



St. Matthias Parish Office:

Monday - Friday, 8:30 am - 4:00 pm.
 168 JFK Boulevard, Somerset, NJ 08873
 732-828-1400, fax: 732-828-0866
www.stmatthias.net

Mass Schedule (in person):

Sat - 5PM, Sun - 8, 10 AM & 12 noon
 M/T/W/Th/F at 8:00AM

And also on our YouTube channel
youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ

St. Matthias School (SMS):

170 JFK Blvd., Somerset, NJ 08873
www.stmatthias.info 732-828-1402
 School Office Hours, Mon-Fri 8AM to 3PM.

For all Parish emails, add @stmatthias.net
Pastor: Rev Abraham Orapankal, [abraham](mailto:abraham@stmatthias.net)
Senior Priest: Msgr. Seamus Brennan, [sbrennan](mailto:sbrennan@stmatthias.net)
 Mary Pat Burke-Grospin, Business Administrator
[mpburke-grospin](mailto:mpburke-grospin@stmatthias.net)
 Deacon Ron Caimi, Senior Deacon
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 Deacon Russell Demkovitz, [rdemkovitz](mailto:rdemkovitz@stmatthias.net)
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 Dolores R. Nann, Pastoral Associate for Faith Formation, [dnann](mailto:dnann@stmatthias.net)
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 Silvia Nizama, Housekeeper
 Deacon John Radvanski, [deaconjohn](mailto:deaconjohn@stmatthias.net)
 Joan Best Seamon, Pastoral Associate for Music Ministry, [jseamon](mailto:jseamon@stmatthias.net)
 Sr. Marie Therese Sherwood, OSF, Pastoral Assoc. for Social Concerns, [msherwood](mailto:msherwood@stmatthias.net)
 Trish Stumper, Par. Support Secretary, [tstumper](mailto:tstumper@stmatthias.net)

St. Matthias School (add @stmatthiasnj.org)

Mary Lynch, Principal, [mlynch](mailto:mlynch@stmatthiasnj.org)
 Joseph Gidaro, Vice Principal, [jgidaro](mailto:jgidaro@stmatthiasnj.org)

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS
SUNDAY, OCT 2, 2022-
27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

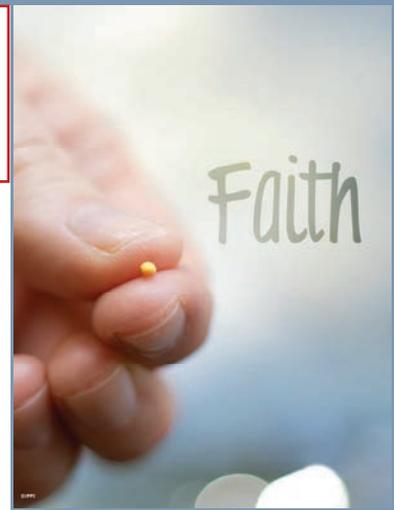
Feast of Saint Francis Animal Blessing
TODAY October 2nd after the 12 noon Mass at 1:15PM.



HELP SPREAD THE WORD!

Saint Matthias

School will have an **Open House on Friday, October 14, 2022, at 9:00 am.**
 Please help us spread the word about our school filled with faith, caring, and excellence to your relatives, friends, and neighbors. ALL are welcome!



HEALTHY MINDS, HEALTHY FUTURES

A FREE three part zoom series for parents, grandparents and all those concerned with our youth.

October 26, 8PM
The Anxious, Depressed Child/Adolescent
 Constance Salhany, Ph.D., A-CBT

November 2, 8PM
How the Parental Relationship with God is Formative of the Child's Spiritual Life
 Rev. Arthur Mastrolia, MA, STL, STD, Pastor of St. Clare's Church, Staten Island, NY

November 9, 8PM
Risk Factors for Addictive Behaviors in Children/Adolescents
 James Mignone LCSW, Director, CMC Treatment Center, Staten Island, NY

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81968510428>
Meeting ID: 81968510428

Mental health problems in children and adolescents can lead to behavioral disorders, family conflicts, poor academic performance, substance abuse, and suicidal behaviors. Please join us in this lecture series to learn more about the problem and how we can best safeguard our children. Please use the zoom URL and meeting ID (above) on the specified date and time. We look forward to seeing you!

