



St. Matthias Parish Office:
 Open Mon-Thu: 8:30-5:30PM; Fri: 8:30-5PM
 168 JFK Boulevard, Somerset, NJ 08873
 732-828-1400, fax: 732-828-0866
www.stmatthias.net

Mass Schedule (in person):
 Sat - 5PM, Sun - 8, 10 AM & 12 noon
 M/T/W/Th/F at 8:00AM
 And also on our YouTube channel
youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ

St. Matthias School (SMS):
 170 JFK Blvd., Somerset, NJ 08873
www.stmatthias.info 732-828-1402

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THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS SUNDAY, NOV 14, 2021 – Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Super 50-50 Raffle Next Sunday, Nov. 21

The total as of Nov. 9 is **\$16,782** and you could win half! Only **FOUR** more days to purchase your Super 50-50 tickets! Details on page 8.

St. Matthias' Vocation Ministry Morning of Reflection

This Saturday, November 13, 8:30 am, www.stmatthias.net/vocations

St Martin de Porres Item Collection ends this weekend. See page 9.

The Works of Mercy Campaign—The Works of Mercy campaign is next weekend, Nov. 20/21. This campaign benefits the local needs of those within the Diocese of Metuchen community by addressing the social issues of poverty and hunger. Please give as you are able.

Raffle Tickets for Pro-Life Ministry

Members of our ProLife Ministry will be selling raffle tickets after Mass TODAY. See page 10 for details.



“Tree” Volunteers Needed!

The trees are almost here! We need lots of volunteers to help us set up our Christmas Trees! Sign up today! See page 10 for details.

2021 Giving Tree

It's almost Thanksgiving! Time for the Giving Tree. Please see article on page 10.



40th Anniversary Mass: Diocese of Metuchen

Friday, November 19, 2021 at 7:00PM

Pope St. John Paul II established the Diocese of Metuchen on November 19, 1981, to serve the people of God in the four counties of Middlesex, Somerset, Hunterdon, and Warren in New Jersey. On **Friday, November 19th at 7:00 pm** the Most Reverend James F. Checchio, Bishop of Metuchen will be celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the Metuchen Diocese with a special Mass at St. Francis Cathedral in Metuchen. Our Parish of St. Matthias will be represented by some of our parishioners at the Anniversary Mass in the Cathedral.



If you shop on Amazon, please help us by starting at:
www.stmatthias.net/Amazon

Masses are celebrated in-person and also livestreamed on our YouTube channel: [youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ](https://www.youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ)

The Church is open for individual prayer

Mon-Fri from 7:30 am to 7pm,
Sat from 9 am to 7pm, and
Sun from 7:30 am to 1 pm,
unless another service is taking place.

Sunday Nov 14, 2021

All Masses St. Martin dePorres Donations Cry room
8:00AM Mass Church
10:00AM Mass Church
10:00AM 1st Reconciliation Prep Church, clsrms & John XXIII
10:30AM RCIA Parish Office
12:00PM Mass Church

Monday, Nov 15, 2021, St. Albert the Great, Bishop

8:00AM Mass Church
8:30AM Miraculous Medal Novena Church

Tuesday, Nov. 16, 2021 St. Margaret of Scotland & St. Gertrude

8:00AM Daily Mass Church
7:00PM Confirmation 7 Parents' Mtg. Zoom
7:00PM Pastoral Council Mtg. Zoom

Wednesday, Nov 17, 2021, St. Elizabeth of Hungary

8:00AM Mass Church
9:30AM Prayer Group-Holy Spirit de Porres Rm
7:00PM Baptism Prep Zoom
7:00PM Bereavement Support Grp. Zoom
7:00PM SMDP Society Mtg. Zoom

Thursday, Nov 18, 2021, Dedication of the Bacillicas of Sts. Peter & Paul, St. Rose Phillippine Duchesne
RETURN OF ALL 50/50 TICKETS TO PARISH OFFICE NO LATER THAN 12NOON

8:00AM Mass Church
3:30PM Children's Choir gr. 3 & 4 rehearsal Church
4:15PM Children's Choir 5th-8th gr. rehearsal Church
7:00PM K of C Chap. 4 Memorial Mass & installation of Officers Church followed by Reception Cafeteria
7:00PM Prayer Shawl Ministry Cry Room
7:30PM Sunday 10AM Choir Rehearsal Church

Friday, Nov 19, 2021, Our Lady of Divine Providence

8:00AM Daily Mass Church
9:00AM SMS Donor Mass & Reception Church

Saturday, Nov 20, 2021, Felix of Valois
Fall into Faith Groups End

8:30AM Liturgy Ministers Day of Reflection John XXIII Rm
10:00AM Secular Franciscans de Porres Rm
3:30PM Sacrament of Reconciliation Church
5:00PM Mass Church

