



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

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Parochial Vicar: Rev. Msgr. Joseph Curry, [jcurry](mailto:jcurry@stmatthias.net)
Priest-in-Residence: Msgr. Seamus Brennan

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Parish Office Staff

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 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 9, 2021 –
Sixth Sunday of Easter

Highlights—This Week

Mother's Day is today. See note below.

Feast of St. Matthias—Friday May 14. See below.

Outdoor Mass—Next Saturday, May 15, 5 pm.



A Special Mother's Day Activity

This weekend 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 activity seeks to lift up the many intentions laid on our hearts by the observance of Mother's Day & offer them to Our Blessed Mother during the month honoring her.

Feast of St. Matthias

The Feast of St. Matthias is Friday, May 14th. We normally celebrate it during the Carnival. Since again this year there will not be a carnival, we are hoping to have an **Outdoor Mass** next Saturday, May 15, at 5:00PM (weather permitting) in celebration.

Also, the life of St Matthias will be spoken of at each of the Sunday masses.

Ascension Thursday

In all of the dioceses in New Jersey this year, the Solemnity of the Ascension will be transferred from Thursday, May 13, to **Sunday May 16**. Thus, we will celebrate the Ascension of Our Lord next weekend.



Please start you 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 9, 2021 **Mother's Day**

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

Monday, May 10, 2021 **No School— Bishop's Holiday**

8:00AM	Daily Mass	Church
8:30AM	Novena—Fr. Abraham	Church
6:15PM	HSA Exec. Bd. Mtg.	Zoom

Tuesday, May 11, 2021

8:00AM	Daily Mass	Church
6:30PM	School Advisory Council Mtg.	Zoom
7:30PM	Hand Bell rehearsal	Church

Wednesday, May 12, 2021

8:00AM	Daily Mass	Church
7:00PM	RCIA Session	Zoom
7:00PM	SMYLE—Parent Session	Zoom

Thursday, May 13, 2021

8:00AM	Daily Mass	Church
9:00AM	Ascension Thursday/SMS:HSA/ Student Mass	Church

Friday, May 14, 2021 **No School**

Feast Day of St. Matthias

8:00AM	Daily Mass	Church
9:00AM	SMS Teacher's Professional Day	John XXIII Rm

Saturday, May 15, 2021

Collection for the Development of the People

3:30PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation	Church
5:00PM	Mass Celebrate Feast of St. Matthias	
	Outdoors weather permitting	

Sunday, May 16, 2021 **Ascension of the Lord**

Collection for the Development of the People

8:00AM	Mass— Ascension	Church
8:30AM	Communion outside front doors	
10:00AM	Mass— Ascension	Church
10:30AM	Communion outside front doors	
12:00PM	Mass – Ascension	Church
12:30PM	Communion outside front doors	
2:00PM	First Communion Retreat	Church &/ or Cafeteria
6:30PM	SMYLE Youth Session	Zoom

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,



We salute all our Mothers today! The opening sentence in *Amoris Laetitia* (Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation on the family), offers the perfect context for Mother's Day: *"The joy of love experienced by families is also the joy of the Church."* We are truly happy to celebrate the vocation to motherhood as we honor all Mothers in this Church this weekend. The Pope beautifully describes the impact Mothers have on children: *"A mother who watches over her child with tenderness and compassion helps him or her to grow in confidence and to experience that the world is a good and welcoming place. This helps the child to grow in self-esteem and, in turn, to develop a capacity for intimacy and empathy."*

Yes, motherhood is a vocation, a divine call, and not a hobby. You do not collect children like stamps or art works, but it is the divine call by which you become co-creators and sustainers of life with God. Children are a gift from God (Psalm 127:3-5) and the Bible is very clear about the responsibility of both father and mother in bringing up children with right values. The Bible demands several things from Christian parents in their duty of parenting. Some of these are:

Availability – morning, noon, and night (Deuteronomy 6:6-7).

