



**St. Matthias Parish Office:**  
 Open Mon-Thu: 8:30-5:30PM; Fri: 8:30-5PM  
 168 JFK Boulevard, Somerset, NJ 08873  
 732-828-1400, fax: 732-828-0866  
[www.stmatthias.net](http://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](https://youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ)

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

For all Parish emails, add @stmatthias.net

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 Mike Lanyi, *Sacristan*  
 Dolores R. Nann, *Pastoral Associate for Faith Formation*, [dnann](mailto:dnann@stmatthias.net)  
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## THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS

### SUNDAY, OCT 10, 2021 – Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

#### Highlights—This Week

Sr. Mary Vertucci—**TODAY**, Oct. 10, after 12 noon Mass. See pg. 7

St. Matthias School Open House (in person!) on Friday, October 15. Help us spread the word. See pg. 8.

**Monday, Oct 11, 2021,**  
 Columbus Day & Indigenous Peoples' Day. SMS & Parish Ofc. Closed. No Mass.

**Bereavement Support Group—**  
 Deadline to sign up: **Friday, Oct. 15.**  
 See page 10.

**Christmas Tree Deadline: This Thursday, October 14.** See below.



## Only 4 Days Left to Sponsor a Christmas Tree!

Help us fill the field with beautiful Christmas trees. And then join us on **Saturday, December 4, 2021**, following the 5:00 PM Mass, for the blessing and lighting of the trees. Invite your family, friends and neighbors to visit this beautiful, peace-filled Christmas scene every night from **6:00 PM until midnight**, through the Feast of the Epiphany on January 6, 2022.

The donation to sponsor one of these beautiful trees is \$200. To sponsor a tree, go to [www.stmatthias.net/tree](http://www.stmatthias.net/tree) and complete the [Christmas Tree-2021 form](#), return it, with a check made payable to “St. Matthias Church”, to the Parish Office **by OCTOBER 14**. If you would prefer to pay online, please use our [Parish Giving – Christmas Tree form](#), also available on that webpage. (Note: Families or groups may join together to sponsor a tree.) We need to pre-order all trees at one time, so **ALL TREES must be sponsored**

**NO LATER THAN THIS THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14.**



**122 trees sponsored so far!**



If you shop on Amazon, please help us by starting at:  
[www.stmatthias.net/Amazon](http://www.stmatthias.net/Amazon)

## This Week at St. Matthias From the Pastor's Desk

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

### The Church is open for individual prayer

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

### Sunday, Oct 10, 2021 Fall into Faith Groups Begin

8:00AM Mass Church  
10:00AM Mass Church  
10:00AM 1st Reconciliation Prep. Mass, Classrms. & St. John XXIII Rm  
12:00PM Mass Church  
1:00PM Meet & Greet Sr. Mary Vertucci John XXIII Rm

### Monday, Oct 11, 2021, St. John XXIII, Pope Columbus Day & Indigenous Peoples' Day SMS & Parish Ofc. Closed No Mass

### Tuesday, Oct 12, 2021,

8:00AM Daily Mass Church  
7:30PM SMDP Racial Justice Initiative Mtg Zoom

### Wednesday, Oct 13, 2021

8:00AM Communion Service, Deacon Ron Caimi Church  
9:30AM Prayer Group-Holy Spirit de Porres Rm  
7:00PM SMDP Monthly Mtg. Zoom  
7:30PM Folk Group Rehearsal Church

### Thursday, Oct 14, 2021, St. Callistus I, Pope & Martyr

8:00AM Communion Service, Deacon Ron Caimi Church  
3:30PM Children's Choir gr. 3 & 4 rehearsal Church  
4:15PM Children's Choir 5th-8th gr. rehearsal Church  
7:30PM Sunday 10AM Choir Rehearsal Church

### Friday, Oct 15, 2021, St. Teresa of Jesus, Doctor of the Church

8:00AM Daily Mass Church

### Saturday, Oct 16, 2021, St. Hedwig, Religious, St. Margaret Mary

10:00AM Secular Franciscans de Porres Rm  
3:30PM Sacrament of Reconciliation Church  
5:00PM Mass Church

### Sunday, Oct 17, 2021

8:00AM Mass Church  
10:00AM Mass Church  
10:30AM RCIA Parish Office  
12:00PM Mass Church

#### Bulletin Article Requests:

If you would like to send information to be included in our bulletin, please email it to [bulletin@stmatthias.net](mailto:bulletin@stmatthias.net) by 12 Noon, WEDNESDAY, 10 days before the intended issue (earlier for holiday weekends). Approved content is published on a space-available basis.

