



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

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

Mary Pat Burke-Grospin, mpburke-grospin
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

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THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS

SUNDAY, MAY 2, 2021 –

Fifth Sunday of Easter

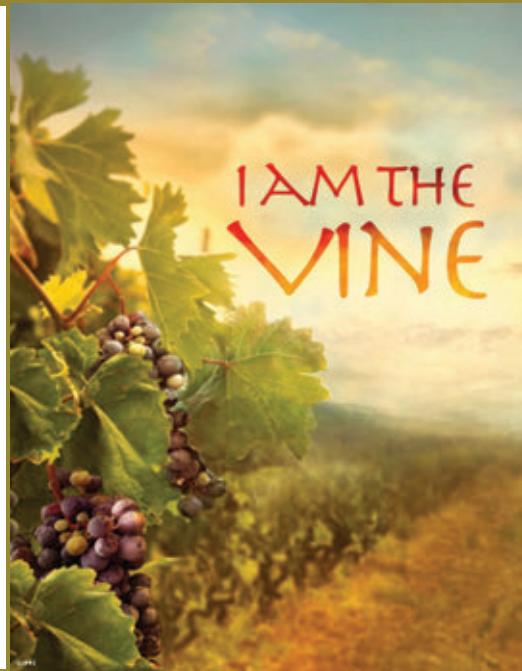
Highlights—This Week

This Sat., May 1st, 10AM—Care Givers Meeting via Zoom

St. Joseph's Intercession Prayer—Wednesday, May 5, 8:30AM in church.

First Friday Holy Hour Prayer—Friday, May 7, 8:30AM in church.

Mother's Day is next Sunday, May 9.
See note below.



Join the New Parish Vocation Committee

Last weekend and this weekend, you are hearing from the two co-chairs of the new Parish Vocation Committee. Please consider joining the committee. Details are on page 8.

A Special Mother's Day Activity

On the weekend of **Mother's Day, May 9, 2021**, parishioners are invited to write a prayer intention on a slip of paper or small card & offer it, along with a flower if you would like, to Our Lady. Please place your intention in the box/basket by the statue of Mary just outside the rear right church door. Flowers may be placed in the vase by the statue.



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 2, 2021

| | | |
|---------|-------------------------------|--------|
| 8:00AM | Mass | Church |
| 8:30AM | Communion outside front doors | Church |
| 10:00AM | Mass | Church |
| 10:30AM | Communion outside front doors | Church |
| 12:00PM | Mass | Church |
| 12:30PM | Communion outside front doors | |

Monday, May 3, 2021

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

Tuesday, May 4, 2021

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

Wednesday, May 5, 2021

| | | |
|--------|----------------------------------|--------|
| 8:00AM | Daily Mass | Church |
| 8:30AM | St. Joseph's Intercession Prayer | Church |
| 7:00PM | Baptism Prep | Zoom |

Thursday, May 6, 2021

| | | |
|--------|--------------------------------|--------|
| 8:00AM | Daily Mass | Church |
| 3:30PM | Children's Choir 3rd & 4th gr. | Church |
| 4:15PM | Children's Choir 5th-8th gr. | Church |

Friday, May 7, 2021

| | | |
|--------|------------------------|--------|
| 8:00AM | Daily Mass | Church |
| 8:30AM | First Friday Holy Hour | Church |

Saturday, May 8, 2021

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

Sunday, May 9, 2021 Mother's Day

| | | |
|---------|-------------------------------|--------|
| 8:00AM | Mass | Church |
| 8:30AM | Communion outside front doors | Church |
| 10:00AM | Mass | Church |
| 10:30AM | Communion outside front doors | Zoom |
| 10:30AM | RCIA | Church |
| 12:00PM | Mass | Church |
| 12:30PM | Communion outside front doors | Zoom |
| 2:00PM | RCIA | |



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,

This month of May brings before us two great saints – Joseph and Mary - who are models of holiness through their intimate association with Jesus. Even though May is known as the month of Mary, we enter May with the feast of “St Joseph, the Worker.”



It was Pope Pius XII who instituted the feast of Saint Joseph the Worker in 1955, in order to foster deep devotion to Saint Joseph among Catholics, and in response to the “May Day” celebrations for workers sponsored by Communists. Beginning in the Book of Genesis, the dignity of human work has long been celebrated as a participation in the creative work of God. By work, humankind both fulfills the command found in Genesis to care for the earth (Gen 2:15) and to be productive in their labors. Saint Joseph, the carpenter and foster father of Jesus, is held up as a model of work.

