



ST. MATTHIAS CHURCH

All are Welcome

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, maria

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 (add @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

Mike Lanyi, Sacristan

Maintenance Staff

Julio Montero, Maintenance Supervisor

Conroy Davis, Custodian

Juan Diaz Flores, Custodian

Silvia Nizama, Housekeeper

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS

SUNDAY, NOV 29, 2020 –

First Sunday of Advent

Help Set Up Christmas Trees

TODAY, Sunday — see below

GS Silver Award Food Collection

for Elijah's Promise Sat. & Sun. See calendar on page 2.

Retirement Collection for Diocesan

Clergy this weekend.

GivingTuesday—Tue, Dec. 1

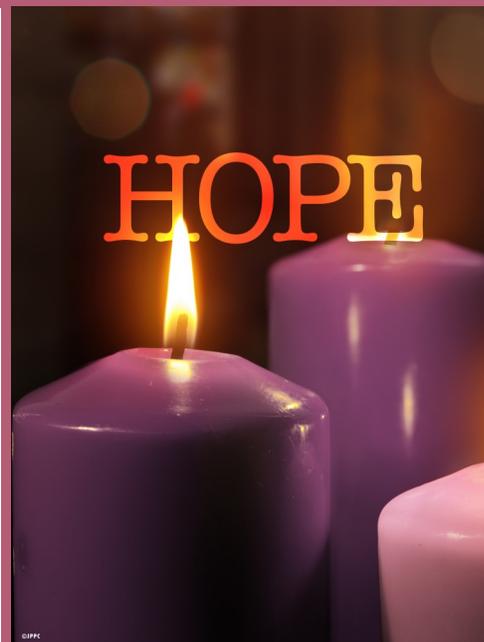
See below and on page 8.

Blessing of the Trees and Nativity—

next Saturday, Dec. 5. See below.



First Sunday in Advent



Join Us **THIS Tuesday, Dec. 1**, for GivingTuesday2020

This year, St. Matthias Parish will again focus our #GivingTuesday campaign on our wonderful school! The specific area will be Interactive Technology Displays (often known as Smart Boards). See the flyer on page 8 and then join us on our website, www.stmatthias.net, for a 24-hour blitz on Tuesday, Dec. 1.



Volunteers Needed to Help Set Up Christmas Trees!

Join us **TODAY** outside, from 10 am till 3 pm



Help us "Spread the Light" TODAY, Sunday, as we set up over 260 Christmas trees outside! We need many volunteers. Adults are welcome to bring their children, Middle School and up, but must supervise them at all times. For more details, visit www.stmatthias.net

Join Us Outside Next Saturday, December 5, for the Blessing of the Christmas Trees and the Nativity



On **Saturday, December 5, 2020, following the 5:00pm mass**, we will light and bless the trees and the Nativity. We are planning a brief service with music and much joy! You can come to mass or just come to the church parking lot by 5:45 pm. You will have time to walk around the trees after that. The trees will also be lit every night after this from 5:00pm – midnight.

These days can be a great opportunity to celebrate and be together, outside, masked, socially distant and safe, but still together!

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 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 Mass Church
10:00AM - 3PM Christmas Tree SetUp Outside
10:30AM Communion outside front doors
12:00PM Mass Church
12:30PM Communion outside front doors

Monday, Nov 30, 2020 GIFT & SMS Virtual classes

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

Tuesday, Dec 1, 2020 SMS Virtual classes

All Day **GIVING TUESDAY-www.stmatthias.net**
8:00AM Daily Mass Church
7:00PM Pastoral Council Mtg. via Zoom
7:00PM School Advisory Council Mtg Zoom
7:00PM SVDP Mtg. via Zoom

Wednesday, Dec 2, 2020 SMS Virtual classes Virtual Reconciliation Prep begins & continues throughout month

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

Thursday, Dec 3, 2020 SMS Virtual classes Virtual Confirmation Prep 7&8 gr. continues throughout month

8:00AM Daily Mass Church

Friday, Dec 4, 2020 SMS Virtual classes

8:00AM Daily Mass Church
8:30AM First Friday Holy Hour Church

Saturday, Dec 5, 2020 2nd Sunday of Advent

10:00AM Caregivers Support Grp. via Zoom
3:30-4:30PM Confessions Church
5:00PM Mass Church
6:15PM Blessing of Manger & Tree Lighting
Ceremony Outside Church

Sunday, Dec 6, 2020 2nd Sunday of Advent

10:00AM Mass Church
10:30AM Communion outside front doors
10:30AM RCIA de Porres Rm
12:00PM Mass Church
12:30PM Communion outside front doors

Bulletin Article Requests:

If you would like to send information to be included in our bulletin, please email it to bulletin@stmatthias.net by **6 pm, Wednesday, 10 days before the intended issue** (earlier for holiday weekends). Approved content is published on a space-available basis.

