



*All are welcome*

**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  
**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)  
 Kelly Counts, Receptionist, [kcounts](mailto:kcounts@stmatthias.net)  
 Conroy Davis, Custodian  
 Juan Diaz Flores, Custodian  
 Leslie Guillen, Bulletin Editor, [lguillen](mailto:lguillen@stmatthias.net)  
 Nathalie Godet, Formation/Parish Support  
 Secretary, [ngodet](mailto:ngodet@stmatthias.net)  
 Amy Hanna, Parish Support Secretary, [ahanna](mailto:ahanna@stmatthias.net)  
 Julio Montero, Maintenance Supervisor  
 Deacon Russell Demkovitz, [rdemkovitz](mailto:rdemkovitz@stmatthias.net)  
 Ana V Kelly, Pastoral Associate for Marketing &  
 Development, [akelly](mailto:akelly@stmatthias.net)  
 Mike Lanyi, Sacristan  
 Dolores R. Nann, Pastoral Associate for Faith  
 Formation, [dnann](mailto:dnann@stmatthias.net)  
 Vinnie Natale, Bookkeeper, [vnatale](mailto:vnatale@stmatthias.net)  
 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)  
 Phyllis Stone, Pastoral Associate for Liturgy/  
 RCIA & Admin. Assistant to the Pastor, [pstone](mailto:pstone@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 3, 2021 –**  
**Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**Respect for Life Sunday**

**Highlights—This Week**

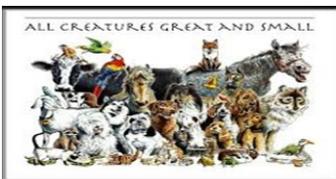
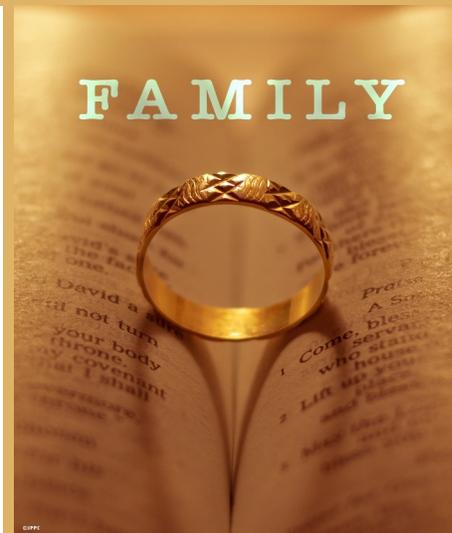
Only **11 days** Left to Sponsor A  
 Christmas Tree!  
 Details on pg. 9.

**Blessing of Animals —TODAY,**  
 October 3, after the 12 Noon Mass.  
 See below.

**The Super 50/50 is Back!** Look for  
 your tickets in the mail! See pg. 9.

**Sr. Mary Vertucci—Next Sunday, Oct.**  
**10.** See below.

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



**Blessing of Animals**

Our Annual Blessing of Animals will take  
 place **TODAY, OCT. 3—After the Noon Mass**  
 on the field behind the Church.

**Please read the letter to all Parishioners and School Families  
 from Fr. Abraham and Mary Lynch on page 4.**

**Meet & Greet—Sister Mary Vertucci**

Please join fellow parishioners for a Meet & Greet next  
 Sunday **October 10<sup>th</sup>** following the **Noon Mass**. Our spe-  
 cial 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 infor-  
 mation, see [www.emusoicentre.co.tz](http://www.emusoicentre.co.tz)



**Only 11 Days Left  
 to Sponsor a  
 Christmas Tree!**

**All trees must be pre-  
 ordered by Oct. 14.**

Details are on page 9.



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 3, 2021 Respect Life Sunday  
SMS Annual Fund Begins**

8:00AM Mass Church  
10:00AM Mass Church  
10:30AM RCIA Parish Office  
12:00PM Mass Church  
1:00PM Blessing of Animals Parking Lot  
2:00PM GIFT Church, classrms. & St. John XXIII

**SMS Book Fair—All Week**

**Monday, Oct 4, 2021, St. Francis of Assisi**

8:00AM Daily Mass/Miraculous Medal Novena Church  
8:00AM SMS Book Fair set-up St. John XXIII  
6:30PM HSA Board Mtg. Zoom  
7:00PM Liturgy Ministry Mtg. Cafeteria