In this Year of St. Joseph, we have been reflecting on a specific theme each month, and praying a Novena on the First Wednesday of the month. The theme for this month is: **Joseph, a working Father**. Here’s what Pope Francis says about this theme in his Apostolic letter, *Patris Corde*:

“Saint Joseph was a carpenter who earned an honest living to provide for his family. From him, Jesus learned the value, the dignity and the joy of what it means to eat bread that is the fruit of one’s own labor.

In our own day, when employment has once more become a burning social issue, and unemployment at times reaches record levels even in nations that for decades have enjoyed a certain degree of prosperity, there is a renewed need to appreciate the importance of dignified work, of which Saint Joseph is an exemplary patron.

Work is a means of participating in the work of salvation, an opportunity to hasten the coming of the Kingdom, to develop our talents and abilities, and to put them at the service of society and fraternal communion. It becomes an opportunity for the fulfilment not only of oneself, but also of that primary cell of society which is the family. A family without work is particularly vulnerable to difficulties, tensions, estrangement and even break-up. How can we speak of human dignity without working to ensure that everyone is able to earn a decent living?

The loss of employment that affects so many of our brothers and sisters, and has increased as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, should serve as a summons to review our priorities. Let us implore Saint Joseph the Worker to help us find ways to express our firm conviction that no young person, no person at all, no family should be without work!”

We will reflect further on this theme during our **First Friday Holy Hour/Benediction on May 7, soon after the 8 am Mass**. Why not get a taste of the Holy Hour? It will be accessible any time on our St. Matthias YouTube channel.

Your brother in Christ,
Fr. Abraham Orapankal

Readings for the Week

Monday: 1 Cor 15:1-8; Ps 19:2-3, 4-5; Jn 14:6-14

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

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

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

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

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

Sunday: Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48; Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4; 1 Jn 4:7-10; Jn 15:9-17

Mass Intentions for the 5:30PM intention will be combined with that at 12PM.

Mass Intentions for the Week

| | | |
|-------------------------|---------|--|
| Saturday, May 1 | 5:00PM | Birthday Blessings for Violet Patrick, by Anne Marie |
| Sunday, May 2 | 8:00AM | John Vettoso, by Adam Munaflo |
| | 10:00AM | Intention of Parishioners |
| | 12:00PM | Shirley Boyd, by daughter Dolores |
| | 5:30PM | Alice Leong, by Patty Farraye |
| Monday, May 3 | 8:00AM | Fred Langenbacher, by The St. Matthias Prayer Shawl Ministry |
| Tuesday, May 4 | 8:00AM | Skip Simons, by Ellin & Gil Ossandon |
| Wednesday, May 5 | 8:00AM | Golden Wedding Anniversary Thanksgiving—Aida & Augusto Santos, by The Family |
| Thursday, May 6 | 8:00AM | Helen Jago, by The Krute Family |
| Friday, May 7 | 8:00AM | Steve McGovern, by Diane Rice |
| Saturday, May 8 | 5:00PM | Susan & James Shinners, by Mary |
| Sunday, May 9 | 8:00AM | Intention of Parishioners |
| | 10:00AM | Marie Frankenfield, by Russ & Monica Demkovitz |
| | 12:00PM | The Andrade-Gavilanes Moms, by The Gavilanes Family |
| | 5:30PM | Francesca Gidaro & Maria Covino, by Grandson Joseph Gidaro |

Pray for Those Getting Married...