From the Pastor & the Pastoral Staff

"We are the clay and you the potter. We are all the work of your hands." — Is 64:7



This Bible verse is one of my favorites. The year, 2020, has certainly impacted all of us severely. We find ourselves in a place very different from where we expected to be: Thanksgiving without family, hybrid or virtual classes, lost jobs, ongoing fear and worry, staying away from those we love, even suddenly losing friends and loved ones. All of these were unexpected. Is this really our world now? It is as if the virus has been thrown onto the potter's wheel as we, the clay, were being shaped. Yet God, the master potter, continues to work with us, continues to shape us into who we can become, despite the challenges all around us.

In his September 25, 2020 address to the United Nations General Assembly, Pope Francis noted that "We never emerge from a crisis just as we were. We come out either better or worse." And this is where the master potter comes in. We know we will be shaped into something different from what we anticipated. But we can cooperate to have this be something better than we would have been.

So we continue forward, relying more heavily on God's help and guidance. We continue forward into a future that is much more uncertain than we would prefer. And we try, as best we can, to cooperate with the potter and the re-shaping of ourselves and of our entire world.

At St. Matthias, we have adapted and we continue to adapt. We join our community for Mass on YouTube, or perhaps in-person if we are able. We attend classes at the school while wearing masks and staying apart from our friends. We participate in meetings and ministries on Zoom and connect with each other electronically. And we discover small blessings along the way. Our homebound parishioners are now able to pray with our entire community at Mass every day through our livestreaming. We discover the blessing of being able to see every person's face all at once on our Zoom screen when we meet as a small group. And we meet new friends from around the world who stumble onto our parish online, and participate with us in different ways.

Rather than skipping some of our favorite traditions, we modify them to work in our current environment. Our Giving Tree this year will use virtual gift tags. We are again invited to purchase specific gifts, as is our tradition, but instead of wrapping them and bringing them to church, we will each ship them directly to the participating agencies. (See page 9.)

Our #GivingTuesday campaign on December 1 will again prioritize the needs of our school children and teachers. With an increased awareness of the importance of "smart technology", we will focus on raising funds to provide Interactive Technology Displays for our classrooms. (See page 8.)

Last Spring, after several weeks of virtual learning, our son told me, "Mom, I never thought I would say this. But I want to go back to school." Trying to take a long view of the situation, I encouraged him to remember this time, so that someday, he would have an answer when his grandchildren would ask him, "What was it like living through The Pandemic?" We joked that they would never believe that he actually wanted to go back to school.

Taking the long view again, it is good for us to ponder what we will be like and how we will be different in the distant future. Will we be better or worse as a result of having lived through this? At each turn of the wheel, the master potter is inviting us to choose.

Ana V. Kelly, Pastoral Associate

Readings for the Week

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

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

Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; Mt 15:29-37

Thursday: Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1 and 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 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14; 2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8

*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.

Mass Intentions for the Week*

| | | |
|-------------------------|---------|--|
| 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 |
| Monday, Nov 30 | 8:00AM | Goerge Brewer, by Vincent & Nancy Inzano |
| Tuesday, Dec 1 | 8:00AM | Martene Volpe, by Vinnie, Ethel & Mary |
| Wednesday, Dec 2 | 8:00AM | Craig Slyman, by Mom & Dad |
| Thursday, Dec 3 | 8:00AM | Frieda Helmstetter, by Marge & Steven Richards |
| Friday, Dec 4 | 8:00AM | Michael Nicholas Paredes, by Jennifer Paredes |
| Saturday, Dec 5 | 5:00PM | Paul & Maureen Doyle Endres, by Isabelle & John Baker |
| Sunday, Dec 6 | 8:00AM | Intention of Parishioners |
| | 10:00AM | Jack Sullivan, by Mary & family |
| | 12:00PM | Kenneth C. Luke, by Dad & brother |
| | 5:30PM | Spiritual Intention of Sadie Calender, by Anne Marie Francis |

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
Millicent 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
Russel Mulholland
Baby Ezran Natural
Patricia Nese
Cassian Ndukwu
Danny Ongchango
Julianne Opydike
Mafalda Parafioriti
Julie Parks
Jim Pettit
Annie Powderly

Samantha Renaud
Aubree Rezac
Darius Rutashobya
Rudy Schaar
Maria Schwenzer
Lena Sciotto
Sr. Mary Amata Shina, OSF
Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF
Encarnacion (Gina) So
Alessandro Spagnolo
Dennis Stuewe
Juan Ulerio
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...