**Tuesday, Oct 5, 2021, Blessed Francis Xavier  
Seelos, Priest (USA)**

8:00AM Daily Mass Church  
6:30PM School Adv. Council Mtg. de Porres Rm  
6:30PM GIFT Church, classrm, & St. John XXIII  
6:30PM SAC Mtg. De Porres Rm  
7:30PM SVDP Mtg. Zoom

**Wednesday, Oct 6, 2021 , St. Bruno (USA)**

8:00AM Daily Mass/St. Joseph Intercession Prayer Church  
9:30AM Prayer Group-Holy Spirit de Porres Rm  
6:30PM GIFT Church, classrm, & St. John XXIII

**Thursday, Oct 7, 2021, Our Lady of the Rosary**

8:00AM Daily Mass Church  
2:30PM Book Fair break down St. John XXIII  
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  
8:00PM K of C Mtg. Cafeteria

**Friday, Oct 8, 2021, SMS dismissal at 12:15PM  
Parent—Teacher Conferences**

8:00AM Daily Mass Church

**Saturday, Oct 9, 2021, St. Denis & St. John**

**Leonard**

**Fall into Faith Registration Ends**

12:00PM HSA Event Corn Hole Contest Park. lot  
3:30PM Sacrament of Reconciliation Church  
5:00PM Mass Church

**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  
12:00PM Mass Church

Dear Friends,

We Catholics are pretty much aware that October is *Respect Life Month*. The Catholic Church is rock solid in its pro-Life doctrine which is consistent with the gospel mandate to respect every human being – both born and unborn. We have heard bishops, priests, deacons and lay leaders preaching vigorously about the sanctity of life and the evil of abortion. So many Catholics, together with other Christians of different denominations, have been witnessing to and promoting the same truth. Every Pope has spoken out clearly in defense of the unborn, including Pope Francis who has repeated: *“Every child who, rather than being born, is condemned unjustly to being aborted, bears the face of Jesus Christ, bears the face of the Lord, who even before he was born, and then just after birth, experienced the world’s rejection.”*



The National Life Chain is a very visible way of witnessing to the truth of our pro-life stand as people of all ages and denominations. Last weekend, Msgr. Brennan and myself had announced that the National Life Chain in Somerset County will be held today (Sunday) in Somerville, along Somerset St. and Mountain Ave., from 2 to 3:30 pm. Msgr. Brennan added that the location is right in front of Immaculate Conception Church.

The Pro-Life ministry of our parish is actively promoting awareness of the sanctity of life at all stages. They are speaking at every Mass this weekend about one of their projects to distribute baby feet magnets as part of the NJ Pro-Life movement’s Project 20-20. Our parish has been blessed last year when the Diocese of Metuchen chose two of our parishioners as the Diocesan recipients of the prestigious ‘Pro Vitae’ Award: Fran Johnson and Frank McMann. Their involvement was detailed both in the *Catholic Spirit* and in our parish bulletin. Fran and Frank will be thrilled to have you join this ministry. Contact her at: [tfxj@msn.com](mailto:tfxj@msn.com)

And yet, why do some not appreciate the Pro-Life movement? Why do some Catholics seem to ignore the Pro-Life issues that are so central to Catholic faith? The answer can be found, as pointed out by Pope Francis, in the mistake of limiting the pro-Life movement to just one issue of abortion, relegating or even ignoring other life issues. Pope Francis continues to proclaim the consistent teaching of the church that *“a pro-life stance cannot be only concerned with life before birth. Our defense of the innocent unborn... needs to be clear, firm and passionate. Equally sacred, however, are the lives of the poor, those already born, the destitute, the abandoned and the underprivileged.”* He clarified further: *“Unfortunately, what is thrown away is not only food and dispensable objects, but often human beings themselves, who are discarded as ‘unnecessary.’ For example, it is frightful even to think there are children, victims of abortion, who will never see the light of day; children being used as soldiers, abused and killed in armed conflicts; and children being bought and sold in that terrible form of modern slavery which is human trafficking, which is a crime against humanity.”*

So how do we keep October as the Respect Life month? By going beyond the narrow vision of promoting life, by listening to our Pope who strongly opposes abortion, but has also elevated what he calls an “economy of exclusion and inequality that kills,” the death penalty, care for the elderly, the treatment of immigrants, etc., as central pro-life concerns. Yes, we are truly a pro-life Catholic Community.

