



ST. MATTHIAS CHURCH

All are Welcome

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

Senior Priest: Msgr. Seamus Brennan, sbrennan
Mary Pat Burke-Grospin, Business Administrator
mpburke-grospin

Deacon Ron Caimi, Senior Deacon
Kelly Counts, Receptionist, kcounts
Deacon Russell Demkovitz, rdemkovitz
Juan Diaz Flores, Custodian
Nathalie Godet, Website Coordinator, ngodet
Leslie Guillen, Bulletin Editor, lg Guillen
Amy Hanna, Accountant/Databases, ahanna
Ana V Kelly, Pastoral Associate for Marketing & Development, akelly

Mike Lanyi, Sacristan
Sue Lenczewski, Youth Coordinator, SMYLE
Julio Montero, Maintenance Supervisor
Dolores R. Nann, Pastoral Associate for Faith Formation, dnann

Vinnie Natale, Bookkeeper, vnatale
Silvia Nizama, Housekeeper
Deacon John Radvanski, deaconjohn
Joan Best Seamon, Pastoral Associate for Music Ministry jseamon
Sr Marie Therese Sherwood, OSF, Pastoral Assoc. for Social Concerns, msherwood
Phyllis Stone, Pastoral Associate for Liturgy/RCIA & Admin. Assistant to the Pastor, pstone
Trish Stumper, Par. Support Secretary, tstumper

St. Matthias School (add @stmatthiasnj.org)

Mary Lynch, Principal, mlynch
Joseph Gidaro, Vice Principal, jgidaro

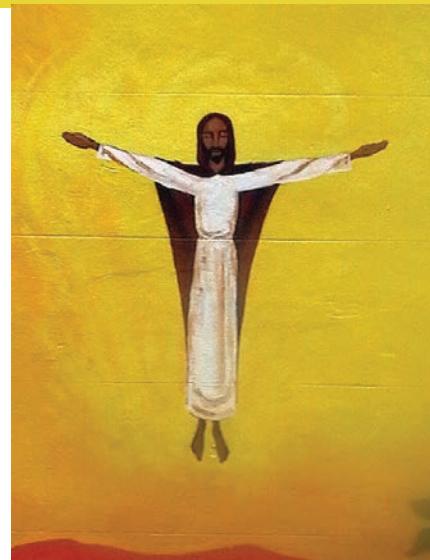
THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS

SUNDAY, MAY 29, 2022 –

The Ascension of the Lord

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 is observed TODAY, Sunday, May 29.**



Last Chance to Order Your St. Matthias Cookbook(s)!



'This is a reminder to order your copy (copies) of the 60th Anniversary Edition St. Matthias Cookbook.

You can use the order form on the St. Matthias website, under 60th Anniversary/cookbook, or pick up a form in the back of the church or parish office [or use the form on page 7](#). Payment can be made via cash, check, or in Parish Giving, online.

A limited number of books will be ordered, with an [order cutoff of THIS Wednesday, June 1st!!!](#) Return the form and payment to the Parish Office [NO LATER THAN THIS WEDNESDAY.](#)

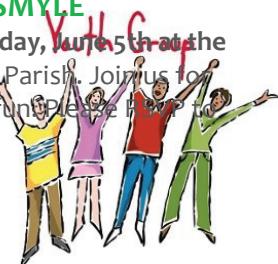
Be sure to purchase enough copies for your Christmas Gift List.

Don't miss out on these 270+ delicious recipes, and order your copy (or copies) now!!

St. Matthias Parish Youth SMYLE

Calling all Youth of St. Matthias Parish. On Sunday, June 5th at the noon Mass we will celebrate the Youth of our Parish. Join us for Mass at noon. Followed by refreshments and fun! Please RSVP to [SMYLE @stmatthias.net](mailto:SMYLE@stmatthias.net) if you can attend.