Sunday Nov 21, 2021 Works of Mercy Campaign

Celebrating Our Youth today at all Masses

8:00AM Mass Church
8:30AM Advent Liturgical Ministers Day of Reflection Church
10:00AM Mass Church
11:00AM Super 50/50 Drawing (after 10AM Mass)
12:00PM Youth Mass Church

Dear Friends,

Veterans Day was this past Thursday. We know that November 11 is the day every year in the United States in honor of the "eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month" of 1918 that signaled the end of World War I, known as Armistice Day. In 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower officially changed the name of the holiday from Armistice Day to Veterans Day.



We bring all the veterans in prayer to God at all the Masses this weekend. This is an occasion to remind ourselves of the importance to honor all those who have risked life, limb and mind for our country, because freedom isn't free. This truth was experienced by the early Christians who were persecuted by the Roman Emperor Nero. Today's Gospel, taken from Mark (written around 65 AD), offered hope to these suffering Christians reminding them of Jesus' words about his glorious return to earth with great power and glory as Judge, to gather and reward his elect.

Our Liturgical year will come to an end in a couple of weeks. That's why the readings are about end times. The Scriptures keep reminding us that God will ensure that the righteous will survive the ordeal and will find a place with Him. Through the parable of the fig tree, Jesus warns us all to read the "signs of the time," reminding us that we must be ever prepared to give an account of our lives to Jesus when he comes in glory as our Judge, because we cannot know "either the day or the hour" of his Second Coming.

Should this bring fear? No. The coming of Jesus is a joyful occasion. Today's readings give us the assurance that our God will be with us all the days of our lives. We will have the ongoing presence of the Holy Spirit in our midst, guiding, protecting and strengthening us in spite of our necessary uncertainty concerning the end time when "Christ will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead."

But some people do become frightened at the thought of dying – whether it is the end of our individual world or that of others. In today's second reading, the author of the letter to the Hebrews consoles believers who suffer from "end time phobia" with the knowledge that Jesus, who sits forever at God's right hand, is our mediator. By his sacrificial death, he forgave our sins and sanctified us. Jesus said, "The joy I give you, will not be taken away from you" (John 16:22). That is why St. Paul was able to exhort us confidently: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice!" (Philippians 4:4).

Your brother in Christ
Fr. Abraham Orapankal

**A Pearl of Wisdom
for this Week:**

Friendship is like a book. It takes few seconds to burn, but it takes years to write.

Readings for the Week

Monday: 1 Mc 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63; Ps 119:53, 61, 134, 150, 155, 158; Lk 18:35-43

Tuesday: 2 Mc 6:18-31; Ps 3:2-3, 4-5, 6-7; Lk 19:1-10

Wednesday: 2 Mc 7:1, 20-31; Ps 17:1bcd, 5-6, 8b, 15; Lk 19:11-28

Thursday: 1 Mc 2:15-29; Ps 50:1b-2, 5-6, 14-15; Lk 19:41-44

Friday: 1 Mc 4:36-37, 52-59; 1 Chr 29:10bcd, 11abc, 11d-12a, 12bcd; Lk 19:45-48

Saturday: 1 Mc 6:1-13; Ps 9:2-3, 4, 6, 16, 19; Lk 20:27-40

Sunday: Dn 7:13-14; Ps 93:1, 1-2, 5; Rv 1:5-8; Jn 18:33b-37

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, Nov 13	5:00PM	Anna Moran, by Joe, Virginia & Eileen
Sunday, Nov 14	8:00AM	Dorothy Gonzalez, by Anne Marie Francis
	10:00AM	Julia Nowakowski, by Daughter
	12:00PM	Robert Morgenberger, by The Bodnar Family
	(5:30PM)	Intention of Parishioners
Monday, Nov 15	8:00AM	Hubert & Rita Fowler, by Teresa & Bruce Cuddeback
Tuesday, Nov 16	8:00AM	Maria Teresa Ugaddan & Flora Martinez, by daughter, Mary Anjou
Wednesday, Nov 17	8:00AM	Steven C.M. King, by Mom & brother, Brian
Thursday, Nov 18	8:00AM	Birthday Blessings for Jim Stone, by Phyllis Stone
Friday, Nov 19	8:00AM	Matthew Montgomery, by Pat & Frank Sellinger
Saturday, Nov 20	5:00PM	In loving memory of Hector Concha Morena, by The Moreno Family
Sunday, Nov 21	8:00AM	Marion Bradford, by daughter Patricia & family
	10:00AM	Julia Nowakowski, by Daughter
	12:00PM	Robert Morgenberger, by The Bodnar Family
	(5:30PM)	Intention of Parishioners

Pray for those who are sick...

