



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**
Senior Priest: Msgr. Seamus Brennan, **sbrennan**
 Mary Pat Burke-Grospin, Business Administrator
mpburke-grospin
 Deacon Ron Caimi, *Senior Deacon*
 Kelly Counts, *Receptionist*, **kcounts**
 Deacon Russell Demkovitz, **rdemkovitz**
 Juan Diaz Flores, *Custodian*
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mjloboda
 Mike Lanyi, *Sacristan*
 Sue Lenczewski, *Youth Coordinator*, **SMYLE**
 Julio Montero, *Maintenance Supervisor*
 Dolores R. Nann, *Pastoral Associate for*
Faith Formation, **dnann**
 Vinnie Natale, *Bookkeeper*, **vnatale**
 Silvia Nizama, *Housekeeper*
 Deacon John Radvanski, **deaconjohn**
 Joan Best Seamon, *Pastoral Associate for Music*
Ministry **jseamon**
 Sr. Marie Therese Sherwood, *OSF, Pastoral*
Assoc. for Social Concerns, **msherwood**
 Trish Stumper, *Par. Support Secretary*, **tstumper**

St. Matthias School (add @stmatthiasnj.org)
 Mary Lynch, Principal, **mlynch**
 Joseph Gidaro, Vice Principal, **igidaro**

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS

SUNDAY, NOV 27, 2022-

1st Sunday of Advent

"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**. Our St. Matthias Children's Choir will sing at the 5:00 Mass that night, and then lead us in song around the Manger and our Christmas Trees.



GIVING 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 for more information about **GIVING TUESDAY** and on helping with **School & Church projects**

The Giving Tree



Our Giving Tree will once again be at the front of the Church from, Thanksgiving Day, November 24th

See page 10 for all the details!

SMYLE Youth Group Project for Christmas

Here is the list of items needed for the Unity Square collection which will be held on 12/11 and 12/12 22 at all Masses.

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



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

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 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

Monday, Nov 28, 2022 St. Catherine Laboure, Marion Visionary

8:00AM Mass/Miraculous Medal Novena Church
6:00PM Property Management Mtg. Zoom

Tuesday Nov 29, 2022 St. Francis Anthony Fasini Giving Tuesday

8:00AM Mass Church
8:30AM Reconciliation Church
7:15PM Hand Bell Rehearsal Church

Wednesday, Nov 30, 2022 Feast of St. Andrew, Apostle & Martyr

8:00AM Mass Church
9:30AM Holy Spirit Prayer Grp. de Porres Rm
7:30PM Folk Group Rehearsal Church

Thursday, Dec 1, 2022 St. Edmund Campion, Priest & Martyr

8:00AM Mass Church
3:30PM Children's Choir Gr. 3&4 Church
4:00PM Children's Choir Gr 5-8 Church
7:30PM Adult choir Rehearsal Church
8:00PM K of C Mtg. Cafeteria

Friday, Dec 2, 2022 St. Bibiana, Martyr

8:30AM 1st Friday Holy Hour w/Benediction Church
8:30AM Reconciliation Church

Saturday, Dec 3, 2022 Memorial—St. Francis Xavier Co-founder of Society of Jesus (Jesuits)

All Day—Craft Fair Set up Cafeteria
3:30PM Reconciliation Church
5:00PM Mass, Church
6:00PM Christmas Tree Lighting Field of Trees

Sunday Dec 4, 2022 2nd Sunday of Advent

8:00AM Mass Church
8:00AM SMS Christmas Craft Fair Cafeteria
10:00AM Mass Church
11:00AM Rosary Altar Society Mtg. St. John XXIII
12:00PM Mass Church
2:00PM GIFT Church, clsrms, & John XXIII Rm

Bulletin Article Requests:

If you would like to send information to be included in our bulletin, please email it to bulletin@stmatthias.net by 8 AM, MONDAY, 5 business days before the needed bulletin date (earlier for holiday weekends). Approved content is published on a space-available basis.

Dear Friends,

Today we begin Advent - our yearly pilgrimage through the events of our history of salvation starting with the preparation for the birthday celebration of Jesus and ending with the reflection on his glorious "second coming" as a judge at the end of the world. Advent means coming. We are invited to meditate on Jesus' first coming in history as a baby in Bethlehem, his daily coming into our lives in mystery through the Sacraments, through the Bible, and through the worshipping community and finally, his *Second Coming* at the end of the world to reward the just and to punish the wicked. We see the traditional signs of Advent in our Church: violet vestments, violet altar linens, the Advent wreath, etc. These signs remind us that we have to prepare for the rebirth of Jesus in our hearts and lives, enabling him to radiate his love, mercy, compassion, and forgiveness in and around us.