Thank you,
Sue Lenczewski
SMYLE



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 29, 2022 Ascension of the Lord Catholic Communication Campaign

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

Monday, May 30, 2022 St. Joan of Arc, Martyr SMS & Parish Office Closed Memorial Day

8:00AM No Mass

Tuesday, May 31, 2022 Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

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

Wednesday, Jun 1, 2022 St. Justin, Martyr 1st Day of LGBTQ+ Pride Month

| | | |
|--------|---------------------------------------|--------|
| 8:00AM | Mass | Church |
| 6:00PM | 8th Grade Dance Double Tree, Somerset | |

Thursday, Jun 2, 2022 Sts. Peter & Marcellinus, Martyrs

| | | |
|--------|-----------------|-----------|
| 8:00AM | Mass | Church |
| 7:30PM | NeXt Level Mtg. | Zoom |
| 8:00PM | K of C Mtg. | Cafeteria |

Friday, Jun 3, 2022 Memorial -Charles Lwanga & 22 others, Martyrs

| | | |
|---------|------------------------------------|--------|
| 8:00AM | Mass | Church |
| 8:30AM | 1st Friday Holy Hour w/Benediction | Church |
| 10:30AM | Spring Hills Nursing Home Mass | |

Saturday, Jun 4, 2022 St. Francis Caracciolo, Priest

11:00AM SMS 8th Grade Baccalaureate Graduation Mass , followed by Reception in Cafeteria

| | | |
|--------|----------------|--------|
| 3:30PM | Reconciliation | Church |
| 5:00PM | Mass | Church |

Sunday Jun 5, 2022 Pentecost Sunday

| | | |
|---------|---------------------------------------|--------|
| 8:00AM | Mass | Church |
| 10:00AM | Mass - Pastoral Council Commissioning | Church |
| 12:00PM | Mass -Adult Confirmation/Youth 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,

We kicked off our 60th Anniversary two weeks ago. The reception after each Mass was well appreciated. The 5 pm Mass saw the cafeteria filled with parishioners having a wonderful fellowship. Thanks again to the Martin de Porres Society and other parishioners who hosted all the receptions. Thanks to the Anniversary Committee who have lined up more events in the coming months, earliest of which is the St. Matthias 60th Anniversary Cook Book. In this context, there are two initiatives that I like to invite us all to consider.



The first is SPIRITUAL DIRECTION. Many will remember Pat Leposa who did the ministry of spiritual direction (SD) here at St. Matthias for a number of years until she moved out of state two years ago. In her parting message to our community, Pat wrote: "If you are moved to draw closer to the God who loves you, and to seek out a new perspective in your life, then I urge you to consider Spiritual Direction." She had recommended Mr. Bill Isele as a good spiritual director who could continue this ministry for our parish. With the pandemic, we could not follow up with this possibility. Recently I met with Mr. Isele and he was open to be available to those who wish to have spiritual direction with him. He was trained at the Quellen Spiritual Center in Mendham, NJ. Last week he wrote in our bulletin: "Have you heard of Spiritual Direction (SD)?" Be on the lookout for more details from him in the coming bulletins.

The second is RETROUVAILLE, a proven program for married couples who struggle in their marriage to put the pieces of their marriage back together and rebuild loving relationships. When I was the Director of the Family Life Office of our Diocese, this was a program that I supervised with a wonderful team of couples coordinated by Rich and Annette Colasuonno. The presenters are ordinary couples who share personal stories of their marital struggles and the tools they utilized to rediscover their love. (The word Retrouvaille means rediscover). This weekend program is all about improving communication, building a stronger marriage, and helping couples rediscover the love they had for each other.

We may know many couples having difficulties in their marriage. Some may have tried interventions and counselling. What I have seen with the couples who attended Retrouvaille is an amazing rediscovery of their original love and they returned home happily with a renewed hope. It made me see for myself that no marriage is beyond hope as long as there is openness.