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

Carolyn Banghart

Maria Barreiro

Virginia Briggs

Marie Brody

Thomas Burns

Tara Capatosto

Ellen Catalina

Barbara Coan

Tom Current

Joseph DeFrancesco

Cenon DeGuzman

Mary Ellen Delaney

Alaina Derecola

Surya & Juliany Dharma

Jim Dolan

Mary Dolan

William Dolphin

John Farkas

Claudia Gemgnani

Emma Gergely

Rose Gessner

Mary Gidaro

Jill Gordon-Szabo

Sloopy Hoffman

Baby Isla-Rose Huffman

Kathleen Lagenbacher

Al & Rose Larangeira

The Litrakis Family

Al Maglio

Sue Maglio-Alese

Beatrice May

Margaret Menendez

Gail Miranda

Sabrina Moloney

Dave Moynihan

Baby Ezran Natural

Patricia Nese

Danny Ochangco

Jim Pettit

Christina Pietrowiak

Oscar Poisler

Baby Griffin Rademaker

Kevin Reavey

Chris Retz

Ann Ritchick

Jaxon Rivera

Angela Romanek

Rudy Schaar

Maria Schwenzer

Sr. Mary Amata Shina, OSF

Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF

Catherine Sloomaker

Encarnacion (Gina) So

Alessandro Spagnolo

Dennis Stuewe

Jeff Tami

Fred & Carolyn Vanmiddlesworth

Eulalia Villanueva

Judi Wojna

Mark T. Worthington

Everyone who is ill with Covid-19

...and for all who are homebound, elderly, in nursing care, or living with chronic illness

Pray for those who have died...

— "His mercy endures forever." Chronicles

Maureen Tropea

Reflect



Smile with Your Family



"You'll wish you were Jewish!!" A Protestant minister and a Catholic priest enjoyed teasing their Jewish rabbi friend, continually asking him when he was going to convert to their faith. When the Holidays rolled around, the rabbi sent them a card with the following: "Season's Greetings! Roses are reddish, Violets are bluish; When the Messiah comes, you'll wish you were Jewish!!" 😊

A somnambulist, (one who walks in his sleep) on the eve of his wedding, decided to confess his sleeping problem to his fiancée. He said, "My love, there is something I feel I must tell you before we are married; something you must know.

It may make a difference in your feeling toward me. You see, I am a somnambulist." The young lady thought for a moment, then replied, "Oh that's all right. There's no problem. I was raised a Methodist. We can go to your Church one Sunday and to mine the next." 😊

Diet doubts: I know it's three meals a day, but how many should I eat at night? 😊

Wouldn't it be so great if we could put ourselves in the dryer for 10 minutes and come out wrinkle free and three sizes smaller? 😊

If we're not meant to have midnight snacks, why is there a light in the fridge? 😊

A Stewardship Prayer for our Parish

Generous and loving God, We give thanks to you for the gifts you have given us, our lives, families, friends, time, talent, and material possessions. All that we have comes from you. Help us to remember this and walk in your goodness. Help us on our spiritual journey, so that we may constantly renew our relationship with you in our believing, belonging and becoming the People of God in this Community of St. Matthias. Give us the strength and courage to become better followers and disciples of Jesus, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen

End of the World Predictions!

People have been predicting the end of the world since the first century. St. Paul thought Christ would return in his lifetime. In 960, German theologian, Bernard of Thuringia, calculated the end of the world would come in 992. Some were so sure the world was going to end in 1000 A.D. that they did not bother to plant crops.

Astrologer, Johann Stoeffler, said the world would be flooded on February 20, 1524. Solomon Eccles, in 1665, ran through the streets of London carrying blazing sulfur on his head announcing that the world was going to go up in flames within the year. In 1874, Charles Russell, founder of the Jehovah's Witnesses, concluded that Christ had already returned, but people would have another forty years of grace. In 1914 the denomination was forced to revise its timetable. Herbert Armstrong, in his publication, *Plain Truth*, set the date for the end of the world as January 7, 1972. The Year 2000, and more specifically, the projected Y2K computer problem, caused many to think that the "end was at hand." Some people made statements such as "a United Nations world-takeover is imminent" and that "Y2K will be the event that they use."

