



St. Matthias Parish Office:
 Monday - Friday, 8:30 am - 4:00 pm.
 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
 School Office Hours, Mon-Fri 8AM to 3PM.

For all Parish emails, add @stmatthias.net
Pastor: Rev Abraham Orapankal, [abraham](mailto:abraham@stmatthias.net)
Senior Priest: Msgr. Seamus Brennan, [sbrennan](mailto:sbrennan@stmatthias.net)
 Mary Pat Burke-Grospin, Business Administrator
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 Deacon Ron Caimi, *Senior Deacon*
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 Sr. Marie Therese Sherwood, *OSF, Pastoral Assoc. for Social Concerns*, [msherwood](mailto:msherwood@stmatthias.net)
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St. Matthias School (add @stmatthiasnj.org)
 Mary Lynch, Principal, [mlynch](mailto:mlynch@stmatthiasnj.org)
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THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS

SUNDAY, NOV 20, 2022-

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

This Saturday & Sunday Second Collection is for the "Works of Mercy" Campaign

The proceeds benefit local needs of those within the Diocese of Metuchen community by supporting & assisting programs and educational efforts which reduce poverty & hunger. There is a special envelope in your packet for this collection.



SPREAD THE LIGHT

Don't forget to join us for the blessing and lighting of the trees on

December 3rd after 5:00 pm Mass.

We will need volunteers for
11/26 at 9:00 am.

Please email your availability to
Mary Pat at :

mpburke-grospin@stmatthias.net



SMYLE Youth Group Project for Christmas

SMYLE will once again be collecting items for the Unity Square collection on 12/11 and 12/12 at all Masses.

See page 10
 for more details.

GI+ING TUESDAY

Spiritual "Tech Connect" Campaign

Here for each other!

Join us on this global
 day of giving!



Visit our website:
www.stmatthias.net/GT2022



See page 7 on helping with School & Church projects



Please select **St. Matthias Church/School** as your charity on Amazon Smile. You only need to do this once. Then always shop at www.smile.amazon.com, and we will automatically receive a portion of the purchase total. Thank you!

This Week @ St. Matthias From Our Pastor

Masses are 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: 7:30 am to dusk, Sat: 9 am to 6pm, and Sun: 7:30 am to 1 pm, unless another service is taking place.

Sunday Nov 20, 2022 Fall into Faith – Week #7 Works of Mercy Collection

8:00AM	Mass	Church
10:00AM	Mass & RCIA (cafeteria)	Church
10:00AM	1st Reconciliation #2 @ 10AM Mass	
12:00PM	Mass	Church

Monday, Nov 21, 2022 Memorial—The Presentation of Mary

8:00AM	Mass/Miraculous Medal Novena	Church
8:30AM	Giving Tree Setup after Mass	Lobby
6:00PM	Property Management Mtg.	Zoom
6:30PM	SMS: Mom/Daughter Session, Middle School Girls	John XXIII Rm
7:00PM	Finance Council Mtg.	TBD

Tuesday Nov 22, 2022 Memorial –St. Cecilia, Martyr Patron Saint of Musicians

8:00AM	Mass	Church
9:00AM	SMS—Donor Mass & Reception	Church & Cafeteria
7:15PM	Hand Bell Rehearsal	Church
7:30PM	Social Justice Mtg.	Zoom

Wednesday, Nov 23, 2022 St. Clement –Pope & Martyr

Parish Office Closes at 12:30PM

8:00AM	Mass	Church
9:30AM	Holy Spirit Prayer Grp.	de Porres Rm

Thursday, Nov 24, 2022 Memorial—Andrew Dung Lac & Co., Martyrs of Viet Nam Thanksgiving Day

School & Parish Office Closed

8:00AM	Thanksgiving Day Mass	Church
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Friday, Nov 25, 2022 St. Catherine of Alexandria, Martyr

Native American Heritage Day

School & Parish Office Closed

8:00AM	Mass	Church
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Saturday, Nov 26, 2022 St. John Berchmans, Patron of Altar Servers

3:30PM	Reconciliation	Church
5:00PM	Mass, Advent Wreath Blessing	Church

Sunday Nov 27, 2022 1st Sunday of Advent

8:00AM	Mass, Advent Wreath Blessing	Church
10:00AM	Mass, Advent Wreath Blessing	Church
12:00PM	Mass, Advent Wreath Blessing	Church

Dear Friends,

Happy Thanksgiving! Yes, Thanksgiving Thursday is at the door! We are entering a festive season. With the unusual temperature variations this month, Thanksgiving brings lots of joy and fun with good family fellowship. The spirit of giving and sharing is around us. Beginning Thanksgiving Day, November 24th, you will see our St. Matthias Giving Tree project with traditional as well as online methods of giving to the needy. Our St. Vincent de Paul Society and our Youth group SMYLE Youth group have already collected food for the Franklin Food Bank.