During this 60th Anniversary of our parish, it will be wonderful if many of our parish couples who are experiencing marital problems can rediscover their original love and feel new life. The next Retrouvaille session will be on August 19-21, 2022. If interested, call Rich at 732-236-0671. Take a flyer from the church and give to someone you may know will benefit. Also check out their website: www.helpourmarriage.org

On this Ascension Sunday, let us be upbeat and hopeful about living happily by strengthening our family life. Remember the promise of Jesus: "I will be with you always, even to the end of times" (Matthew 28:20)

Your brother in Christ,
Fr. Abraham Orapankal

Readings for the Week

Monday: Acts 19:1-8; Ps 68:2-3ab, 4-5acd, 6-7ab; Jn 16:29-33

Tuesday: Zep 3:14-18a or Rom 12:9-16; Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6; Lk 1:39-56

Wednesday: Acts 20:28-38; Ps 68:29-30, 33-35a, 35bc-36ab; Jn 17:11b-19

Thursday: Acts 22:30; 23:6-11; Ps 16:1-2a, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11; Jn 17:20-26

Friday: Acts 25:13b-21; Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20ab; Jn 21:15-19

Saturday: Acts 28:16-20, 30-31; Ps 11:4, 5, 7; Jn 21:20-25

Sunday: Vigil: Gn 11:1-9 or Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b or Ez 37:1-14 or Jl 3:1-5; Ps 104:1-2, 24, 35, 27-28, 29, 30; Rom 8:22-27; Jn 7:37-39

Day: Acts 2:1-11; Ps 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34; 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13 or Rom 8:8-17; Jn 20:19-23 or Jn 14:15-16, 23b-26

Mass Intentions for the Week

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

Monday, May 30 8:00AM No Mass (Memorial Day)

Tuesday, May 31 8:00AM Anne Hanlon, by Pat & Frank Sellinger

Wednesday, Jun 1 8:00AM Dottie, Patsy & Ed Dugan, by Live Lent Group

Thursday, Jun 2 8:00AM Edward Marcelino, by Noel & Karen Villadolid

Friday, Jun 3 8:00AM Billy Boyd, by Daughter, Dolores

Saturday, Jun 4 5:00PM Frank & Leona Sciotto, by Lena & Grandchildren

Sunday, Jun 5 8:00AM Steven Kayden, by Ellen & Paul Junas

10:00AM Ann & Michael Koruda, by The Aiello Family

12:00PM Jill Szabo, by The Misuraca Family

(5:30PM) Intention of Parishioners

Pray for Those Getting Married

Stefanie Castanza & Edward Hernandez — June 17, 2022

Pray for those who are sick...

If you or a family member are sick, please call the Parish Office or email Kelly Counts at 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
Anthony Brandi
Thomas Burns
Barbara Butler
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 Litrakis Family
Kenneth & Kelly Magat
Al Maglio
Sue Maglio-Alese
King Manansala
Susan & Tosh 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
Gabriel Rivera
Jaxon Rivera
Jorge Rivera
Barbara Ruziska
Maria Schwenzer

Lena Sciotto
Buddy Scott
Sr. Mary Amata Shina, OSF
Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF
Catherine Slootmaker
Dennis Stuewe
Jeff Sullivan
Jeff Tami
Angie Montalbo Tinio
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



Smile with Your Family



The Ascension mission to preach the Gospel: After attending a convention led by Billy Graham a woman wrote to him. "Dear Sir, I feel that God is calling me to preach the Gospel. But the trouble is that I have twelve children. What shall I do?" The televangelist replied: "Dear Madam, I am delighted to hear that God has called you to preach the Gospel. I am even more delighted to hear that He has already provided you with a congregation in your own home."

Surprised at her gifts: At a parish woman's retreat, participants shared their own gifts and then identified the gifts of others. Surprised at the way others named all the gifts they saw in her, one woman responded: "Would one of you mind giving my husband a quick call and let him know that I'm too good for him?" ☺

The head of a men's religious order was asked about the declining spirit in the order. "Are your men suffering from burnout?" "No," he responded promptly, "our problem is ignition!" ☺

Why don't scientists trust atoms? They make up everything. ☺

I get plenty of exercise at work: jumping to conclusions, pushing my luck, and dodging deadlines. ☺

I like work. It fascinates me. I sit and look at it for hours. ☺ When an employment application asks who is to be notified in case of emergency, I always write, "A very good doctor". ☺



Who completed Puccini's opera *Turandot*...?

