



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-10 AM & 12 noon
 M/T/W/Th/F at 8:00AM

And also on our YouTube channel

St. Matthias School (SMS):

170 JFK Boulevard, Somerset, NJ 08873
 732-828-1402; www.stmatthias.info



For all Parish emails, add @stmatthias.net

Pastor: Rev Abraham Orapankal, abraham
Parochial Vicar: Rev. Msgr. Joseph Curry, jcurry

Pastoral Staff

Deacon Russell Demkovitz, rdemkovitz
 Ana V Kelly, *Marketing & Development*, akelly
 Dolores R. Nann, *Faith Formation*, dnann
 Mary Beth Oria, *Business Administrator*, morla
 Deacon John Radvanski, deaconjohn
 Joan Best Seamon, *Music Ministry*, jseamon
 Sr Marie Therese Sherwood, *OSF, Social Concerns*,
msherwood
 Phyllis Stone, *Liturgy/RCIA and Administrative*
Assistant to the Pastor, pstone

St. Matthias School (@stmatthiasnj.org)

Elena Malinconico, *Principal*, emalinconico
 Joseph Gidaro, *Vice Principal*, jgidaro

Parish Office Staff

Kelly Counts, *Day Receptionist*
 Nathalie Godet, *Formation/Parish Support Sec.*
 Leslie Guillen, *Bulletin Editor*
 Amy Hanna, *Parish Support Secretary*
 Vinnie Natale, *Bookkeeper*
 Trish Stumper, *Parish Support Secretary*
 Make 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, NOV 22, 2020 –
Jesus Christ, King of the Universe
Works of Mercy Campaign

 **Super 50-50 Drawing—**
TODAY Nov. 22, after the 10
 am Mass, in the Church area.
 As of Tue, the total = \$25,458.

Blessing of All Liturgical Ministers at
 all Masses **TODAY**

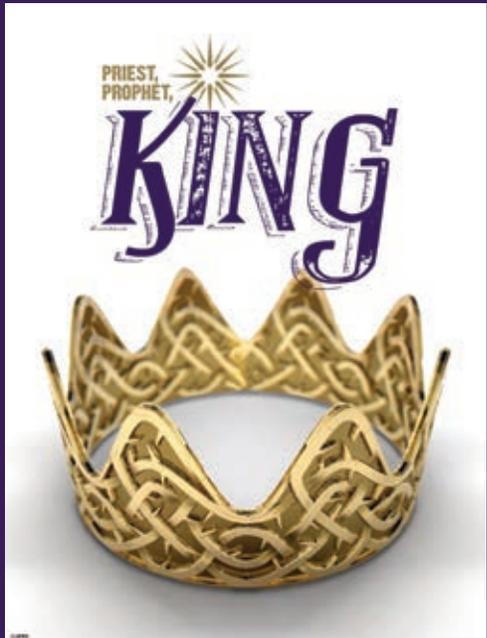
Catholic Campaign for Human
Dev. Collection this weekend.

Special Collection on Thanksgiving
Day is for the Franklin Township
 Food Bank.

Set-Up 260+ Christmas Trees — Next
Sunday, 10 am to 3 pm. See
 below.

GS Silver Award Food Collection for
 Elijah's Promise **Next Sat. & Sun.**
 See pg. 9.

Retirement Collection for Diocesan
Clergy next Sat/Sun.

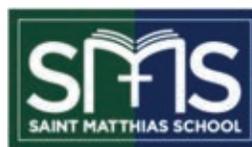


Volunteers Needed to Help Set Up Christmas Trees!
 Join us next Sunday, outside, from 10 am till 3 pm



Help us "Spread the Light" **next Sunday, Nov. 29**, as we set up over 260 Christmas trees outside! We need many volunteers (*Middle School students through adults*). This can be a fun, socially distant, outdoor, family activity!

See page 4 for details and then join us on Sunday from 10 till 3. Come for an hour or come for the entire time!



#GIVING TUESDAY

Giving Tuesday 2020 — December 1, 2020

Giving Tuesday is a national initiative to express gratitude for our blessings. After the flurry of Black Friday and Cyber Monday, Giving Tuesday (December 1, 2020) is a time to step back and help build a better world by giving to a nonprofit.

This year, St. Matthias will focus our Giving Tuesday initiative on Interactive Display Technology (often known as Smart Boards) for our School. Our existing technology needs to be upgraded and we will use a phased-in approach. For Giving Tuesday 2020, our goal is to purchase 3 new "smart boards" by raising \$15,000. Each board and associated equipment costs \$5,000. These new boards will be used by both the Middle School and the Lower School. Our technology plan will eventually phase in a total of 20 boards. Join us at www.stmatthia.net on Tue., **December 1!**

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](https://www.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, Nov 22, 2020

Catholic Campaign for Human Dev-all Masses
Blessing of All Liturgical Ministers @ all Masses
St. Vincent de Paul Thanksgiving Gift Card distribution—All Day 11/22—11/25

10:00AM Mass Church
10:30AM Communion outside front doors
10:30AM RCIA de Porres Rm
11:15AM Super 50-50 Drawing Church Area
12:00PM Mass Church
12:30PM Communion outside front doors
2:00PM RCIA Inquiry Sessions via Zoom

Monday, Nov 23, 2020

8:00AM Mass Church
6:30PM Dee's Small Grp. Mtg. via Zoom

Tuesday, Nov 24, 2020

8:00AM Daily Mass Church
7:00PM Bereavement Support Grp via Zoom

Wednesday, Nov 25, 2020

8:00AM Daily Mass Church

Thursday, Nov 26, 2020 Thanksgiving Day Parish Office & School are Closed

8:00AM Daily Mass Church
Special Collection for the Franklin Food Bank

Friday, Nov 27, 2020

Native American Heritage Day
School & Parish Office are Closed
8:00AM Daily Mass Church