Involvement – interacting, discussing, thinking, and processing life together (Ephesians 6:4)

Teaching – the Scriptures and a biblical worldview (Psalm 78:5-6; Deuteronomy 4:10; Ephesians 6:4)

Training – helping a child to develop skills and discover his/her strengths (Proverbs 22:6) and spiritual gifts (Romans 12:3-8 and 1 Corinthians 12)

Discipline – teaching the fear of the Lord, drawing the line consistently, lovingly, firmly (Ephesians 6:4; Hebrews 12:5-11; Proverbs 13:24; 19:18; 22:15; 23:13-14; 29:15-17)

Nurture – providing an environment of constant verbal support, freedom to fail, acceptance, affection, unconditional love (Titus 2:4; 2 Timothy 1:7; Ephesians 4:29-32; 5:1-2; Galatians 5:22; 1 Peter 3:8-9)

Modeling with Integrity – living what you say, being a model from which a child can learn by "catching" the essence of godly living (Deuteronomy 4:9, 15, 23; Proverbs 10:9; 11:3; Psalm 37:18, 37).

That is a tall order! What makes it all the more difficult is the hostile cultural environment in which Christian mothers find themselves fighting to protect their children. Many of the cultural values clash with the Christian values that a mother wants to instill in her children. Hence we need to support, help, appreciate and encourage all our mothers – not just once a year, but every-day! Thank you dear Mothers! Happy Mother's Day!

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Orapankal

Readings for the Week

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

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

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

Thursday: Acts 18:1-8; Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; Jn 16:16-20;

Friday: Acts 1:15-17, 20-26; Ps 113:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8; Jn 15:9-17

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

Sunday: Acts 1:15-17, 20a, 20c-26; Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20; 1 Jn 4:11-16; Jn 17:11b-19; or Ascension, Acts 1:1-11; Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9; Eph 1:17-23 or Eph 4:1-13 or 1-7, 11-13; Mk 16:15-20

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, May 8	5:00PM	Susan & James Shinnors, 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
Monday, May 10	8:00AM	Raffaella Losa, by Al & Linda Misuraco
Tuesday, May 11	8:00AM	Happy Birthday in Heaven, Mary Eads, by The Godet Family
Wednesday, May 12	8:00AM	Sr. Mary Thomas, OP & Muriel T. Aussem, by Tom Aussem
Thursday, May 13	8:00AM	Alfred & Helen Jago, by The Flynn—Rasimowicz Family
Friday, May 14	8:00AM	John Gundersen, by Patricia Flynn
Saturday, May 15	5:00PM	Intention of Parishioners
Sunday, May 16	8:00AM	Esther DeGuzman Liban, by The Faith Sharing Group
	10:00AM	Juana Yumang, by Edna Yumang
	12:00PM	Dominick Clementi, Jr. by Angela & David Burtenshaw
	5:30PM	Linda Nye Tooles, by Beverly Gilliam

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 kcoun@stmatthias.net to add the name to this list. Names will be listed in the bulletin for **6 weeks**. Please let us know if this time period needs to be extended. We want to know how you are doing and want to offer you the support of our prayers.

Beth & Jay Adams	Mary Dolan	Susan, Tosh, & Bongking	Datius Rutashoby
Elbren, Sr. & Natalia Agdeppa	Marty Dolphin	Manansala	Lettice Kinunda Rutashoby
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	Claudia Gemgnani	Gail Miranda	Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF
Barbara Branham	Emma Gergely	Linda Misuraco	Encarnacion (Gina) So
Marie Brody	Rose Gessner	Dave Moynihan	Alessandro Spagnolo
Maripearl Brooks	Mary Gidaro	Baby Ezran Natural	Dennis Stuewe
Baby Isla-Rose Callahan	Jeff Hentz	Patricia Nese	Jeff Tami
Sadie Callender	Emma Himey	Danny Ochangco	Madeline Tarantino
Tara Capatosto	Sloopy Hoffman	Julianne Opydike	Fred & Carolyn Vanmiddlesworth
Ellen & Frank Catalina	Michael Kirugi	Maria Pennington	Carmencita Ventura
Barbara Coan	Taylor LaCort	Jim Pettit	Eulalia Villanueva
Wes Coddington	Al & Rose Larangeira	Christina Pietrowiak	Al Wojciechowski
Joseph DeFrancesco	William Lecorchick	Oscar Poisler	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