In the rush for consumerism soon after Thanksgiving Day, (with Black Friday, Cyber Monday, etc), it is heartening to see how “Giving Tuesday” - a global day of giving fueled by the power of social media and collaboration – is becoming more popular. Giving Tuesday celebrates the charitable season, when many focus on their holiday and end-of-year giving. Last year our School and the Parish, had two separate but ambitious goals for Giving Tuesday. The Church promoted the “Spiritual Tech Connect” campaign for updating our media capability and reached half the goal. We will continue Part Two of the same goal so that we can complete that project this year and enhance the worship experience with the help of the media. The goal of our School is also to continue the modernization of student furniture and common spaces as well as to expand our new reading and writing programs to the upper grades. See page 7 for more details.

When we recognize that God is the one who has been blessing us and preserving us in this life, our thanksgiving should be directed primarily to this loving God. So why not begin the Thanksgiving Day with the Holy Eucharist? Most welcome to join our 8 am Mass this Thursday and then we will feel the touch of God as we get busy into the hectic pace of Thanksgiving activities. Here’s a nice prayer we all can use for Thanksgiving:

“We thank and praise You, our Heavenly Father, for establishing and preserving our nation in freedom, for giving us a rich land in which to dwell, and for providing us with an abundance of the fruits of the earth. In order that we might live in peace and be good stewards of all that You provide, grant us Your grace to recognize Your gifts and to live as good citizens. We thank You for Your great love in sending Your Son Jesus to be our Savior, and in calling us out of our rebellion into fellowship with Him. We give You thanks that You have done this apart from any worthiness in us.

Forgive us for those times when we grew complacent and took Your gifts for granted. You are the source of all good, and we thank you for the simple things that bring us joy. We thank you not only for the good times, but also for those times of uncertainty and anxiety because they have deepened our faith in you. Thank you for bringing good out of what we considered as tragedies in our lives. Bless the food that we are sharing. May we have a good time with all. Renew our spirits and fill our hearts with your peace and joy so that we will live in true fellowship with everyone in our families and in our communities, and share with those in need. We surrender our prayers of thanksgiving and all our needs, desires and dreams into your hands through the prayer Jesus taught us, Our Father “

A blessed time of Thanksgiving to you with your family and all your dear ones.
Your brother in Christ,
Fr. Abraham Orapankal

Readings for the Week

Monday: Rv 14:1-3, 4b-5; Ps 24:1bc-2, 3-4ab, 5-6; Lk 21:1-4

Tuesday: Rv 14:14-19; Ps 96:10, 11-12, 13; Lk 21:5-11

Wednesday: Rv 15:1-4; Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 7-8, 9; Lk 21:12-19

Thursday: Rv 18:1-2, 21-23; 19:1-3, 9a; Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5; Lk 21:20-28

Thanksgiving Day: Sir 50:22-24; Ps 145:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9, 10-11; 1 Cor 1:3-9; Lk 17:11-19

Friday: Rv 20:1-4, 11—21:2; Ps 84:3, 4, 5-6a and 8a; Lk 21:29-33

Saturday: Rv 22:1-7; Ps 95:1-2, 3-5, 6-7ab; Lk 21:34-36

Sunday: Is 2:1-5; Ps 122: 1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9; Rom 13:11-14; Mt 24:37-44

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, Nov 19	5:00PM	George Ripley, by Nina Ripley
Sunday, Nov 20	8:00AM	Elizabeth D'Alessio, by Arlene & Saul Armus
	10:00AM	Hector Concha Moreno, by The Moreno Family
	12:00PM	Gilberto Gavilanes, by The Gavilanes Family
	(5:30PM)	Intention of Parishioners
Monday, Nov 21	8:00AM	In celebration of your 50th Anniversary, Msgr. Brennan, by Eileen King & family
Tuesday, Nov 22	8:00AM	Susan & James Shinnors, by Mary
Wednesday, Nov 23	8:00AM	Thomas Juzwiak, by Wife & children
Thursday, Nov 24	8:00AM	Walter Rios-Silva, by The Family
Friday, Nov 25	8:00AM	Dick Bonis, by The Madison Family
Saturday, Nov 26	5:00PM	Bill Murphy, by The Family
Sunday, Nov 27	8:00AM	God's Blessing for Fr. Abraham, by Eileen King & family
	10:00AM	Hugh Scott, by The 10 o'clock Mass Choir
	12:00PM	Mary Rego, by The Fazio 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.*