Saturday, Nov 28, 2020 1st Days of Advent 2nd Collection—Annual Retirement Collection for Diocesan Clergy

3:30-4:30PM Confessions Church
4:30-5:30PM GS Silver Award Food Collection
Project for Elijah's Promise—by 3 car garage
behind church
5:00PM Mass Church

Sunday, Nov 29, 2020 1st Sunday of Advent 2nd Collection—Annual Retirement Collection for Diocesan Clergy

9:30AM-12:30PM GS Silver Award Food
Collection for Elijah's Promise by 3 car
garage behind church
10:00AM—3 PM: **Set-up Christmas Trees**
Outside
10:00AM Mass Church
10:30AM Communion outside front doors
12:00PM Mass Church
12:30PM Communion outside front doors



From the Pastor & the Pastoral Staff



Dear Friends,

Thanksgiving usually brings lots of joy and fun with good family fellowship. Except that this year it won't be Thanksgiving as usual! Most people, I hear, are opting for the most heartbreaking decision: a nuclear Thanksgiving! Celebration with just the immediate family. A wise decision to protect ourselves, our family and friends and the larger community from Covid-19. Yet the spirit of Thanksgiving will not be dead even with a subdued celebration. This year the pandemic makes us conscious of the importance of gratitude to two realities:

1. Thanking God for the gift of each day. Often we take it for granted. Covid-19 teaches us that tomorrow is not guaranteed; all we have is today. Live the present moment fully and be alive with a grateful heart and joyful spirit.
2. Thanking our immediate family. The lockdown can be seen as a blessing in disguise for so many families to grow closer and to appreciate each other better.

Why not begin the Day of Thanksgiving by attending the 8 am Mass in our Church either in person or online? That will set the right tone for the rest of the day. When we consider the unbelievable loss of life in every family in the first year of the arrival of the early settlers, no one would have blamed them for setting aside a day of mourning, instead of a day of Thanksgiving. But they chose to commemorate their time in the new world with a day of Thanksgiving despite the grief, poverty and illness. It is also good to remember that President Lincoln's declaration of a national day of Thanksgiving happened in the midst of a devastating Civil War. Today, faced with the threat of a tiny but deadly virus, let us spend this day with a greater sense of gratitude to God and to one another.

Today's Feast of the Solemnity of Christ the King is the signal that the Church's calendar year is coming to an end and that we are about to start the new year! Thus, the First Sunday of the New Year in the Liturgical Calendar is next Sunday as we begin the season of Advent! It is good for us to know that today's feast was established by Pope Pius XI in 1925 as an antidote to secularism, a way of life which leaves God out of our thinking and living, and organizes life as if God did not exist. The feast is meant to proclaim, in a striking and effective manner, Christ's royalty over individuals, families, society, governments, and nations. May we all recognize this truth and continue our efforts to honor Jesus by living his values.

Happy Thanksgiving.

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 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7; Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19; 1 Cor 1:3-9; Mk 13:33-37

Mass Intentions for the Week*

Saturday, Nov 21	5:00PM	Susan & James Shiners, by Mary
Sunday, Nov 22	8:00AM	Bill Murphy, by Sandra Hayes Licitra
	10:00AM	Elizabeth & Raymond Burns, by son, Ken
	12:00PM	Gilberto Gavilanes, by The Gavilanes Family
	5:30PM	Intention of Parishioners
Monday, Nov 23	8:00AM	Hector Concha Morena, by The Moreno Family
Tuesday, Nov 24	8:00AM	Thomas Juzwiak, by wife
Wednesday, Nov 25	8:00AM	Raymond Burns, by son, Ken
Thursday, Nov 26	8:00AM	Health & Blessings for Joshua & Jaimer Valdez, by Mom & Dad
Friday, Nov 27	8:00AM	Val Fluta, by Ruth Anne Koenick & Gale Dillman
Saturday, Nov 28	5:00PM	Pat Toland, by Dennis & Rita Stuewe
Sunday, Nov 29	8:00AM	Birthday Blessings for Robert Jogan II, by Uncle Joseph
	10:00AM	William Oberlander, by Julie Vitelli
	12:00PM	Intention of Parishioners
	5:30PM	Dorothy Isenberg, by Joseph Gidaro

*The Mass intentions will be fulfilled by Fr. Abraham and Fr. Joe as they celebrate private masses for these intentions, when we don't have a public mass scheduled. Everyone is welcome to join us in spirit as we pray for these intentions.

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.

Elbren, Sr. & Natalia
Agdeppo
Rosemary Albaugh
Robert Bachman
Lourdes Banaag
Edward Bauer
Cecillia Bongga Alcantara
Marion Bradford
Dylan Braunstein
Timothy Brennan
Marie Brody
Baby Isla-Rose Callahan
Tara Capatosto
Ellen Catalina
Frank Catalina
Barbara Coan
Wes Coddington
Lisa DeFeo
Marie DeFeo
Adoracion & Cenon
DeGuzman
Mary Ellen Delaney
Alaina Derecola
Nancy Diaz

Mary Dolan
William Dolphin
Dorothy Domenici
Jaclyn, Ariana & Thomas
Donlon
Mary Eads
Briana Edwards
Anne Fortune
Emma Gergely
Rose Gessner
Mary Gidaro
Katherine Giustino
John Gross
Michael Hagerty
Emma A. Himey
Sloopy Hoffman
Merla Isabelo
Pamela Kannaire
Allison Karakowski
Michael Kirugi
Milicent Kraft
Herman Krueger
Taylor LaCort
Rosemarie LaTorre