In 2011, a warning by a U.S. Evangelical preacher, Harold Camping, that the Rapture would happen that year on May 21

prompted many followers of his evangelical ministry to quit their jobs and sell everything they owned. Camping's Christian media empire spent millions of dollars to warn about the Rapture on thousands of billboards around the country. When May 21 came and went Rapture-less, Camping said that he had gotten the day wrong, and that it would happen five months later. Then he said he realized that the significant day would not involve any physical manifestation, but a spiritual kind of Judgment Day. Camping, who died in 2013 at the age of 92, gave up prophecies shortly after his failed prediction.

Saints and End Times

St. Francis of Assisi, Saint of Nature, was hoeing his garden one day. A philosopher friend approached him and asked, "What would you do if you learned you would die before the sun sets?" St. Francis reflected for a moment and replied, "I would finish hoeing my garden. I would be faithful to what I am doing now."

Dietrich Bonhoeffer was asked by critics, "Why do you expose yourself to all this danger? Jesus will return any day and all your work and suffering will be for nothing." Bonhoeffer said, "If Jesus returns tomorrow, then tomorrow I will rest from my labors, but today I have work to do. I must continue.



Parenting Tune-Up

"Where there is forgiveness..." (Hebrews 20:18)
Where indeed is there forgiveness today? Is there anyone you or your child need to forgive to make peace in the family or with your neighbor (or your enemy) before the season of peace can begin?

Sunday Reflection: Changing Places

“Learn a lesson from the fig tree. When its branch becomes tender and sprouts leaves, you know that summer is near. In the same way, when you see these things happenings, know that [the Son of Man] is at the gates.” Mark 13: 24-32

In a touching essay in **The Boston Globe** [November 5, 2017] Vermont writer Martha Hurwitz tells a story many of us all know too well: that of moving from care-giver to cared for. Martha’s elderly mother lived in the small upstairs apartment. Mom’s presence was both a joy and a burden to Martha. Mom was pretty much managing on her own for the most part, but now Martha admits that she overlooked the signs of her mother’s slide toward dependence for fear of what the ultimate burden might look like and how it would affect Martha’s already busy and stressful life. And then, one evening, her mom tearfully begged, “Please come up right away.” Martha flew up the stairs and, in an instant, the roles of mother and child reversed, the roles shifted, and the ultimate responsibility for all life’s important decisions changed hands.

Fifteen years later, Martha’s daughter, Rachel, returned home to live in Mom’s old apartment, empty since she died in 2004. Shortly after Rachel moved in, Martha ruptured a disk and damaged the nerves and muscles in her knee. Surgery was required, followed by a slow recovery. And care. Rachel was wonderful, a blessing to Martha as she recovered. As she watched her daughter care for her, Martha hoped that the help she provided her mother 15 years before was such a blessing. But one day, several weeks after her surgery, Martha noted a change in Rachel’s demeanor: stress and distraction, as Rachel took care of some task her mom still couldn’t manage on her own. And Martha remembered that moment when she ran upstairs to answer her mother’s call.

Martha said to Rachel, “You know, I remember how difficult it was for me what I first realized that Grandma Avis was struggling to manage her daily life. I’m sure it’s hard for you to see me with a cane, having trouble walking and being in pain.” Rachel’s face softened. “Yes. That’s true. It is sad and hard for me.” Martha reflects: “It is sad and hard for me, too. Now I am the

aging parent, and we are entering that blurred, gray area, where sometimes she will be the mother and I the child. I know it is the nature of human life, this decline and the passing on of responsibility, and it is not ultimately under our control. For each of us, though, it is both a joy and a burden.”

The sign of the Gospel fig tree can take many forms in our lives. For these three generations of women, while the independence afforded by good health yields to the dependence of aging and physical need and the roles of caregiver and cared for reverse, love remains constant. With eyes and hearts of faith, we can recognize such “signs” of God’s love in our changing worlds and passing stages. Change – sometimes frightening, often traumatic, seldom easy – is part of that journey for all of us. But when our “heavens and earths” pass away, the promise of the life of God and the values of the Gospel remain constant. With every change in direction, with every wrinkle of age, with every changing world and passing stage, God’s love remains the constant that leads us in hope to the dwelling place of God.

In the End all will be Fine

Robert Muller was an undersecretary of the United Nations. He wrote practically using apocalyptic imagery: “We are witnessing a unique moment of evolution, the birth of collective organs in the human species. For the first time humankind is emerging as a global organism with a common blood stream, a central nervous system, a shared heart, a corporate brain, and a common destiny.” He said it is a secular way. The prophet and today’s Gospel uses more mystical terms. Let us live with this vision: humanity in labor to give birth –through distress and pain –to that human and divine organism of whom Jesus is the head.