Yannekie Joseph & Guiseppe Agugliaro May 27, 2021

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 | Mary Dolan | Susan, Tosh, & Bongking | Datus Rutashobya |
| Elbren, Sr. & Natalia Agdeppa | Marty Dolphin | Manansala | Lettice Kinunda Rutashobya |
| Kristy Alexander | William Dolphin | Beatrice May | Rudy Schaar |
| Robert Bachman | Dorothy Domenici | Margaret Menendez | Maria Schwenzer |
| Carolyn Banghart | Josephine Geenty | Elizabeth Miller | Sr. Mary Amata Shina, OSF |
| Maria Barreiro | Emma Gergely | Gail Miranda | Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF |
| Barbara Branham | Rose Gessner | Linda Misuraca | Encarnacion (Gina) So |
| Marie Brody | Mary Gidaro | Dave Moynihan | Alessandro Spagnolo |
| Maripearl Brooks | Jeff Hentz | Baby Ezran Natural | Dennis Stuewe |
| Baby Isla-Rose Callahan | Emma Himey | Patricia Nese | Madeline Tarantino |
| Sadie Callender | Sloopy Hoffman | Danny Ochangco | Fred & Carolyn Vanmiddlesworth |
| Tara Capatosto | Michael Kirugi | Julianne Opydike | Carmencita Ventura |
| Ellen & Frank Catalina | Taylor LaCort | Maria Pennington | Eulalia Villanueva |
| Wes Coddington | Al & Rose Larangeira | Jim Pettit | Al Wojciechowski |
| Joseph DeFrancesco | William Lecorchick | Christina Pietrowiak | Leon Wojna |
| Adoracion & Cenon DeGuzman | Pat Leposa | Anthony & Andrew Referente | Mark T. Worthington |
| Mary Ellen Delaney | The Litrakis Family | Kathleen & Mannix Referente | Kenneth Yacavino |
| Alaina Derecola | Kenneth & Kelly Magat | Chris Retz | Everyone who is ill with Covid-19 |
| Surya & Juliany Dharma | Al Maglio | Nina Ripley | ...and for all who are homebound, |
| Nancy Diaz | Sue Maglio-Alese | Ann Ritchick | elderly, in nursing care, or living with |
| Jim Dolan | Shirley Mahoney | Elizondo Ruiz | chronic illness |

Pray for those who have died...

—“His mercy endures forever.” Chronicles

Reflect



Smile With Your Family



Signs In Foreign Lands: Those of you who may be planning summer travel, please remember that people in other countries sometimes go out of their way to communicate with their English-speaking tourists. Here is a list of signs seen around the world ☺

At a Budapest zoo: PLEASE DO NOT FEED THE ANIMALS. IF YOU HAVE ANY SUITABLE FOOD, GIVE IT TO THE GUARD ON DUTY.

Information booklet about using a hotel air conditioner, Japan: COOLES AND HEATES: IF YOU WANT CONDITION OF WARM AIR IN YOUR ROOM, PLEASE CONTROL YOURSELF.

In a Nairobi restaurant: CUSTOMERS WHO FIND OUR WAITRESSES RUDE OUGHT TO SEE THE MANAGER.

On an Athi River highway, Kenya: TAKE NOTICE: WHEN THIS SIGN IS UNDER WATER, THIS ROAD IS IMPASSABLE.

In a City restaurant: OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK, AND WEEKENDS TOO.

In a Pumwani maternity ward, Nairobi: NO CHILDREN ALLOWED.

In a cemetery: PERSONS ARE PROHIBITED FROM PICKING FLOWERS FROM ANY BUT THEIR OWN GRAVES.

On a flower garden gate in India: VISITORS ARE REQUESTED NOT TO PLUCK FLOWERS OR TREES.

Parking sign in India: 2 HOUR PARKING. AFTER THAT TYRE WILL BE FLATTERED ☺



Parenting Tune-Up

Do you really listen to your child? Of course you do. Now be honest. Do you sometimes "listen with your answer running"? Today, just for today, pay attention to a request your child makes and look for the reason behind the request before automatically saying, "No."

Marriage Tune-Up



When your hobbies differ and compete, does your spouse get stuck with the burden of extra chores, childcare, or unwanted alone time as a result of your recreation? Does your hobby take a lot more time than your spouse's? If not, rejoice.



Gerald Coffee, retired navy captain, was a prisoner of war for seven years. His home was a cell that allowed him to take only three steps in any direction. Still, during these years of unbelievable hardship he was able to pray,

"God, help me use this time to get better."

He took a dismal situation and used it for a time of mental, emotional and spiritual growth. In spite of being able to communicate with his fellow POWs only by tapping on the cell walls, he along with other prisoners managed to learn French. He learned to recite Kipling and Shakespeare. Most amazing of all, Coffee and his fellow prisoners were able to keep their sense of humor. Often he composed poems to keep himself amused. One that he particularly liked went,

Fish on the Beach Sand

"Take a fish and place him on a beach. Watch his gills gasp and scales dry. Is he happy? No! How do you make him happy? Do you cover him with a mountain of cash? Do you get him a beach chair and sunglasses? Do you bring him a Playfish magazine and a martini? Do you wardrobe him in double-breasted fins and people-skinned shoes? Of course not! So, how do you make him happy? You put him back in his element. That's what you do. You put him back in the water. He will never be

"Little weevil in my bread, I think I've just bit off your head." Today Captain Coffee addresses major corporations on the subject of keeping your faith (and sense of humor) during difficult times. He shares his harrowing experience in order to inspire others. [Allen Klein, *The Healing Power of Humor* (Los Angeles, California: Jeremy P. Tarcher, Inc., 1989).]