From the Pastoral Staff

The mid 1940's were a time span in which Thomas Merton (1915-1968) felt moved to praise Mary through his poetry. His poem, 'Evening of the Visitation' captures for me what one reviewer called the "... lovely language the landscape, smells, people, markets, gardens, flowers and trees that the Virgin is leaving behind as she winds her way to the home of her cousin." 'Evening of the Visitation' describes the landscape on Mary's journey to Elizabeth's home. This Mother's Day weekend and this Marian month, let us all remember the Queen Mother, "the outward sign of inner grace – true God and true human." Phyllis Stone



The Evening of the Visitation

Go, roads, to the four
quarters of our quiet
distance,
While you, full moon, wise
queen,
Begin your evening journey to
the hills of heaven,
And travel no less stately in
the summer sky
Than Mary, going to the
house of Zachary.

The woods are silent with the
sleep of doves,
The valleys with the sleep of
streams,
And all our barns are happy
with peace of cattle gone to
rest.

Still wakeful, in the fields, the
shocks of wheat

Preach and say prayers:
You sheaves, make all your
evensongs as sweet as ours,
Whose summer world, all
ready for the granary and
barn,
Seems to have seen, this day,
Into the secret of the Lord's
Nativity.

Now at the fall of night, you
shocks,
Still bend your heads like kind
and humble kings
The way you did this golden
morning when you saw God's
Mother passing,
While all our windows fill and
sweeten
With the mild vespers of the
hay and barley.

You moon and rising stars,

pour on our barns and houses
Your gentle benedictions.
Remind us how our Mother,
with far subtler and more
holy influence,
Blesses our rooves and eaves,
Our shutters, lattices and sills,
Our doors, and floors, and
stairs, and rooms, and
bedrooms,
Smiling by night upon her
sleeping children:
O gentle Mary! Our lovely
Mother in heaven!



Reflect

Creamer and Sugar Bowl on a Blue Table Cloth

"This is my commandment: love one another as I have loved you."
John 15: 9-17



For some time, Mother and Daughter lived at an affectionate arm's length, a kind of truce after a long siege of parent-teenage conflict. Part of their differences were temperamental: Mother loved designer clothes, keeping a perfect house, loving the grand gesture; Daughter preferred walking on the beach in her khakis, a table for two, the intimate chat. But the times each grew up in also defined their different perspectives: the elder woman sacrificed her dream of a career in music to raise a family; the younger woman headed off to graduate school to write about the social ills her mother's generation had created - or failed to solve. Then one day, Daughter was passing through a crafts shop. She saw a creamer and sugar bowl she knew her mother would love. Call it a delayed epiphany. She bought them and sent them to her mother. She can still hear the joy in her mother's voice when she called to thank her. A week later, a package arrived from her mother: a beautiful table cloth, a simple cotton print in blue, her daughter's favorite color.

After this exchange of gifts, Mother and Daughter found a new ease. Mother offered her matchless color sense for sweaters Daughter was knitting for her toddler. Daughter consulted her mother for recipes. The two began attending plays and concerts together - their favorite: Beethoven. The daugh-

ter came to see that, despite all that divided them, her mother simply loved being with her. And they didn't need the best table in the house. After her mother died, she found a folder in which her mother kept every article her daughter had ever written. She had never mentioned it. But by now her daughter understood. It wasn't her achievements that her mother cherished, any more than the ornaments of her own ambitions. What mattered all along was very simple. They just had to stop wanting what they thought the other *should* want and be, and, instead, honoring and appreciating who the other *actually* is and wants her life to be.