Erika & Jay Adams
 Carolyn Banghart
 Tammy Baskaran
 Angela Berlund
 Bianca Canlas
 Tara Capatosto
 Ellen Catalina
 Kyle Davidson
 Lisa DeFeo
 Michael DiMaggio
 William Dolphin
 Vivian Dong
 Violet Engravalle
 Claudia Gemgnani
 Helen Geraghty
 Emma Gergely
 Mary Gidaro
 Carol Gryskiewicz

Sloopy & John Hoffman
 Gene Horan
 Marilyn Horvath
 Baby Isla-Rose Huffman
 Robert Kashinsky
 Al Kepenis
 Kathleen Lagenbacher
 The Litrakis Family
 Jude Raymond Maceren
 Clarissa & Kevin Magat
 Kenneth & Kelly Magat
 Al Maglio
 Susan, Tosh & King Manansala
 Christine Mathews
 Beatrice May
 Margaret Menendez
 Carol Millemann
 Sabrina Moloney

Kathlyn Moore
 Eleanor Nagy
 Janice Navatkowski
 Danny Ongchango
 Paul & Doris Paetow
 Fiorello Parente
 Robert Pellegrino
 Jim Pettit
 Christina Pietrowiak
 Nathan Reavey
 Doris Regan
 Gabriel Rivera
 Jaxon Rivera
 Maria Schwenzer
 Lena Sciotto
 Tippur Seshagiri
 Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF
 Kathleen Smith

Jeff Sullivan
 Jay Swick
 Jerry Swirk
 Tom Szabo
 Regina Tongson
 Robert Wellman
 Nancy Wesner
 Mark T. Whelan
 Jay Worthington

And for all who are ill, homebound, elderly, in nursing care, or living with chronic illness, we pray.

Pray for those who have died...

— “His mercy endures forever.” Chronicles

Caroline Kaiser

Reflect



Smile with Your Family



It was Thanksgiving season in the nursing home. The small resident population had been gathered around their humble Thanksgiving table, and the director asked each in turn to express one thing for which he or she was thankful. Thanks were expressed for a home in which to stay, families, etc. One little old lady, when her turn came, said, "I thank the Lord for two perfectly good teeth left in my mouth, one in my upper jaw and one in my lower jaw. They match so well that I can chew my food."

Happy birthday! Thank you for continuing the tradition of being older than me.

Q: What did the cola say to the Thanksgiving dinner host?
A: You are soda-lightful.

What was the turkey suspected of? Fowl play.

How can you unlock the greatest Thanksgiving experience ever? With the tur-key.

On Thanksgiving, what does Dad have in common with an exhausted baseball player?

They're both likely to fall asleep between plates.

What Thanksgiving treat is the most popular at the kids' table? Crayon-berry sauce.

If Pilgrims were still alive, what would they be known for? Their age.

What always comes at the end of Thanksgiving?
The letter G.

Why did the turkey refuse dessert?
He was already stuffed.

The day after the holiday, what did the fridge say when it was asked, "Is everything alright over here?"
"No, everything is all leftover here!"

I don't understand people who say, "I don't know how to thank you!" Like they've never heard of money.



Parenting Tune-Up

November 20 is the feast of Christ the King, but Jesus rejected kingship and modeled "servant leadership." Kings have armies and thus power to enforce what they want. Servants excel in listening and seek to serve others' needs. Good leaders inspire. Talk with your children about the difference between a King, a Servant, and a Leader.

Marriage Tune-Up



Trip down Memory Lane. In every human life eventually tragedy strikes. It may not be life threatening or frequent, but it causes us to pause and reflect. What has been a significant misfortune of your life together so far? How do you support each other.



Why the Feast of Christ the King?

The Franciscan Order, following the lead of its great thirteenth century theologians St. Bonaventure and Blessed Duns Scotus, was instrumental in establishing the Feast of Christ the King and extending the celebration to the universal Church. But it was Pope Pius XI who instituted The Feast of Christ the King in 1925 for the universal church in his encyclical Quas Primas because the people of the day had "thrust Jesus Christ and his holy law out of their lives," believing "these had no place in public affairs or in politics." He connected the increasing denial of Christ as king to the rise of secularism throughout Europe.