The Italian composer Giacomo Puccini wrote *La Boheme*, *Madama Butterfly* and *Tosca*. It was during his battle with terminal cancer in 1922 that he began to write *Turandot*, which many now consider his best work. He worked on the score day and night, despite his friends' advice to rest, and to save his energy. When his sickness worsened, Puccini said to his disciples, "If I don't finish *Turandot*, I want you to finish it." He died in 1924, leaving the work unfinished. His disciples gathered all that was written of *Turandot*, studied it in great detail, and then proceeded to write the remainder of the opera. The world premier was performed in La Scala Opera House in Milan in 1926, and Toscanini, Puccini's favorite student, conducted it. The opera went beautifully, until Toscanini came to the end of the part written by Puccini. He stopped the music, put down the baton, turned to the audience, and announced, "Thus far the master wrote, but he died." There was a long pause; no one moved. Then Toscanini picked up the baton, turned to the audience and, with tears in his eyes, announced, "But his disciples finished his work." The opera closed to thunderous applause, and to a permanent place in the annals of great works. Jesus instructs us in his Ascension message to finish his work of saving mankind by proclaiming His Good News by words and deeds.



"Is this Thing Working?"

There is the funny story of the raw army recruit standing at attention on the drill field. The drill instructor yells, "Forward, march!" And the entire ranks begin to move, all except this one raw recruit. He's still standing there at attention. So the drill instructor strolls over to him and yells in his right ear, "Is this thing working?" "Sir, yes, sir!" The recruit yells. Then the drill instructor walks around to the other ear and yells, "Is this thing working?" "Sir, yes, sir!" The soldier says. "Then why didn't you march when I gave the order?" "Sir, I didn't hear you call my name." Some of us are like that soldier, standing around waiting for God to call our names.

But the great commission given by Jesus on the day of his Ascension is a blanket order. It has everyone's name on it. And you can be sure that the Man in charge says, | Go out to the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature." This mission is not given to a select few but to all believers. To be a Christian is to be a proclaimers and an evangelizer. There is a difference between preaching and proclaiming. "We preach with words but we proclaim with our lives." As we celebrate the Lord's return to His Father in Heaven – His Ascension -- we are being commissioned to go forth and proclaim the Gospel of life and love, of hope and peace, by the witness of our lives. On this day of hope, encouragement and commissioning, let us renew our commitment to be true disciples everywhere we go, beginning with our family and our parish, | living in a manner worthy of the call [we] have received."

Reflect



Passing the Baton

The critical moment in a relay race is the passing of the baton from one runner to another. More relays are won or lost at that moment than at any other. The feast of the Ascension might be compared to the passing of the baton in a relay race. On this day over 2,000 years ago, Jesus passed the baton of responsibility for the Kingdom of God to his followers. Jesus commissioned them to complete the work he had begun. Practically, what does this mean? How do you and I, in the 21st century, carry out Jesus' commission to be his witnesses to the world and his teachers to the nations? There are as many ways to do this as there are Christians. We can do what two 25-year-old university graduates did recently. After completing their degrees, one from Georgetown and the other from Marquette, they entered the Seminary. We can do what Albert Schweitzer did. At the age of 30 he abandoned his music career in Europe to study medicine and became a missionary doctor in Africa. We can do what the baseball coach of Spring Hill College, Alabama, did a few years back. At the age of 35 he resigned his position and began his studies for the priesthood.