-"His mercy endures forever." Chronicles

Sunday Reflections



Smile with Your Family



A young man agreed to baby-sit one night so a single mother could have an evening out. At bedtime he sent the youngsters upstairs to bed and settled down to watch football. One child kept creeping down the stairs, but the young man kept sending him back to bed. At 9pm the doorbell rang, it was the next-door neighbor, Mrs. Brown, asking whether her son was there. The young man brusquely replied, "No." Just then a little head appeared over the banister and shouted, "I'm here, Mom, but he won't let me go home!" 😊

Little Johnny's kindergarten class was on a field trip to their local police station where they saw pictures, tacked to a bulletin board, of the 10 most wanted men. One of the youngsters pointed to a picture and asked if it really was the photo of a wanted person. "Yes," said the policeman. "The detectives want him very badly." So Little Johnny asked, "Why didn't you keep him when you took his picture?" 😊

Quotes on patience: I am extraordinarily patient, provided I get my own way in the end. (Margaret Thatcher)

You can learn many things from children... how much patience you have for instance. (Franklin Jones)

Patience is the quality you admire in the driver behind you, but can't stand in the driver who's in front of you. (Anonymous)



Parenting Tune-Up

Advent starts today! Although too often considered as the Christmas shopping season, our Church reminds us that it is a time to "Be watchful! Be alert!" (Mark 13:33) During this Advent, each day ask your child to practice at least one kind, joyful, or positive act. Speak about it at the end of the day and give encouragement.

Marriage Tune-Up

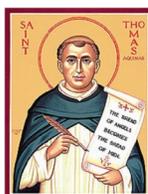
"Be watchful! Be alert!" (Mark 13:33) Advent has begun. Each day try to notice one act of helpfulness or kindness that your beloved does. Don't take each other for granted.



An Advent Project

Every morning when we get up, let us pray, "Lord, show me someone today with whom I may share your love, mercy and forgiveness." Mother Teresa of Calcutta 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 will receive an extra gift: Christ himself. Let us remember the saying of St. Thomas Aquinas: "Without God, I can't. Without me, He won't."



"You may Judge my Ability as a Salesman"

Years ago, when 20th Century Fox advertised in the New York papers to fill a vacancy in its sales force, one applicant replied: "I am at present selling furniture at the address below. You may judge my ability as a salesman if you will stop in to see me at any time, pretending that you are interested in buying furniture. When you come in, you can identify me by my red hair. And I should have no way of identifying you. Such salesmanship as I exhibit during your visit, therefore, will be no more than my usual workday approach and not a special effort to impress a prospective employer." From among more than 1500 applicants, this guy got the job.

Jesus wants us to be ready like that man. We don't know when He's coming back, so we should be prepared all the time, one day at a time. We need to focus on our present duties. But we are so future-oriented that we often forget the present entirely. We spend too much time trying to protect ourselves against future misfortunes. We save for a rainy day, to get married, to buy a home, to send the children to college, to retire in comfort and to protect ourselves against future misfortunes. But we need to be more spiritually wakeful and prepare for our eternal life because we can die any day, and that is the end of the world for us. Let this Advent season be the time of such a preparation for us.

Sunday Reflections

Advent Sunday Reflection: Walk Slow... Enjoy Every Moment

"Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come." Mark 13: 33-37

Every morning, she goes for a walk with her two daughters. The first half goes quickly. The three walk the third-of-a-mile up the road to the older daughter's kindergarten at the end of their street. She hugs her five-year-old goodbye and sends her on her way.

Then she and her four-year-old, Poesy, turn around and start back. The return trip home lasts as long as Mom is willing to let it. They cover the same third-of-a-mile, but the pace is slower and the path meandering, as Poesy stops to probe the mysteries along the way: investigating a storm drain, examining a fallen scarlet maple leaf, scaling a water puddle (missing the first couple of attempts). She discovers a twig and leaf and excitedly shows her mother how, together, they make a flag. "Mommy! Look!" Poesy cries as she points to a beautiful rainbow hovering over the mist created by a water sprinkler. Her attention constantly revolves, to a dog one second, to a feather the next, then to an eye-catching pebble. Mom hides her impatience. There's a great deal to be done today. Both have places to be. While Mom cherishes this time with her daughter, she's aware that the clock is ticking.