At the time of Quas Primas, many Christians (including Catholics) began to doubt Christ's authority and existence, as well as the Church's power to continue Christ's authority because they witnessed the rise of non-Christian dictatorships in Europe. These dictators often attempted to assert authority over the Church. Pope Pius XI hoped the institution of the feast would have various effects: 1. That nations would see that the Church has the right to freedom, and immunity from the state (Quas Primas, 32). 2. That leaders and nations would see that they are bound to give respect to Christ (Quas Primas, 31). 3. That the faithful would gain strength and courage from the celebration of the feast, as we are

reminded that Christ must reign in our hearts, minds, wills, and bodies (Quas Primas, 33). Although Emperors and Kings now exist mostly in history books, we still honor Christ as the King of the Universe by enthroning him in our hearts and allowing him to take control of our lives. When we accept Jesus as the King of our lives, then everyone and everything else falls into its proper place. We are also challenged to find Christ the King in everyone around us. As loyal subjects of Christ the King, we are invited to treat others with justice and compassion as Jesus did, especially those whom we consider the least important.



Stewardship Thought:

"Never measure your generosity by what you give, but rather by what you have left." — Bishop Fulton J. Sheen, orator, radio-broadcaster and author

High Way Super Savior!

A Church in Ohio did it with a large icon—a 62-foot-tall statue of Jesus with upraised arms, installed in a cornfield just north of Monroe, Ohio on Interstate 75. The statue—dubbed "Super Savior"—was erected by the Solid Rock Church, in Middletown. Here is what is interesting. Traffic fatalities on this notorious stretch of road have dropped dramatically since the Super Savior statue was raised. Is that pure coincidence or has the Styrofoam and fiberglass Christ really aided road safety? Nobody knows. [Dr. John Bardsley. Source: *National Catholic Reporter* (54-28-2005), p. 3.]

Certainly a giant statue of Christ does no harm, and if it improves traffic, that's fine. But do not be confused. This is not the best way to express our allegiance to Christ. The best way to express our allegiance to Christ is to make our lives worthy of the name Christian. We need to make Christ the King of our Personal, Familial Social and Cultural life: Personal: By allowing Him to be King and center of our heart through prayer, receiving the Sacraments and freely entering a personal relationship with Him; Familial: By creating a proper rule and servant-leadership in the family – let us have a "king," a "queen," "prince" and "princesses" in our home; Social: By not divorcing ourselves from the state, from legislation and from affecting the social order; and Cultural: By bringing Christ and His Beauty and Radiance into the living traditions of our community.



GANDHI'S STRENGTH

In the published diaries of Joseph Goebbels, the infamous Nazi Propagandist, there are two or three references to Mahatma Gandhi.

Goebbels believed that Gandhi was a fool and a fanatic. If Gandhi had the sense to organize militarily, Goebbels thought, he might hope to win the freedom of India. He was certain that Gandhi couldn't succeed by following a path of non-resistance and peaceful revolution.

Yet as history played itself out, India peacefully won her independence while the Nazi military machine was destroyed. What Goebbels regarded as weakness actually turned out to be strength. What he thought of as strength turned out to be weakness. Jesus the King won freedom for mankind and won the hearts of mankind by his death on the cross.

King who Conquered Death!

Worldly kings do not have this power. Their last enemy is death, which ends their power, wealth, and prestige. In Vienna there is a crypt under a Capuchin church. In this crypt are buried 140 Kings, Queens, Princes and Princesses. Each sarcophagus is sculptured in steel. The largest is a double tomb for Maria Theresa and her husband. On each sarcophagus was carved a cross and the Royal crown. On each corner of one sarcophagus was a skull wearing a crown. The message was clear: Death was king! Even kings are conquered by death.

But the King of God's realm lives in spite of death. And so we, as Christians belonging to Him, have no fear of death, for by the power of His cross, death was defeated for us all. The Solemnity of Christ the King is not just the conclusion of the Church year. It is also a summary of our lives as Christians. On this great Feast, let us resolve to give Christ the central place in our lives and to obey His commandment of love by sharing our blessings with all his needy children. Let us conclude the Church year by asking the Lord to help us serve the King of Kings as He presents Himself in those reaching out to us. "To Him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by His Blood and made us a Kingdom, priests for His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen" (Revelation 1:5b-6). Christus vincit! Christus regnat! Christus imperat! Christ conquers! Christ rules! Christ reigns!