Sometimes the hardest love to express is our love for those who matter most to us. A daughter re-imagines her relationship with her mother through a simple gift meant only to bring her joy - a generational divide is bridged by grace and gratitude for the gifts each woman is able to give to the other. The love that Jesus asks us to embrace - "commands" us to embrace - is centered in the happiness of the other, not what we think their happiness should be. Such love is possible only when we put aside our own expectations, demands and interests in order to realize the joys and dreams of those we love. Jesus asks us to love one another as he has loved us: to put others before ourselves, to seek our joy in bringing joy to those we love and who love us, to honor and cherish one another simply because we are all sons and daughters of the God of mercy and compassion.

What is Gnosticism?

Gnosticism embraces many schools of thought. But, all of them hold in common the one tenet that the created, material world is evil. Only the spiritual is good. Redemption comes from being liberated from matter by elite forms of knowledge (gnosis). The Pope has spoken of neo-Gnosticism as “a purely subjective faith whose only interest is a certain experience or a set of ideas and bits of information which are meant to console and enlighten, but which ultimately keep one imprisoned in his or her own thoughts and feelings” (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 94).

Pope Francis sees neo-Gnosticism “in elite groups offering a higher spirituality, generally disembodied, which ends up in a preoccupation with certain pastoral *“quaestiones disputatae”* Gnosticism looks upon the body as a mere instrument of the mind. This leads to seeing the body as an object, something to be manipulated by man. It separates the body from the provident hand of God who orders all creation according to his wise disposition. This attitude of seeing the body as not essential to the person has poisoned our culture. It has led to the acceptance of abortion, euthanasia, free sex, etc. In contrast, our faith teaches that spirit and body are unified.

Unlike any form of neo-Gnosticism, Catholicism firmly teaches that the body is important. Christ’s graces fill our souls and affects our bodies. Our bodies become the very temples of the Holy Spirit. Salvation is not merely an interior reality. By grace, we are incorporated into the Church, a visible community. This certainly goes against all those neo-Gnostics who distance themselves from the visible Church by claiming that they are “spiritual, but not religious.” “In the Church, we touch the flesh of Jesus, especially in our poorest and most suffering brothers and sisters... salvation consists in being incorporated into a communion of persons that participates in the communion of the Trinity” (*Bishop Arthur Serratelli*)

“Dad couldn’t Remember which one of us was Adopted!”

One time a Sunday school superintendent was registering two new sisters in Sunday school. When she asked them how old they were, one replied, “We’re both seven. My birthday is April 8th and my sister’s is April 20th.” That superintendent replied, “That’s impossible girls.” The other sister then spoke up and said, “No it’s true, one of us is adopted.” “Oh,” the superintendent said. “Which one?” The two sisters looked at each other, and one said, “We asked Dad that question a while ago, but he just looked at us and said that he loved us both equally, so much so that he couldn’t remember which one of us was adopted.” (From *God’s Little Lessons on Life for Women*, Honor Books).

That is a wonderful analogy for the love of God. God loves us all, equally. We are loved, not because we have earned God’s love or deserve it, but because of God’s grace.

Not Slaves but Friends!

Jesus tells his followers that he does not call them slaves anymore, but calls them friends. In the Bible, *doulos*, the slave, the servant of God was no title of shame; it was a title of the highest honor. Moses was the *doulos* of God (Deuteronomy 34:5); so was Joshua (Joshua 24:29); so was David (Psalm 89:20). It is a title which Paul counted it an honor to use (Titus 1:1); and so did James (James 1:1). The greatest men in the past had been proud to be called the *douli*, the slaves of God. But Jesus says: “I have something greater for you yet. You are no longer slaves; you are friends.”