William Lecorchick
Pat Leposa
Alexander LiCausi
The Litrakis Family
Alexander Maceven
Kelly Magat
Monique Marie Mageot
Al Maglio
Sue Maglio-Alese
Patrick Mahoney
Christine Matthews
Anne McElwee
Elizabeth Miller
Dave Moynihan
Baby Ezran Natural
Patricia Nese
Cassian Ndukwu
Danny Ongchango
Julianne Opydike
Mafalda Parafioriti
Julie Parks
Jim Pettit
Annie Powderly
Samantha Renaud

Aubree Rezac
Datius Rutashoby
Rudy Schaar
Maria Schwenzer
Lena Sciotto
Sr. Mary Amata Shina, OSF
Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF
Encarnacion (Gina) So
Alessandro Spagnolo
Dennis Stuewe
Juan Ulerio
Denise Urquhart
Fred & Carolyn
Vanmiddlesworth
Eulalia Villanueva
Luzminda Villarica
Mark T. Worthington
Edward Yeager

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...

Mona Wilson

-“His mercy endures forever.” Chronicles

Parish News:



Volunteers Needed to Help Set Up the Christmas Trees! Join us next Sunday, outside, from 10 am till 3 pm

Setting up the Christmas tree is often a great tradition for a family to do together. In these days of the pandemic, we especially need to celebrate and enjoy each other. Next Sunday, we invite you to spend some time helping us all celebrate each other as we set up 270 Christmas Trees outside.

The 270 wrapped trees will arrive on Saturday, November 28. Poles will be installed in the ground, one per tree, on Saturday. On **Sunday from 10 am to 3 pm**, we need many hands to help us set up the trees. We need people to carry each tree to a pole; to cut the rope around each tree; to tie each tree to a pole; to open the boxes that hold the Christmas tree lights and stretch out each string of lights; to wrap the lights around each tree; and to run extensions cords and anchor them to the ground. We need people willing to do heavy lifting and people willing to sit while untangling the tree lights. Whatever your skill, please join us for as little or as much time as you can.

Trees will be placed 10 feet apart from each other, so you can volunteer and still be socially distant. Remember to wear a mask and bundle up! Questions? Contact Fr. Joe Curry at jcurry@stmatthias.net

Sunday Reflections



Smile with Your Family



A pedestrian steps off the curb and into the road without looking and promptly gets knocked flat by a passing cyclist. "You were really lucky it's a cycle," says the cyclist. "What on earth are you talking about? That really hurt!" says the pedestrian, still on the pavement, rubbing his head. The cyclist replies, "Well, usually I drive a bus!" 😊

A man buys a parrot, only to have it constantly insult him. He tries everything to make the parrot stop, but nothing works. Frustrated, the man puts the parrot in the freezer. After a few minutes the insults stop. The man thinks he might have killed the parrot, so he opens the freezer and takes the parrot out. The parrot is shivering. It stammers, "S-s-sorry for being r-r-rude. Please f-f-forgive me." Then, after a moment, the parrot softly asks, "W-w-w what exactly d-d-did the turkey do?" 😊

Q: What animal has the worst eating habits?

A: The turkey, because it gobbles everything up!

Q: Why do turkeys eat so little?

A: Because they are always stuffed.

Q: Why did the cranberries turn red?

A: Because they saw the turkey dressing!



Parenting Tune-Up

This is Thanksgiving week. Besides whatever specials you have for meals, how do you make it a Thanksgiving to God? Many families ask everyone around the table to express what they are grateful to God for this year. And read a Bible passage and pray. This will be a very good formation for your children.

Marriage Tune-Up



Ways to Turn Your Beloved Off - Let bargain hunting rob you of time - time to serve those who don't have the money even for a bargain. Let Matthew 25 ring in your ears: "I was hungry, thirsty, a stranger, naked, ill, in prison..." Spend some time and money responding to this sales pitch from Christ the King as Christmas approaches.

Simple Things to be Thankful 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."



Sunday Reflections

Sunday Reflection: Putting a Price Tag on a Life

The parable of the sheep and the goats: "Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of the least brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Matthew 25: 31-46

Attorney Kenneth Feinberg served as special master of the Federal September 11 Victim Compensation Fund. He was charged with dispensing money to the families of each person who died in the 9/11 terror attacks. It was, to say the least, a daunting job. Feinberg began administering the funds using a formula based on legal precedent that considered the individual victim's age, dependents, financial assets and earning potential. The value assigned to those lost lives varied dramatically: as little as \$250,000 for blue-collar workers to as much as \$7 million for CEOs. The process had a dramatic effect on Feinberg himself. He found his personal convictions coming into conflict with the law. In an essay on NPR [May 25, 2008], he said of the work:

"The law required that I give more money to the stockbroker, the bond trader and the banker than to the waiter, the policeman, the fireman, and the soldier at the Pentagon. This is what happens every day in courtrooms throughout the nation. Our system of justice has always been based on this idea: that compensation should be directly related to the financial circumstances of each victim. "But as I met with the 9/11 families and wrestled with the issues surrounding the valuation of lives lost, I began to question this basic premise. Trained in the law, I had always accepted that no two lives were worth the same in financial terms. But now I found the law in conflict with my growing belief in the quality of all life. *"Mr. Feinberg, my husband was a fireman and died a hero at the World Trade Center. Why are you giving me less money than the banker who represented Enron? Why are you demeaning the memory of my husband?"*

Attorney Feinberg realizes that his response was unconvincing. He was following the law, just as juries did every day. But grieving families couldn't hear it - and, Feinberg said, "I didn't believe it myself." Two years later, Kenneth Feinberg was asked again to design and administer a compensation program: a privately-funded compensation system established for the families and victims of the Virginia Tech shootings. This time citizen Feingold trumped lawyer Feingold: All victims - students and faculty - received the same compensation. "I have resolved my personal conflict and have learned a valuable lesson at the same time," Kenneth Feingold says. "I believe that public compensation should avoid financial distinctions which only fuel the hurt and grief of the survivors. I believe that all lives should be treated the same."