But still . . . "Watching her, I feel the rush of time," she writes, "and I realize just how soon these walks of ours will end. Come September she will be in kindergarten; I will leave both girls at school and walk on my own. Once again I'll travel as quickly as I want to, but the appeal of that has now faded away. These slow morning rambles with my four-year-old — the new day glimmering around us, the sun warm on our backs — are the most fleeting kind of pleasure. I'll try to remember, later, what she did and said, but the feeling of the moment, sweet and simple, will be gone. "I stop walking, looking over my shoulder for Poesy. When she gets to me, I reach down and take her hand."

On this First Sunday of Advent, Jesus urges us to appreciate what this mom comes to realize on her morning walk with her daughters: that life is precious, that our world changes, that our time is limited. Father Richard Rohr writes that faith and spirituality begin with "seeing." It's 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, 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, to find the true meaning and purpose of our lives in moments of compassion, forgiveness and generosity.



"Today, Sir, Today!"

Some years ago a tourist visited the Castle Villa Asconti on the shores of Lake Como in northern Italy. Only the old gardener opened the gates, and the visitor stepped into the garden, which was perfectly kept. The visitor asked when the owner was last there. He was told, "Twelve years ago." Did he ever write? No. Where did he get instructions? From his agent in Milan. Does the master ever come? No. "But, you keep the grounds as though your master were coming back tomorrow." The old gardener quickly replied, "Today, sir, today." A Christian watches and works as though the Master would return this very day.

Absentee land-owners and wayfaring masters were a common thing in Jesus' time. Such background info is important to understand today's parable.

The owners of large properties often lived elsewhere, leaving servants in charge of caring for and carrying on business as if the owners were still present. This kind of situation would be a test for the servants left in charge. Would they be faithful day by day, or would they wait until they heard the master was about to return and then quickly get things in order? The trouble was that often they didn't know when the land-owner would return. The absence of the master was a test.

The need for Christian alertness: Jesus illustrates the need for alertness and readiness by comparing the situation of his followers to that of a gate-keeper in a house when the owner was out of the country. Since the gate-keeper did not know when the owner of the house would return, "in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning," he must always be ready if he did not want the owner to find him asleep. In the same way, there is no reason for Christ's followers to be fearful, provided we are ready every day for Jesus' return. If we are awake and ready, the coming of the Son of Man is an event to be greeted with joy. Thus our whole life should be a preparation to meet the master.



Advent! Wake Up! But to What?

Do you remember the movie *Awakening*? Robert De Niro plays the part of a patient who, for thirty years, does not move or speak. A particularly, sensitive and enterprising doctor tries out some new theories and lo and behold, the patient begins to move around, talk and feel. For a brief period he returns to this world and announces to those amazed folks around him that he is back: "I have been away for quite some time.... now I am back." He becomes gradually aware of the love and concern that surrounds him and what is really alive inside of his heart and soul.

—It is never too late to wake up. Morning is when you wake up. Advent is a nice time to wake up. Wake up to give an account of your stewardship. Wake up into a time for giving and sharing, a time that we are called to be thankful and prepare our hearts for the Christ child. Wake up and open your eyes in Faith to see God present and active in your life and in your world.

Sunday Reflections

Wesley & Luther

Once John Wesley (founder of the Methodist Church) was asked what he would do if he knew this was his last day on earth. He replied, "At 4 o'clock I would have some tea. At 6 I would visit Mrs. Brown in the hospital. Then at 7:30 I would conduct a mid-week prayer service. At 10 I would go to bed and would wake up in glory." When Martin Luther (founder of the Lutheran Church) was asked what he would do on the day of Jesus' return, he said he would go out and plant a tree. Our text tells us that Christ expects each of us to be about our work so that when he comes, he will find us in gainful and constructive employment, taking care of the world as his trustees.

There is work to be completed. Like the parents who trust their teenagers to look after the house while they are away, or like the teacher who leaves the classroom after giving her students plenty of work to do, Jesus trusts us to carry out his work until he returns. There is the work of witnessing to Jesus in our daily lives. There is the work to be done in our families, our schools, our local churches and our community. There is the work of caring for those who are hurting and have needs. There is the work of guiding and leading others, pointing people to the comforting message of the Gospel. There is the work of living "lives holy and dedicated to God," "doing our best to be pure and faultless in God's sight and to be at peace with him"

Celebrating Our Faith: Liturgy

Now is the Time to Sign up for Christmas Mass at St. Matthias

This year we are asking parishioners at St. Matthias to sign up for Christmas Mass 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 24th

2:00 pm (newly added with permission from the Diocese)

4:00 pm

6:30 pm

Midnight

December 25th

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 for 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



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.

October Baptisms

The Catholic Community of St. Matthias welcomes the following children who were baptized in October, 2020. 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.