Christ offers an intimacy with God which not even the greatest of men knew before Jesus came into the world. The idea of being the friend of God also has a Biblical background. Abraham was the friend of God (Isaiah 4 1: 8). In Wisdom 7: 27, Wisdom is said to make us the friends of God. In Rome in the first century, the Friends of the king and the emperor were those who had the closest and the most intimate connection with him. Jesus has called us to be his friends and the friends of God. Jesus has given us this intimacy with God, so that He is no longer a distant stranger, but our close friend.

The theme of "joy" is introduced here in today’s gospel passage. Jesus’ "joy" comes from a relationship of perfect obedience to the Father and the unity that the Father and Son therefore share. But even this joy can be expanded. It can be made more "complete." "Completed" or "fulfilled" joy (also used in 3:29) is accomplished when Jesus’ disciples enter into the obedient, loving relationship between the Father and the Son by their own loving obedience.



“No One has Greater Love than This!”

In 1941, the German Army began to round up Jewish people in Lithuania. Thousands of Jews were murdered. But one German soldier objected to their murder. He was Sergeant Anton Schmid. Through his assistance, the lives of at least 250 Jews were spared. He managed to hide them, find food, and supply them with forged papers. Schmid himself was arrested in early 1942 for saving these lives. He was tried and executed in 1942. It took Germany almost sixty years to honor the memory of this man, Schmid. Said Germany’s Defense Minister in 2000, saluting him, “Too many bowed to the threats and temptations of the dictator Hitler, and too few found the strength to resist. But Sergeant Anton Schmid did resist.” Name a person who better obeyed the admonition of the Christ in today’s Gospel, “No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends”! The hero Schmid went beyond what even Jesus encouraged. He laid down his life for strangers.

Reflect

“Terminal Hospital” in London!

There is a special hospital in London for those whom other hospitals consider a lost cause. It is a hospital for those who are diagnosed as "terminal." Most people would consider such a hospital to be a very sad place, but it is not. Actually, it is a hospital filled with hope and a lot of life. The emphasis in this London hospital is on life and not on death. The truth is that several of the patients have seen remissions in the disease process instead of death. A great deal of the credit is given to the way the facility is run. The basic philosophy is different from most other hospitals. In this program the patients are expected to give themselves away in service to the other patients. Each patient is given another patient for whom to care. So, for example, a person who is unable to walk might be given the task of reading to another who is blind. The blind person would then push the wheelchair of the one who could not walk but who gives directions on where to push the chair. Is this not the new commandment to which Jesus referred? He calls us to be disciples who love one another. We are the ones who are healed and strengthened when we learn how to give and how to love.

When we learn that we have a serious health problem; when we hear the news that someone close to us has died; when we worry about money, our children, our job or lack of it; when we are upset, hurt, guilty, angry or depressed; when we have to make difficult decisions about the future; we are reminded that the ascended Jesus is close by and ready to use his power.

Great Lessons from “Beauty and the Beast”

G. K. Chesterton once said that the really great lesson of the story of "Beauty and the Beast" is that a thing must be loved before it is loveable. A person must be loved before that person can be lovable. Some of the most unlovely people I have known got that way because they thought that nobody loved them. The fact of the matter is that unless and until we feel ourselves loved, we cannot love. That's not only a principle of theology but of psychology and sociology as well. Just as abused children grow up to abuse their children, loved children grow up to love their children. Loved persons are able to love. Unloved persons are not. Christianity says something startling. It says that God loves and accepts us "just as we are." Therefore, we can love and accept ourselves and in so doing, love and accept others.

That is what Jesus commands us to do in today's Gospel by challenging us to love others as he has loved us. Jesus demonstrated the love God, his Father, has for us by living for us and dying for us. Hence, as his disciples, we are to be persons for others, sacrificing our time, talents and lives for others. This is what parents spontaneously do for their children by sacrificing themselves, their time, talents, health and wealth for them. That is, they "spend" themselves for their children. The most effective way of communicating God's love to others is by treating everyone as a friend, giving each the respect he or she deserves as a human being, God's creation. In moments of trial and stress, when people are hostile or ungrateful and we feel the pull of bitter resentment in our hearts, it is important for us to remember that Christ's own love was not limited to the people he liked. Hence, we should close our minds to thoughts of revenge.