The true value of every human life is the light of the divine that each one of us possesses; our worth is found in the love of God that our lives reveal to the world. Before God, we stand as brothers and sisters; before God, the distinctions of class and culture that separate us disappear; before God, we are all loved without condition and limit. Attorney Feingold, in the difficult role of administering the two compensation funds, realizes that a legal standard cannot measure a true person's "worth," that a life well-lived and faithful has little to do with assets and earning potential. Jesus' parable of the sheep and the goats challenges us to see the world in the light of God's compassion: as a community that is centered in the holiness of God that dwells within every man, woman and child; a community that sees deeper than the externals of race, nationality, culture and language in order to behold the love of God animating the lives of all who draw breath; a community that reflects the compassion and mercy of God in our care for one another.

Highway 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* (10-28-2005), 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.

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.

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.

Sunday Reflections

Is Jesus a King? Yes, But a Unique King!



The New Testament tells us that Jesus is the long-awaited king of the Jews. In the Annunciation, recorded in Lk.1:32-33, we read: *“The Lord God will make him a King, as his ancestor David was, and he will be the King of the descendants of Jacob forever and his Kingdom will never end.”* The Magi from the Far East came to Jerusalem and asked the question: (Mt 2:2) *“Where is the baby born to be the King*

of the Jews? We saw his star... and we have come to worship him.” During the royal reception given to Jesus on Palm Sunday, the Jews shouted: (Lk 19:38) *“Blessed is the King, who comes in the name of the Lord.”* When Pilate asked the question: (Jn 18:33) *“Are you the King of the Jews?”* Jesus, in the course of their conversation, made his assertion, *“You say that I am a King. For this was I born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the Truth. Everyone who belongs to the Truth listens to My Voice”* (John 18:37).

A unique King with a unique Kingdom: Jesus Christ still lives as King, in thousands of human hearts all over the world. The cross is his throne and the Sermon on the Mount is his rule of law. His citizens need obey only one law: *“Love others as I have loved you”* (John 15:12). His love is selfless, sacrificial, kind, compassionate, forgiving and unconditional. That is why the preface in today’s Mass describes Jesus’ Kingdom as *“a Kingdom of truth and life, a Kingdom of holiness and grace, a Kingdom of justice, love and peace.”* He is a King with a saving and liberating mission: to free mankind from all types of bondage so that we may live peacefully and happily on earth and inherit Eternal Life in Heaven. His rule consists in seeking the lost, offering salvation to those who call out to him and making friends of enemies.

Who Are the Terrorists of God’s Kingdom?

Terrorism has affected the entire world, including Christ’s kingdom on earth. These terrorists are people who slaughter the unborn; engage in a frontal attack on the modern family through provocative television shows, movies, music and pornography; eradicate any recognition of God from public display and public schools; they include those priests and the religious who abuse children. Hence, Jesus, the King, needs convinced apostles prepared and ready to fight against these enemies, first by prayer, then by accepting willingly the sufferings that come our way and offering them to God with Jesus, our King, in reparation for our sins and the sins of the world, and finally by living lives of loving humble service, using our gifts generously for all. The battlefield is the home, the school, the place of employment, the neighborhood, and the parish.

These provide new and exciting challenges, new opportunities for us to do, ourselves, what is right and to live out the Truth of Jesus Christ our King, neither compromising with sin nor passing judgment on the motives or guilt of any of our brothers and sisters, but loving and praying for all of us. To ensure that Jesus is always the King of our hearts, we need to make a great commitment to Him and to back that commitment with the



“Giving Tuesday” Is Coming Up Soon!

As we know, “Giving Tuesday” is a global day to give generously to charity after the Black Friday and Cyber Monday sales events. According to the University of Notre Dame’s [Institute for Church Life](#), Catholics in the U.S. rank last behind Jews, Protestants and Mormons when it comes to giving to the Church and its ministries. A study called [“Unleashing Catholic Generosity: Explaining the Catholic Giving Gap in the United States”](#) found that Mormons ranked the best: More than seven out of 10 tithe (give 10% of their income) to their church or charities, and more than six out of 10 gave specifically

to religious causes. Among Catholics, however, only 15% reported tithing, and little more than one out of five give to the Church (or religious causes) at all.

The study, however, found that economics was not the likely culprit but American Catholics’ lack of “spiritual engagement with money.” The results showed parishes with a “pay-the-bills culture” or a failure to communicate the vision had far lower levels of religious giving and tithing, whereas parishes that invited people to be part of the planning and vision, discussed the need for money in that context and communicated the good things that their donations would accomplish saw “more generous giving.”

Catholic leaders are starting to realize that the Church’s ministries need to tell their stories better, so people feel personally involved in the Church’s work and “transforming the lives of others.” The Giving campaign is an opportunity to show the Church’s members and donors “this is what you can accomplish for God’s kingdom.” “If we can help our parishes, agencies and schools cast out this vision of what people’s generosity can accomplish, we can slowly get to that point where people are no longer giving to a need, but understand they have a need to give.”