"We have a King!"

About three centuries ago, Spaniards besieged a small French town, St. Quentin. The city walls were in ruins; fever and famine plagued the people. One day the Spaniards shot over the walls a shower of arrows to which were attached little slips of parchment promising that if they surrendered, their lives and property would be spared. The mayor of the town was a devout Huguenot. For answer, he tied a piece of parchment to a javelin and hurled it back to the Spaniards. On the parchment was the message: "Regem habemus" -- "We have a king!" Christians also can say, "We have a King." Jesus is our King. We belong to his Kingdom.

The Kingdom of God is the central teaching of Jesus throughout the Gospels. The word Kingdom appears more than any other word throughout the four Gospels. Jesus begins His public ministry by preaching the Kingdom. "The time is fulfilled, and the Kingdom of God is at hand; repent, and believe in the Gospel" (Mark 1:14). In Christ's Kingdom, "we are all a royal priesthood, a holy nation" (1 Pt 2:9; see also Ex 19:6; Is 61:6). According to the teachings of the New Testament, the "Kingdom of God" is a three-dimensional reality: the life of grace within every individual who does the will of God, the

Reflect

“We have a King!” (cont’d)

Church here on earth, and Eternal Life in Heaven. The Catechism of the Catholic Church explains that the Church is the Kingdom of Christ already present in mystery. It is the mission of the Church to proclaim and establish the Kingdom of Christ in human souls. This mission takes place between the first coming and the second coming of Christ. The Church helps us to establish Christ’s Kingdom in our hearts, thus allowing us to participate in God’s inner life. We are elevated and transformed through sanctifying grace. This supernatural life of grace comes to fulfillment in the eternal life of Heaven (CCC #758-780).

Simple Things to be Grateful for

“I am thankful for the mess to clean up after a party because it means I am blessed with friends.

I am thankful for the taxes I pay because it means that I am employed.

I am thankful for the clothes that fit a little too snugly because it means I have had enough to eat.

I am thankful for my shadow that watches me work because it means I am out in the sunshine.

I am thankful for a lawn that needs mowing, windows that need cleaning, gutters that need fixing because it means I have a home.

I am thankful for all the complaining I do about the government because it means we have freedom of speech.

I am thankful for the spot I find at the far end of the parking lot because it means I am capable of walking.

I am thankful for my big heating bill because it means I am warm.

I am thankful for the lady behind me in Church who sings off-key because it means I can hear.

I am thankful for the piles of laundry and ironing because it means my loved ones are nearby.

I am thankful for weariness and aching muscles at the end of the day because it means I have been productive.

I am thankful for the alarm that goes off early in the morning because it means I am alive.”

Can I say Thank you like this?



St. Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa) told this story in an address to the National Prayer Breakfast in 1994. “One evening several of our Sisters went out, and we picked up four people from the street. One of them was in a most terrible condition. So I told the other Sisters, “You take care of the other three: I will take care of this one who looks the worst.” So I did for the woman everything that my love could do. I cleaned her and put her in bed, and there was such a beautiful smile on her face. She took hold of my hands and said two words in her language, Bengali: “Thank you.” Then she died.

I could not help but examine my conscience. I asked myself, “What would I say if I were in her place?” My answer was simple. I would have tried to draw a little attention to myself. I would have said, “I am hungry, I am dying, I am in pain.” But the woman gave me much more; she gave me grateful love, dying with a grateful smile on her face. It means that even those with nothing can give us the gift of thanks.”

Thanksgiving quotes:

Psalm 136:1. "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. His love endures forever."

Karl Barth: “Joy is the simplest form of gratitude.”

G.K. Chesterton: "I would maintain that thanks are the highest form of thought, and that gratitude is happiness doubled by wonder."

Theodore Roosevelt: "My fellow-citizens, no people on earth have more cause to be thankful than ours, and this is said reverently, in no spirit of boastfulness in our own strength, but with gratitude to the Giver of Good who has blessed us with the conditions which have enabled us to achieve so large a measure of well-being and happiness..."

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18: "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."



THE GLOBAL CELEBRATION OF YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

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. Our Diocesan Youth and Young Adult Office is inviting us to the Global Celebration of Young People — Next Sunday, November 19, 2022: The Vigil of the Solemnity of Jesus Christ, King of the Universe.