With the Thanksgiving/post-Thanksgiving rush, Advent immerses us further into the busiest season of the year. "A mad rush," "no time," "too many things to be done," and "I'm not ready yet," are some of the frequent expressions of the inability to cope with this season. In this mad rush, we lose something very precious: living and enjoying the present moment. Fr Richard Rohr, a contemporary spiritual master, writes that faith and spirituality begin with "seeing." It is not about earning or achieving but about "paying attention": paying attention to the presence of God in every joy and sorrow, in every pain and trauma, and in every victory and setback before us. Advent calls us to "watch," to be "alert" to the presence of God in the love of family and friends and to find the true meaning and purpose of our lives in moments of compassion, forgiveness, and generosity.

Theologian Henri Nouwen, in *A Spirituality of Waiting: Being Alert to God's Presence in Our Lives*, suggests that we focus on the 'waiting people' in the scriptures of this season. "If you really think about Zechariah and about Mary and about Elizabeth, you realize that they were living with a promise that nurtured them, that fed them, that made them able to stay where they are so that it could grow so that it could develop." The waiting person, says Henri, is someone who is "very present to the moment, who believes that this moment is *THE* moment."

Living in the present! Focusing on the moment! That is a tall order for most of us as our culture does not value waiting or silence. We are constantly reminded that we need to fill our days with activity and noise, with more things than we need or can handle. We fill our days and nights with 'doing' rather than 'being.' Hence, the challenge for us all is to slow down and be present in the moment, even while we know we need to plan and do a myriad of things.

The Advent wreath we light is not only for the Church but also for families. Many families set up an Advent wreath at home. If you don't have one, why not get one this year and start a family tradition? This bulletin has a nice short prayer service that you can pray as a family when you light the candle each week. It will help your family to live the spirit of Advent expressed in slowing down, waiting in patience, and prayer.

Happy Advent!
Your brother in Christ,
Fr. Abraham Orapankal



Readings for the Week

Monday: Is 4:2-6; Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9; Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday: Rom 10:9-18; Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11; Mt 4:18-22

Thursday: Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a; Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday: Is 29:17-24; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Mt 9:27-31

Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Mt 9:35 — 10:1, 5a, 6-8

Sunday: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Rom 15:4-9; Mt 3:1-12

Mass Intentions for the Week

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
Monday, Nov 28	8:00AM	Albert Larangeria, by Kaitlyn Piscado & Graham Edwardo
Tuesday, Nov 29	8:00AM	Elizaabeth D'Allessio, by Iris Mednick
Wednesday, Nov 30	8:00AM	Jill Szabo, by Vinnie
Thursday, Dec 1	8:00AM	Thomas Nileski, by Jack & Sharon Murphy
Friday, Dec 2	8:00AM	Craig Slyman, by Mom & Dad
Saturday, Dec 3	5:00PM	Paul & Maureen Doyle Endres, By Isabelle & John Naker
Sunday, Dec 4	8:00AM	Health & Blessings for Aloyzas Liaukus, By The Klimak Family
	10:00AM	Alfons Nowakowski, by Daughter
	12:00PM	Mary Dillon Frost, by Eileen Siebenlist
	(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 kcounts@stmatthias.net to add the name to this list. Names will be listed in the bulletin for **6 weeks**. Please let us know if this time period needs to be extended. We want to know how you are doing and want to offer you the support of our prayers. *New people on our prayer list are noted in blue.*

Erika, Jay & Beth Adams
 Carolyn Banghart
 Tammy Baskaran
 Angela Berlund
 Anthony Brandi
 Bianca Canlas
 Tara Capatosto
 Ellen Catalina
 Kyle Davidson
 Lisa DeFeo
 Michael DiMaggio
 William Dolphin
 Vivian Dong
 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
 Tippur Seshagiri
 Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF
 Kathleen Smith
 Jeff Sullivan

Jay Swick
 Tom Szabo
 Nancy 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



Smile with Your Family



A man once had a conversation with God. He asked, "Lord, I have always wondered about time. What is a thousand years like for you?" God answered, "For me a thousand years is like a second." The man then asked, "What about money? What is a million dollars like for you?" And God answered, "For me a million dollars is like a penny." The man became eager and said, "Lord, could you give me one of those pennies?" God answered, "No problem, but you will have to wait one second." 😊