Caiden Luis Crespo Luciana García Makoa Gabriel Mabutas

Lydia Claire Marino Derek Colton Vicencio Micaela Hope Banat Villanuevo



Oplatki Christmas Wafers Oplatki Christmas wafers are available in the Parish Office. If you would like to receive these wafers, please come to the Parish Office during regular hours.

Discovering God: Formation

Substitute Teachers Needed for SMS



Saint Matthias School is looking to augment their teacher substitute list. A minimum of sixty college credits are required for all candidates. If you or someone you know is available Monday through Thursday from 7:30 to 2:30 and/or Friday from 7:30 to 12:30, please contact Joseph Gidaro, jgidao@stmatthiasnj.org, or Diane Flanagan, dflanagan@stmatthiasnj.org at the school.

Being Good Stewards

Stewardship Reflection Nov 29, 2020 First Sunday of Advent

"Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time will come." - Mark 13:33

We all take things for granted. In particular, we take time for granted. We make our lives too busy. We plan our time, our days, weeks, months, even years in advance. Remember, our time on earth is a gift. None of us knows how long we will be here. Start today and begin thanking God for each and every day. Take time in silence, every day, and listen to how God is calling you right now to help build His kingdom on earth.

Reflexiones — 29 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.

On Dec. 1, 2020, "Giving Tuesday"

Join St. Matthias'

"Smart Tech for Smart Kids" Campaign



Help us purchase 3 Interactive Technology Displays for Middle School and Lower School classrooms.

Each one costs \$4,000. Any amount you contribute will help!

If you decide to donate the full amount for a Display, we will be happy to add a plaque with your name or dedication on it.

Visit our site:

www.stmatthias.net/GT2020

Snap a picture of this flyer!



#GIVING TUESDAY

Being Good Stewards

Collection Information Will Be Included Next Week

Due to the holiday closing at our printer, we have to send bulletins early to be printed. This is why there is no collection information in this bulletin. The collection information will be added next week.

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

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.

Caring for Others

A Joint Service Project St. Matthias 6-12 Youth Ministry, GIFT Families, Confirmation Prep And All Who Want to Join In!

GIFT BAGS OF WARMTH AND Joy Hats, Gloves and Scarves FOR FAMILIES SERVED BY UNITY SQUARE NEW BRUNSWICK
Sunday, December 13 Between 9:30AM-1PM



Drop off Gift bags by shed/garage building at rear of St. Matthias Parking lot!
Because of the pandemic all items must be in gift bags only!
Questions or to help? Dee Nann, dnann@stmatthias.net

Unity Square is a community organizing and social concerns initiative of Catholic Charities, Diocese of Metuchen. Their efforts focus on a target neighborhood of about 6,000 low-income residents of New Brunswick. Most neighborhood families are working poor, and have young children. Especially because of the pandemic these items were suggested as a need for many within the community. All gift bags will be donated directly to **Unity Square**.

2020 GIVING TREE – COVID-19 Edition



A symbolic Giving Tree has been placed in the Church as a reminder of our continuing support for those less fortunate. In an effort to keep the staff and our volunteers safe, we will not be physically collecting gifts this year. Instead, we are requesting all gifts be shipped directly to the organizations **by December 20, 2020. ABSOLUTELY NO GIFTS ARE TO BE LEFT IN CHURCH NOR BROUGHT TO THE PARISH OFFICE. WE WILL NOT BE MAKING ANY DELIVERIES.**

To participate this year, please go to www.stmatthias.net/social-concerns/giving-tree

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). If you have any questions, please call Joanne Diana (732)873-8521 or send an email to j-diana@comcast.net. Thank you!

Caring for Others

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: msherwood@stmatthias.net 732-828-1400 for Zoom details if you are interested in joining us.

Connecting with Our Local Community

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.

ONLINE Advent Day of Reflection



Unwrapping the Gifts of Advent: Peace, Courage, Beauty & Hope

December 12, 2020 9:30AM
Please 'zoom in' 10 minutes early
so everyone gets settled before 9:30

OFFERING: \$60

There will be **4 sessions** throughout the day with pauses between each session, including time for lunch.

This virtual retreat day provides a time to pause amid the Christmas rush and reflect on four gifts Advent wishes to give us: Peace, Courage, Beauty, and Hope. Using scripture, music, storytelling, and humor, Sister Melannie will lead us in a day of prayer, input session, personal reflection time, and sharing.

To register for this retreat please follow the link:

<https://www.stfrancisctr.org/sfcr-store/p/unwrapping-the-gifts>

St. Francis Center for Renewal

395 Bridle Path Rd., Bethlehem, PA 18017

Phone: 610-867-8890

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 Linderoth
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

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).