Sponsored by the St. Matthias Vocations Ministry and Next Level Youth Group, and St. Matthias School and Home School Association



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

This Week @ St. Matthias From Our Pastor

Masses are also livestreamed on our YouTube channel: [youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ](https://www.youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ)

The Church is open for individual prayer

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

Sunday Oct 2, 2022 Fall into Faith—new Registration begins & continues all week

8:00AM Mass Church
 10:00AM Mass Church
 11:00AM Rosary Altar Mtg. John XXIII Rm
 12:00PM Mass Church
 1:15PM Blessing of the Animals Outside Church
 2:00PM GIFT Church, clsrms, & John XXIII Rm

Monday, Oct 3, 2022 St. Theodora Guerin, Foundress

8:00AM Mass/Miraculous Medal Novena Church
 8:00AM SMS Book Fair John XXIII Rm
 7:00PM Transitus of St. Francis Church

Tuesday Oct 4, 2022 Memorial— St. Francis of Assisi Stigmatist & Founder

8:00AM Mass Church
 8:00AM SMS Book Fair John XXIII Rm
 1:30PM SMS Prayer Service Church
 6:30PM GIFT Church, Clsrms, John XXIII Rm
 6:30PM SAC Mtg. Neumann Rm
 7:30PM SVDP Society Mtg. de Porres Rm

Wednesday, Oct 5, 2022 Maria Faustina—Apostle of Divine Mercy

8:00AM Mass Church
 8:00AM SMS Book Fair John XXIII Rm
 9:30AM Holy Spirit Prayer Grp. de Porres Rm
 6:30PM GIFT Church, Clsrms, John XXIII Rm

Thursday, Oct 6, 2022 St. Bruno of Cologne, Mystic & Founder

8:00AM Mass Church
 8:00AM SMS Book Fair John XXIII Rm
 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, Oct 7 2022 SMS—No School Memorial—Our Lady of the Rosary

8:00AM Mass & First Friday Holy Hour (concludes with Benediction) Church
 8:30AM SMS Faculty PD John XXIII Rm

Saturday, Oct 8, 2022 Sts. Sergius & Bacchus, Martyrs

9:00AM Faith & Racial Healing Session Zoom
 3:30PM Reconciliation Church
 5:00PM Mass Church
 6:30PM SMDP Society Movie Night John XXIII Rm

Sunday Oct 9, 2022 Fall into Faith—Week #1

8:00AM Mass Church
 10:00AM Mass Church
 12:00PM Mass Church



Dear Friends,

What should be the first project/s to implement in our effort to renovate our Church? The result of the Parish Survey (which was published in the bulletin of September 4), showed that the top priorities are refurbishing pews and bathrooms, followed by deep clean, new floors, narthex and stain windows. Even before the survey, I had heard from many of you that the pews needed immediate attention and so arrangements were made for pew repairs. You can see that work is going on. I'm sure we all will gladly put up with the temporary inconvenience.

The Committee for the 60th Anniversary Fundraising conducted a consultation with the Ministry Heads of our parish and suggested that the right time for this fundraising for doing many of the proposed projects would be from January 2023. That is very understandable as we know of the demands made on all of us with the Christmas Tree sponsoring, Giving Tuesday, Raffle, Christmas contributions etc. I am always in admiration for the sacrifices our parishioners are willing to make for the greater good of this wonderful community of St. Matthias.

We are in October, the Respect Life Month. We are a pro-life Church. Today, the pro-life people of Somerset County will again participate in the Annual National Life Chain, to give peaceful, prayerful witness to the sanctity of human life. It will be in Somerville, along Somerset St. and mountain Ave., from 2 – 3:30 pm. All are welcome to join our Pro-Life Ministry team to make *Life Chain 2022* another memorable and blessed event.

We know that the Bible teaches that life is a gift from God, and, hence, we respect it from womb to tomb. But, where in the Bible do we see explicit support for this? The term "with child" (in reference to pregnant women) occurs twenty-six times in the Bible. The term "with fetus" never occurs. The Bible never uses anything less than human terms to describe the unborn (Exodus 21:22-23). In Luke (1:36 and 41), we are told that Elizabeth conceived a "son" and that the "babe" leaped in her womb. God does not say that a "fetus" leaped in her womb! Elizabeth greets Mary (in her early pregnancy) as "my Lord's mother." If God allows a child to be conceived, then God obviously has a plan for unborn children (Jer. 1:5; Lk. 1:13-17; Gen. 4:25; Jud. 13:3-5), and so to abort an unborn child is to stop a plan of God: "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I dedicated you, a prophet to the nations I appointed you... Psalm 139: 13: You formed my inmost being; you knit me in my mother's womb. I praise you, so wonderfully you made me; wonderful are your works! Thus, based on the word of God, the Church teaches that an unborn child, from the moment of its conception in his or her mother's womb, is precious because he or she carries an immortal soul.