Dear Friends,

We, the priests of the Diocese of Metuchen, will gather in Spring Lakes, NJ, for the annual convocation this Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. It is a special time for the priests and bishop to pray together, reflect on our priesthood, share the challenges we face and enjoy priestly fellowship. This is a great opportunity for us to come together and experience a sense of unity, even though we're all different. There will be enrichment sessions with a guest speaker. We will participate in many other events such as Holy Hour, Mass, Vespers, socials, dinner, etc.

Both Msgr. Seamus Brennan and I will be attending this gathering of priests. That means there will be no Mass in our church this coming Wednesday and Thursday. Thank you to our senior Deacon Ron Caimi who has graciously agreed to conduct a Communion Service at 8 am on these two days. This can be a reminder to us about the pastoral reality of priests' shortage that we are facing as a nation.

During my nationwide travels as a presenter for RENEW International to promote small groups of faith sharing, I have come across many priests who were pastors of two or more parishes. The highest percentages of such multiple parish pastoring are found in states like Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota, where over 50% of the priests serve more than one parish. The lowest percentages (less than 10%) were in New Jersey, the District of Columbia, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and Nevada. Multi-pastoring parishes will not be having weekday Masses on a regular basis. Here at St. Matthias, and in New Jersey in general, we have been very blessed to have the gift of daily Mass for those who wish to attend. We thank God for this blessing.

But we, as a Catholic Community, have to address the problem of the priest shortage. How are we going to continue our sacramental availability? Who is going to take responsibility? It cannot be just left in the hands of church authorities. Or it just can't be left to mere prayers for an increase in vocations to priesthood, diaconate and religious life, though prayer is essential as Jesus himself said: "*ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.*" (Matthew 9:38). We need to do more, especially to help our people in the pews understand what is happening, challenging them to fully live out their baptismal call, and providing formation for them to participate more fully in the church's mission.

I am very happy that our parish lay leadership has initiated the St. Matthias Vocations Ministry. Its leaders have been making efforts to bring to us the understanding that the primary vocation for us all is to be holy. As we respond to that call to holiness in our own calling, we need to be on the lookout for young men whom we could encourage to consider vocations to the priesthood. As you must have already heard or read in the bulletin, our Vocations ministry is planning a retreat on November 13. We will have reflections from a priest, deacon, nun, married and single persons. I invite us all to consider spending this half-day to enrich our own vocation to be holy and encourage one another as we need to heed the call of Jesus.

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Orapankal



## Readings for the Week

**Monday:** Rom 1:1-7; Ps 98:1bcde, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; Lk 11:29-32

**Tuesday:** Rom 1:16-25; Ps 19:2-3, 4-5; Lk 11:37-41

**Wednesday:** Rom 2:1-11; Ps 62:2-3, 6-7, 9; Lk 11:42-46

**Thursday:** Rom 3:21-30; Ps 130:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6ab; Lk 11:47-54

**Friday:** Rom 4:1-8; Ps 32:1b-2, 5, 11; Lk 12:1-7

**Saturday:** Rom 4:13, 16-18; Ps 105:6-7, 8-9, 42-43; Lk 12:8-12

**Sunday:** Is 53:10-11; Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22; Heb 4:14-16; Mk 10:35-45 or 10:42-45

## Mass Intentions for the Week

<b>Saturday, Oct 9</b>	5:00PM	Juliana M. Bartolome, by Lourdes Ramos
<b>Sunday, Oct 10</b>	8:00AM	Milton Poulas, by Phillip & Freda Russo
	10:00AM	Brett Romano, by Ann Kessler
	12:00PM	Stanley Molinaro, by Your Friends in Somerset
	(5:30PM)	Intention of Parishioners
<b>Monday, Oct 11</b>	8:00AM	No Mass (Columbus Day)
<b>Tuesday, Oct 12</b>	8:00AM	Deceased Members of the Liaukus Family, by The Klimik Family
<b>Wednesday, Oct 13 Communion Service</b>	8:00AM	Harold Wolkoff, by Tom Fullerton
<b>Thursday, Oct 14 Communion Service</b>	8:00AM	Emma Gilroy, by Ellin & Gil Ossandon
<b>Friday, Oct 15</b>	8:00AM	Godfrey Roberts, by Purita Aligaen
<b>Saturday, Oct 16</b>	5:00PM	Angela Frigiola, by Jane Clites
<b>Sunday, Oct 17</b>	8:00AM	Cynthia Louise Italiano, by The Grippo Family
	10:00AM	Stanley Molinaro, by The St. Matthias School
	12:00PM	Trineo Ona Aala, by The Pacu Staff
	(5:30PM)	Intention of Parishioners

