun than I thought it was going to be”

Let us pray for these children of our parish and encourage them with our example that attending Mass and receiving Jesus in Holy Communion are the primary ways we nourish our souls and enrich our lives. May the gifts of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Orapankal



35 students, each with a parent, participated in the First Communion Retreat facilitated by Colleen Kelly-Rayner

Readings for the Week

Monday: Gn 3:9-15, 20 or Acts 1:12-14; Ps 87:1-2, 3, 5, 6-7; Jn 19:25-34

Tuesday: Sir 35:1-12; Ps 50:5-6, 7-8, 14, 23; Mk 10:28-31

Wednesday: Sir 36:1, 4-5a, 10-17; Ps 79:8, 9, 11, 13; Mk 10:32-45

Thursday: Sir 42:15-25; Ps 33:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9; Mk 10:46-52

Friday: Sir 44:1, 9-13; Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a, 9b; Mk 11:11-26

Saturday: Sir 51:12cd-20; Ps 19:8-11; Mk 11:27-33

Sunday: Dt 4:32-34, 39-40; Ps 33:4-5, 6, 9, 18-19, 20, 22; Rom 8:14-17; Mt 28:16-20

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, May 22 5:00PM Aurelia Italia, by The Nastasi & Nitti Families

Sunday, May 23 8:00AM Ramona Bombita, by Jennifer Paredes

10:00AM Deceased members of the Sunga/Munar Families, by

12:00PM Connor Koenig, by The Telyczka Family

5:30PM* Intention of Parishioners

Monday, May 24 8:00AM Natalie Boyd, by sister, Dolores

Tuesday, May 25 8:00AM Frank Esposito, by Louis & Mary Nepote

Wednesday, May 26 8:00AM Birthday Blessings for Farrah Stone, by Phyllis Stone

Thursday, May 27 8:00AM Mary Beth Oria, by Joseph C. Gidaro

Friday, May 28 8:00AM James Kane Jr., by The Collins Family

Saturday, May 29 5:00PM Danny Rogan & Pat O'Connor, by Margaret Gallagher

Sunday, May 30 8:00AM Cherilynn Kearns, by The Lenczewski Family

10:00AM Raquel Fischback, by The Madison Family

12:00PM Esther Liban, by The De Guzman Family

5:30PM* Intention of Parishioners

*Mass intentions for the 5:30PM Mass will be combined with that at the 12PM Mass.

Pray for those who are sick...

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

Beth & Jay Adams
Elbren, Sr. & Natalia Agdeppa
Lucille Albani
Kristy Alexander
Robert Bachman
Carolyn Banghart
Maria Barreiro
Marie Brody
Baby Isla-Rose Callahan
Sadie Callender
Tara Capatosto
Ellen & Frank Catalina
Barbara Coan
Wes Coddington
Tom Current
Joseph DeFrancesco
Adoracion & Cenon DeGuzman
Mary Ellen Delaney
Alaina Derecola
Surya & Juliany Dharma
Nancy Diaz
Jim Dolan
Mary Dolan

Marty Dolphin
William Dolphin
Dorothy Domenici
Josephine Geenty
Claudia Gemgnani
Emma Gergely
Rose Gessner
Mary Gidaro
Emma Himey
Sloopy Hoffman
Michael Kirugi
Taylor LaCort
Al & Rose Larangeira
William Lecorchick
The Litrakis Family
Kenneth & Kelly Magat
Al Maglio
Sue Maglio-Alese
Shirley Mahoney
Susan, Tosh, & Bongking
Manansala
Beatrice May
Margaret Menendez

Gail Miranda
Linda Misuraca
Dave Moynihan
Baby Ezran Natural
Patricia Nese
Danny Ochangco
Julianne Opydike
Maria Pennington
Jim Pettit
Christina Pietrowiak
Oscar Poisler
Anthony & Andrew Referente
Kathleen & Mannix Referente
Chris Retz
Nina Ripley
Ann Ritchick
Angela Romanek
Elizondo Ruiz
Datius Rutashobya
Lettice Kinunda Rutashobya
Rudy Schaar
Maria Schwenzier
Sr. Mary Amata Shina, OSF

Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF
Encarnacion (Gina) So
Alessandro Spagnolo
Dennis Stuewe
Jeff Tami
Madeline Tarantino
Fred & Carolyn Vanmiddlesworth
Carmencita Ventura
Eulalia Villanueva
Al Wojciechowski
Leon Wojna
Mark T. Worthington
Kenneth Yacavino
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...