Smile With Your Family



No money for the collection plate: A four-year-old was in church when the wine and communion wafers were passed out. He was very interested in this, and started to get up. His mother leaned over and told him that he was not old enough to partake in the Communion. Later, when the collection plate came by, he ignored it. His mother again leaned over and tried to coax the nickel out of him. He steadfastly refused, stating, "If I can't eat, I'm not paying." ☺

Apology to girlfriend: Dearest Kate, no words could ever express the great unhappiness I've felt since breaking our engagement. Please say you'll take me back. No one could ever take your place in my heart, so please forgive me. I love you, I love you, I love you! Yours forever, Jim... P.S. And congratulations on winning the \$20 million state lottery. ☺

Special dogs: A man introduced his two new dogs to me. Their names were Rolex and Timex. I asked why these names, and he said, "Duh, they are watch dogs." ☺



Parenting Tune-Up

Unplug for a day! Is it practical...? No matter what, why not ask your family if they are willing to free themselves of digital devices (with the exception of work or school)? Experiment and see the benefits of greater family interaction.

Marriage Tune-Up



"Let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth." (1John 3:18) Saying "I love you." is good. Doing an act of kindness is an even stronger testament of love. Use both "love languages" once today.

Reflect

Transformation of a Surgeon with Tourette's Syndrome!

Some years back, neurologist Oliver Sacks wrote a fascinating vignette of an intriguing neurological difficulty. As some of you know, Tourette's Syndrome is a bizarre physiological disorder that causes victims to have any number of physical and verbal tics. Some Tourette people have constant facial twitches, others find themselves uncontrollably uttering verbal whoops, beeps, and sometimes also raunchy swear words. One man with Tourette's, whom Dr. Sacks knew, was given to deep, lunging bows toward the ground, a few verbal shouts, and also an obsessive-compulsive type adjusting and readjusting of his glasses. The kick-

er is that the man is a skilled surgeon! Somehow and for some unknown reason, when he dons mask and gown and enters the operating room, all of his tics disappear for the duration of the surgery. He loses himself in that role and he does so totally.

When the surgery is finished, he returns to his odd quirks of glasses adjustment, shouts, and bows. Sacks did not make any spiritual comments on this, of course, yet I find this doctor a very intriguing example of what it can mean to "lose yourself" in a role. There really can be a great transformation of your life when you are focused on just

one thing, focused to the point that bad traits disappear even as the performing of normal tasks becomes all the more meaningful and remarkable. Something like that is our Christian goal as we travel with Jesus. Our desire is to love one another – to love the whole world finally, I suppose – as Jesus loved us. To do that, we need an infusion of a kind of love that does not arise naturally from the context of the world as we know it. So as we lose ourselves in Jesus and in being his disciples, we find even our ordinary day-to-day activities infused with deep meaning as a love from another place fills our hearts.

Pray

Letter from Bishop Checchio

Please read the May 3, 2021, letter from Bishop Checchio to everyone in the Diocese of Metuchen, as he reflects on his five years here in our diocese. The letter can be found on our website: www.stmatthias.net

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>



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

Learn

Ready for September?

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



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



Give

Stewardship Reflection May 9, 2021 6th Sunday of Easter

“This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends” - JOHN 15:12-13

Do you love Jesus? Do you consider Him your friend? Jesus says that if we love Him we would be willing to offer whatever we have to Him, not because we want praise and glory, but simply because we love Him. Does your giving seem mechanical out of obligation or do you share freely out of love?

Reflexiónese — 9 de mayo de 2021 6to. Domingo de Pascua

“Este es mi mandamiento: ámense los unos a los otros como yo los he amado. Nadie muestra más amor que quien da la vida por sus amigos.” - JUAN 15:12-13

¿Usted ama a Jesús? ¿Lo considera su amigo? Jesús dice que si lo amamos seremos capaces de ofrecerle todo lo que tenemos, no porque queremos alabanzas y gloria, sino simplemente porque lo amamos. ¿Su donación parece hecha mecánicamente solo por obligación, o usted comparte libremente por amor?