Four weeks before Christmas, the pastor was leading a children's service featuring an Advent wreath. He had told them what the three purple candles represented. Then he asked: "does anyone know what the pink one means?" No one answered. Finally little Sara's hand went up. "Are they

expecting a girl?" 😊

One Sunday after Church, a mother was talking to her young daughter that, according to the Bible, Jesus will return to earth some day. "When is he coming back?" the daughter wanted to know. But the mother's reply was, "I don't know." So the little girl asked, "Mom, can't you google and find out?" 😊

I got myself a Microsoft advent calendar, but I'm worried that once I've opened 3 or 4 windows I won't be able to open any more. 😊

According to my chocolate advent calendar...there are only 3 days to Christmas. I need a new one soon! 😊



First Sunday in Advent

The Advent Wreath in your Family

The Advent wreath, four candles on a wreath of evergreen, is shaped in a perfect circle to symbolize the eternity of God. In our church, three of the candles are purple and one candle is rose or pink, to represent joy.

During each Sunday of the Advent season, we focus on one of the four virtues Jesus brings us: Hope, Love, Joy and Peace. Others consider the lighting of the first candle to symbolize expectation, while the second symbolizes hope, the third joy and the fourth purity. It is a common practice for families to light Advent wreath candles at home. Here is a suggestion to have a little family prayer for lighting the first candle this Sunday:

The family gathers around the Advent wreath. Begin with the sign of the cross.

Father:: Today is the first Sunday of Advent. Advent is a time of waiting. We wait for God to send divine love and light into our dark world.

Child #1: How does this happen?

Father: God's light comes through Jesus, who became a human being just like you and me, so that he could show us the way back to God's divine love and light.

Family: "Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and put on the armor of light."

Mother: A reading from the prophet Jeremiah: "The Lord said, 'I made a wonderful promise to Israel and Judah, and the days are coming when I will keep it. I promised that the time will come when I will appoint a king from the family of David, a king who will be honest and rule with justice. In those days, Judah will be safe; Jerusalem will have peace and will be named 'The LORD Gives Justice.'" (Jer 33:14-16)

Father: Today, we wait for the coming of Jesus. We begin in the dark, and on this first Sunday of Advent, we light the first candle.

First candle is lit by one of the children.

Child #2: Every week in Advent, we will light another candle. Each candle that we light will remind us that the Light of the World will soon come to us in the human form of the baby Jesus.

Family: Lord our God, we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ: he is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples, he is the wisdom that teaches and guides us, he is the Savior of every nation. Lord God, let your blessing come upon us as we light the candles of this wreath. May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us Salvation. May he come quickly and not delay. We ask this through Christ our Lord. R/. Amen.



Ready or Not, Here I Come!

When you were a child, did you play the game, Hide and Seek? If you did, you will remember that the person who was "it" closed his eyes while the rest went to hide. To give them time to hide, the child started counting: 5, 10, 15, 20 and up to 100. Then he would say, "Ready or not, here I come!" The point of the game was to hide oneself so well that the leader could not find you, for if he found you, and beat you back to the goal, you had to be "it" the next go-around. The secret of the game was preparing oneself against being found and caught. With excitement we heard the words, "Ready or not -- here I come!"

In today's Gospel lesson Jesus is saying to the world, "Ready or not -- here I come." In chapter 24 of Matthew, Jesus tells us: "So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come." As in the game, only this is not a game, there is a counting and an accounting going on right now, not to frighten us but to remind us of God's expectation for us. It is a countdown before the blast of his appearance on earth a second time to judge the world and to gather his faithful to himself so that we who live by the values of Jesus will be welcomed into heaven.

The Christmas Card list

"... stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come..." Matthew 24: 37-44



She keeps a copy of every Christmas card she and her husband and family sent out over the years, beginning with the first small postcard they bought as newlyweds for pennies at a discount store. Then, with every Christmas, the cards became more elaborate. As their family grew, the little notes she would write in each card became a "letter" of family news. The cards soon were custom made to include photos of their growing family. And the mailing list grew, as well — new friends and neighbors, business associates and acquaintances, the families of their children's friends. For several years, she and the older kids would set up an assembly line to sign the cards, address and stuff the envelopes and affix the postage. The computer made the process more efficient and less time consuming.