We all have a teaching mission: Jesus taught us lessons of Faith, Hope, forgiveness, mercy, redemption and Love. We cannot put these lessons on a shelf and ignore them. They stand before us in the person of Jesus. Although no longer visibly present in the world, He is present in his words. We must make his words real in our lives and in the lives of others. Christianity was meant to be a Faith in which Jesus' followers would help and care for others, just as Jesus had done. But the spreading of the Good News to all nations is not a goal that can be attained by human might and craft. This is why Jesus promises to empower his messengers with His abiding presence and that of the Holy Spirit. The challenge of sharing the Good News with all mankind should, therefore, begin with our admission that we have often been arrogant and overbearing. We must learn to be humble and let the Holy Spirit lead the way.

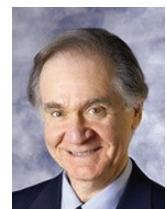
"Torpedo Evangelism!"

Rebecca Pippert, the author of *Out of the Salt Shaker: Into the World*, tells of a time she was sitting in her car at a traffic light with her window rolled down. As the light turned green a car drove by and its occupant threw something into her car hitting her on the cheek. It didn't hurt but she was so startled that she pulled over immediately. When she unrolled the paper, she discovered it was a Gospel tract. She says she was the apparent victim of what she refers to as "torpedo evangelism." I'm sure the torpedo-er meant well. At least I hope so, but he or she did the wrong thing for the right reason in the wrong way. We can engage people in conversation about their Faith and their relationship with God in a non-judgmental manner. We can encourage. We can invite. We can offer counsel. But we leave the hard work, the heart work, up to Jesus and the Holy Spirit. You see, we are not on some sort of spiritual mugging mission.

We need to live a life of Christian joy in the presence of the ascended Lord. According to Luke, the disciples "returned to Jerusalem with great joy." Apparently Jesus' exaltation and final blessing gave them, as it gives us, the assurance that, though absent, he is still present, present even in the pain and sorrow we undergo. That is why St. Augustine assures us, "Christ is now exalted above the Heavens, but he still suffers on earth all the pain that we, the members of his Body, have to bear. He showed this when he cried out from above: 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute Me?' and when he said: 'I was hungry and you gave me food.' While in Heaven he is also with us; and while on earth we are with him. He is here with us by his Divinity, his power and his love. We cannot be in Heaven, as he is on earth, by divinity, but in him, we can be there by love."

Reaching Peak Performance

One of the super-stars on the professional speakers' circuit is a man named Charles Garfield. He is a psychologist from San Francisco. He makes up to 150 speeches a year, he says. Actually, if the truth were known, he makes one speech 150 times. He began his career as a mathematician for NASA. He was part of the Apollo Project that put a man on the moon. He left NASA to study psychology. He became interested in what motivates people to reach their highest possible achievement in this life. He went to Berkeley and got a PhD in psychology. Then he interviewed 1,500 people on how they achieved what he called "peak performance." He published that result in a book, and then he started on the lecture circuit. He said the one thing that all peak performers have in common is a sense of mission. "What you need in this life if you want to have fulfillment is a sense of mission." It is giving yourself to something that is greater than yourself. That is what a mission is.



That mission is found at the conclusion of Matthew's Gospel: *{All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.}* Not only does the Church have a mission to perform in this world, but everybody in the Church is supposed to have a part in performing that mission.

Reflect

Nietzsche and Hitler

Nietzsche, the German philosopher, said, "God is dead and the stench of his corpse is all across Europe." He advocated humanism and proposed the development of a "superman" of Aryan heritage, protected by selective breeding and superior education. The Nazi Party picked up his idea, and men like Hitler, Goering, Goebbels, Mengele, Himmler, and Rommel set about building such a society in Germany's Third Reich. But it all ended with bullets and bombs, chaos and suffering such as the world has seldom seen. The Christian faith has no less a plan. But it involves a higher order. Hitler would have renewed man by his own efforts. We seek to renew the human race by the work of God. Our mission as given by the ascending Jesus is to make converts who will rely on Jesus as the source of strength and encouragement.