Rita Lisi
Elizabeth (Betty) Curry, Aunt of Fr. Joe Curry
Anthony E. Ciccotelli, Jr., Father-in-law of Julio Montero

—“His mercy endures forever.” Chronicles

From the Pastoral Staff

Today is Pentecost Sunday, the end of the Easter Season. We are thankful that this year we were able to celebrate the Easter season in person in church as well as online. It was good to see so many faces, even masked, back in the pews.

Pentecost also commemorates the Holy Spirit descending upon the Apostles. Jesus sent them the Holy Spirit to give them the courage to continue their ministry now that Jesus had ascended to Heaven. We as Catholics receive the Holy Spirit in a special way at Confirmation. Confirmation brings us fully into our faith while giving us the strength to carry on our ministry as Disciples.

Just as the Apostles needed the Holy Spirit we need the Holy Spirit in our lives as well. We need to listen when the Holy Spirit calls.

There is a story of a man who worked in an ice house. The ice houses were a precursor of our modern day refrigerators. Ice houses had thick walls no windows and fitted doors. While working in the ice house he lost a valuable watch. After searching and searching he couldn't find watch. A small boy heard of the fruitless search and slipped into the ice house during the noon hour and soon emerged with the watch. Amazed the man asked the boy how he found it. The boy replied "I closed the door and laid down on the floor and kept very still. Soon I heard the watch ticking."

Often we do not hear the Holy Spirit speak to us because we do not listen well enough.

So on this Pentecost take the time to be quiet and listen. Try to hear what Jesus is calling us to do through the

Holy Spirit.

Maybe it's a call to help someone in need.

Maybe it's a call to more prayer.

Maybe it's to join a small faith group the next time around — there is always room for one more in my group.

Maybe it's to get more involved in a ministry here at Saint Matthias.

Whatever it is, take some time to be quiet and listen to where or what the Lord is calling us to.

As true Disciples we need to be ready to respond to the call of the Holy Spirit.

Peace of Christ

Deacon Russ



Reflect



Smile With Your Family



MEMORY LOSS JOKES: I always have trouble remembering three things: faces, names, and – I can't remember what the third thing is. ☺

When I told the doctor about my loss of memory, he made me pay in advance ☺

Two elderly ladies were enjoying the sunshine on a park bench in Miami. They had been meeting at that park every sunny day for over a dozen years. One day, the younger of the two ladies turns to the other and says, "Please don't be angry with me, but after all these years, what is your name? I am trying to remember, but I just can't." The older friend stares at her and then says, "How soon do you have to know?" ☺

I have a brilliant memory: I can't even REMEMBER the last time I forgot something ☺

I've expanded my skills: I can now forget what I'm doing while I'm actually doing it ☺

My brain is like an internet browser: 12 tabs are open, 7 of them are not responding, hundreds of popups, and where the heck is that annoying music coming from? ☺



Parenting Tune-Up

Today is Pentecost which refers to 50 days after Easter. It reminds us of fear, community, and bravery. The apostles were afraid after Jesus left them. They gathered together. The Spirit filled them with courage to speak out. Ask your family what helps them to be brave? Can anyone identify a recent courageous act?

Marriage Tune-Up

Pentecost is a feast of fear, community, and bravery. Have you ever feared for the safety of your beloved? When? What helps you keep your marriage vows? Have you ever needed to defend your spouse to others? Stand up for each other's goodness. Gently and privately correct if necessary.