As the family dynamics changed, so did the cards. The kids married and had families of their own — and their own Christmas card lists. Mom continued writing cards; she always looked forward to corresponding with family and friends who lived a distance away, letting them

know they were remembered and loved. Not long after their 51st Christmas, Dad went to God. The card she sent out the following Christmas was simple and bittersweet. By then, her card list had become noticeably shorter as a result of deaths, divorces and simply losing touch. By her 80th Christmas, she had sold the big family house and moved to an assisted living facility. Despite the downsizing, she kept her box of family Christmas cards.

A few weeks before Christmas, she asked her daughter to take her shopping. When her daughter arrived to pick her up, her mother was sitting there waiting, with her shopping list and a handful of envelopes. "Can we mail these?" she asked. "Of course, Mom." "Do you remember how we used to send out more than a hundred cards every Christmas?" she said quietly. "This year I'm sending out ten... All our friends are gone." Her daughter hugged her mom. "I know, Mom. I know."

Christmas serves as a marker for many families — milestones are remembered in terms of holiday celebrations (our first Christmas as husband and wife, our child's first Christmas, our last Christmas with Dad, the Christmas we spent in Canada). Like the timeliness of our greetings each year and the changes to our mailing lists, Advent confronts us with the reality that our lifetimes are precious and limited. These days before Christmas call us to behold and embrace God's presence in all that is loving, in all that is beautiful, in all that is life-giving and nurturing — in every moment of grace, in every Christmas card received and sent.

"A Thinner Wallet"

In her book *A Hill of Beans: The Grace of Everyday Troubles*, essayist Valerie Schultz writes of "quitting the credit card habit cold turkey." "Each thin piece of embossed plastic gave me peace, gave me security, gave me gratification," Schultz writes. "When the unexpected happens, a car emergency or a home maintenance crisis or a family funeral that requires an airline ticket, relief arrives in the form of plastic." But for the Schultz family, as for so many families, the emergencies became more and more frequent — and the peace of mind afforded by plastic made it easy to take out the card to pay for too many "non-emergency" purchases.

"We looked great on paper," Schultz writes. "Gradually, though, a larger percentage of income went to satisfying minimum payments, and so a correspondingly larger share of our normal monthly expenses was put on credit. We sometimes used cheaper credit to pay off more expensive credit. I know: craziness. We thought we had a handle on it." The day finally came when Valerie and her husband took scissors to the credit cards and went strictly cash. The family's "New Austerity" was hard. Everything from magazine renewals

Reflect

to sending flowers

“A thinner wallet” (cont'd)

to getting the car wash were considered very carefully. Little by little, the Schultz family got their financial house in order — and moved from desperation to hope. “The thinner wallets we both now carry signify positivity, a healthy financial decision, a moving forward,” Valerie Schultz notes. “With time and self-discipline, we will grow older, wiser and solvent.”

Valerie Schultz and her family’s experience is the Advent we all live: struggling to realize the signs of the “flood” we don’t expect, the “thief” who comes in the middle of the night. Advent calls us to “stay awake” for signs of God’s unmistakable presence in our lives, to focus on what this precious lifetime is meant to be. As the Schultz family realizes, it’s too easy to be distracted and discover too late the destructive patterns that take hold of our lives. This lifetime of ours, which we so often take for granted, is a gift that God gives us in order that we might discover God in the love of others and realize the goodness of this world in anticipation of the next.

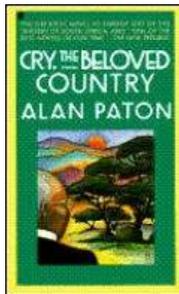
Unheeded warning:

Early Sunday morning, June 30, 1974, a hundred young people were dancing to the soul-rock music at Gulliver’s in Port Chester, on the border between New York and Connecticut. Suddenly the place was filled with flames and smoke. In a few minutes 24 were dead, burnt by fire, suffocated by smoke, and crushed in the exit passage by the escaping youngsters. According to the Mayor of Port Chester, the dancing crowd ignored the repeated and frantic warnings given by the band manager when he noticed the smoke.

Today’s second reading passes on to us the warnings given by St. Paul, and today’s Gospel gives the warning to be vigilant and prepared given by Jesus. But these warnings are not meant to scare us but to be on the alert joyfully. So, how to be alert and watchful in the spirit of today’s Gospel. Here’s an Advent project we all can practice: Every morning when we get up, let us pray, “Lord, show me someone today with whom I may share your love, mercy and forgiveness.” St. Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa), once said, “Whatever you do in your family, for your children, for your husband, for your wife, you do for Jesus.” Every night when we go to bed, let us ask ourselves, “Where have I found Christ today?” The answer will be God’s Advent gift to us that day. By being alert and watchful, we’ll be getting an extra gift: Christ himself. There is a saying about being

saved which goes back to St. Thomas Aquinas: “Without God, I can’t. Without me, He won’t.”