Perhaps some of the nagging doubts which inevitably accompany the journey of Faith could be lessened by our meditating on the Ascension and its implications. When we are too far from Faith to pray on our own, let us remember that we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, praying for us. When the trials of life feel too heavy to bear, we must remember that Christ will come again in glory, the same glory in which he arose from the tomb, the same glory to which he ascended, and the same glory in which he currently abides. Though our limited perception might find him absent, he is fully present, participating in every moment of our lives. By His Ascension, Christ has not deserted us but has made it possible for the Holy Spirit to enter all times and places. In this way it is possible for each of us to be transformed by the power of the Spirit into agents or instruments of Christ. We become enlivened, and our actions become animated in a new way by the Spirit of the God we love and serve. We have become other Christs in the world.

Three-step Baptism

In one of the great cathedrals of Europe there is a baptistery that tells the story. The water flows through it, reminding us that Jesus says he is the Living Water. To be baptized, a person walks down three steps, each one marked by a word: the world, the flesh, and the devil. Descending the steps, the convert is plunged beneath the water to die to sin and then is raised from the depths to newness of life in Christ. To leave the baptistery now he must climb three steps, each one marked by a word: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. So it is that a new creature is born, a new breed of man, a citizen of a new Kingdom, a breed apart. Dead to sin, he is alive to God and sent forth to grow and love and give light to a lost and dying world. He doesn't do it alone. He does it in the Church, in little communities. People demonstrate in their way of being together God's eternal kingdom come upon them. It took Michelangelo over ten years to paint the Sistine Chapel. Our missionary commission lasts until the job gets done, until life is over, "until the close of the age."



He is the Same, yet Different ...

Lech Walesa worked for years as an electrician in the Gdansk shipyards. During those years he and his fellow workers founded the movement which came to be known as "Solidarity." Walesa became its leader. This brought them into open conflict with the Communist leaders. Eventually the workers won out. The Communist regime collapsed and democracy returned to Poland. Then on December 9, 1990 something happened which a few years prior would have been unthinkable. Walesa the shipyard worker was elected first president of a free and democratic Poland. It was a great honor for Walesa. His fellow-workers were delighted. They, too, felt honored because of their association with him. However, there was sadness too. They knew that it would change forever the way they related to him now that he was the President! They knew they were losing him. However, they were hoping that he would not forget them and that he would help them from his new and more influential position.

The illustration may go some way in helping us to understand what we are celebrating on this great feast of Ascension. The ascended Jesus is still with us because of his promise, "I am with you always; yes, to the end of time." He is with us at all times and in all places, releasing a new energy upon the earth, the energy of the Holy Spirit Who enables us to preach his Good News of salvation and to bear witness to him in living out His word. Hence, today's feast is the celebration of Jesus' glory after his suffering and death – the glory in which we also hope to share. The Ascension and Pentecost, together, mark the beginning of the Church. The feast of the Ascension tells us that the Church must be a community in mission, guided by God's Spirit and confident of God's protection even amid suffering and death.

From the Pastoral Staff

"Keep your Eyes Open!"



The readings from Sacred Scripture for the Ascension of the Lord invite us to imitate the Apostles who “**were looking on as Jesus was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight.**” As the days get longer and the sun is shining brighter, I suggest we focus on gazing or seeing more deeply who is in our lives, reminding us of the ascended Christ.

I invite you to reflect upon this spiritual practice from the contemplative writer and artist Christine Valters Paintner. She invites us to intentionally and reflectively see another person with the same “look” that they had during Jesus’ ascension.

She writes: “How often do we really see another person as the beautiful gift they are? Perhaps this happens sometimes with those we love, where we are caught in a moment of grace and see them in all their wondrousness and feel full of gratitude for their presence in our lives.

Maybe you have a moment where your eyes meet, and you hold each other’s gaze for a few breaths as an act of seeing each other with love. . . .

We can intentionally bring this gaze of love to others. You can practice this with a beloved one or a very dear and close friend. You might try setting a timer for one minute and just sit together, eyes softly receiving each other while breathing together and praying quietly in your hearts.