## Pray for those who are sick...

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

Carolyn Banghart	Mary Dolan	Margaret Menendez	Sr. Mary Amata Shina, OSF
Maria Barreiro	William Dolphin	Gail Miranda	Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF
Virginia Briggs	<a href="#">John Farkas</a>	Dave Moynihan	Catherine Sloomaker
Marie Brody	Claudia Gemgnani	Baby Ezran Natural	Encarnacion (Gina) So
Thomas Burns	Rose Gergely	Patricia Nese	Alessandro Spagnolo
Tara Capatosto	Rose Gessner	Danny Ochangco	Dennis Stuewe
Ellen & Frank Catalina	Mary Gidaro	Jim Pettit	Jeff Tami
Sean Clancy	Jill Gordon-Szabo	Christina Pietrowiak	Maureen Tropea
Barbara Coan	Sloopy Hoffman	Oscar Poisler	Fred & Carolyn Vanmiddlesworth
Tom Current	Baby Isla-Rose Huffman	<a href="#">Baby Griffin Rademaker</a>	Eulalia Villanueva
Joseph DeFrancesco	Kathleen Lagenbacher	Kevin Reavey	Judi Wojna
Cenon DeGuzman	Al & Rose Larangeira	Chris Retz	Mark T. Worthington
Mary Ellen Delaney	The Litrakis Family	Ann Ritchick	
Alaina Derecola	Al Maglio	Angela Romanek	Everyone who is ill with Covid-19
Surya & Juliany Dharma	Sue Maglio-Alese	Rudy Schaar	...and for all who are homebound,
Jim Dolan	Beatrice May	Maria Schwenzer	elderly, in nursing care, or living with chronic illness

## Pray for those who have died...

—“His mercy endures forever.” Chronicles

Charles Connelly  
Madeline Tarantino

## From the Pastoral Staff

### The Wisdom of God

Our first and second readings this Sunday inspire us not to deem riches in comparison to wisdom. As well, the Word of God discerns reflections and thoughts of the heart. One might say, "What does this mean?" or "How are these two exhortations related?" Together these readings may be reminding us that the Word of God is of primary importance in our lives because 1) we receive and gain wisdom from it (the quality of having experience, intelligence, and prudence) and 2) it is God alone who knows what we think and what lies in our hearts.

The Word of the Lord and the wisdom therein is worth much more than any riches. We are often told, "with age comes wisdom." As an older adult, I would agree with this. Our life experiences, and the decisions/choices made, afford us the understanding of being wiser, or we know better now by the mistakes we have made. Pope Francis writes, "It is not simply human wisdom, the fruit of knowledge and experience? The wisdom the Holy Spirit grants us is the grace of being able to see things through God's eyes. It is seeing the world, situations, problems, everything, with the eyes of God. And obviously this derives from intimacy with God, from the relationship of a son with his Father."

There are times when we may not use the gift of the Holy Spirit as we ought to. We may see things through our own

eyes, especially when we are jealous, hateful, derisive, or generally just mean. These are the times we need closer intimacy with God and the grace that relationship brings. Losing sight of the Word of the Lord blinds us to what we really are: sons and daughters in His image and likeness. We are His and His alone, and He motivates us to go and share the Good News with the poor, the sick, the lonely, the abused, the addicted, etc. However, before we can go out of this church and really be His image with His heart, we must look around here and make peace with our brothers and sisters whom we do not always treat properly and see with the eyes of God. But God really knows what is in our hearts and He gives us the wisdom to forgive. Forgiveness means allowing love to triumph over jealousy, hate, derision, and meanness. Jesus tells us in Matthew's Gospel that in order to be forgiven, humans must forgive others. Catholics must forgive the sins of others in order for God to forgive them their sins.

In conclusion, this fundamental wisdom from Senior Pastor Andrew Simwanza from the Chrisma Life Church in Zambia truly sums up this week's reflection, and the way we ought to live: "Actions speak louder than words, but the heart speaks louder than both."



Joseph C. Gidaro  
SMS Vice Principal

## Reflect



### Smile with Your Family



A down to earth prayer: The parish church was badly in need of repair. The pastor called a special meeting to raise funds and explained the need of money for plastering the roof and supporting pillars and for carrying out other items of repair. He invited the congregation to pledge contributions. After a brief pause, Mr. Murphy, the richest man in the parish, volunteered to give 50 dollars. Just as he sat down, a hunk of plaster fell from the ceiling on his head. He jumped up, looked terribly startled and said: "I meant to say 500 dollars." The congregation stood silent and stunned. Then a lone voice cried out from the back: "Oh Lord, hit him again!" 😊

Wonder why 😊

- ◇ Why do people keep running over a thread a dozen times with their vacuum cleaner, then reach down, pick it up, examine it, then put it down to give the vacuum one more chance?
- ◇ Why is it that no plastic bag will open from the end on your first try?
- ◇ How do those dead bugs get into those enclosed light fixtures?
- ◇ Why is it that whenever you attempt to catch something that's falling off the table you always manage to knock something else over?