5:00 PM - 8:30 PM

The Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi

32 Elm Avenue, Metuchen, NJ 08840

This event is free and open to all our youth and young adults. To register, go to: <https://diometuchen.org/yyam>

Spotlight on St. Matthias School and Church - Giving Tuesday

GIVING TUESDAY

SAVE THE DATE - GIVING TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29th

November is a beautiful, cozy month full of the rich traditions associated with autumn, All Saints Day, Veterans Day, and Thanksgiving. Our thoughts turn to football, turkey day, pumpkin-spice lattes, and time spent with family, and the approaching holidays. It also marks the start of the holiday shopping season. Make the holidays more meaningful for your family by remembering to count the many blessings that God has bestowed upon you, and then remember to pass along blessings to those in need. St. Matthias School would be financially unstable were it not for the generosity of special donors such as you. Our budget can only stretch so far. Your help is needed to offer the programs and amenities to our students that are simply beyond our financial capabilities.

Giving Tuesday, a national day of generosity, will be celebrated on **Tuesday, November 29, 2022**. Would you please consider allocating a few dollars from your Black Friday shopping and donating it to our school? Our goal is to continue the modernization of student furniture and common spaces as well as to expand our new reading and writing program to the upper grades. Any amount would be meaningful, appreciated, and put to good use. We thank you for valuing Catholic education and the important role it plays in the lives of our students. May God bless you this holiday season.

What is the **“Spiritual Tech Connect”**? Last year we began the plan to provide video/audio/media equipment for our church building. The goal was 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. We are grateful to all of you who made us reach half of the goal last year. We hope to complete it this year with your generosity, so that this new technology will spiritually connect all of us, including our homebound parishioners and even family members and friends from out of town. More info on our website: www.stmatthias.net/GT2022

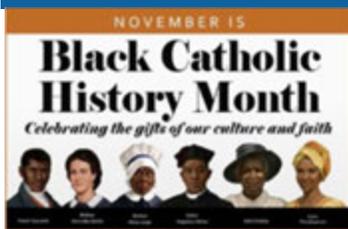
Pray

October Baptisms

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

Martin Raymond DeJoia, Gunnar Hendricks Olsen
Joshua Karter Pena, Anthony John Recine





On July 24, 1990, the National

Black Catholic Clergy Caucus (NBCCC) of the United States designated November as Black Catholic History Month to celebrate the long history and heritage of Black Catholics world over. The decision by the NBCCC depended on the fact that a number of important dates to Catholics of African descent fell within this month:

All Saints Say – an opportunity to review the lives of hundreds of Saints of African descent in the first 300 years of the church,

All Souls Say, a time to remember all those Africans lost to cruel treatment in the Middle Passage crossing of the Atlantic Ocean,

November 3rd, the feast of St. Martin de Porres, the first Black saint of the Americas canonized by Pope John XXIII on May 16, 1962,

November 13th the birth of St. Augustine (the first Doctor of the Church from North Africa) in 354 A.D., and November 20th, the death of Zumbi of Palmares (the South American founder of a free state for black) in Brazil.

There have been three African popes: *Victor* (183-203 A.D.), *Gelasius* (492-496 A.D.), and *Mechiades or Militiades* (311-314 A.D.). All of them have been declared saints, that is, the Catholic Church feels certain that all three went to heaven. All told, the saints of Africa number in the thousands.

Black Catholic history can be traced to the Acts of the Apostles (8:26-40) when St. Philip the Deacon converted the Ethiopian eunuch – one of the first moves the Apostles made to evangelize outside Jerusalem and thus sow the seeds for the universal Church. Christianity spread throughout North Africa, and the region featured

“The saints of God speak the same language.”

Somali proverb

prominently in the early Church as the birthplace of saints, popes and Western monasticism. Today, over 117 million Catholics live in Africa - almost twice as many as in the United States. And here in the United States, there are six Black Catholics on the road to sainthood: Servants of God, Sr. Thea Bowman, Julia Greeley, and Mary Lange, and the Venerables Pierre Toussaint, Henriette Delille and Augustus Tolton, born of slaves in the US and ordained as the first African American priest.

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. Black Catholics trace their faith back to Christian antiquity only before other nations heard the “Good News.” Christian Africa was indeed a leading light in early Christendom. The Ethiopian Eunuch’s conversion predates the conversions of Saints Paul and Cornelius. 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. And even though the genocidal slave trade killed true evangelization in sub-Saharan Africa for several centuries, Africans are the fastest growing population in the entire global Catholic Church. Of 200 million people of African descent in the Roman Catholic Church throughout the world, 173 million live on the continent of Africa, which is also experiencing the fastest and largest growth in the Catholic Church.