Celebrating Our Faith: Liturgy



DO YOU WANT TO BE A ST. MATTHIAS CHRISTMAS LITURGY ANGEL???

Volunteers Christmas Liturgy Angels are needed for various liturgical ministries for the six Christmas Eve/Christmas Day Masses – December 24 at 2:00, 4:00 and 6:30 pm, Midnight, and December 25 at 10:00 and 12:00. You can be one of these angels:

Minister of Hospitality (greeters) - greet and seat Christmas mass attendees according to the distancing charts in the Church, Cafeteria and John XXIII Room, and usher communion lines to ensure proper spacing.

Eucharistic (Extraordinary) Minister - serve communion (the Precious Body) as trained by St. Matthias and mandated by the Diocese of Metuchen. (Must be at least 16 years of age).

Mass Safety Captain - oversee our safety between masses by assisting volunteers who sanitize chairs and pews for the next round of mass goers.

Decorate – assist the Environment Team with sprucing up and decorating the church, cafeteria and the John XXIII room for Christmas services.

Tech Support & Volunteer—specific training will be scheduled once we have all the angels lined up.

Sign-ups are available now into December at

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A054FA4AB2FAAFF2-christmas>

or by contacting Phyllis Stone directly at (732) 828-1400, ext 127 or pstone@stmatthias.net.

Now is the Time to Sign up to Attend Christmas Mass In-Person at St. Matthias

This year we are asking parishioners at St. Matthias to sign up to attend Christmas Mass in-person, starting **November 22nd**. Why? Because we want to make sure no one is turned away from joining us to celebrate the birth of Jesus as a community.

Six masses will be offered

December 24 th	2:00 pm (newly added with permission from the Diocese) 4:00 pm 6:30 pm
December 25 th	Midnight 10:00 am 12:00 Noon



Mass will be celebrated from the church with live-streaming to the School Cafeteria and into homes.

Seating will be set up to ensure we maintain the NJ State requirements on distancing.

Parishioners are allowed to sign up as many as eight (8) people for one Christmas Eve/Day mass. Once you complete your sign-up, you receive a confirmation notice at your email address. **The notice will have a confirmation number which you will not need for entry but can use to cancel if needed.**

Importantly, we will continue to follow the NJ State and Diocese of Metuchen safety guidelines for the COVID-19 pandemic, namely:

- If you are not feeling well, you are requested to stay home
- Everyone is required to wear a mask
- Groups/individuals will be separated by 6 ft
- Plenty of hand sanitizer will be on-hand
- Pews and chairs will be sanitized after each mass
- For proper ventilation during the winter months for enclosed building, the heat will be on but windows will be open and fans left on for air flow
- Main doors will be the entry points and all mass goers will use one exit in a safely distanced manner
- Those receiving communion are encouraged to receive the host on the hand. **If you receive communion on the tongue, you must remain seated at the end of mass until everyone else has received.**

To sign up, go to

<http://www.thejesustoday.com/stmatthias/christmassignup.php>

If you do not have access to the internet to sign up, contact Kelly Counts in the Parish Office at (732) 828-1400 and she will create a sign up for you. Questions? Please feel free to contact Phyllis Stone at pstone@stmatthias.net or at (732) 828-1400, ext 127.

Celebrating Our Faith: Liturgy

Are You Interested in Becoming Catholic?

Your Journey of Faith Begins With Your Questions...

AM I INTERESTED IN BECOMING CATHOLIC?

DO I WANT TO BE IN FULL COMMUNION WITH THE CATHOLIC CHURCH?

AM I A TEEN OR ADULT DESIRING THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION?

...and culminates at Easter with the grace of the sacraments of initiation – Baptism, Communion, and Confirmation -

JOIN THE NEXT RCIA INQUIRY SESSIONS BY ZOOM

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22ND FROM 2PM - 3PM

RSVP TO Phyllis Stone @ pstone@stmatthias.net or by calling the Parish Office, (732) 828-1400, ext 127



Being Good Stewards

Stewardship Reflection Nov 22, 2020 Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

"...whatever you did for one of the least of my brothers, you did for me." - Matthew 25:40

Most of us are generous when it's convenient for us. We are generous when we have the time or the money. But, generosity is the opposite of that. It means giving of one's time, money, compassion, forgiveness or mercy when it's not convenient; when it's not on our schedule, but on the other person's schedule.

Reflexiones — 22 de noviembre de 2020 Nuestro Señor Jesucristo, Rey del Universo

"... todo lo que hiciste por uno de mis hermanos más pequeños, lo hiciste por mí". - MATEO 25:40

La mayoría de nosotros somos generosos cuando nos conviene. Somos generosos cuando tenemos el tiempo o el dinero. Pero la generosidad es lo opuesto a eso. Significa dar nuestro tiempo, dinero, compasión, perdón o misericordia cuando no es conveniente; cuando no está en nuestro horario, sino en el horario de la otra persona.

Merchant Discount Card Available for All



The Home School Association is excited to announce that this year we will be offering local discount cards in place of coupon books. Each card will be \$10.

For school families, every card you sell will earn you \$2 towards your HSA commitment.

Please use the following Sign Up Genius link below to request how many cards you wish to purchase:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A094BAAAE28AAF94-smsdiscount>

Please list your child's name and homeroom, if you are an SMS family. Payment can be sent to the SMS HSA PayPal account: <https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/StMatthiasHSA?>

These cards may be purchased by anyone. You may use the discount once a day per merchant at the locations listed, until the expiration date stated. Details are on the card.