### Marriage Tune-Up



It is natural to want stuff - food, clothing, shelter are necessities. Fashionable clothes, eating out, and electronics are not evil. BUT, how do you reconcile these desires with "How hard it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" (Mark 10:23) How much is enough? Decide at least one thing to give away today.

### Parenting Tune-Up



Children make mistakes. That's natural. Of course you forgive them. For example, your older children may promise to never drink and drive again. Believe them. But this doesn't mean you enable a teen by being blind to reality. Forgive but verify.

## Sunday Reflection: "Treasure in Heaven" doesn't come Cheap!

*Jesus, looking at the rich young man, loved him and said to him, "You are lacking one thing. Go, sell what you have, and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." At that statement his face fell, and he went away sad, for he had many possessions. Mark 10: 17-30*

**A couple came before Jesus:** "Good teacher, we have raised two beautiful children. We cared for them, taught them and loved them through all the twists and turns of childhood. We got them through college and they are now on their own. What must we do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus looked at the couple and loved them. He said to them, "Go, use your new freedom to help other families struggling with all the issues you struggled with. Be a source of wisdom and guidance for them as they raise their families. Then come, follow me." And the couple's faces fell, because their flight to the Bahamas was beginning to board.

**The CEO of a large corporation came before Jesus:** "Good teacher, my company employs hundreds of people. We conduct our business honestly and ethically. We meticulously keep every employment, safety and environmental regulation - even though it costs us a lot of money. What must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus looked at the CEO and loved him. He said to him, "Go, and redirect the greater share of your profits to providing for your employees. Take the lead in the responsible care of the environment by businesses like yours. Make your company a model of ethical advertising and consumer protection. Then come, follow me." The CEO's face fell, because he knew this would never fly with his board.

**A politician came before Jesus:** "Good teacher, I serve my district 24-7. I listen to the voters and act in their best interests. I've been a dependable and consistent vote for policies and programs that will guarantee the future of our city and state. What must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus looked at the politician and loved him. He said to him, "Go, support an initiative that will be unpopular with your voters, which may cost you your office, but will benefit the poor, the powerless, and the vulnerable. Then come, follow me." And the politician's face fell, because it was an election year.

**A teenager came before Jesus:** "Good teacher, I study hard in school. I get good grades. I have a part-time job after school. I'm on the basketball team and play in the band. I try to be a good daughter and sister. I'm working hard to get into a good college. What must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus looked at the teen and loved her. "Go, befriend the student in your school who is alone. Give your mom and dad a break by taking on some responsibility around the house. Give time to a charitable work of your church or community service agency. Then come, follow me." And the teenager's face fell, because her schedule was full.

**We know how the rich young man feels in today's Gospel. Yes, Jesus asks everything of us as the cost of being his disciple - but Jesus asks of us only what we have, not what we don't have. Each one of us possesses talents and resources, skills and assets that we have been given by God for the work of making the kingdom of God a reality here and now. Authentic discipleship demands more than token contributions and the rote following of rituals and traditions; our baptism into the life of Christ compels us to focus every dimension of our lives on the things of God. To be the disciple of Christ we seek to become, means a reordering of our priorities, a restructuring of our days to make time for the things of God. May we return to God the gifts he has given us in order to embrace eternity in the time to come.**

## "... Give Me Back my Songs..."

The French have a story about a millionaire, who spent his days counting his gold coins. Beside his palace was a poor cobbler who spent his days singing as he repaired people's shoes. The joyful singing irritated the rich man. One day he decided to give some gold coins to the cobbler. At first the cobbler was overjoyed, and he took the coins and hid them. But then he worried about the coins and was constantly going back to make sure the coins were still there. Then he worried in case someone had seen him and might steal the coins. Consequently, he ceased to sing. Then one day he realized that he had ceased to sing because of the gold coins. He took them back to the rich man and said, "Take back your coins and give me back my songs." **Inordinate attachment to riches can take away our freedom and joy.** (Gerry Pierse, *Detachment and Freedom*).