Such Biblical insights are important. What about biblical understanding about other aspects of our life? The best way is the small groups that we are starting from next week. Pope St. John Paul II said, "Small Christian Communities are a tremendous source of bringing more life into our life and into a Parish." Last Sunday you heard the testimonies of those who were in small groups. Why not be enriched the same way? For sign up info, please see page 8 of our bulletin.

Your brother in Christ,
 Fr. Abraham Orapankal.



Readings for the Week

Monday: Gal 1:6-12; Ps 111:1b-2, 7-8, 9 and 10c; Lk 10:25-37

Tuesday: Gal 1:13-24; Ps 139:1b-3, 13-14ab, 14c-15; Lk 10:38-42

Wednesday: Gal 2:1-2, 7-14; Ps 117:1bc, 2; Lk 11:1-4

Thursday: Gal 3:1-5; Lk 1:69-70, 71-72, 73-75; Lk 11:5-13

Friday: Gal 3:7-14; Ps 111:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6; Lk 11:15-26

Saturday: Gal 3:22-29; Ps 105:2-3, 4-5, 6-7; Lk 11:27-28

Sunday: 2 Kgs 5:14-17; Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4; 2 Tm 2:8-13; Lk 17:11-19

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, Oct 1	5:00PM	Isabelle Doyle, by Isabelle & John Baker
Sunday, Oct 2	8:00AM	Dennis Stuewe, by The Latorre Family
	10:00AM	Feast Day Blessings for Sr. Marie Therese, by the OSF Community
	12:00PM	Onofrio Barbuto, by the Barbuto & Seidman Families
	(5:30PM)	Intention of Parishioners
Monday, Oct 3	8:00AM	Elizabeth D'Alessio, by Betty Hammer
Tuesday, Oct 4	8:00AM	Darrie Christmas, by wife, Dolores
Wednesday, Oct 5	8:00AM	Brazil Vidal, by The Referente Family
Thursday, Oct 6	8:00AM	Jose Alomia, by The Capuno Family
Friday, Oct 7	8:00AM	Jose C. Cahatol, by Gerard & Joy Cahatol
Saturday, Oct 8	5:00PM	Jim Weber, by Eileen Weber
Sunday, Oct 9	8:00AM	Albert Larangeira, by St. Matthias Music Ministry
	10:00AM	Adelina Rodriguez, by The Lenczewski Family
	12:00PM	George Michinard, by Carol Millemann
	(5:30PM)	Intention of Parishioners

Pray for those who are sick...

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

Carolyn Banghart

Gloria Barone-Tuckey

Angela Berglund

Tara Capatosto

Ellen Catalina

Michael DiMaggio

William Dolphin

Vivian Dong

Claudia Gemgnani

Helen Geraghty

Emma Gergely

Rose Gessner

Mary Gidaro

Carol Gryskiewicz

Eileen Hansen

Sloopy & John Hoffman

Marilyn Horvath

Baby Isla-Rose Huffman

Robert Kashinsky

Al Kepenis

Kathleen Lagenbacher

The Litrakis Family

John Litrakis

Clarissa & Kevin Magat

Al Maglio

Beatrice May

Margaret Menendez

Carol Millemann

Sabrina Moloney

Kathlyn Moore

Eleanor Nagy

Janice Navatkowski

Paul & Doris Paetow

Robert Pellegrino

Jim Pettit

Christina Pietrowiak

Doris Regan

Gabriel Rivera

Jaxon Rivera

Maria Schwenzer

Lena Sciotto

Tippur Seshagiri

Sr. Mary Amata Shina, OSF

Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF

Kathleen Smith

Jeff Sullivan

Jerry Tongson

Regina Wellman

Robert Wesner

Nancy Whelan

Mark T. 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

Joseph Vasallo



Smile with Your Family



Faith of a little girl: “Whales can’t swallow people,” the teacher said. “Even though they are large mammals, their throats are very small.” “But the Bible teaches us that Jonah was swallowed by a whale,” the little girl replied. “My mom says Bible is God’s words, and it must be correct.” “That just can’t be,” the teacher said. “It’s physically impossible.” “If so, when I get to Heaven I will ask Jonah,” said the little girl. The teacher looked down at her, smiled and asked, “What if Jonah went to Hell?” The little girl replied, “Then you can ask him yourself when you get there.”