Breathe in: I see you with love

Breathe out: gifted, cherished.

Breathe in: Grateful

Breathe out: for who you are.

This can be a very intimate and vulnerable moment because we so rarely spend this kind of time simply looking at another person with love and care.

We can also bring this practice out into the world. How often do we really see another person beneath their role, under our expectations? What if we paused at the grocery store and for a moment brought eyes of love to the stock clerk or the cashier. They don’t have to know what you’re doing. You don’t have to stare, just take in their image, then close your eyes for a moment, breathe, and bathe them with love. Pause and see the other person as beloved and beautiful as they indeed truly are.”

I pray that you keep breathing, seeing, and loving as Jesus sees and loves us. If we don’t pay attention, or keep our eyes open, we might miss an unrepeatable and precious moment in God’s time.

Deacon John

Connect

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>



Advance Sales Cookbook Coupon

Price Per Book \$ 20

Number of Books _____

Total \$ _____

Sold by _____

Purchased By:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____

Email _____

Cookbook Receipt

Price Per Book \$ _____

Number of Books _____

Total \$ _____

Organization _____

Pray



Baptisms - April and May 2022

The Catholic Community of St. Matthias welcomes the following children who were baptized in April & May 2022. We support them with prayers and ask their parents to nurture them so they can grow to be faith-filled people of God and our parish community.

*Emmett James Abernethy
Jayda Chimamanda Amadi
Julia Sarabelle Coella
Mason James De Marco
Scarlett Marie De Marco
Riley John
Sophia Jasmeen Kelada
Ethan Keyaan Kurmarasinghe
Zakai Malik Little
Valentina Marie Ramos
Gianna Nicole Segovia
Elizabeth Agatha Wilson
Jamie Jolene Włodkowski*



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.

Celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation 2022

On May 13, thirty-six young people from St. Matthias received the Sacrament of Confirmation from Bishop James Checchio, Bishop of Metuchen. Please remember to keep the Confirmandi in your prayers. It was a most joy-filled celebration with the following young people from our parish community:



Confirmandi 2022

*Analiise Adamski
Leilani Aurellado
Abigail Balda
Juliette Barrood
Isabella Biunno
Avery Brennan
James Chavez
Emily Cogdill
Myles Elliott
Carl Furtado
Mia Angela Gestosani
Meghan Hanlon
Cloe Hardy
Kieran Holbeck
Alexis Hugo
Blake Hunter
Emma Kozubal
Gianna Mattia*

*Attila Meszaros
Kevin Meza
Toby Emmanuel Moreno
Lance Anthony Panganiban
Frank Pechilio
Natalie Quinn
Nicholas Royael
Danielle Ryden
Marco Sanchez Jr.
Madison Satnowski
Damian Schumacher
Emilee Sliski
Megan Tracey
Liana Walter
Francis Wanjohi
Miles Williamson
Angela Wyka
Samantha Zachert*

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, 2022 | \$10,185.00 | \$15,444.25 | \$25,629.25 | \$31,461.50 |
| Week 47 - May 22, 2022 | \$7,121.00 | \$12,599.25 | \$19,720.25 | \$22,341.25 |
| Week 48 - May 29, 2022 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$17,517.25 |
| Development of People Collection: \$2,965.00 | | | | Month-to-date Total |
| | | | | May Total Last Yr |
| | | | | \$98,720.55 |
| | | | | Current Year-to-date Total |
| | | | | Year-to-date as of May |
| | | | | \$1,237,752.64 |
| | | | | \$1,219,418.20 |

Stewardship Reflection May 29, 2022 Ascension of the Lord

“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.” (REVELATIONS 22:13)

This is a reminder of how we should live our lives 24 hours a day, 7 days a week – putting God first in all that we do. Not only when I am at Mass and parish activities, but when I am in the world, at work or at school. Living gratefully and generously is an intentional lifestyle. Every decision you make either moves you closer to God or farther away. Choose wisely!