Reflect

It's Us against a Particle of Death...

"Are not all these people who are speaking Galileans? Then how does each of us hear them in his native language . . . ? We hear them speaking in our own tongues of the mighty acts of God." Acts 2: 1-11



Will and Maggie have a secret language. It's a language that has evolved over time. It's a language that transcends the couple's everyday squabbles, distractions and differences in personality and perspective. It's a language grown out of desperation and love. Maggie explains how this "language" works: "We were on a bus recently with our three children. It was late, it was snowing, everyone was tired and the bus was crowded. I was squeezed on one seat with my two youngest children. Will and our eldest were strap-hanging in the aisle. From behind us came a noise: a crackling, rustling, splitting, and then a specific crunch-crunch-crunch. My head spun around, as did Will's. We took in our fellow passenger and his snack for a split second before I shot from my seat, hustling my daughters ahead of me, locking eyes with Will. "And so began our wordless conversation.

"He tilted his head, meaning, *Is that person eating nuts in the same airspace*

as our daughter? "I narrowed my eyes, which meant, Yes, I'm afraid so. "He frowned, to say, "Don't let her breathe in until we get off the bus. "I shrugged, implying, don't worry, I won't. We ushered our baffled, uncomprehending children off the bus and into the snow, miles from home.

"I realize this sounds like a deranged thing to do, so let me explain. When our middle daughter was quite young, we learned that she had an immune disorder . . . Just the inhalation of a single particle of nut dust could kill her within 10 minutes. Life, for her, is a series of dangers, strung together, one after another, like beads on a thread . . .

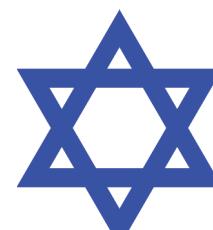
"Will and I must constantly be thinking about how best to protect her - as well as trying to minimize the impact of her condition on her siblings . . . There is a sense of solidarity between us on this one issue. We never argue about how best to take care of our daughter, not because we always agree - far from it - but because we know we need to channel every atom of energy into protecting her and her siblings. When it counts - when it's a situation of life or death - all that stuff and strife is forgotten. The secret code kicks in, and I know one thing: He

and I will stand, teeth bared, between death and our daughter, unquestionably united, saying, *Get back, get away. You're not having her. Not today. Not tomorrow. Not any time soon.*"

Maggie and Will "speak" the language of the Spirit of God, the "language" that collapses disagreements and dissolves self-interests for the sake of a loved one. In their fierce protection of the daughter, God's Spirit enables them to "speak" to one another in the "language" of compassion and care for the good of their children. As the Spirit overcomes the barriers of language and perception to open up the hearts and minds of Peter's listeners on that first Pentecost, that same Spirit "blows" through our own homes and families enabling us to speak and hear God's language of mercy and forgiveness in our love and care for one another. The gift of Pentecost faith enables us to hear the voice of God speaking in the midst of the clamor and busyness, the pain and despair of our everyday lives, inviting us to embrace the life and love of God in our homes and hearts.

The Jewish Pentecost

Both the Jews and the Christians now celebrate Pentecost. Along with the Feast of the Passover and the Feast of Tabernacles, Pentecost was one of the major feasts of the Jews. During these three great Jewish festivals, every male Jew living within twenty miles of Jerusalem was legally bound to go to Jerusalem to participate in the feast. The word Pentecost is Greek for pentecostes which means "fiftieth." The feast received this name because it was celebrated fifty days after the Feast of the Passover. Another name for the Jewish Pentecost is Shebuot or "The Feast of Weeks" (the "week" of seven Sabbaths between Passover and Pentecost). It was originally a day of thanksgiving for the completion of the harvest. During Passover, the first omer (a Hebrew measure of about a bushel), of barley was offered to God. At Pentecost, two loaves of bread were offered in gratitude for the harvest. Later, the Jews added to the Feast of Pentecost the element of Yahweh's Covenant with Noah, which took place fifty days after the great deluge. Still later, they made this feast an occasion to thank God for His Sinaitic Covenant with Moses, which occurred fifty days after the beginning of the Exodus from Egypt.