A one-liner smile: Q: What did the triangle say to the circle? A: You’re pointless! 😊

Mr. Jones to his servant: Go and water the plants. Servant: It’s already raining. Mr. Jones: So what! Take an umbrella and go. 😊

Three boys bragging as to whose dad is the fastest runner:

The first: "My dad is a hunter. He can shoot an arrow, run to where it's gonna land and catch it!" "That's nothing!" says the second boy "My dad's a police officer. He can shoot a bullet and be at the target before the bullet hits!" "My dad can run the fastest!" says the third boy. "He's working in a government office. He works till 4 and is always home by 3:30!" 😊

Three friends from the local congregation were asked, "When you're in your casket, and friends and congregation members are mourning over you, what would you like them to say?" Artie said, "I would like them to say I was a wonderful husband, a fine spiritual leader, and a great family man." 😊

Eugene commented, "I would like them to say I was a wonderful teacher and servant of God who made a huge difference in people's lives." Al said, "I'd like them to say, "Look, he's moving!" 😊



The parables of the mustard seed and the "unprofitable"

servant. Luke 51: 9-10

A Belgian survivor of World War I recalls the moment the Great War ended for her: A woman and her husband were in Holland doing relief work among Belgian refugees. They had rented a room from a Dutch family for their work. The Dutch landlady, she remembers, “felt as we did about the Germans. They also hated, as we hated.” One cold winter day the Belgian couple were walking near the town, not far from the German border when they saw something lying in the mud. It was a man in a torn German uniform. His muddy and bleeding feet showed through his broken shoes. “We could not leave him lying there in the cold,” the woman remembers. “What could we do? We could not take him to the house of the Dutch people, because they hated the Germans just as we did. But he needed help . . .

“We decided to take him to the house

The day the Great War Ended

and try to get him in without the knowledge of the landlady. We helped him, between us, back to the town and into the house. The landlady was fortunately not around. We put him on the bed in our room. “What could we do? His feet were bloody and dirty. I had to wash them! So I got some water and a cloth and knelt down to wash his feet. While I was washing his feet something happened inside of me. Something fell down from my eyes, and I saw that he was a brother. A German was my brother. The Germans were our brothers.” The Belgian couple had to get the German something to eat. With every food stuff strictly rationed, she had no choice but to go downstairs and asked the landlady for two eggs.

“Two eggs!” the landlady exclaimed, “and what would you be doing with two eggs at once in war time?” The couple then told the landlady the truth: that they had found a German soldier, broken, bleeding and hungry — and that he was now upstairs in her house. The landlady said nothing for a moment. Her eyes filled with tears, she

said, “Take the two eggs. And here’s some jam I made; take that up to him. But don’t you tell my husband!” The couple tended the soldier’s wounds and fed him. They found shoes and a suit of clothes from what they had collected for Belgian refugees. The woman concludes her story:

“It was late afternoon and almost dark. He started out from the house to find his way back to the German border. We stood at the window and watched him go. The snowflakes began to come down, slowly and steadily, then faster and faster. He would be wet through the storm. Would he get back to the border? Would he be safe? We never knew. We never heard of him again.”

[As told by Magda Yoors-Peeters at a conference of the International Fellowship of Reconciliation at Nyborg Strand, Denmark, in 1923.]

A “mustard seed” of faith enables a couple to uproot their understandable “mulberry tree” of anger and hatred to rediscover compassion and grace. Mustard-seed faith is the

(Cont’d on next page)

Reflect

unshakable conviction that every ordinary act of selfless kindness can re-create and transform; that the smallest act of forgiveness can lift up and heal; that the simplest act of compassion, done in faith and trust in God's providence, can transform our world in the justice and peace of God. What this couple and their landlady do for this "enemy" soldier is the sign of the Gospel "mustard seed" in our midst: to believe that whatever generosity and kindness we are capable of doing, done in the spirit of Gospel reconciliation, justice and peace, will one day yield the harvest that is the reign of God.

Here's to the "Unprofitable Servants" among us . . .

She's a mom. He's a dad. Their day starts at dawn, getting the kids up and fed and off to school. Then it's off to their jobs downtown. Most afternoons one or both leave early to get their son to his soccer practice or their daughter to her music lesson. Dinner is a team effort — but whether it's take-out or a casserole made the weekend before, the important thing is that they eat supper together as a family. Then it's clean-up, homework, baths and prayers in the early evening. Before Mom and Dad turn in, a load of laundry or office work, then a few quiet minutes to themselves as they crawl into bed. And the next day they do it all over again. Because that's how loving families roll.

The CEO gets the beautifully appointed corner office, an attentive and capable support staff — and a great compensation package. But the perks are not what the job is about. The good CEO sets the tone for the entire company. Quality standards, customer service, marketing, government relations, staffing issues, corporate ethics and community responsibility start and end with the chief executive officer. The CEO leads by the example he or she sets, by his or her own commitment to those values and standards, by the trust the organization can place in his or her words and actions. The CEO is also the one who stands before the board, the stockholders, and the customer. Every monthly sales report is a referendum on the CEO's leadership. And everyone is on board — until the arrows start to trend downward. It's how effective, accountable management works.