Let us take heart and not get frightened: The end of the world should never be thought of as depressing, dishearten-

ing or frightening because we are in the hands of a good and loving God. Christ’s second coming gives us the message that God is journeying with us in the trials and difficulties of life and that His word is ever-present as a light of hope. He speaks to us through the Bible. We have the Eucharist as a sign that God is with us, in our midst. Holy Communion is our point of direct, personal contact with God. That is why the holy Mass is special: the more fully and frequently we participate in the Mass, the more deeply the Lord can come to us, and the more completely He can remain with us. Let no one frighten us with disturbing descriptions of the end of the world because “the end” is all about the birth of everyone and everything into eternity.



Marriage Tune-Up

With ‘end times’ readings at Mass, do you think about end of life matters? How do you deal with aging? How do you feel about the changes in your body and in that of your spouse? Do you talk about these so you can come to terms with such changes?

“Before or After Bingo?”

There are some people who ignore Christ's *Parousia* and stick to their addictions. A woman was hurrying home from work. This was her Bingo night. Suddenly she spotted this fellow standing on the edge of the pavement holding aloft a placard which read: *The end of the world is near*. She went up to him and said, "You say the end of the world is near." "That's right, missus," he replied. "But are you sure?" "Quite sure, missus." "And you say it's near." "Yes, missus." "How near?" "Oh, very near." "Could you be more precise?" "This very night, Missus." She paused for a moment to reflect on this. Then in a voice full of anxiety, she asked, "Tell me, son. Will it be before or after Bingo?"

In today's Gospel, Jesus speaks about the displacement of celestial bodies at the end of the world, followed by the

“Then Comes the Dawn”

Years ago an old municipal lamplighter, engaged in putting out his lights one by one, was met by a reporter who asked him if he never grew tired of his work in the cold dark night of labor. "Never am I cheerless," said the old man, for there is always a light ahead of me to lead me on." "But what would you have to cheer you when you have put out the last one?" asked the writer. "Then comes the dawn." said the lamplighter. A man of the world might have asked Jesus the same question. One light after another did he put out: the lamp of popular acclaim, the lamp of patriotic approval, the lamp of ecclesiastical conformity –all for the sake of God's love which burned in his heart and showed him a better way. At last even the light of his life was to flicker out on the hill called Calvary. What then? We hear his voice, "Into Thy hands I commend my spirit," and then the dawn came.

Let us recognize the “second coming” of Jesus in our daily lives. Today's Gospel reminds us of a “coming” of God which we tend to forget, namely, God's daily coming to us in the ordinary events of our lives. We must learn to recognize and welcome Him in these everyday occurrences – happy, encouraging, painful or disappointing – always remembering that He comes without warning. Let us remember that the Lord is present wherever people treat each other with gentleness, generosity, and thoughtfulness. Hence, let us try to bring Jesus to earth, as Blessed Mother Teresa puts it: “by doing little things to others around us with great love.”

appearance of the Son of Man in glory to establish the Reign of God. The coming of the Son of Man, "in clouds with great power and glory," echoes a passage in the Daniel. Cosmic disturbances of the sun, moon and stars are images traditionally associated with the manifestations of God's judgment of Israel. Although no time-frame is given in the Gospels for the period between the destruction of Jerusalem and the final coming of Jesus as King and Lord of all, the early Christians believed that Jesus would come in their lifetime, based on their understanding of Jesus' promise in Mark, "this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place."



Making Adjustments!

An old sea captain named Eleazar Hall lived in Bedford, Massachusetts, during the time of the great sailing ships. He was renowned, legendary, and revered as the most successful of sea captains of the day. Captain Hall was often asked about his uncanny ability to stay out so long without navigational equipment. Eleazar simply replied, "Oh, I just go up on deck and listen to the wind and rigging. I get the drift of the sea, look up at the stars, and then set my course." Well, times changed at Bedford. The big insurance companies moved in and said they no longer insured the ships if the captains didn't have a certified and properly trained navigator on board. They were terrified to tell Eleazar. But to their amazement he said, "If I must, I will go and take the navigational course." Eleazar graduated high in his class, he immediately took off for a long voyage. On the day of his return, the whole town turned out to ask him the question: "Eleazar, how was it having to navigate with all those charts and equations?" Eleazar sat back and let out a long low whistle. "Oh," he replied, "it was simple. Whenever I wanted to know my location, I'd go to my cabin, get out my charts and tables, work the equations and set my course with scientific precision. Then I'd go up on deck and listen to the wind and the rigging, get the drift of the sea, look at the stars, and go back and correct the errors I had made in computation."