The Christian Pentecost

Pentecost marks the end and the goal of the Easter season. For Christians, it is a memorial of the day the Holy Spirit descended on the apostles and the Virgin Mary in the form of fiery tongues, an event that took place fifty days after the Resurrection of Jesus. The Paschal mystery -- the Passion, the Death, the Resurrection, and the Ascension of Jesus -- culminates in the sending of the Holy Spirit by the Father (at the request of His Son), on Jesus' disciples. The feast also commemorates the official inauguration of the Christian Church by the apostolic preaching of St. Peter, which resulted in the conversion of 3000 Jews to the Christian Faith. Pentecost is, thus, the official birthday of the Church.

But years ago, *This Rock Magazine* reported that there were 34,000 Protestant denominations which means that, on the average, more than sixty-nine new denominations had sprung up every year since the Reformation began in 1517. So whose birthday is it anyway? You could say, Pentecost is the birthday of the Church Jesus established nearly 2,000 years ago. Today's Scripture readings remind us that Pentecost is an event of both the past and the present. The main theme of today's readings is that the gift of the Holy Spirit is something to be shared with others. In other words, the readings remind us that the gift of the Holy Spirit moves its recipients to action and inspires them to share this gift with others.

"It will always be Pentecost in the Church," affirmed Blessed Oscar Romero, Archbishop of El Salvador, on Pentecost Sunday 1978, "provided the Church lets the beauty of the Holy Spirit shine forth from her countenance. When the Church ceases to let her strength rest on the Power from above which Christ promised her and which he gave her on that day, and when the Church leans rather on the weak forces of the power or wealth of this earth, then the Church ceases to be newsworthy. The Church will be fair to see, perennially young, attractive in every age, as long as she is faithful to the Spirit that floods her and she reflects that Spirit through her communities, through her pastors, through her very life" [The Violence of Love, (Farmington, PA: The Plough Pub. Co., 1998).] [Archbishop Oscar Romero was beatified May 23, 2015 by Pope Francis.]

Archbishop Romero's declaration reminds us -- as does today's Gospel -- that Pentecost is not just one day, but every day. Without breath, there is no life. Without the Spirit,

The Holy Spirit is a Spirit of Communication

There have been numerous books written on the difficulty that men and women have in communicating. It has been estimated that women say something like 6,000 – 8,000 words a day and that men utter 2,000 – 4,000 words a day. At the end of the day the man has spoken his 4,000 words and doesn't want to communicate any more. He simply wants to sit quietly, watch TV and go to bed. A woman most likely won't have spoken her 8,000 words for the day yet. She may have 2-3,000 words to go and uses them to share every event of the day. This conversation may sound familiar. Wife: Hi darling ... it's good to see you home. How was your day? Husband: Good. Wife: I heard that you were going to finalize that big deal today. How did it go? Husband: Fine. Wife: That's good. Do you think the boss will give you a raise? Husband: Maybe. Wife: Hey! Today I found out that I'm pregnant. Husband: That's good. and so on... and then she goes on to tell everything in detail that happened in her day. The Holy Spirit communicates with men and women equally through the Holy Bible and inspires them and guides them in their communication with God. May God's Spirit guide and help us as we go out from here today and give us the courage and power to speak his Word to others.



We Need to Observe Pentecost Every Day!

the Church is a field of dry, dead bones.

The Venerable Fulton J. Sheen once said about the Church, "Even though we are God's chosen people, we often behave more like God's frozen people--frozen in our prayer life, frozen in the way we relate with one another, frozen in the way we celebrate our Faith." [Bishop Fulton J. Sheen was declared Venerable by Pope Benedict XVI in June, 2012.]