## Suicide is Directly Proportional to Wealth!!

Writer and Speaker Matthew Kelly notes that the suicide rate among teens and young adults has increased by 5,000 percent in the last fifty years. More troubling, it is becoming increasingly apparent that suicide is directly proportional to wealth. What does that mean? Studies reveal that the more money you have, the more likely you are to take your own life. Peter Kreeft captured the alarming reality in a recent article of his own: "The richer you are, the richer your family is, and the richer your country is, the more likely it is that you will find life so good that you will choose to blow your brains out." Economics, says Matthew Kelly, is clearly not a good measure of happiness. [Matthew Kelly, *The Rhythm of Life* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1999).] We know that. But how can we disentangle ourselves from the social pressures as well as the inner greed that causes us to fill our lives with material things?

Jesus has the answer in today's Gospel.

## Reflect



### Dear Abby... Dear Curious...

A few years ago, an interchange of letters appeared in a nationally syndicated newspaper column.

**Dear Abby:** We are not overly religious people, but we do like to go to Church once in a while. It seems to me that every time we turn around, we are hit for money. I thought religion was free. I realize that churches have to have some money, but I think it is getting to be a racket. Just what do Churches do with all their money?

Curious in North Jersey.

Abby wrote back,

**Dear Curious:** Even priests, ministers and rabbis must eat. Since they work full-time at their tasks, their Churches must support them. Staff and musicians must also be paid. Buildings must be maintained, heated, lighted and beautified. Custodial staff members must eat and feed their families. Most Churches engage in philanthropic work (aid to the needy, missions, and education); hence, they have their financial obligations. Even orchids, contrary to folklore, do not live on air. Churches can't live on air either. Religions, like water, may be free, but when they pipe it to you, you've got to help pay for the piping. And the piper. [Abigail Van Buren, "Religions need money too, for Heaven's sake," *The Scranton Tribune* (30 March 1994) C-2.]

### The Success Syndrome

Harvard Medical School psychologist Steven Berglas says in his book *The Success Syndrome*, that individuals who "suffer" from success have arrogance and a sense of aloneness. Insider-trader Dennis Levine was asked by his wife, why he needed the money from insider-trading, and he really had no answer. Levine says that when his income was \$100,000, he hungered for \$200,000, and when he was making \$1 million, he hungered for \$3 million. Berglas says that oddly enough people who found that \$200,000 did not make them happy, never asked themselves why they thought \$300,000 would make them happy.

Asked to prescribe a cure for the success syndrome, Berglas said, "What's missing in these people (Ivan Boesky, Michael Milken, Leona Helmsley), is deep commitment or religious activity that goes far beyond just writing a check to a charity." (James W. Fowler, *Becoming Adult, Becoming Christian*)

### October is Month of the Rosary!



October is dedicated as the Month of the Rosary because we celebrate the memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary each year on October 7. The word Rosary means "Crown of Roses," and each prayer in the Rosary is considered a flower presented to Mary. It was called the "Breviary of the common people" and the "Psalms of the Illiterate." The prayers we repeat are Biblical and hence "inspired," and the mysteries we meditate upon are taken from the lives of Jesus and Mary. The prayer "Our Father" was taught by Jesus himself. The "Hail Mary" is also rooted in the Scriptures. Its first half echoes the words of the Archangel Gabriel and those of Elizabeth, both addressed to Mary. The third prayer — the "Glory be to the Father" — ancient in its wording, surely reflects the unceasing prayer of adoration and praise found in the Book of Revelation. The various events in the lives of Jesus and Mary on which we meditate during the Rosary are expressions of the Paschal Mystery, that is, the suffering, death and Resurrection of Jesus, in which Mary shared.

### The Rosary Miracle of 1571

The first major Rosary miracle, and one of the most impressive, is the one that occurred at the Battle of Lepanto. This historic battle took place on 7 October 1571 when a fleet of the Holy League, a coalition of southern European Catholic maritime states, decisively defeated the main fleet of the Ottoman Empire in five hours of fighting at Lepanto, on the northern edge of the Gulf of Corinth, off western Greece. The defeat was attributed to the effect rosaries recited by the soldiers and their respective countrymen for the sole purpose of preventing the Muslim army invading Europe and destroying Christianity as they did in the Byzantine Empire. The Turks had nearly three times more troops. The winds were against the Christians and the conditions were poor. But after the rosary recitals by the soldiers ended, the winds aided the Christians who gained a colossal victory against the Turks. This was one of the greatest naval upsets in history from which the Turks never fully recovered and their threat in the Mediterranean Sea ended.



Following this victory, Pope Pius V established the Feast of Our Lady of Victories on October 7th. The name was later changed to its present form - the *Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary*. The purpose was to thank God for the victory of Christians over the Turks at Lepanto—a victory attributed to the praying of the rosary.