They're the members of their town or city council. Yeah, some are "politicians" in the worst sense of the word: they like being perceived as having power and authority; they've mastered the ability to answer questions without offending anyone; they quietly vote their own interests, despite their promises. But most members of city and town councils and boards are there to serve. They spend hours reading reports and studying the issues so

they can manage the town's affairs responsibly and efficiently. They listen to constituent concerns and complaints when they run into them at the hardware store or market. They take the late-night and weekend calls from neighbors. They ask questions and then follow-up. And every two or four years they ask folks for their vote. It's the work that goes unseen by most, work that can't be detailed on a yard sign. They find satisfaction in doing something important for the families who live in this city or town. Long, thankless hours notwithstanding, it's what responsible leaders do.

Discipleship begins with the gratitude and humility of the servant in today's Gospel: to realize that the gift of faith requires justice, compassion and forgiveness; to realize, in the clarity of God's love, how blessed we have been and to see ourselves and others as brother and sister "servants" at the table of the Father. What drives us to fulfill the many roles we play in our lives should not be the titles and honors or the compensation and benefits, but the good we can make happen for all, the peace and justice we can bring to reality, the love we mirror that can transform our world. The "unprofitable servant" is not a "slave" of little consequence in the full scheme of things but a struggling sister or brother who possesses the humility and selflessness to be God's

Tightrope walk across Niagara Falls

Blondin, the French tightrope walker became world-famous in June of 1859, when he walked on a tightrope stretched over quarter of a mile across the mighty Niagara Falls. He became the first person to accomplish this amazing feat. He walked across 160 feet above the waterfalls several times, each time with a different daring feat - once in a sack, on stilts, on a bicycle, in the dark, and once even carrying a stove and cooking an omelet! A large crowd gathered and a buzz of excitement ran along both sides of the river bank. The crowd "Oooooohed!" and "Aaaaahed!" as Blondin carefully walked across one dangerous step after another - blindfolded and pushing a wheelbarrow. Upon reaching the other side, the crowd's applause was louder than the roar of the falls! Blondin suddenly stopped and addressed his audience: "Do you believe I can carry a person across in this wheelbarrow?" The crowd enthusiastically shouted, "Yes, yes, yes. You are the greatest tightrope walker in the world. You can do anything!" "Okay," said Blondin, "Get in the wheelbarrow....." The Blondin story goes that no one did although all had faith in his ability! Later in August of 1859, his manager, Harry Colcord, showed his faith in Blondin and did ride on Blondin's back across the Falls.

In today's Gospel, Jesus challenges his disciples to have such a Faith in him so that they may work miracles in their lives: "If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree 'be uprooted and planted in the sea' and it would obey you!" Sounds impossible and ridiculous to us? But, using

(cont'd on next page)

Tightrope walk (cont'd)

this cartoon metaphor, Jesus challenges us to attempt the difficult things of life. By this strange example, Jesus shows us that we, too, can perform miracles. We must be ready to attempt things that the worldly, the wise and the sophisticated laugh at. Here's an example: A middle-aged mother went back to complete her teacher training. She specialized in helping children with learning difficulties. In a large school she worked with a class of what others called "the retarded." Because she had actually asked for this difficult class, some teachers treated her as though she were insane. Wasn't this truly "planting trees in the sea?"



Pavarotti: My Own Story

Luciano Pavarotti was the charismatic successor of the legendary opera tenor, Enrico Caruso. In his autobiography, *Pavarotti: My Own Story*, he describes how he was trained by a great master, Arrigo Pola. "Everything Pola asked me to do, I did, – day after day, blindly. For six months we did nothing but vocalize and work on vowels." Pavarotti worked hard under Pola for two and a half years and then worked just as hard under Maestro Ettore Campogalliani for another five years. Finally after putting so much faith and trust in his mentors, Pavarotti made a breakthrough at a concert in Salsomaggiore in Northern Italy where he thrilled the audience and was catapulted into fame. This story about faith and trust leads us into today's readings which focus on the same themes. As Luciano Pavarotti put his trust in his teachers, today's Gospel instructs that we too must put our trust in our mentor Jesus Christ. (Albert Cylwicki in *His Word Resounds*).