Here in the United States, today there are over 3 million African American Catholics. Also, there are over 250 African American priests, over 400 deacons, over 100 men of African

descent in seminary formation for the priesthood, 5 living African American bishops (at one time there were as many as 11), and now as of November 28, 2020, and African American Cardinal, Wilton Gregory. There are also over 400 African American religious sisters and 50 religious brothers in the US.

to the Catholic Church and across the African diaspora. St. Martin is the patron saint of many things including racial harmony. St. Matthias celebrated his feast at the November 5th 5pm Mass.

For more information on African Saints, there are numerous books on Black saints including *African Saints: Saints, Martyrs, and Holy People from the Continent of Africa* by Frederick Quinn, and *Black Catholics on the Road to Sainthood*. And there are these links for more information:

Black Catholic History Timeline

<https://nbccongress.org/black-catholic-history-timeline/>

The National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus

<https://nbccc.cc/>

The Institute for Black catholic Studies

<https://www.xula.edu/ibcs/>

National Black Catholic Congress

<https://nbccongress.org/>

National Black Apostolate for Life

<http://www.blackcatholicsforlife.org/>

The Josephites

<https://www.josephites.org/>

The Knights and Ladies of Peter Claver

<https://www.kofpc.org/>

<https://www.kofpc.org/ladies.php>

The National Association of Black Catholic Administrators

<https://nabccatholic.org/>

The National Black catholic Seminarians Association

<https://www.nbcsa.today/>

The Black catholic Theological

Symposium[https://](https://blackcatholictheologicalsymposium.org/)

[blackcatholictheologicalsymposium.org/events/2021-annual-meeting/https://www.nbcs68.com/](https://blackcatholictheologicalsymposium.org/events/2021-annual-meeting/)

Give (and Receive!)

Stewardship Totals for Fiscal Year July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023				Last Year's Total
Current Month	In-Pew/Mail	Parish Giving	Weekly Total	Weekly Total
Week 19 - Nov. 6, 2022	\$8,811.00	\$19,314.75	\$28,125.75	\$32,634.75
Week 20 - Nov. 13, 2022	\$8,308.25	\$20,781.25	\$29,089.50	\$28,911.25
Week 21 - Nov. 20, 2022	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$24,771.25
Week 22 - Nov. 27, 2022	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$15,044.25
			Month-to-date Total	Nov Total Last Yr
			\$57,215.25	\$101,361.50
			Current Year-to-date	Year-to-date as of Nov
			\$505,929.17	\$554,643.91

Stewardship Reflection Nov 20, 2022 Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

"...giving thanks to the Father, who has made you fit to share in the inheritance of the holy ones in light." Colossians 1:12

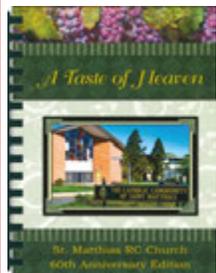
God wants us to be happy! Instead of looking at the Ten Commandments as being restrictive and telling us what we can't do, look at them as guides for living a joy-filled and peaceful life. Most of our problems arise when we put our own needs first or we spend most of our time trying to acquire more stuff. Instead, try putting God first in all things. We were made for God. Open your heart and let Him in!

Reflexiónese 20 de noviembre 2022 Solemnidad de Nuestro Señor Jesucristo, Rey del Universo

"...y con gozo darán gracias al Padre, que nos ha capacitado para participar de la herencia que pertenece a los que viven en el reino de la luz." Colosenses 1:12

¡Dios quiere que seamos felices! En lugar de mirar a los Diez Mandamientos como una restricción que nos dice lo que no podemos hacer, mírelos como una guía para seguir una vida llena alegría y paz. La mayoría de nuestros problemas surge cuando ponemos nuestras propias necesidades primero o cuando pasamos la mayor parte de nuestro tiempo tratando de adquirir más cosas. En lugar de eso, trata de poner a Dios primero en todas las cosas. Fuimos hechos por Dios. ¡Abra su corazón y permita que Dios entre en él!

Connect



'Cookbooks for Christmas!'