### A Pearl of Wisdom for this Week:

Beautiful Things Are Not Always Good But Good Things Are Always Beautiful.

## Reflect



### How Can You Trap a Monkey?

With a coconut, some roasted peanuts or rice and a string, tribal people living in the border of forests in Africa, Sri Lanka and India have been trapping monkeys for centuries. At one end of the coconut, they open a hole that is big enough to allow a monkey's hand to push inside. However, the hole is too small for a monkey to remove his hand when he makes a fist. On the other end of the coconut, a string is firmly attached and tied to a tree trunk. The coconut trap, with roasted peanuts or roasted rice inside, is placed along a monkey's trail, and the trapper hides behind bushes with a net. The monkey smells the peanuts and is attracted to them. He puts his hand through the hole and grabs a handful of peanuts, after which it is impossible for him to remove his hand since he is unwilling to let go of the peanuts. Suddenly the trapper casts the net over the monkey and traps it. We too are attracted by different "peanuts" that can be detrimental to our spiritual and physical pursuits.

*Today's Gospel presents a rich young man who wants eternal life but will not relinquish "the peanuts" of riches. Jesus real-*

*ized that this rich young man was shackled by his possessions. So he challenged the young man by listing those precepts of the Decalogue that deal with social and familial relations. Then Jesus told the young man that, if he wanted to be perfect, keeping the commandments was not enough. He challenged the young man to share his riches with the poor. "There is one thing lacking. Sell all you have and give to the poor, and then you will have real treasure. After that, come and be with me." Jesus thus makes it clear that a true follower who wants to possess eternal life must not only be a respectable gentleman who hurts nobody, but also someone who shares his riches, talents and other blessings with the less fortunate. Unfortunately, the rich man was unwilling to accept Jesus' idea that wealth is not something to be owned but rather something to be shared with others. Jesus asked him to break his selfish attachment to his wealth by sharing it. He makes the same challenge to each of us today. Our following of Jesus has to be totally and absolutely unconditional. Our attachment may not be to money or material goods, nor to another person, a job, our health, or our reputation. We must be ready to cut off any such attachment in order to become true Christian disciples, sharing our blessings with others.*

## Pray



### YOU ARE INVITED — Morning of Reflection!

The Saint Matthias Vocations Ministry Team invites you to a *Morning of Reflection* on **Saturday, November 13, 2021 at 8:30 am. The Morning of Reflection will take place in the**

**John XXIII room in the school building.**

During the *Morning of Reflection* attendees will hear a variety of speakers share their experience of responding to God's call to vocation. Attendees will have the opportunity to pray and reflect on how they are being called by God to vocation and how responding to that call can lead to fulfillment and

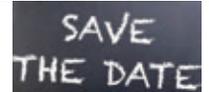
happiness.

A light continental breakfast will be provided at 8:30 am. Activities will get underway promptly at 9am. We will close out the morning with lunch at noon.

Please join us in what will be a very special morning. Attendance will be limited so please register early using this link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090544a9ac2dabf94-morning>

More information can be found on the St. Matthias web site at <https://www.stmatthias.net/vocations/> We look forward to seeing you on November 13th! Have a great day!



## Connect



### Meet & Greet—Sister Mary Vertucci

Please join fellow parishioners for a Meet & Greet **TODAY, Sunday October 10<sup>th</sup>** following the **Noon Mass**, in the **John XXIII Room**. Our special Guest from the Emusoi Centre in Tanzania is Sr. Mary Vertucci. She will be updating us on the ministry of the Emusoi Centre during COVID. Light refreshments; free will donation to help the Emusoi Centre. For more information, visit [www.emusoicentre.co.tz](http://www.emusoicentre.co.tz)

## Connect

### Do You Have Some Time to Volunteer?



Thank you to all the men and women of good will who have responded to the invitation to join a 'Pool of Volunteers'. Some are already giving their time to St. Matthias. We truly appreciate everything you are doing for St. Matthias. At this time, we would like to expand our volunteer group. We can use your help for simple tasks like attending the phones, filing, shredding, and entering data, etc., in the Parish Office. If anyone has some time to help out, (you can choose your own time of availability) please contact Mary Pat Burke-Grospin at [mpburke-grospin@stmatthias.net](mailto:mpburke-grospin@stmatthias.net)



Thank you to everyone who ever helped to sanitize the pews throughout the pandemic. Many hands made for a lighter load. Whether you helped sanitize after a Mass, a wedding, a funeral, or just after a moment of prayer, the entire community of St. Matthias appreciates your dedication to making sure the church was kept safe for all. Based on what we have learned about COVID-19 on surfaces, we are no longer in need of having volunteers stay to sanitize pews and chairs after each liturgy or prayer service in the church. **You guys are AWESOME!**