EVERYONE Is Encouraged to Purchase Gift Cards Online to Help Our School AT NO COST TO YOU!

We have over 750 gift cards currently available online. No need to stop by the office, nor to touch anything. Instead, when you go shopping or to a restaurant, buy the gift card on your phone, and then pay for your items by showing the cashier your phone. The cashier will scan the gift card on your phone. And St. Matthias School will receive a percentage of the gift card price, at no cost to you. Here are the steps:

1. Go to your phone's App store and download "RaiseRight Fundraising" (If you are on a computer, go www.raiseright.com and follow the prompts.)

2. Click on "Join a Program"

3. Enter the following Enrollment Code to help St. Matthias School: **A68921F9388**

4. Then follow the prompts, skipping the optional boxes.



Remember to use **RaiseRight** every time you shop. Also, invite friends/family/neighbors to purchase these gift cards. Questions? Contact Melissa Rizzo, melissamillerrizzo@gmail.com.

Being Good Stewards

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 18 - Nov. 1, 2020	\$12,941.00	\$12,535.70	\$25,476.70	\$31,852.99
Week 19 - Nov. 8, 2020	\$10,009.53	\$12,190.75	\$22,200.28	\$27,873.99
Week 20 - Nov. 15, 2020	\$10,858.45	\$12,530.25	\$23,388.70	\$27,881.99
Week 21 - Nov. 22, 2020	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$27,835.99
Week 22 - Nov. 29, 2020	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$30,063.09
			Month-to-date Total	Nov Total Last Yr
			\$71,065.68	\$145,508.05
			Current Year-to-date	Year-to-date as of Nov
			\$472,099.19	\$614,026.81

Caring for Others



2020 GIVING TREE – COVID-19 Edition

Thanksgiving is almost upon us and that means it is time for the 2020 Giving Tree. A symbolic Giving Tree will be placed in the Church; however, the ornaments will serve to provide general information only. Due to the uncertainty of the pandemic, we will be supporting the less fortunate through virtual giving. In an effort to keep

the staff and our volunteers safe, we will not be making deliveries this year. Therefore, **ABSOLUTELY NO GIFTS ARE TO BE DELIVERED TO THE CHURCH OR PARISH OFFICE.**

Participating once again are: Great Expectations, Elijah's Promise, Ozanam Family Shelter, Ozanam Men's Shelter, PACT (gift cards only), Pregnancy Aid and YES Learning Center (pre-school children ages 3-5). **The Giving Tree will begin Thanksgiving week.** Please check the Parish website for more information regarding the websites, wish lists and shipping addresses. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please call Joanne Diana (732)873-8521 or send an email to j-diana@comcast.net. Thank you!



Caregiver/Care Support Ministry Meeting

We'd like to invite parishioners who are caring for ill loved ones, or are coping with chronic illness themselves, and in need of spiritual and emotional support, to join us for discussion and prayer via Zoom

DATE: Saturday, December 5th
TIME: 10am - 11 noon
PLACE: Via Zoom

Please contact: Donna Kahora: friendsofnikki@comcast.net or Sister Marie Therese: mshewood@stmatthias.net 732-828-1400 for Zoom details if you are interested in joining us.



Can You Help *Elijah's Promise* This Advent? Saturday, November 28 & Sunday, November 29

2 of our St. Matthias parishioners, Kayla Foley and Gabby Langrin, are trying to achieve their Girl Scout Silver Award. For their project, they are gathering donations for Elijah's Promise, a non-profit organization in New Brunswick that collects food and clothing for people in need.



Gabby and Kayla will be collecting the items in the church parking lot *by the garage, on Saturday, November 28 from 4:30-5:30 and Sunday, November 29 from 9:30-12:30.* Please help us by bringing the following items:

- Ziti noodles and elbow macaroni
- Fruit cups- nonperishable
- Water bottles(16 oz)
- Granola bars, sealed muffins, crackers
- Plastic forks & spoons
- Napkins
- Socks, gloves, and underwear (these items must be new)
- Men's and women's winter coats, blankets
- Toothpaste (these may be lightly used)
- Travel sized: deodorant, shaving cream, razor, floss, comb, soap/shampoo,
- Tooth brushes

For more information or to arrange for a *contactless pick-up*, please contact Kayla Foley kkaylafoley.y@gmail.com or Gabby Langrin gabbylang120@gmail.com.

Connecting with Our Local Community



Clothing Drive for Veterans

The Jersey Blue Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution is conducting a clothing drive to benefit the veterans at the New Jersey Memorial Veterans Home at Menlo Park. The date is **November 24th from 10:00am to 2:00pm**. Items needed are new unused sweat-pants and T-shirts in size Large and XL.

Items can be placed in the collection box located on the back porch of Buccleuch Mansion which is located inside Buccleuch Park. The address is 321 Easton Ave., New Brunswick, 08901. You may contact Susan Luczu at jerseybludar.regent36@gmail.com.



Part-time Custodian Position Available:

If you have custodial experience and are interested, please contact our Business Administrator, Mary Beth Oria, at 732-828-1400; ext. 121



Pray for Life November 2020 National Adoption Month

Prayer:

O Blessed Mother, you received the good news of the incarnation of Christ, your Son, with faith and trust. Grant your protection to all pregnant mothers facing difficulties.

Guide us as we strive to make our parish communities places of welcome and assistance for mothers in need. Help us become instruments of God's love and compassion.

Mary, Mother of the Church, graciously help us build a culture of life and a civilization of love, together with all people of good will, to the praise and glory of God, the Creator and lover of life.
Amen.

A Virtual Night of Broadway Show Tunes Live!