'Looking for that perfect gift for the person who has everything? Need a hostess gift? Bridal Shower? New Home? For that extra gift for the unexpected recipient? Then pick up a 60th Anniversary Cookbook for only \$20!! They will be on sale at the St. Matthias' parish office, the 60th Anniversary Concert, 11/18/22 and at the SMS Craft Fair on 12/4/22!! If you haven't picked up your pre-ordered book, you can also do that at these events!! Don't miss out on the delicious recipes!!'

Thank you for all your help!! Pat Cullen, Cookbook Chairperson



St Vincent de Paul Society at St Matthias

We are looking for a volunteer to join us to manage our communications (website, social media, and print copy). If you think you have the skills and are interested in joining a ministry that makes a world of difference in the lives of our neighbors in need, please send an email to SVDPatSM@gmail.com for more information.

St Vincent de Paul Society at St Matthias

Do you have a vehicle that you are looking to donate? Look no further. The St Vincent de Paul Society has a program that will pick up your vehicle, at no cost to you, and handle the rest, from selling your vehicle to providing a tax receipt. Your vehicle donation helps fund local programs for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul – such as housing, utilities, food, disaster relief, job training, and more for neighbors in need. All types of vehicles, including cars, trucks, motorcycles, trailers, boats are accepted! You can use the following link to access their on-line form à <https://svdpusa.careasy.org/home>

Connect



St. Matthias GIVING TREE

Beginning Thanksgiving Day, **November 24th**, our Giving Tree will once again be at the front of the Church. In addition to the on-line option, there will be three organizations (Ozanam Family Shelter, YES Early Learning Center and PACT) having ornaments placed on the tree. If you prefer the **traditional** method, take an ornament and purchase the gifts requested. If you prefer **online** shopping, please visit the St. Matthias website www.stmatthias.net for additional direct ship options.

ON THE WEEKENDS OF DECEMBER 3RD & 4TH AND DECEMBER 10TH & 11TH ONLY. GIFT CARDS should be dropped directly into the collection basket. Be sure to **SECURE all ornaments to the outside of the package.** Without the tag, we have no way of knowing where or to whom the package is to be delivered.

St. Matthias parishioners have always been generous. We are hoping that the tradition continues, especially since it means a lot to so many in need. If you have any questions, please contact Joanne Diana (732) 322-6270 or email j-diana@comcast.net.

PLEASE NOTE: GIFTS WILL BE COLLECTED IN THE CHURCH

Serve

Become A Eucharistic Minister For Homebound & Nursing Home Ministry

An Invitation to become a Eucharistic minister to our home-bound or those in local nursing homes.

You are invited to pray and reflect upon joining the “Blessed” ministry of bringing Jesus to those who are home-bound or in nursing homes. For information, please contact Sr. Marie Therese, 732-828-1400 x 114.



Here are the list of items needed for the Unity Square collection which will be held on 12/11 and 12/12 at all Masses.

- Socks
- Gloves
- Hats
- Scarves
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- Dunkin Donut \$5 gift cards
- Chapstick



Parish Leadership

Parish Pastoral Council:	Co-Secretaries:	Msgr. Seamus Brennen, Ex-Officio	Parish Finance Council:	Audrey Francis
Co-Chairs:	Frank Rees	Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio	Kester Hector, Chair	Joe Porter
Rose Peng, rosepeng@optonline.net	Marilyn Wegg		Finance Council	Joan Pritchard
John Taylor, jptaylor1068@yahoo.com	Stephan Busono	Trustees:	@stmatthias.net	Mary Pat Burke-Grospin, Ex-Officio
	Anne Marie Francis	Pearl Scott	Carmen Driz-Melilli	Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio
	Bill Isele	Marge Richards	Barry Dusault	
	Maria Tapia-Burch		Gwen Orłowski	

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

Parish Registration — Welcome to St. Matthias! Please register on our website. www.stmatthias.net/join-us, or visit the Parish Office.

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

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

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) - If you are interested in becoming a Catholic or completing the Sacraments of Initiation--Baptism/Confirmation/Eucharist, please call the Parish Office.



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



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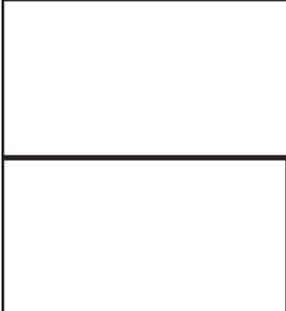
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Tuesday, 10/18	Tuesday, 11/15
Tuesday, 10/25	Tuesday, 11/29

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