### St. Matthias Diversity Council Meeting — YOU ARE INVITED!

Monday, October 18, 7:00-8:00 PM via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9702883550>



Recognizing that our parish community is blessed with the richness of many ethnic cultures and backgrounds, we are in the process of re-visioning our Diversity Council, established approximately 15 years ago, focusing on what would be most helpful to our parish at this time. We invite all interested parishioners to join us in this endeavor and welcome your ideas and suggestions, as well as considering becoming a member. For more information, contact Sr. Marie Therese, [msherwood@stmatthias.net](mailto:msherwood@stmatthias.net)

## Learn



### All Are Welcome at the St. Matthias School Open House

We warmly invite interested students and families to attend our annual **Fall Open House THIS Friday, October 15, 2021**. Stop by our beautiful campus at 170 John F. Kennedy Blvd. in Somerset, NJ between the hours of **9 a.m. and 12 noon**.

This is a great opportunity to tour the campus, speak with student and parent ambassadors, see the classrooms in action, and ask questions. Hear from our Principal and Admissions Office how St. Matthias School could be just the place you've been looking for.

Visit [www.stmatthias.info](http://www.stmatthias.info) to sign up and to learn more about the Open House. To request more information or to schedule a separate tour or Student Shadow Day, call 732-828-1402 or email [mkosty@stmatthiasnj.org](mailto:mkosty@stmatthiasnj.org). So, stop by "Our Open House". The welcome mat is out.

*We can't wait to meet you!*

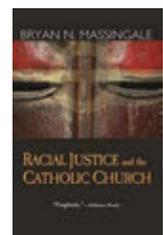
### St. Matthias Racial Justice Initiative Book Read

*"Racial Justice and the Catholic Church"* by **Bryan Massingale - 240 pages** Saturday, Oct. 30, 2021, 9:30AM—11:30AM Eastern Time

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2780458086>

Meeting ID: 278 045 8086

Purchase the book today from an online bookseller.



# Give (and Receive!)

## THANK YOU to Everyone Who Donated to Help Our School Purchase 17 Promethean Boards!

Thanks to your generosity, we raised the following amounts:

GivingTuesday:	\$ 31,410 (includes employer matching)
Day of Giving:	\$ 14,103
Read-a-thon:	\$ 20,267
SMS Families "give back" funds	\$ 6,488

Eight of the Promethean Boards were donated by individuals or families, and each one has a plaque with the dedication included. Students are now using the boards in every classroom from PreK4 through 8th grade, and also in the Media Center/John XXIII room.

We could not have provided a Promethean board for every classroom in one year without your generosity!

Ana Kelly



## Thank You from the Respect for Life Committee

A heartfelt thanks from the St. Matthias Respect for Life Committee for the outpouring of support for our Baby Feet Magnet project. We distributed all **200** magnets and received \$806 in donations for LifeNet to offset the cost of magnets they provide throughout the state. Special thanks to the volunteers and their families who gave their time to setup and distribute the magnets for our parishioners.



## The Super 50-50 is Back!

Our parish will draw the winning ticket for our yearly Super 50/50 on **Sunday, November 21, after the 10AM Mass** -- the Sunday before Thanksgiving. Tickets are available in the Parish Office and can be returned in an envelope in the collection basket, or by mailing them to St. Matthias Church, 168 John F. Kennedy Blvd, Somerset, NJ 08873. All tickets must be returned to the Parish Office **by 12 NOON, Thursday, November 18**.

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



## St. Matthias School Annual Fund

Participate in this year's School Annual Fund. You may donate via Parish Giving by clicking on "Donate" on our website [www.stmatthias.net](http://www.stmatthias.net) or write "SMS Annual Fund" on your check and place it in the collection basket or mail it to the Parish Office. Thank you for your generosity!

## Stewardship Reflection Oct 10, 2021

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

***"It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for one who is rich to enter the kingdom of God."* (Mark 10:25)**

Jesus uses tough language that we may not want to hear. But, we are all called to be generous with all of our gifts. Not just the ones we pick and choose, but all our gifts, and especially the one that means the most to us! That includes our time in prayer to God, our talent in participating in parish ministries and our treasure supporting our local parish and other charities.