From Rabbi Garfinkel at Temple Beth El to Fr. Abraham:

I hope you and your flock are well. I am writing you to tell you about a fundraiser that our congregation is having. It's an online Broadway concert with Bart Shatto, a Broadway performer, on **November 21 at 7 pm**. I know many at St. Matthias will enjoy it as we have enjoyed your carnival through the years (I hope it comes back soon!) If possible, please publicize our concert.

I would also like to point out that half of what we collect will be donated to 1 of 2 charities, either the Franklin Food Bank, or the Actors Fund supporting out of work Broadway. People can choose which charity they want when they purchase their tickets.

Thank you and God bless you and yours. The link is: <https://tbeonline.weebly.com/bart.html>

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
Garrett Linderth
Joe Percoco

Rose Peng
Marybeth Purcell
John Taylor
Ana Kelly, Ex-Officio
Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio

Parish Finance Council:

Joe Porter, Chair
Finance council
[@stmatthias.net](http://stmatthias.net)
Susan Klimcsak
Barry Dusault
Gwen Orłowski
Audrey Francis

Kester Hector
Mary Beth Oria, Ex-Officio
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

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

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

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

The RCIA process is an opportunity for instruction and spiritual transformation for any adult seeking a deeper understanding of the Catholic tradition or

full incorporation into the Catholic Church. If you are interested in becoming a Catholic or completing the Sacraments of Initiation-- Baptism/ Confirmation/Eucharist, please call the Parish Office.

Stewardship

Stewardship is a way of life, a way of thanking God for all our blessings by returning a portion of the time, talent and treasure allotted to us. Whether it is clothes for the poor, food for the hungry, outreach to youth, in education, in worship, or simply arms stretched out to someone who is lonely, the Catholic Community of St. Matthias encourages everyone to become stewards of the gifts they have been given by God, returning a portion in gratitude to God for the work of ministry

here at St. Matthias and beyond our local community.



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

Bulletin Article Requests

Please email proposed bulletin articles to bulletin@stmatthias.net by 6 pm, Wednesday, 10 days before the intended issue (earlier for holiday weekends).



Complete Kitchen & Bathroom Remodeling
 Porcelain Marble
 Granite Countertops
 Heated Floors
 Backsplashes
 Shower Doors
732-514-1500
 Lic # 13VH00782600
 (Parishioner)



Diocese of Metuchen
 Catholic Cemeteries
 and Crematory
800-943-8400

Holy Cross Burial Park 840 Cranbury-South River Rd. Jamesburg, NJ 08831
 Resurrection Burial Park Hoes Lane and Park Ave. Piscataway, NJ 08854

www.diometuchen.org/cemeteries

BRUNSWICK FURNITURE OUTLET, LLC
 330 Townsend St., New Brunswick, NJ
Rafael Se Habla Español
732-354-4420

EXCELLENCE GUARANTEED
Resta's Car Care & Rental
 AAA Trusted Since 1946 U-HAUL
 732-873-8900 Restas.com 1873 Amwell Road • Somerset, NJ 08873

FRANKLIN ELECTRIC MAINTENANCE CO. INC. Lic. # 5379
GENERAC SALES & SERVICE DEALER
-SALES -SERVICE -INSTALLATION
732-249-1359
www.FranklinElectricNJ.com
DON'T BE LEFT IN THE DARK!

TIRED OF CLIMBING STAIRS?
 Rentals • Sales • Free Estimates
 Family Owned & Operated Since 1947
Williams LIFT CO. UP!
908-402-1130
 24 South Avenue • Fanwood, NJ
www.williamslifts.com



\$250 OFF ANY NEW STAIRLIFT

What's Keeping You From The Experience Of A LifeTime???
 Gear Up & Get In The Action - Join Today!!!
www.ftfd1.com



PATRONIZE THE ADVERTISERS WHO MAKE THIS BULLETIN POSSIBLE!
 BUILD YOUR COMMUNITY - Shop Local -

PUT YOUR FAITH IN US
REDCOM
 DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION LLC
REDCOMLLC.COM • (908) 233-4030

Wedding Invitations & Holiday Cards
 Log onto www.jppc.net conveniently from your home or office.
 Online Catalog • Online Ordering
 Online Proofing
 All Major Credit Cards Accepted
 FREE UPS GROUND SHIPPING!

To all those essential workers keeping us safe, your service is invaluable & appreciated.

American Red Cross
 Make a Difference in Your Community
VOLUNTEER
 with the American Red Cross
 Join today at redcross.org/Volunteer

PROTECTIVE PAVING
DRIVEWAYS PARKING LOTS
 FULLY INSURED
 FREE ESTIMATES
732-828-4177
 SOMERSET, NJ



Mallory's Army Foundation
 United Together In The Fight Against Bullying...
 Don't Just Teach Kindness... BE KINDNESS!
www.MallorysArmy.com
 (973) 440-8657 • info@mallorysarmy.org
 It's easy to join our mailing list! Just send your email address by text message:
 Text MALLORYSARMY to 22828 to get started.