We need to grow in Faith by using the means Christ has given us in His Church. We must cultivate our Faith through prayer, Bible study, and leading a well-disciplined spiritual life. Faith is the gift of God—so we must pray that God will increase our Faith. Time spent with God in prayer is fundamental to the development of Faith. We must pray for a Faith that is strong enough to overcome the difficulties and crises we face daily. In addition, association with people of Faith builds Faith. Hence, our participation in the Holy Mass ("the mystery of Faith"), and the life of the Church is important. Because of the Eucharistic Meal on the altar and the Sacramental graces at our disposal, we find that we are not unprofitable servants, but instruments and agents of Jesus, Who, through the power of Divine Love, helps us to reap a harvest worthy of Him. Sacred Scriptures inform and correct our Faith. Without the guidance of the Scriptures, our Faith tends to be weak. We grow in Faith as we act in Faith. Every gift of God is strengthened by the exercise of it.

"Expecto patronum" (Harry Potter)

This is from Harry Potter in the magic novel, and the film based on it, *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*. One night in the misty moonlight of Hogwarts Castle, the evil dementors are closing in on Harry. The shadowy, hooded figures are trying to capture his soul. Harry has only one chance -- use the "Patronum" magic spell. So he summons every ounce of belief because the "Patronum" spell demands absolute faith in its power. Pointing his magic wand at the dementors Harry shouts, "Expecto patronum." The spell works. A silvery stag gallops forth, the dementors fall back. Harry Potter is safe because he had faith in the power of his magic word.

Today's readings ask us to have such a Faith in the power of God. We need to increase our Faith by becoming dutiful serv-

ants of God. A zealous Christian can speak more convincingly to his or her neighbor about the need for God and an upright life through his or her own daily actions than through explaining religious doctrines. A sincere Christian can find many ways to help to make Christ known to his neighbor. A quiet word, a charitable gesture, an unselfish interest in a neighbor's troubles can do more good than a series of sermons given by some renowned theologian. There are always people around us who need help. We can help them — God expects it of us. Faith is increased by serving others, not by being served. Faith is increased when we manifest our love towards others, our family, friends and strangers. When we isolate ourselves from the world, we lose our Faith.



Spotlight on St. Matthias School

Liana Walter - SMS Graduate Class of 2022 was just invited to join the prestigious Marian Scholar Program at Immaculata High School.

While at St Matthias, Liana served as Student Council Vice President. In addition to being a Principal's list recipient, she was, and still is, involved in many youth miniseries. Her fa-

vorites being Smyle youth group and Altar serving. Liana is also a member of the National Junior Honor Society. When asked, Liana credits her success to both the foundation of faith being taught within the community of St Matthias and the values fostered at home by her family. She is grateful to have the privilege of a catholic education and is excited for this newest accomplishment.

From the Pastoral Staff

In today's Gospel Jesus talks about faith.

The disciples ask Jesus to increase their faith. He answers "if you had faith the size of a mustard seed you would be able to command this mulberry tree to be uprooted." And we know how small the mustard seed is. So even that little amount of faith can do great things.

What exactly is faith? If you look it up in the dictionary it gives three meanings: Complete trust or confidence in someone or something.

Strong belief in God or in the doctrines of a religion.

A system of religious belief... the Christian faith.

So Jesus is saying that if faith the size of a mustard seed can do great things ..

imagine what even more faith can do! But as disciples we must continue to Follow Jesus to increase and make stronger our faith in God.

Do we realize that we affirm our faith at Mass every Sunday when we recite the apostles' creed? We do a profession of faith during the Rite of Baptism. We ask the parents before the pouring of the water if they wish to have their child baptized in The faith we just professed.

We often hear that something happens That can shake people's faith. But if we keep ourselves focused on Jesus Our faith will remain strong .. and by following Him our faith will become even stronger and increase.

We know what God has promised us when we leave this earthly part of our

journey.

In Paul's letter to the Corinthians Paul says;" We know that if our earthly dwelling a tent should be destroyed, We have a building from God, a dwelling not made with hands ,Eternal in heaven. For we walk by faith.. not by sight. As Jesus said to Thomas "Blessed are those who have not seen but believe.

That is us, my brothers and sisters. We have not seen but believe because we walk by "faith" and not by sight.

So when you are at Mass this Sunday truly think about the profession of Faith that you are proclaiming together In front of God .. and all those in the congregation.

Peace of Christ, Deacon Russ



Pray



Want to know more about Prayer?

What is prayer? How can I pray personally? What is the proper way for me to pray? These are questions people keep asking. One of our parishioners, Ivette Mitchel, who has lots of experience in guiding others to pray, has offered to lead four sessions on these important aspects. If you are interested, please contact Ivette by phone at (908) 247-6039 or email at ladyi63@aol.com She will finalize the details after hearing from you.