Cry the Beloved Country!



Alan Paton was a South African writer. Among the books he wrote was the haunting story, *Cry the Beloved Country*, which poignantly described the situation in South Africa under apartheid. Paton had a dream. He dreamt of a new day for his beloved South Africa, a day in which there would be justice and equality for all. For this reason he entered into politics, and fought to end the iniquitous system of apartheid. For decades he followed his dream, and worked generously and courageously to make it a reality. It was a dream that many said would not be realized. Yet it was. Unfortunately, Paton did not live to see it. He died before the dawn.

The prophet Isaiah had an even bolder dream, a dream of universal brotherhood and peace. That is what we hear in today’s First Reading (Isaiah (2:1-5)). He reports his vision of all nations gathering on Mount Zion, as described also by Micah (4: 1-3), using the image of pilgrimage. The prophet looks forward to the time when the Covenant between God and His people will be extended to all people, and the Temple in Jerusalem will be the worshipping place for all mankind, so that all may live in peace and harmony with God and their fellow-humans. In the late eighth century BC, God’s people were already divided into a northern kingdom called Israel, and a southern kingdom known as Judah. Israel had fallen under Assyrian rule, while Judah and its capital Jerusalem were in danger of being conquered by Babylon. In the vision of Isaiah, however, Judah is shown as the place to which all nations will come for “instructions in righteous living.” (Zion in Jerusalem was the holy mountain where Solomon’s Temple had stood). The result will be universal peace. The Lord will mediate all disputes among nations, and “they shall beat their swords into plowshares.” The prophet reveals to his audience the radical notion that God might love other nations in addition to Judah. Thus we see that Isaiah’s vision was a splendid one. It would only be realized by the coming of the Lord Jesus.



Letter from the Bishop



Dear Father Orapankal,

Please extend my sincere thanks to the parishioners of St. Matthias Parish for their generous response to the 2022 Bishop's Annual Appeal.

With the final gifts totaling \$190,756.78 your parish earned a rebate of \$9,378.39.

This income will not be assessed and is to be used for local needs at your discretion.

I am particularly grateful to you, your staff and your parish coordinators for the appeal who worked so hard to ensure our success. Thanks to your parish's generosity, we are able

to continue to fulfill our mission and live the Gospel message through our pastoral ministries and charitable outreach to those in need.

God bless you and be assured you have my heartfelt gratitude and prayers.

With renewed best wishes, I remain
Yours in Christ,

Most Reverend James F. Checchio, JCD, MBA
Bishop of Metuchen



From the Pastoral Staff

Happy First Sunday of Advent!

No doubt many of us have already decorated our homes for Christmas, but hopefully we can find a spot amongst all of the red and green for an Advent wreath with its purple and pink candles shining brightly.

Advent is a quiet season of waiting and hoping. Not just waiting for Christmas and hoping for the best present!

But rather, our hearts wait in stillness for the joy that only Christ can bring. And we hope for peace and fulfillment for us, for our family and friends and for the world.

It's dark early now and soon it will get very cold. The tiny flames of our Advent wreath remind us of the Light that Christ can be in our lives, if we but let it happen. There is no darkness that the Light of Christ cannot penetrate.

The "Creator of the Stars of Night" is "Unexpected and Mysterious." Emmanuel inspires us to "raise a joyful song and dance to the light around us."

So, this Advent, "Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord... Come to us, O Emmanuel."

Joan Best Seamon,
Pastoral Associate for Liturgical Music,
The Catholic Community of St. Matthias



Spotlight on St. Matthias Church - Giving Tuesday



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



HAVE YOU TRIED A HOLY HOUR?

Come and attend the Holy Hour this First Friday (December 2) after the 8:00 am Mass. It will be a very good spiritual enrichment.

Learn

Thanksgiving Food for Our Neighbors in Need

On Sunday November 13th, the St Vincent de Paul Society and the SMYLE group at St Matthias worked together to assemble 50 boxes of Thanksgiving meal boxes to be distributed to Clients served by the SVDP society. In addition to the food boxes, other items were also prepared for donation to the Franklin Food Bank to be distributed to their clients.