Shop on Amazon?

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



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
			Month-to-date Total	May Total Last Yr
			\$19,155.25	\$138,250.23
			Current Year-to-date To-	Year-to-date as of May 31, 2020
			\$1,112,510.43	\$1,298,087.89

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.

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 Purcell, 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 Purcell 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.



Connect

CALLING ALL GARDENERS

Have you bought your flowers for your garden yet?

St. Matthias has a special request. We would like to plant flowers in front of church again this year, in time for our First Communions which will take place on **Saturday, May 22 at 12:00 and Sunday May 23 at 2:00.**

When you go to your favorite nursery or Home Depot or Lowes, pick up a flat of vincas, either pink or white, that you could donate to St. Matthias. Why vincas? They are deer proof and easy to grow.

You can drop them off anytime, around the statue of the Blessed Mother by the steps to the parking lot. We need the flowers by Sunday, May 16. Let us know that you have donated a flat of vincas so we can thank

you. You can send an email to jseamon@stmatthias.net. Also let us know if you would like to help us plant.

Once we see how many plants we get, we will arrange a time to get together to do the actual planting, sometime the week of **May 17.** Gardeners never mind having a reason to go and buy more flowers. Thanks in advance for your help in making St. Matthias as beautiful on the outside as it is on the inside!



Questions? Contact Joan Best Seamon at jseamon@stmatthias.net

Local Community

The Joy of Love & Family Conference Series

The five Catholic Dioceses of New Jersey will be co-sponsoring a conference titled The Joy of Love & Family, in honor of the Year of the Family. The talks will take place over a six month period beginning in June 2021. They will touch on topics for every stage of family life. More information is now available at: www.lightingheartsonfire.org You may also sign up to receive notifications.

Topic categories include Young Adults, Newly Married, Families with Young Children, Single/Married Adults, Golden Years, and Family Healing. The series will feature expert speakers who will give practical and spiritual information as well as thought-provoking testimony of real-life experiences. The goal of the conference is to provide resources for people of all ages to reflect on and bear witness to family love. Some of the presentations will also be available in Spanish.



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.voterveice.net/USCCB/home>

Local Community

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>

Stop Your Tax Dollars from Paying for Abortions

A serious effort is underway in Congress to force all taxpayers to pay for elective abortions. The Hyde Amendment and other similar laws have long protected taxpayers from funding elective abortions. Now, powerful members of Congress want to get rid of these laws, which have been supported by both Democrats and Republicans for 45 years. Without the Hyde Amendment and related policies, billions of taxpayer dollars could be used to pay for abortion in the United States and throughout the world. Don't let our government make you pay for the taking of innocent human life. Contact Congress and tell them to keep the Hyde Amendment and related policies and to oppose any bill that expands taxpayer funding of abortion. Visit: <https://www.voterveice.net/USCCB/home>

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"

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



NJ Catholic Conference: Legalization of Recreational Marijuana Use

On November 3, 2020, New Jersey voters approved Ballot Question #1, legalizing recreational marijuana use for individuals over the age of 21. The approval of the ballot question made the possession and recreational use of marijuana a constitutional right for individuals 21 years of age and older in New Jersey. This constitutional right went into effect on January 1, 2021. On Monday, February 22, 2021, Governor Murphy signed a series of bills. More information and resources, prepared by the New Jersey Catholic Conference Public Policy Committee, to assist Catholics with are at: <https://njcatholic.org/substance-abuse>



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 500-261-5812.

Parish Leadership

Parish Pastoral Council:

Chair: Nick Grippo
nickgrippo@gmail.com

Co-Chair: Lisa Robinson
lar0504@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 Orłowski

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.



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