Today is a great day to ask the Holy Spirit to rekindle in us the spirit of new life and enthusiasm, the fire of God's love. Let us repeat Blessed John Henry Cardinal Newman's favorite little prayer:

"Come Holy Spirit, Make our ears to hear your love; Make our eyes to see your love; Make our mouths to speak your love; Make our hearts to seek your love; Make our hands to reach out And touch the world with your love. AMEN."

Reflect

"I want to Know if you are Pentecostal!"

The well-known author and preacher, Fred Craddock, tells a rather funny story about a lecture he was giving: A few years ago, when he was on the West Coast speaking at a seminary, just before the first lecture, one of the students stood up and said, "Before you speak, I need to know if you are Pentecostal." The room grew silent. Craddock said he looked around for the Dean of the Seminary! He was nowhere to be found. The student continued with his quiz right in front of everybody. Craddock was taken aback, and so he said, "Do you mean do I belong to the Pentecostal Church?" He said, "No, I mean are you Pentecostal?" Craddock said, "Are you asking me if I am charismatic?" the student said, "I am asking you if you are Pentecostal." Craddock said, "Do you want to know if I speak in tongues?" He said, "I want to know if you are Pentecostal." Craddock said, "I don't know what your question is." The student said, "Obviously, you are not Pentecostal." He left.

What are we talking about today? Is the Church supposed to use the word Pentecost only as a noun or can it be used as an adjective? And so I ask you: Are you Pentecostal? Yes we have to, by allowing the Holy Spirit to direct our lives. But how? a) By constantly remembering and appreciating His Holy Presence within us, especially through the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation. b) By fortifying ourselves with the help of the Spirit against all types of temptations. c) By seeking the assistance of the Spirit in our thoughts, words, and deeds, and in the breaking of our evil habits. d) By listening to the voice of the Holy Spirit speaking to us through the Bible and through the good counsel of others e) By fervently praying for the gifts, fruits and charisms of the Holy Spirit. f) By renewing our lives through the anointing of the Holy Spirit. g) By living our lives in the Holy Spirit as lives of commitment, of sacrifice, and of joy. We are called to love as Jesus loved, not counting the cost. As Saint Paul exhorts us, "Walk by the Spirit, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit" (Galatians 5:16, 25).



"It was the Holy Spirit!"

Fr. Bob Spitzer, a Jesuit priest who was the president of Gonzaga University for 12 years tells about a powerful prayer to the Holy Spirit. It involves asking for

the healing of hurts and memories, not just for own self, but for those one has harmed, always seeking forgiveness. He tells the story of making an offhand comment that afterwards he regretted. Unable to call the man, he went to the chapel and asked the Holy Spirit to heal any harm he had done. A few days later, something extraordinary happened. Fr. Spitzer ran into the man walking on the campus, and the man said, "You know Father, I've been thinking about what you told me. At first I was kind of angry, but the more I thought about it, the more I realized what you were getting at. You actually helped me a great deal." As Fr. Spitzer remarked later: "It was the Holy Spirit."

Pentecost invites us to cultivate the spirit of forgiveness. This great feast offers us the chance to look at the role which forgiveness should play in our dealings with others. Thus, we are challenged to examine our sense of compassion, patience, tolerance and magnanimity. Learning to forgive is a lifelong task, but the Holy Spirit is with us to make us agents of forgiveness. If we are prepared on this day of Pentecost to receive the Holy Spirit into our lives, we can have confidence that our lives will be marked by the Spirit of forgiveness.

Pray

Passion for Life

by Pat Leposa

I am
filled with a passion for life.

I am the love that endures,
the flame that warms the hearth,
the presence that comforts
the wounded hearts,
the candle that forever
burns in the window.

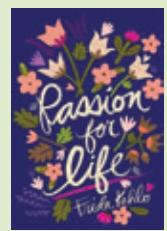
I am
a loosely woven basket
of earthly colors,
a holder of secrets,
a treasure chest
sealed tight.

I am
the gardener planting seeds
in rich fertile ground,
Watering seeds
with abundant tears,
warming seeds
with rays of hearty laughter.