Gerald Coffee's captors could not know he had connections in high places. Gerald Coffee is connected to the vine which is Christ. And that is the difference in life. Christ is the vine. We draw our life from him. He is the vine. We are the branches. It is He who links us to one another. We not only have connections in high places. We also have connections in low places and places in between. We are connected to one another as branches linked to the vine of Christ.

happy on the beach because he was not made for the beach.

Indeed so, and the same is true for you and me. We will never be happy living apart from the One who made us and saved us. Just like a fish was made to live in water... we were made to live in close fellowship with our Lord... and nothing can take the place of that. (Max Lucado in his book, *When God Whispers Your Name*).

Reflect

"Presbyterian, but Disconnected!"



Some years ago, in the city of Belfast in Northern Ireland, the members of one of the large Presbyterian churches decided to undertake a religious census among some 2000 homes in their district.

When the results were in, the pastor of the Church found himself seated at his desk, confronted with a huge heap of reports, and he began to note the visitors' findings and especially any comments made by the visitors at the bottom of the page. One remark that occurred again and again was, "Used to be a Presbyterian; now belong nowhere." Or, "The children go to Sunday school, but the parents aren't interested." And then his eyes fell on one unusual comment at the foot of one of the pages which startled him. It read simply, "Presbyterian, but disconnected."

"Disconnected." That's a fascinating word. It sounds as though somebody had pulled the plug on the poor chap. Or perhaps he had pulled the plug on himself, thereby committing spiritual suicide. No longer was he connected up with the Church in which he was raised, for that matter.

This is true not only of Presbyterian Churches but also of Catholic Church. Studies conducted by CARA (Center for Applied Research in Apostolate) of national sample of young people, ages 15 to 25, who had been raised Catholic but no longer self-identified as such report that nearly two-thirds of those surveyed, 63 percent, said they stopped being Catholic between the ages of 10 and 17. Half of the young former Catholics self-identify today as atheists, agnostics or those without a religious affiliation.

This is sad because God created us to be connected with one another. God intended for us to be in communion with God and with one another. The New Testament knows of no such thing as solitary Christianity. To be a Christian at all is to be in relationship with other Christians. Anyone and everyone who belongs to Jesus Christ automatically belongs to anyone and everyone else who belongs to Jesus Christ. *I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.* (John 59:9)

Power of a Squash!!!!



There was a fascinating experiment that took place at Amherst College some years ago in which a squash seed was planted in good soil. When it had produced a squash about the size of a man's head, the researchers put a band of steel about it with a harness attachment by which they sought to determine the lifting power of the squash as it tried to grow.

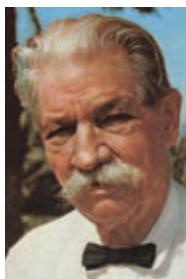
They estimated that it might have the power of 500 pounds; which in itself would have been amazing. In a month it was pressing the 500 pounds; in two months 1,500 pounds, then it went to 2,000 and they had to strengthen the bands. It finally reached a pressure of 5,000 pounds when it broke the bands. They opened the squash and found it full of coarse fibers that had grown to fight away the obstacle that was hindering its growth. Roots extended out about 80,000 feet in all directions, as the squash was reaching out for help to strengthen the fiber. [Eric Butterworth, *Unity of all Life* (New York: Harper & Row).]