Reflexiones — 29 de mayo de 2022 La Ascensión del Señor

«Soy el Alfa y el Omega, el primero y el último, el comienzo y el final» (Revelación 22:13)

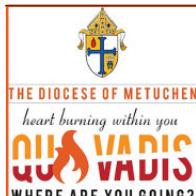
Eso es un recordatorio de cómo debemos vivir nuestras vidas las 24 horas del día, 7 días a la semana- poniendo a Dios de primero en todo lo que hacemos. No solamente cuando estoy en Misa y en las actividades parroquiales, sino cuando estoy en el mundo, en el trabajo o en la escuela. Vivir agradecidos y generosamente es un estilo de vida intencional. Cada decisión que usted toma lo acerca más a Dios o lo aleja de Él. ¡Escola sabiamente!

Serve

Part-Time Summer Help

St. Matthias Church is looking for part-time summer janitorial help. This is a perfect opportunity for a responsible high school or college student.

For more details, please contact Mary Pat Burke-Grospin at 732-828-1400 ext. 121 or mpburke-grospin@stmatthias.net.



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 quova-dis@diometuchen.org

Early Stage Support Group for Alzheimer's Patients & Caregivers

The Alzheimer's Association and St. Matthias Catholic Church are co-hosting an Early Stage Support Group series for people living with Alzheimer's and Dementia and their care partners. Our final meeting for the year will be Wednesday, June 8th from 2pm-3:30pm in the dePorres room in the Pastoral Office. We are also offering a Zoom link for those who cannot attend face to face. Registration is required. To register, call 800-272-3900.

The Group provides a safe and supportive environment and offers dementia-related education, emotional support and connections with resources so that the group members may enhance their lives in the midst of the journey. For more information visit alz.org/NJ.



Local Community



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LOURDES EXPERIENCE

Gather for fellowship and an experiential presentation on Lourdes where you will be given a glimpse into this world-wide Marian Sanctuary and learn about St. Bernadette, the messages given by Blessed Mother during the apparitions of 1858 and hear a firsthand witness of what it is like serving in the baths of Lourdes. Presentation given by Joanne Carey, member of the Hospitality Notre Dame de Lourdes, France and permanent volunteer for the Marian Sanctuary in the baths of Lourdes. Opportunity for prayer and intercession is given.

Tuesday, May 31st from 7-9pm

\$20-\$30 as you are able

Presenter: Joanne Carey

SACRED TIME, SACRED SPACE

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

Thursday, June 9th from 9:30am-3pm

\$20-\$30 as you are able

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.



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>



Celebrate the 105th Anniversary of the June Apparition of Our Lady of Fatima

All are invited to the National Blue Army Shrine, 674 Mountain View Rd. E., Washington, NJ, for a celebration in honor of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the 105th anniversary of the June apparition of Our Lady of Fatima, **Monday, June 13, 2022, 10:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.** Livestream begins at 12 noon. Details at: bluearmyshrine.com/calendar.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to DC — Save the Date



On **Sept. 24, 2022**, the Diocese of Metuchen will conclude its year-long 40th Anniversary celebration with a diocesan pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. More details to come.

Parish Leadership

Parish Pastoral Council:

Co-Chairs:

Claudine Langrin

ClaudMLangrin@gmail.com and

Mary Beth Vetter-Purcell
marybeth.vetter

@gmail.com

Co-Secretaries:

Lorraine Farr and

Anne Marie Francis

Rose Peng

Frank Rees

Maria Tapia-Burch

John Taylor

Marilyn Wegg

Ana Kelly, Ex-Officio

Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio

Trustees:

Isaac Peng

Marge Richards

Parish Finance Council:

Kester Hector, Chair

FinanceCouncil@stmatthias.net

Barry Dusault

Gwen Orlowski

Audrey Francis

Joe Porter

Joan Pritchard

Mary Pat Burke-Grospin,
Ex-Officio

Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio

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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| June 21 | July 19 | August 16 |
| June 28 | July 26 | |

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