DC Funding
 Commercial Rates are at an All Time Low. Contact us today to get a free analysis to see if we can help Save you money with your monthly payments on your commercial property. Multi-Family, Retail, Office Building, Apartment and Condos. Can close in as little as 45 days! Four season customer service is our top priority.
www.duqfunding.com
 1650 Market Street - Suite 3600
 Philadelphia, PA 19103

What's My Name?
 The #WHATSMYNAME Movement asks everyone to simply ask drivers "What's my name?" before entering their vehicle to make sure it is the car they are supposed to enter.
#WHATSMYNAME
 In Remembrance of Samantha Josephson

Morgan
 basement waterproofing
 In Our 4th Decade of Quality Service
 French Drains • Foundation Repair • Mold Remediation
 All Work Guaranteed
732-777-7888
www.morganbasementwaterproofing.com

KW TOWNE SQUARE
KELLERWILLIAMS REALTY



Christina Duncan
Broker Salesperson
908-834-8790
DuncanHomeTeam.com

TOWNSHIP PHARMACY
712 Hamilton Street, Somerset
SR. DISCOUNT • WE DELIVER
732-545-8800

Sky Nails & Spa
1760 Easton Ave.
Somerset, NJ
732-659-6160

Steve's Pizza & Restaurant
900 Easton Ave. Somerset Village
732-247-0400
\$1.50 Off Large 18" Pie

SOLD BARROOD
Selling, Buying or Renting Houses - Call us for help!
700 EASTON AVE., SOMERSET
732-846-1661
Good people, great service, since 1940
PARISHIONER

AJS Landscaping & Hardscaping, LLC
Pavers • Stone • Mulch
Specialize In Custom Projects
Contact Anthony Schinella, Parishioner
609-751-6514 • www.ajslandscapingpro.com

Pedicure • Manicure
Gel Manicure • Spa Pedicure
Dip Powder • Acrylic Powder
Gel Powder • Waxing
Parishioner



AJS PAINTING
TONY SCHINELLA, PARISHIONER
Friendly, Courteous Service
Owner Operated, Free Proposals
Meticulous, Guaranteed Work
Highest Quality, Affordable Price
No Job Too Small • Since 2001
732-873-8477

Advertise Your Business Here
800-333-3166 ext. 161
www.jpcc.net

Smile Designs 101
Dental Implants
Cosmetic Dentistry
Children's Dentistry
General & Family Dentistry
Dr. Kosmas Kasimatis, D.M.D.
Total Smile Makeovers as Seen on TV
FREE Consultation
FREE Exam & All Necessary Xrays
Second Opinions Welcomed
MENTION ST. MATTHIAS FOR ANY PROMOTIONS
732-247-7417 • SMILEDESIGNS101.COM



GLEASON FUNERAL HOME
AT NEED CARE • PRE-NEED • MONUMENTS
PARISHIONER OWNED
William K. Gleason, Mgr., N.J. Lic. No. 4489
1360 HAMILTON STREET • SOMERSET, NJ
732-545-0700
WWW.GLEASONFUNERALHOME.COM

NJ Plbg Lic. 7617 & 9231
NJ Elect Lic. 10217
Dolan Inc. since 1949
www.jackdolanandsons.com
800.222.8827
Kitchen & Bath Remodeling
Serving Middlesex & Somerset Counties
Plumbing • Heating • Cooling • Electric
696 Franklin Blvd., Somerset, NJ 08873
Family Owned & Operated. Call the one's you've trusted for 65 years.
"In Loving Memory of Jack Dolan Sr. and Jack Dolan"

See what color can do for you!
to advertise in color, please call us at
John Patrick Publishing
800-333-3166



WE'RE HIRING!
Substitute Teachers & Support Staff throughout New Jersey
Apply today at SOURCE4TEACHERS.com

April Tarantino
Broker Associate
Direct: (732) 735-3511
apriltarantino@hotmail.com
www.apriltarantino.com
31 Years Experience - Somerset Specialist




D'Angiolillo
Chiropractic Center
Find out more about us and how we can help you!
Visit Our Website @
www.DrJoeD.com
(732) 873-2222
PROFESSIONAL CENTER AT SOMERSET
11 Clyde Road, Suite 103
Somerset, NJ 08873
Serving Our Community Since 1985

Parker
Somerset | New Brunswick
Highland Pk | Piscataway
Monroe Twp
We're Accepting New Residents
Nursing, Memory & Post-acute Care
Assisted Living
732-902-4200
Parkerlife.org
Meeting All NJ Infection Control Requirements

RAIKE'S Home Improvement LLC
732-249-7113
Fully Insured Lic. 13VH06498900 www.raikeshomeimprovement.com
We Install & Construct
• Windows • Finished Basements • Siding
• Doors • Kitchens • Roofing
• Decks • Baths • Custom Interior Woodwork
Power Washing
Homes • Decks • Sidewalks • Driveways • Stoops • Etc.
No Job Too Small! Cabinet Refacing Parishioner

Waterstone WEALTH ADVISORS, LLC
John C. Moynihan, CFP®
Certified Financial Planner™, practitioner
21 West High Street, Second Floor
Somerville, NJ 08876
732.873.0433 • www.wallc.net
Practical Solutions for Managing Wealth

catholicmatch®
New Jersey
CatholicMatch.com/dateNJ



DALTON
ELECTRIC, PLUMBING
HEATING & COOLING
NOW HIRING QUALIFIED TEAM MEMBERS
1186 LIVINGSTON AVENUE, NORTH BRUNSWICK, NJ
732-247-7390 • www.DaltonElectricCo.com

FIND YOUR NEW BEST FRIEND.
\$60 adoption fee | animals are spayed/neutered, micro-chipped & up-to-date on shots
Franklin Township Animal Shelter
475 DeMott Lane, Somerset, NJ 08873
732.873.2500 x6255 | Tue-Fri 12-3 & Sat 12-6
Ad sponsored by Second Chance For Animals




P A FINANCIAL SOLUTIONS LLC
Certified Public Accountant
Professional Tax, Accounting, Bookkeeping, Payroll Services
Philip Arana, CPA, MBA
Philarana00@gmail.com
Somerset, NJ 08875
732-325-3157