I am
The gardener nurturing
the tender young sprouts
who peek hesitantly
through the moist warm earth
stretching towards the heavens.

I am
the reaper
of the lush
rich harvest;
abundant fruits
of Love given,
of Love
received!

How do you see yourself in this poem?
Spend time in prayer around your life experience.



Pray

Return to Normalcy - Changes in the Mass and Parish Office

With significant relaxation of the restrictions statewide that took place May 19th, we too have begun cautiously to make some changes at Mass and in the Parish Office. Importantly, we will continue to follow state mandated indoor and outdoor masking guidelines and social distancing, and we will continue to be vigilant about cleaning commonly touched surface areas. We will also continue to practice safe hygiene by making hand sanitizer and disinfect-

ant wipes readily available for use.

In the church, the use of kneelers is now allowed and we have also resumed the practice of receiving Holy Communion (still the Body of Christ only) within the Communion Rite. Communion will continue to be available after each Mass outdoors for those still uncomfortable with entering the church.

It is also safe to open up the Parish Office meeting rooms. Different groups

can begin to book these rooms as long as the group members are comfortable to meet in person and the cleaning and other protocols are observed.

As the pandemic becomes less and less of a threat, we'll continue to introduce normalcy back into the liturgy and life of the parish. Good things are ahead as we welcome everyone back into parish life.

— Fr. Abraham Orapankal

To Those Who are Putting Cash in the Collection Baskets

Thank you for the weekly offering that you put as cash in the collection box. St. Matthias parish is certainly grateful for your sacrificial giving. But you are losing out on the chance for reductions when you file taxes as we have no record of your valuable contributions. Therefore, it will be helpful if you can do one of the following:

1. The first preferred option that most of our parishioners have chosen is to sign up with Parish Giving at www.parishgiving.org If you have any difficulty, our

Parish Office can help you.

2. The second option is to use an envelope with your name and address.

Both these options will help us record your contributions and give you the required letter you will need for tax purposes. And in case you are not registered as a parishioner, kindly register at www.stmatthias.net/join-us That way you will be assigned a Parish ID number to help with the above options. Thanks for considering this request.

Give

| Stewardship Totals for Fiscal Year July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021 | | | | Last Year's Total |
|---|-------------|---------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Current Month | In-Pew/Mail | Parish Giving | Weekly Total | Weekly Total |
| Week 44 - May 2, 2021 | \$9,499.00 | \$9,656.25 | \$19,155.25 | \$30,721.36 |
| Week 45 - May 9, 2021 | \$8,523.00 | \$27,064.75 | \$35,587.75 | \$27,166.36 |
| Week 46 - May 16, 2021 | \$16,611.25 | \$14,850.25 | \$31,461.50 | \$27,014.36 |
| | | | Month-to-date Total | May Total Last Yr |
| | | | \$86,204.50 | \$138,250.23 |
| Note: The online Parish Giving amount varies week-to-week since some parishioners donate once a month and the full amount is recorded the week it arrives. | | | Current Year-to-date Total | Year-to-date as of May 31, 2020 |
| | | | \$1,179,559.68 | \$1,298,087.89 |

Stewardship Reflection May 23, 2021 Pentecost Sunday

"There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone."

- 1 CORINTHIANS 12:4-6

All of us are blessed, regardless of our own individual circumstances. God has given each of us many gifts. How we use those gifts is our gift back to God. For God's plan to work, each must do what we are called to do. Guess what? We are not all called to do the same thing! For God's plan to work you have to do what God is calling you to do and I have to do what God is calling me to do.

Give

Reflexiónese — 23 de mayo de 2021 Domingo de Pentecostés

“Ahora bien, hay diversidad de dones, pero el Espíritu es el mismo. Hay diversidad de ministerios, pero el Señor es el mismo. Hay diversidad de actividades, pero Dios, que hace todo en todos, es el mismo.”