This project was made possible using donations of food items and funding from individual parishioners, the St Vincent de Paul Society at St Matthias, and the Ifeatu-Ifediche Anambra Women of New Jersey, Inc.

Ifeatu-Ifediche Anambra Women of New Jersey, Inc. (represented by Philomena Chinemelu and Stella Okigbo giving the check to Sr. Marie Therese in the picture on the right) is a non-profit organization that has been working for more than 15 years to raise the standard of underprivileged women and children in both Anambra, Nigeria and in the United States. They have conducted several philanthropic projects ranging from collecting disaster relief donations for families affected by Hurricane Sandy to clothing and food drives at various churches and food pantries throughout New Jersey.

The SMYLE group is a great source of life and energy to our parish community. Children in 6th to 12th grades participate not only in fun activities but in helping those in need. They made a significant impact in collecting food donations and preparing the food boxes.



Women of New Jersey and the Franklin Food Bank do to partner with our ministry is greatly appreciated.” The St Vincent de Paul Society has a long history of helping the poor, founded by Blessed Frédéric Ozanam in 1833 to help impoverished people living in the slums of Paris. **Bob Cherill**, president of the SVDP at St Matthias, said, “In serving those in need in our local community we meet Jesus face-to-face. We become a lifeline, bringing hope to what often seems to be a hopeless situation. All that our parishioners, neighbors and organizations like the Ifeatu-Ifediche Anambra of New Jersey and the Franklin Food Bank do to partner with our ministry is greatly appreciated.”



Spotlight on St. Matthias School - 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 donat-

ing 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.

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 Total	Year-to-date as of Nov
			\$505,929.17	\$554,643.91

Stewardship Reflection Nov 27, 2022 1st Sunday of Advent

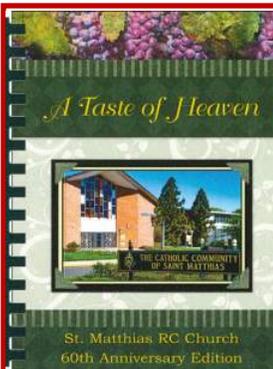
“Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come.” Matthew 24:42

People who have had health issues or near-death experiences generally have a greater appreciation for each day being a gift from God. The rest of us usually take for granted that we will be around tomorrow. But when you start to look at each day as a gift, you realize all the little miracles that happen daily and you begin to see God’s active presence in your life. You grow in gratitude, each day, for all that we have been given.

Reflexiónese 27 de noviembre 2022 1er. Domingo de Adviento

“¡Por lo tanto permanezcan despierto! Ya que no saben qué Día vendrá nuestro Señor.” Mateo 24: 42

Las personas que tiene problemas de salud o experiencias cercanas a la muerte generalmente aprecian mejor el hecho de que cada día es un don de Dios. El resto de nosotros da por sentado que estaremos aquí el día de mañana. Sin embargo, al comenzar a ver cada día como un don, se dará cuenta de todos los pequeños milagros que suceden diariamente y comenzara a ver la presencia activa de Dios en su vida. Su gratitud crecerá cada día, por todo lo que se nos ha dado.



‘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, 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

Connect



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.

PLEASE NOTE: GIFTS WILL BE COLLECTED IN THE CHURCH 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.

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.



Connect with Our Local Community



Icon Painting Workshop for Adults

Date: 12/3/22

Time: 9am to 3:30pm

Place: St. Cecilia's Church, 10 Kingston Lane, Monmouth Junction, NJ 08852

RSVP 732 329 2893 **Donation:** \$ 25.00 BYOL

NO Experience Necessary!!!! All Materials included.

Parish Leadership

Parish Pastoral Council:

Co-Chairs:

Rose Peng, rosepeng@optonline.net
John Taylor, jptaylor1068@yahoo.com

Co-Secretaries:

Frank Rees
Marilyn Wegg
Stephan Busono
Anne Marie Francis
Bill Isele
Maria Tapia-Burch

Msgr. Seamus Brennen, Ex

-Officio
Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio

Trustees:

Pearl Scott
Marge Richards

Parish Finance Council:

Kester Hector, Chair
FinanceCouncil@stmatthias.net
Carmen Driz-Melilli
Barry Dusault
Gwen Orłowski

Audrey Francis
Joe Porter
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.



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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Tuesday, 10/11

Tuesday, 10/18

Tuesday, 10/25

November 2022

Tuesday, 11/01

Tuesday, 11/08

Tuesday, 11/15

Tuesday, 11/29

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