When I heard that, I prayed, "Lord, I want to know you that way. I want to go up on deck, hear your quiet voice in my heart, consider your eternal Word, and then go back down below and make adjustments to all those fine, logical, scientific plans I've drawn up in my head. I must listen to Jesus who told us to learn from the fig tree that sprouts its leaves in late spring heralding the summer season. The application of this image to the end of the world suggests that the end of the world will mean good times, or summer, for Jesus' disciples, because their God will be bringing things to a triumphant end and His Truth, Love and Justice will prevail forever. Hence we do not need to be scared but always be well prepared to face our judgment because we do not know the day nor the hour, either of the ending of the world or of our own call from this life.

From the Pastoral Staff

Giving Thanks!

As Thanksgiving approaches, we are reminded of how grateful we are for the many blessings in our lives. One of those blessings took place last year. Thanks to your generosity, we were able to purchase 17 Promethean boards for our school! At first we thought we would be able to purchase only a few each year, phasing them into the classrooms. But we were truly touched when so many people stepped forward to contribute to this effort.

This year Thanksgiving is again followed by Black Friday (in-person shopping), Cyber Monday (internet shopping) and GivingTuesday when, after the flurry of so much shopping, we give back to the community in some manner. At St. Matthias, we will be running two Giving Tuesday campaigns

in parallel — one for the church and one for the school.

For the church, we will be sponsoring the **Spiritual Tech Connect Campaign** to provide video/audio/media equipment for our church building. The goal is two-fold: 1) To enable us to clearly project video, text and images on large monitors that can be seen easily by everyone in the church building, and 2) To install and connect permanent cameras and live-streaming equipment that can be used to more professionally connect parishioners who want to participate in our Masses, prayer services, funerals, and other events from their homes. This new technology will spiritually connect all of us, including our homebound parishioners and even family members and friends from out of town.

For the school, we will be sponsoring the **Trading Spaces & Reading Places Campaign**. We are proud that St. Matthias School is almost 60 years old, but the time has come for a makeover, one that reflects 21st century design. SMS classrooms, learning spaces, and furniture are outdated. Our goal is two-fold: 1) Modernize our spaces with flexible seating, storage, breakout nooks, and desk options that meet the diverse needs of our students, and 2) Enhance our guided reading collection, Writer's Workshop, and English & Language Arts curriculum. More details will be available soon. In the meantime, **mark your calendars for Tuesday, November 30**, and then join us online!

Ana Kelly, Marketing & Development



Pray

The Global Celebration of Young People—Next Sunday, November 21, 2021, 12 Noon Mass

St. Matthias will join Catholic churches in every diocese and community around the world, including at the Vatican with the Holy Father, on Sunday, November 21 at the 12 Noon mass. We invite all our young people to join us at this Mass, in particular youth in grades 6-12!



The international World Youth Day celebration takes place every 2-3 years, typically in the summer months and on a major scale. The next one of these will take place from Tuesday to Sunday, August 1 to 6, 2023, in Lisbon, Portugal with millions of people and Pope Francis.

Learn

The St. Vincent de Paul Society & the SMYLE Youth Group Holiday Food Project

Over the weekend of October 23-24, the St Vincent de Paul Society and the SMYLE Youth Group collaborated on a project to prepare holiday food boxes to contribute to the Franklin Food Bank's "Everything but the Turkey" food drive.

In general, boxes contained instant mashed potatoes, stuffing mix, canned items such as yams, peas, cranberry sauce, and gravy. Food was purchased by the SVDP Society with the help of the Loaves and Fishes Ministry, and was boxed on Saturday with the help of the children from SMYLE. At weekend Masses the SMYLE group collected non-perishable food items and boxed

them on Sunday afternoon.

The Food Bank stopped by the school to pick up our donations, totaling 100 boxes! They will distribute them along with a turkey or ham to our neighbors in need throughout the month of November, just in time for Thanksgiving.

If you would like to prepare your own box to bring to the food bank, check their website for details (<https://franklinfoodbank.org/food-drives-2>). If you know of a family in need, they can get their holiday meal by reaching out to the Franklin Food Bank at 732-246-0009.



Black Catholic History is Catholic History

Some people forget that Christianity did not originate in Europe and even express surprise when they learn that Black Catholic History began in the Acts of the Apostles (8: 26-40) with the conversion of the Ethiopian Eunuch by Philip the Deacon. This text is important for several reasons. First, it chronicles the conversion of the first Black African in recorded Christian history. Second, the text suggests that the man was a wealthy, literate, and powerful emissary of the Nubian Queen and also a faithful, practicing Jew prior to his baptism. Clearly, he was not an ignorant heathen. Third, the Ethiopian Eunuch's conversion predates the conversions of Saints Paul and Cornelius. Most significantly, many cite this conversion as the very moment when the church changed from a Hebrew and Hellenist community to the truly Universal and Catholic Church.