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

Just a reminder that the RCIA is intended for:

- + Unbaptized adults, + Adults who have been baptized into a non-Catholic denomination
- + Adults who have been baptized Catholic but never received first Eucharist or Confirmation

NOW IS THE TIME TO FIND OUT MORE! Contact our RCIA Co-Coordinator Anne Marie Francis: alfrancis.30@gmail.com or Mary Frances Reavey: mfreavey@gmail.com to find out more information or to set up an appointment. Be on the look out for the dates for our Inquiry sessions that will be held on Sundays.



Calling Our Silver & Gold Wedding Jubilarians



You are cordially invited to celebrate your 25th or 50th Wedding Anniversary with the Church of Metuchen and renew your marriage vows with Bishop James

Checchio at a special Evening Prayer Service at the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi in Metuchen on Sunday, October 30, 2022 at 3:30 PM. Registration is required.

Deadline for registration is October 7.

Please register online at: <https://www.diometuchen.org/silver-and-goldanniversary-celebration>.

If you are unable to access, please contact the Family Life Office at 732-562-1543 or amarshall@diometuchen.org. Registration will close on October 7, 2022.



Although no fee is required, in the past many Jubilarian couples have given a donation of gratitude to your parish Church or to the Diocese in memory of this special occasion.

Pray



The Transitus of Saint Francis of Assisi

Monday, October 3, 2022
7:00pm
St Matthias Church
170 JFK Blvd
Somerset, New Jersey

Deacon Sal Bonfiglio, ofs Presider

Each year on October 3 at sunset, Franciscan men and women all over the world gather to commemorate a touching event in the life of St. Francis. It is called the **TRANSITUS**, his passage from earthly life to everlasting life. Francis died on the evening of October 3, just as the brothers were singing the verse from his Canticle of the Sun: "Praised be You, my Lord, through our Sister Bodily Death, from whom no living person can escape." Please join us. All are welcome.

Altar Servers Wanted!

Calling all students in grades 5-12. We are looking for people to help at all the masses by volunteering altar servers. Training will be held shortly for anyone that is new to this ministry. Information and a signup form can be found at: <https://www.stmatthias.net/liturgical/>



as

Learn



FALL INTO FAITH

Please Consider Joining a St. Matthias Small Faith Group

Small groups, in fact, are where much of the theology taught in our pulpits begins to be fleshed out in conversation and action.

Many Popes have been promoting small groups of Bible sharing.

Pope St. John Paul II: "So that all parishes of this kind may be truly communities of Christians, local ecclesial authorities ought to foster...small, basic or so-called 'living' communities, where the faithful can communicate the word of God and express it in service and love to one another: these communities are true expressions of ecclesial communion and centers of evangelization, in communion with Their Pastors."

Pope Francis: "The spread of bible study groups, of ecclesial basic communities and of Pastoral Councils is in fact helping to overcome clericalism and to increase lay responsibility."

So, why not sign up if you have never tried this small group experience? Visit "Small Groups"- www.stmatthias.net/faith-formation for details or <https://forms.gle/jte18tno7kA9nQYW6>

SMYLE - SURVEY FOR YOUTH IN JUNIOR HIGH & HIGH SCHOOL

SMYLE is YOUR Safe Space where you can feel comfortable and confident to just be yourself while discovering new things about God, your faith, life, and others. You can be with people who can bring you joy, create new possibilities, spark new adventures or friendships!

Please help us create these opportunities for you by telling us what kind of activities/events that would be worthwhile for you to show up - and even invite a friend? To *SMILE* at SMYLE!

We can only do more as we gain more support - so please pray and encourage others to participate!
Thanks - TEAM SMYLE



MUSIC MINISTRY- TAKE NOTE



Here is our weekly Music Ministry Rehearsal Schedule.
Tuesday- Youth Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 - Grades 6-12
Adult Handbell Rehearsal 7:45
Wednesday - Folk Group Rehearsal 7:30
Thursday - Children's Choir Rehearsal
Grades 3-4- 3:30-4:15
Grades 5-8 - 4:00-4:45

Thursday- Sunday 10:00 Choir Rehearsal 7:30.
It's not too late to join in- email or call Music Director Joan Best Seamon to learn more, or stop by to say hello after Mass.
jseamon@stmatthias.net; 732-828-1400

Give (and Receive!)

Stewardship Reflection Oct 2, 2022 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather of power and love and self-control.” 2 Timothy 1:7

Many of us compartmentalize our faith, we bring it out only when we attend Mass or when we attend a parish event. Being a good steward requires discipline and striving to put God first in everything - all the time. The next time you are at a neighborhood party or at work or out shopping, would your words and actions signal to others that you are a good and faithful servant of our Lord?