## Reflexiónese — 10de octubre 2021

Domingo 28° del Tiempo Ordinario

***"Es más fácil que un camello pase por el ojo de una aguja que un rico entre en el reino de Dios". (Marcos 10:25)***

Jesús utiliza un lenguaje fuerte que no quisiéramos escuchar. Sin embargo, todos somos llamados a ser generosos con todos nuestros dones. No solo con los que señalamos y escogemos, sino con todos nuestros dones, ¡y especialmente con los de mayor significado para nosotros! Eso incluye nuestro tiempo de oración a Dios, nuestro talento para participar en los ministerios parroquiales y nuestros tesoros para apoyar nuestra iglesia local y otras caridades.

Stewardship Totals for Fiscal Year July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022				Last Year's Total
Current Month	In-Pew/Mail	Parish Giving	Weekly Total	Weekly Total
Week 14 - Oct. 3, 2021	\$20,669.00	\$14,890.25	<b>\$35,559.25</b>	\$22,124.68
			<b>Month-to-date Total</b>	<b>Oct Total Last Yr</b>
			<b>\$35,559.25</b>	\$130,082.52
			<b>Current Year-to-date Total</b>	<b>Year-to-date as of Oct 31, 2020</b>
			<b>\$358,162.91</b>	\$427,985.81

## Serve

### Vocations Ministry - Called to Build God's Kingdom — Oct 10, 2021

Pope Francis in "Gaudete et Exsultate" on the call to holiness in today's world says:

Could the Holy Spirit urge us to carry out a mission and then ask us to abandon it, or not fully engage in it, so as to preserve our inner peace? Yet there are times when we are tempted to

relegate pastoral engagement or commitment in the world to second place, as if these were "distractions" along the path to growth in holiness and interior peace. We can forget that "life does not have a mission, but is a mission"

Unfortunately too many times we say

to ourselves "Oh ... someone else will do it."

Through our Baptism we are called To life's mission ... To be disciples of Christ.

We can't say someone else will do it. No one else can do it for us. It's our life's mission.



### Bereavement Support Group Meetings—Last chance to sign up!

If you are experiencing the recent loss of a loved one, and are seeking emotional and spiritual support in dealing with your grief, you are invited to join our Seven-Week Bereavement Support Group which will be held VIA ZOOM on the following dates: **WED: OCT. 20, OCT. 27, NOV. 3, NOV. 10, NOV. 17; TUES: NOV. 23 and WEDNESDAY, DEC. 1. TIME: 7-8:30PM**

To register: [msherwood@st.matthias.net](mailto:msherwood@st.matthias.net) by **Oct. 15.**

## Local Community



### Catholic Social Teaching Series:

**October 11: Option for the Poor and Vulnerable**

**October 18: Life & Dignity of the Human Person**

7 pm—8 pm. (in-person and virtual)

**St. Francis Center for Renewal**, 395 Bridle Path Road, Bethlehem, PA. Register at: <https://www.stfranciscctr.org/upcoming-events/catholic-social-teaching-series>



### "Awareness & Discernment"

#### Weekend Retreat

(in-person and virtual)

**Loyola Jesuit Center**, 161 James Street,

Morristown, NJ, Email: [retreathouse@loyola.org](mailto:retreathouse@loyola.org)

Register at: <https://www.loyola.org/event/october-15-17-weekend-retreat>

### Circle of Life—A Ministry at Blessed Sacrament Parish, Martinsville, NJ Next meeting, Oct. 17 at 1:30PM

This is a social group for Widowed Men & Women of the Catholic Faith. Meetings are monthly on the 3rd Sunday. Call for information— Irma 908-722-3565 or Jack 732-752-3922.

## Parish Leadership

#### Parish Pastoral Council:

##### Co-Chairs:

Claudine Langrin

[ClaudMLangrin@gmail.com](mailto:ClaudMLangrin@gmail.com) and

Mary Beth Vetter-Purcell

[marybeth.vetter@gmail.com](mailto:marybeth.vetter@gmail.com)

#### Co-Secretaries:

Lorraine Farr and

Anne Marie Francis

Rose Peng

Frank Rees

Maria Tapia-Burch

John Taylor

Marilyn Wegg

Ana Kelly, Ex-Officio

Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio

#### Trustees:

Isaac Peng

Marge Richards

#### Parish Finance Council:

Joe Porter, Chair

[FinanceCouncil@stmatthias.net](mailto:FinanceCouncil@stmatthias.net)

Susan Klimcsak

Barry Dusault

Gwen Orłowski

Audrey Francis

Kester Hector

Joan Pritchard

Mary Pat Burke-Grospin,

Ex-Officio

Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio

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

**Parish Registration** — Welcome to St. Matthias! Please register on our website. [www.stmatthias.net/join-us](http://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 8<sup>th</sup> 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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