Black Catholics trace their faith history back to Christian antiquity long before other nations heard the "Good News." Christian Africa was indeed a "leading light" in early Christendom. Black Catholics point to three popes who were born in Africa: Saints Victor I, Melchisedes, and Gelasius I. All three shepherded the early church through tough and tumultuous times in history. Black Catholics claim many Black Saints like Saints Cyprian, Zeno, Anthony of Egypt, Moses the Black, Pachomius, Maurice, Athanasius, Pistentius, Mary of Egypt, Cyril of Alexandria, Monica of Hippo, Augustine of Hippo, Perpetua, Felicitas, and Thecla. Some of these mystics, monas-

tics, and martyrs literally made the church what it is today.

Not many people know that King Nzinga-a-Nkuwu Mbemba (Afonso the Good) of the Kongo and his subjects made their profession of faith thanks to the work of Portuguese missionaries in the 1490s or that Pope Leo X consecrated the king's son, Henrique, Titular Bishop of Utica in 1518. Bishop Henrique was the first native bishop of West Africa. However, he died in 1531. The Congolese Church and the hopes for an indigenous clergy died with him. Finally, the genocidal slave trade killed true evangelization in sub-Saharan Africa for several centuries.

We cannot examine the history of Black American Catholics without acknowledging the horrific crimes and sins of chattel slavery, and the Catholic Church's complicity in the sin of slavery. American Catholics, including clergy and religious orders including the Jesuits, owned slaves and participated in the slave trade. Read more about the history of [Black American Catholics from the National Black Catholic Congress](#) and read about the Slavery, History, Memory and Reconciliation Project from the Jesuits further on this page.

In the midst of a system of slavery, the French and Spanish missionaries ministered to their free and enslaved African population within their respective colonies. This ministry laid the foundation for Black Catholic communities within the United States, i.e. Mobile, Alabama;

New Orleans, Louisiana; and Saint Augustine, Florida. It is important to note that many African-American Catholics cherish a certain Peruvian Dominican, Saint Martin de Porres, the only Black Saint from the Western Hemisphere to date

Tragically, the American Catholic Church did not seriously commit its time and resources to minister to the African-American population during the ante-bellum or post-bellum periods. Catholic churches and many religious orders remained segregated and closed to African Americans. In spite of insuperable obstacles and opposition, African-American Catholics created a remarkable movement of faith and evangelization. Many courageous people played pivotal roles within church history like Mother Mary Elizabeth Lange, Mathilda Beasley, Daniel Rudd, and the Reverend Augustus Tolton. They witnessed their faith, ministered to their people, and left lasting legacies in the face of prejudice, ignorance, and indifference. One cannot read their stories without feeling tremendous joy, sorrow, and inspiration. They are truly heroic accounts!

There are currently six African American Catholics who are on the road to officially being recognized as saints in the Catholic Church. Their stories offer us glimpses of holiness, courage, resilience, creativity, and joy in the face of grave injustice. Read more about these holy men and women on the [National Black Catholic Congress Website](#).



Only 4 Days Left to Purchase Your Super 50-50 Tickets?

The drawing will be on **Sunday, November 21, after the 10AM**

Mass -- the Sunday before Thanksgiving.

Tickets are available in the Parish Office

and can be returned in an envelope in the collection basket, or by mailing them to St. Matthias Church, 168 John F. Kennedy Blvd, Somerset, NJ 08873. **All tickets must be returned to the Parish Office by 12 NOON, Thursday, November 18.**

This yearly fundraiser helps to fund the many vital ministries of our parish. By supporting this important effort you not only help our parish but, happily, if you win, Christmas will look very bright! Take a chance; this could be your year to win!

Give (and Receive!)

Stewardship Reflection Nov 14, 2021 Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

“And then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in the clouds’ with great power and glory.” (Mark 13:26)

We will all have that day when we are standing before God and our life is played out like a movie. When this happens and God asks each of us, “What have you done with the gifts that I have given you?” How will you respond? The good news – it’s never too late to live and grateful and generous lifestyle.

Reflexiónese — 14 de noviembre de 2021 Domingo 33° del Tiempo Ordinario

“Y entonces veremos al ‘Hijo del Hombre venir entre las nubes’ con gran poder y gloria.” (Marcos 13:26)

Cada uno de nosotros tendrá un día que pararse delante del Señor y nuestra vida pasará frente a nosotros como una película. Cuando eso suceda y Dios nos pregunte a cada uno de nosotros, “¿Qué has hecho con los dones que te di?” ¿Cómo responderás? La buena nueva es que nunca es tarde para vivir y agradecer, y tener un estilo de vida generoso.