I would hate to think that you and I have less determination than a squash. We have been given minds and bodies and dreams that we might struggle against life and produce fruit worthy of branches connected to the living vine of Jesus. Even a well-pruned branch cannot bear grapes unless it abides in the vine, drawing water and minerals from the main trunk and transporting food prepared in the leaves to the main trunk and to the roots. Jesus reminds us that we can not bear fruit either, unless we abide in him just as he abides in us. Jesus says, "I am the vine, you are the branches." What Jesus means is that by abiding in him we will bear much fruit, and that apart from him we can do nothing. Abiding in Christ means that God has to be inside us and we have to be inside God. We abide in Christ by drawing near to God and by experiencing His being near to us, or by living every moment as he has commanded us to do, with the radiant presence of Christ all around us. This life of intimate union with Christ in the Church is maintained by the spiritual helps common to all the faithful, chiefly by active participation in the Liturgy. Those of us who do not abide in Jesus will wither and be thrown away, just as withered branches are thrown into the fire to be burned. Fruit-bearing in Christian life is not just of our own making. It is the sign that Christ is working in us and through us.



Reflect

Stay Connected to Christ the Vine with Servant Mentality



In his book, *Living on Tiptoe*, Cecil Myers reminds us of a time when a group of educators in our country wanted to honor Albert Schweitzer... and they brought him to America. The University of Chicago planned to give him an honorary degree. When Albert Schweitzer's train arrived, the university leaders ran to greet him warmly and they told him of their joy in having him here in America. But then as they turned to leave the train station, suddenly Albert Schweitzer was gone. He just disappeared, vanished, slipped away. They looked everywhere for him. Finally, they found him. He was carrying a suitcase for an elderly woman. He saw that she was having trouble and rushed over to help her. You see, it was so much a part of his life to be a servant for others that it was as natural as breathing for him (when he got off the train), to begin immediately to look for somebody to help.

That was his approach to life... and he had learned that from the Bible... he had learned that in Church... he had learned that from Jesus. Albert Schweitzer loved to help other people because he was strongly connected to Christ and His servant mentality. The university officials said later that when they saw Dr. Schweitzer helping that woman with her suitcase... they were wishing like everything that they could find somebody they could help... somebody whose suitcase they could carry.

Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord

The Bishops of New Jersey have voted to transfer, for this year only, the Solemnity of the Ascension from Thursday, May 13th to Sunday, May 16th (replacing the Seventh Sunday of Easter). Thus, we will celebrate the Ascension of Our Lord on Sunday, May 16th.

"Mom, you'll never have to take in Washing Again"

Marian Anderson, perhaps the greatest soprano who ever lived, had a wonderful relationship with her mother. It was said of Mrs. Anderson's life: her music could bring one to tears; her life could bring one to his/her knees. She was once being interviewed and she was asked the most wonderful moment in her most impressive career. She could have mentioned that time when the great Arturo Toscanini told her that hers was the greatest voice of the century. She could have mentioned that time when she sang before the Roosevelts and the King and Queen of England. She could have said that it was winning a coveted award for the person who had done the most for her hometown of Philadelphia. There was also the time when she sang before a crowd of 75,000 on Easter Sunday beneath the Lincoln statue.



Which of these high moments would she chose? None of them. "My greatest moment," she said, "is when I went home to my mother and said: 'Mom, you'll never have to take in washing again.'"

If this relationship can exist between a mother and a daughter, then how much more can our relationship with Jesus Christ be? "I am the true vine," he said. "As the Father has loved me, so I love you." And what happens, when we abide in him and he abides in us? Our joy will be made full. The four Gospels teach us how to become true disciples of Jesus and how to abide in him as branches abide in the main trunk of the vine and draw their life from the vine. Personal and liturgical prayers, frequenting of the sacraments of the Holy Eucharist and Reconciliation, daily and meditative reading of the Bible and selfless, loving acts of kindness and mercy and forgiveness enable us to abide in Jesus, the true vine, as fruit-bearing branches.

Pray



Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord



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Parish Prayer from Ignition Retreat

We the Catholic Community of Saint Matthias
ask you Lord
to watch over, bless and guide
our NeXt Level youth leaders and mentors.

Let them be guided by the Holy Spirit
as they embark on their journey
to bring awareness to the importance of helping & providing resources for
mental health issues. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen

Latest CDC Guidance on Possibility of Catching Covid from Touching Surfaces

As we continue to evaluate how to operate safely, stay up-to-date with the latest information from the CDC. See a news report at: <https://nypost.com/2021/04/05/low-risk-of-catching-covid-from-surfaces-new-cdc-guidelines>. The official CDC report is at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/more/science-and-research/surface-transmission.html>

Learn

Ready for September?

Registration is now open at St. Matthias School for Pre-K3 through grade 8 for 2021-2022



Award-winning and fully accredited school. Class sizes allow for individualized attention. Loving, caring, and faith-filled environment.