Reflexiónese — 2 de Octubre de 2022 27º del Tiempo Ordinario

“Porque el Espíritu que Dios nos ha dado no nos hace cobardes, sino que él es para nosotros fuente de poder, amor y dominio propio.” 2 Timoteo 1:7

Muchos de nosotros ponemos nuestra Fe en compartimientos, solo la sacamos a relucir cuando atendemos la Misa o cuando atendemos un evento parroquial. Ser un buen administrador requiere disciplina y esforzarnos para poner a Dios primero en todo - todo el tiempo. La próxima vez que esté en una fiesta del vecindario o del trabajo o de compras, ¿podrían sus palabras o acciones señalarle a los demás que usted es un siervo bueno y leal de nuestro Señor?

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 10 - Sept. 4, 2022	\$11,045.00	\$14,103.37	\$25,148.37	\$28,342.75
Week 11 - Sept. 11, 2022	\$12,713.00	\$28,515.22	\$41,228.22	\$31,745.25
Week 12 - Sept. 18, 2022	\$8,917.20	\$12,670.25	\$21,587.45	\$24,311.25
Week 13 - Sept. 25, 2022	\$7,650.00	\$12,009.25	\$19,659.25	\$15,623.53
			Month-to-date Total	Sept Total Last Yr
			\$107,623.29	\$100,022.78
			Current Year-to-date Total	Year-to-date as of Sep
			\$327,522.84	\$322,603.66

K of C Pancake Breakfast is Back!!!!

The Knights of Columbus will hold a Pancake Breakfast on **Sunday October 16th from 8:00am - 12:00noon in the school cafeteria**. Proceeds from the breakfast will benefit the St. Matthias Knights of Columbus Council and the charities they support.

The cost is \$10.00 for adults, \$5.00 for ages 13-17, children under 12 are free.

Breakfast menu is pancakes, eggs, sausage, bagels, juice, coffee and much more. We hope to see you there!



Serve



BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

If you are experiencing the recent loss of a loved one, you are invited to a 7-week session, where you will find support, comfort, and healing.

DATES: WEDNESDAYS: OCT. 19, 26, NOV. 2, 9, 16, TUESDAY, NOV. 22, Nov. 30

TIME: 7:00 PM-8:30 PM

PLACE: PARISH OFFICE DEPORRES ROOM (Parking is behind the parish office)

DEADLINE TO REGISTER: FRIDAY, OCT. 14

CONTACT SISTER MARIE THERESE: msherwood@stmatthias.net



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

SENIOR MINISTRY MEETING

All senior parishioners are invited to gather for our first meeting since before COVID. We would like to use this time to reconnect through sharing prayer, looking ahead to possible events, and discussion of our main Topic:

Pope Francis' Message: *"The Richness of Many Years of Life"*

DATE: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15

PLACE: SCHOOL CAFETERIA (Parking behind school, enter through back door of cafeteria)

TIME: 9:30am (including refreshments)--11:30 am

For more information, contact: Sr. Marie Therese:

msherwood@stmatthias.net



The Christmas tree Spread the Light Campaign is Here!!!

It's The Most Wonderful Time of the Year! Our annual Christmas tree "Spread the Light" campaign is upon us! By donating \$200 you can sponsor a tree to honor a loved one, celebrate a special event, or perhaps, express thanks for God's many gifts, all while helping to light up our church grounds to bring holiday joy to our congregation and our neighbors. Flyers will be available in church and forms can also be found on our website.

The Deadline to Order Your Tree is October 14.

Join in this wonderfully moving tradition that helps support our church and brings joy to so many.

For more information and to order a tree visit www.stmatthias.net/tree



Baby Bottle Boomerang

The Respect for Life Committee is undertaking a special campaign, a Baby Bottle Boomerang, during Respect Life month. The Kick-off is TODAY, Respect Life Sunday, October 2, 2022. Baby bottles will be distributed by various parish ministries at all Masses this weekend. Funds collected will be used to support four of our local pregnancy centers: First Choice Women's Resource Center in New Brunswick, Life Choices Resource Center in

Metuchen, Great Expectations in Somerset, and the Pregnancy Aid Center in Raritan. Please take a bottle and fill it with coins, bills and/or checks. Feel free to make the checks out to one of the above organizations. Please return the bottles to Mass on the weekends of October 17, 23 and 30. If you would like to return them earlier, please bring them to the Parish Office.

If you have questions, contact Fran Johnson at tfxj@msn.com

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

Finance Council

@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

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