– 1 CORINTIOS 12:4-6

Todos somos bendecidos, independientemente de nuestras propias circunstancias individuales. Dios ha concedido muchos dones a cada uno de nosotros. La manera en la que utilizamos esos dones es nuestro regalo de vuelta a Dios. Para que el plan de Dios funcione, cada uno debe hacer lo que estamos llamados a hacer. ¿Adivine qué? ¡No todos estamos llamados a hacer las mismas cosas! Para que el plan de Dios funcione usted tiene que hacer lo que Dios lo ha llamado a hacer y yo tengo que hacer lo que Dios me llama a hacer a mí.

Serve

Help the Pregnancy Aid Center in Raritan



All parishioners are invited to bring in items for donation to the Pregnancy Aid Center before/after all Masses on **June 5/6**. These items will be sorted by our youth ministry, SMYLE, for delivery to the Pregnancy Aid Center. Please drop off the items in the Cry Room before 1 PM on Sunday, June 6.

Here is the list of the MOST NEEDED items:

- Enfamil (Yellow)
- Kids toothbrushes and toothpaste
- Kids socks—ages 2 and up
- Diapers size 5
- Diaper cream, e.g., Desitin
- Boys & Girls summer pajamas—sizes 2-10
- Boys & Girls summer shorts & short sleeve tees—sizes 2-10
- Baby lotion



Local Community

A poster for the JFK 104th Birthday & Memorial Dedication. It features a bronze statue of John F. Kennedy walking with a child. The text on the poster includes: "JFK 104TH BIRTHDAY & MEMORIAL DEDICATION", "Saturday May 29, 1 PM", "@ 2 JFK Boulevard, JFK Plaza, Franklin Township, Somerset NJ 08873", "For more information call Rajiv Prasad, (973)615-9369 To RSVP, email: rprasad100@att.net".

You are invited to come and celebrate the 104th Birthday of President John Fitzgerald Kennedy. Elected Officials-Dignitaries are invited. Come hear them speak and help inaugurate the JFK Memorial.

JFK Memorial Dedication, May 29th at 1:00 PM

Please join us on **Saturday, May 29, 1 PM** at 2 JFK Boulevard, JFK Plaza, for the **JFK 104th Birthday and Memorial Dedication**. Msgr. Joe Curry will do the Blessing.

The ceremony will be followed by a box lunch snack. Please RSVP to rprasad100@att.net. Questions? Contact Rajiv Prasad at 973-615-9369 or at the above email. **Parking will be available behind the Plaza or opposite at Rutgers Plaza.**

CAR WASH Fundraiser



Sponsored by St. Matthias Boy Scout Troop 154 & Cub Scout

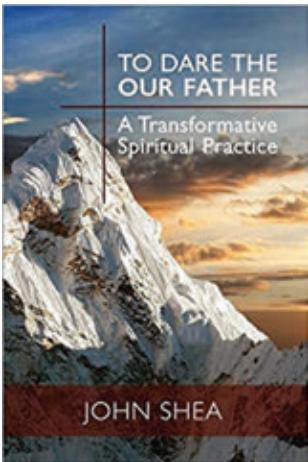
**Next Saturday, May 29,
10 am to 3 pm**
in front of the church & school

Suggested donation: Car—\$10;
Minivan/SUV— \$15

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



Local Community



To Dare the Our Father: A Spiritual Transformative Practice with storyteller, author and theologian John Shea

Thursdays- May 20, May 27, June 3 - 7pm - 8pm
(Program held on Zoom platform)

May 20 — Who Are We When We Pray the Our Father?

The Catholic Catechism says we “dare to say” the Our Father, it takes some nerve to identify ourselves as people who can call God their “Father.” We are used to lesser identities in the physical, mental and social realms. We will reflect on what it means to be children of God who can address the Ultimate Mystery of Life as Father.

May 27 – The Mission of the Our Father

When we pray the Our Father, we commit ourselves to carrying the agenda of the One to whom we pray. This commitment begins by hallowing the Father’s name and continues through working for the Kingdom and listening and enacting the will. This is the movement from heaven to earth. We will explore what this movement means for how we think, will, and act.