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 19 - Nov. 7, 2021	\$9,984.00	\$0.00	\$9,984.00	\$23,675.88
Week 20 - Nov. 14, 2021	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$24,864.30
Week 21 - Nov. 21, 2021	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$25,263.00
Week 22 - Nov. 29, 2021	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$22,566.10
			Month-to-date Total	Nov Total Last Yr
Parish Giving will be updated next week.			\$9,984.00	\$96,369.28
			Current Year-to-date	Year-to-date as of Nov 30, 2020
			\$463,266.41	\$524,355.09

Serve



This weekend (Nov. 13/14), the **St. Martin de Porres Society** is continuing to collect items for Great Expectations and Ronald McDonald House after all Masses: Items needed:

Great Expectations: Baby Items - newborn and size 6 diapers, infant clothing sized 0-3 and 3-6 months, rattles, teethingers, baby bottles. Gift cards - Target and Walmart (any amount).
Ronald McDonald House: Laundry detergent, cascade dish. We will deliver the items to

the organizations. Thank you!

washer liquid, shower curtain liners, dish towels, over pot holders. Please bring your items to the Church Reconciliation Room after all Masses. We will deliver the items to the organizations. Thank you!

Vocations Ministry - Called to Build God's Kingdom — Nov 14, 2021

Pope Francis in “*Gaudete et Exsultate*” on the call to holiness in today’s world says:

Do not be afraid of holiness. It will take away none of your energy, vitality or joy. On the contrary, you will become what the Father had in mind when he created you, and you will be faithful to your deepest self. To depend on God sets us free from every form of enslavement and leads us to recognize our great dignity. We see this in Saint Josephine Bakhita: “Abducted and sold into slavery at the tender age of seven, she suffered much at the hands of cruel masters.

But she came to understand the profound truth that God, and not man, is the true Master of every human being, of every human life. This experience became a source of great wisdom for this humble daughter of Africa”. Saint Josephine Bakhita may have been enslaved by her cruel masters, but she did not lose hope. She found a master who gave His life for her. She quotes - “*I am definitely loved and whatever happens to me - I am awaited by this Love. And so my life is good.*”





We Need Your Help Setting up 285 Christmas Trees!



Our Christmas trees will be delivered in just 2 weeks! On **Saturday, November 20**, at approx. 10:00AM, (exact time will be confirmed a few days before), we need strong volunteers to help us carry the trees from the side parking lot to the posts. And we need volunteers to attach the trees to the posts using zip-ties.

On **Saturday, November 27, at 10 am**, we need volunteers to help us hang the Christmas lights on the trees. The lights are all net lights and we hang 2 nets (or sometimes 3) on each tree, and then connect them to the extension cords.

Volunteer for one Saturday or both Saturdays! Youth 12 and older welcome (all youth under 18 must be supervised by a parent/guardian). Please email Mary Pat Burke-Grospin at mpburke-grospin@smtatthias.net to let her know you will be coming. Thank you!

2021 Giving Tree

Thanksgiving is upon us which means it is time for our annual Giving Tree. A tree will be placed in the Church on November 22 adorned with symbolic ornaments representing the various charities. Once again, because of Covid restrictions, all gifts are to be directly shipped from the vendor. For those who prefer gift cards, they may be dropped in the collection basket or at the parish office clearly marked "Giving Tree/charity name." All gift cards must be dropped off no later than December 15th to allow sufficient time for delivery and cataloging.

This year's participants are: Great Expectations, Elijah's Promise, Ozanam Family Shelter, Ozanam Men's Shelter, PACT (mental illness), Pregnancy Aid, YES Learning Center (pre-school), Miriam's Heart (adoption and refugee aid) and Franklin Township Community Services.

The parishioners and friends of St. Matthias have always been very generous in supporting this endeavor. We thank you for your past support and we hope we can count on your continued generosity. Wish lists and details will be in the bulletins and on the parish website. Any questions, contact Joanne Diana (732) 873-8521 or email at j-diana@comcast.net.

Local Community

NJ Right to Life Raffle

Raffle Tickets after all Masses This Weekend (Nov. 13 & 14) Raffle tickets will be sold by the NJ Right to Life organization this weekend - \$10 each. Prizes are: 1st prize --2020 Volvo XC40 AWD SUV; 2nd prize --\$1,000 Shop Rite Gift Card; 3rd prize --\$750 Shop Rite Gift Card; 4th-- \$500 Shop Rite Gift Card. Questions? Contact Frank McCann at 732-545-8661 or mccann15@comcast.net.

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:

Joe Porter, Chair
Finance Council
@stmatthias.net

Susan Klimcsak
Barry Dusault
Gwen Orłowski

Audrey Francis
Kester Hector
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.



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