Don't miss this opportunity to discover the difference that a Catholic education can make in the life of your child and your family.

Give the gift of a loving, caring, faith-filled, and academically excellent education to your child. The benefits will last a lifetime!

To learn more about St. Matthias School or to schedule a tour, call 732-828-1402. Also visit our website at

www.stmatthias.info



St. Matthias School students place in the top 15% nationally on National Standardized Testing.



1:1 Chromebooks for our Kindergarten through 8th grades.



99% of SMS graduates attend college and beyond.

Ethnicity of SMS Students (2020-2021)

16% Asian

9% Black

16% Hispanic and Latino

10% Multiracial

49% White



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 40 - Apr. 4, 2021 | \$15,252.00 | \$14,228.25 | \$29,480.25 | \$16,325.28 |
| Week 41 - Apr. 11, 2021 | \$11,359.00 | \$26,609.75 | \$37,968.75 | \$49,137.78 |
| Week 42 - Apr. 18, 2021 | \$10,914.00 | \$13,248.25 | \$24,162.25 | \$16,326.28 |
| Week 43 - Apr. 25, 2021 | \$10,969.25 | \$11,429.25 | \$22,398.50 | \$23,796.78 |
| | | | Month-to-date Total \$114,009.75 | Apr Total Last Yr \$105,586.12 |
| | | | Current Year-to-date Total \$1,093,295.18 | Year-to-date as of Apr 30, \$1,159,837.66 |

Stewardship Reflection May 2, 2021 5th Sunday of Easter

“Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth.” - 1 JOHN 3:18

Regarding our Catholic faith, do you “walk the talk?” Do your actions reflect what it means to be a good disciple? Are you an active participant at Sunday Mass? Are you joyful when participating in parish ministry? Do you give gratefully and generously with your financial support to your parish and other Church needs? If not, it’s not too late to start!

Reflexiónese — 2 de mayo de 2021 5to. Domingo de Pascua

“Hijos míos, no debemos limitarnos a amar de palabra, sino que debemos demostrarlo por medio de obras y verdades.”
- 1 JUAN 3:18

Con respecto a nuestra fe católica, ¿“practicamos lo que predicamos”? ¿Sus acciones reflejan lo que significa ser un buen discípulo? ¿Es un participante activo de la Misa del Domingo? ¿Está usted alegre cuando participa en los ministerios de la parroquia? ¿Da con gratitud y generosidad su apoyo financiero a su parroquia y a otras necesidades de la Iglesia? Si no es así, ¡no es demasiado tarde para comenzar!



Shop on Amazon?

Please start by clicking on the link at: www.stmatthias.net/amazon Thank you!



Serve

Parish Vocations Committee

Often we have been praying for vocations as one of the Prayers of Petitions during Mass. While prayer is certainly important, it has to be realized through concrete actions from all of us. Promoting vocations is a community responsibility. For this reason, the Parish Pastoral Council has begun to establish a PARISH VOCATIONS COMMITTEE, with two of its members, Joe Percoco and Mary Beth Vetter, leading it.

The purpose of the Parish Vocations Committee is to promote vocations by making the St. Matthias parish community aware that we, as a community, have a responsibility for fostering vocations and that vocation is ministry through married life, single life, ordained life of priests or deacons and consecrated life of religious men and women. Anyone who feels strongly about this goal is invited to contact either of these two leaders: Joe Percoco at: percoco@oit.rutgers.edu or Marybeth Vetter at marybeth.vetter@gmail.com

Can You Sew? Do you have a sewing machine?

We need more volunteers to help us sew baptismal bibs which are given to the youngest members of our community when they are baptized. Fabric, ribbon and thread supplied. Contact Mary Ann Vetter at 732-247-9237 to volunteer or learn more.



Local Community

Mount Saint Mary House of Prayer

Mount Saint Mary House of Prayer,
1651 US Hwy. 22, Watchung, NJ 908-753-2091,
www.msmhope.org

Join us for a **Virtual** Evening with
Father James J. Martin, SJ — “LEARNING TO PRAY”

Many of us struggle with prayer. Nothing seems to happen, or we get distracted, or we're not even sure how to do it. What is prayer? What are some ways to do it? And what happens in prayer? Everyone can pray, that includes you! Enter into a deeper relationship with God, who desires to meet you in prayer.