June 3 – The Strategies of the Our Father

The mission of Our Father naturally unfolds into strategies. These are ways of making better physical life (“Give us this day our daily bread.”), social life (Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.”) and spiritual life (“Lead us not into temptation. But deliver us from evil.”) We will ponder these lines of action from Gospel and contemporary points of view.

Registration fee: \$10 per session or free-will offering gratefully appreciated.

To register, send your name, preferred email address and phone number

to: sacreddoorwaysnj@gmail.com or (609) 702-7858.

Details at: <http://sacreddoorways.org>

Somerset County Department of Human Services Offers Career Resources

Free resources are offered through the Greater Raritan One Stop Career Center and the Greater Raritan Valley Workforce Development Board (GRWDB) which serves job seekers at all points in their career journey. These include weekly job postings across the area, career counseling, aptitude/interest/skill-based assessments, virtual workshops/webinars, free labor market information, workforce learning opportunities, on-the-job training grants, resume building assistance, Chromebook loaner program, free online learning portal, assistance enhancing basic literacy and computer skills, and more. Visit: www.thegrwdb.org or call 908-541-5780.

Parish Leadership

Parish Pastoral Council:

Chair: Nick Grippo
nickgrippo@gmail.com

Co-Chair: Lisa Robinson
laro504@comcast.net

Secretary: Tom Aussem

Co-Secretary:

Denise Brown
Lorraine Farr
Anne Marie Francis
Claudine Langrin
Joe Percoco
Rose Peng

MaryBeth Vetter Purcell

John Taylor
Ana Kelly, Ex-Officio
Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio

Parish Finance Council:

Joe Porter, Chair
FinanceCouncil@stmatthias.net
Susan Klimcsak
Barry Dusault
Gwen Orlowski

Audrey Francis

Kester Hector
Joan Pritchard
Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio

Trustees:

Isaac Peng
Marge Richards

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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



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The logo consists of the word "SOLD" in large, bold, black capital letters at the top. Below it, the word "BARROOD" is written in a slightly smaller, bold, black capital letters. The entire logo is set against a white background with black borders.

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The logo for RAIKE'S Home Improvement LLC. It features the company name "RAIKE'S" in a large, bold, serif font at the top. Below it is "Home Improvement LLC" in a slightly smaller bold font. Underneath that is the phone number "732-249-7113" in a large, bold, sans-serif font. At the bottom left is the text "Fully Insured Lic. 13VH06498900 www.raikeshomeimprovement.com". In the center, there are two sections of text: "We Install & Construct" above a list of services, and "Power Washing" below it. The services listed include Windows, Doors, Decks, Finished Basements, Kitchens, Baths, Siding, Roofing, Custom Interior Woodwork, and Etc.

The logo for DUQ Funding features a stylized 'D' and 'U' in blue and grey, followed by the word 'Funding' in a blue sans-serif font.

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A close-up photograph showing a calculator and a pen resting on a document that contains a line graph and some numerical data.

An advertisement for Franklin Township Animal Shelter. The top half features a large, bold title "D YOUR NEW BEST FRIEND." in black letters. Below it is a smaller text "option fee | animals are spayed/neutered, micro-chipped & up-to-date on shots". The main contact information is listed as "Franklin Township Animal Shelter" with address "475 DeMott Lane, Somerset, NJ 08873" and phone number "732.873.2500 x6255 | Tue-Fri 12-3 & Sat 12-6". To the right, there is a photo of a brown and white cat and a small dog. A note indicates "Ad sponsored by Second Chance For Animals". The bottom half features a large, stylized title "P A FINANCIAL SOLUTIONS LLC" with "Certified Public Accountant" underneath. It lists services: "Professional Tax, Accounting, Bookkeeping, Payroll Services". Contact information for Philip Arana, CPA, MBA is provided: "philip.arana@comcast.net" and "Somerset, NJ 08875 732-325-3157".