Wednesday, May 5, 2021, 7-9 pm
\$25 per person-Registration Required



SCC Virtual Run for a Nun!



Join the Sisters of Christian Charity in Mendham, NJ for a **Virtual 1K and 5 Mile Fun Run** this spring. You can participate anywhere and anytime by **June 1, 2021**. All proceeds benefit the education of the young women in Initial Formation. Sponsorship opportunities are available! Visit the SCC website at www.scceast.org/runforanun to register or for more information. You can also contact the Office of Mission Advancement at dev.director@scceast.org or 973-230-5355.

Ask the Legislature to Increase Nonpublic School Accounts in FY 2022 Budget

Governor Murphy announced his proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2022 on February 23, 2021. The Budget process is now in the hands of the Legislature. We are asking the Legislature for increases in the per-pupil amounts for the nonpublic transportation ceiling and the Nonpublic School Technology Initiative. Specifically, we are asking for the nonpublic school transportation ceiling to be raised to \$1,150.00 and for the per-pupil amount for nonpublic school technology to be increased to \$45.00. For more information, visit: <https://njcatholic.org/faith-in-action>

Action Needed to Stop Infanticide

The Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act (H.R. 619) has again been introduced in Congress to protect babies from infanticide.

But efforts to bring the bill to a vote in the House are being blocked. Your action is needed to urge your Representative to sign a discharge petition that would allow this vote to occur.

Some states have passed laws to expand abortion and to repeal laws providing specific protections for babies born alive after surviving an attempted abortion. The Born-Alive Act would provide these specific protections nationwide to help prevent newborns from being killed or left alone to die.

We must continue to push Congress to pass the Born-Alive Act, so babies born alive following an abortion attempt are treated the same as any other newborn baby. PLEASE ACT TODAY!!!
Visit: <https://www.votervoice.net/USCCB/home>

Female Saints Women's Study

The Virtual Women's Group will begin a new book, "Sisterhood of Saints: Daily Guidance and Inspiration" by Melanie Rigney on Sunday, May 2, at 2:30 p.m. on Zoom. All that is required to join is the purchase of the book.

For the meeting link and more information, please contact Cristina D'Averso-Collins, Director of Family Life at the Diocese of Metuchen, at cdaverso@diometuchen.org.

Local Community



Join us on the farm! **On Saturday May 8th, 2021**, The Monocacy Farm Project will be hosting the 1st Annual Spring on the Farm event from **11am - 3pm**. Great local vendors will be onsite, and a variety of plants will be available for sale. Staff will give tours and answer your plant and gardening questions. All proceeds benefit The Monocacy Farm Project.

St. Francis Center for Renewal

Event address: 395 Bridle Path Rd. Bethlehem, PA 18017

Check out our website or Facebook event page for information and updates?

<https://www.facebook.com/events/454183829056044> <https://www.monocacyfarmproject.org/spring-on-the-farm>

In God's Image

May 12, 2021 at 7:00PM Zoom

In God's Image, the Catholic Faith Sharing Group for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people at Church of the Sacred Heart, South Plainfield, meets the 2nd Wednesday of every month **at 7:00PM**. Our next meeting is **May 12 and will be on Zoom**. Please email for more information. The group is open to LGBTQ adults, 18 and over, and their families. All are welcome for faith sharing, prayer, conversation and support. For more information, contact Fr John at 908 756 0633, ext 125 or the group may be reached by contacting 908 822 5895 or by emailing sacredheartigi@gmail.com.

Loyola Retreat Center Upcoming Retreats

161 James St. Morristown NJ 07960

973-539-0740. retreathouse@loyola.org.

Call to register or for more information for these retreats.

May 14 - 16, 2021 - WEEKEND RETREAT - "Following Jesus: Our Mandate for Mercy"

(LINDA BARATTE, assisted by PAUL BRIAN CAMPBELL, S.J.)

May 21 - 23, 2021 - WEEKEND RETREAT - The Gift of Desperation



Healing Weekend June 4 to 6, 2021

Beginning Experience of the Hudson Valley, a Catholic ministry, is inviting men and women of all ages who have suffered the loss of a spouse through death, divorce or separation to a 48 hour in-person retreat held at St. Lawrence Retreat Center in Beacon NY from **June 4 to 6, 2021**.

For information or to register please call Janice at 401-490-7466 or Phyllis at 508-261-5812.



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 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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Piscataway, NJ 08854

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