Your brother in Christ  
Fr. Abraham Orapankal

## Readings for the Week

**Monday:** Jon 1:1 — 2:1-2, 11; Jon 2:3, 4, 5, 8; Lk 10:25-37

**Tuesday:** Jon 3:1-10; Ps 130:1b-2, 3-4ab, 7-8; Lk 10:38-42

**Wednesday:** Jon 4:1-11; Ps 86:3-4, 5-6, 9-10; Lk 11:1-4

**Thursday:** Mal 3:13-20b; Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4, 6; Lk 11:5-13

**Friday:** Jl 1:13-15; 2:1-2; Ps 9:2-3, 6, 16, 8-9; Lk 11:15-26

**Saturday:** Jl 4:12-21; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Lk 11:27-28

**Sunday:** Wis 7:7-11; Ps 90:12-13, 14-15, 16-17; Heb 4:12-13; Mk 10:17-30 or 10:17-27

## Mass Intentions for the Week

<b>Saturday, Oct 2</b>	5:00PM	Isabelle Doyle, by Isabelle & John Baker
<b>Sunday, Oct 3</b>	8:00AM	Hildegard Scheurle, by Fina Sica
	10:00AM	Deceased Members of the Rosary Altar Society, by St. Matthias Rosary Altar Society
	12:00PM	Raquel Fischbach, by Kathy & Bill Gorka
	(5:30PM)	Intention of Parishioners
<b>Monday, Oct 4</b>	8:00AM	In Memory of Darrie Christmas, by wife, Delores
<b>Tuesday, Oct 5</b>	8:00AM	Emerald Castillon, by The Capuno Family
<b>Wednesday, Oct 6</b>	8:00AM	Jose Alomia, by The Capuno Family
<b>Thursday, Oct 7</b>	8:00AM	Spiritual Intention for Jolanta Dlugosz, by The Klimik Family
<b>Friday, Oct 8</b>	8:00AM	Florina Gualberto, by Purita Aligaen
<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

## 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  
 Maria Barreiro  
 Virginia Briggs  
 Marie Brody  
 Thomas Burns  
 Baby Isla-Rose Callahan  
 Tara Capatosto  
 Ellen & Frank Catalina  
 Sean Clancy  
 Barbara Coan  
 Tom Current  
 Joseph DeFrancesco  
 Cenon DeGuzman  
 Mary Ellen Delaney  
 Alaina Derecola  
 Surya & Juliany Dharma

Jim Dolan  
 Mary Dolan  
 William Dolphin  
 Claudia Gemgnani  
 Emma Gergely  
 Rose Gessner  
 Mary Gidaro  
 Jill Gordon-Szabo  
 Sloopy Hoffman  
 Kathleen Lagenbacher  
 Al & Rose Larangeira  
 The Litrakis Family  
 Al Maglio  
 Sue Maglio-Alese  
 Beatrice May  
 Margaret Menendez

Gail Miranda  
 Dave Moynihan  
 Baby Ezran Natural  
 Patricia Nese  
 Danny Ochangco  
 Jim Pettit  
 Christina Pietrowiak  
 Oscar Poisler  
 Kevin Reavey  
 Chris Retz  
 Ann Ritchick  
 Angela Romanek  
 Nancy Ruth  
 Rudy Schaar  
 Maria Schwenzer  
 Sr. Mary Amata Shina, OSF

Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF  
 Catherine Sloomaker  
 Encarnacion (Gina) So  
 Alessandro Spagnolo  
 Dennis Stuewe  
 Jeff Tami  
 Madeline Tarantino  
 Maureen Tropea  
 Fred & Carolyn Vanmiddlesworth  
 Eulalia Villanueva  
 Judi Wojna  
 Mark T. Worthington

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

Ann Welby  
 Agnez Di Ioia

### A Pearl of Wisdom for this Week:

Every Test in Our Life Makes Us Bitter Or Better;  
 Every Problem Comes To Make Us Or Break Us;  
 The Choice is Ours Whether We Become Victims Or Victorious.



The Catholic Community of St. Matthias  
168 John F. Kennedy Blvd.  
Somerset, NJ 08873



October 3, 2021

Dear Friends,

How are you? You must have heard the good news that we are back! Yes, St. Matthias School is open for all grades in-person, five full days a week! In addition, we have been able to offer the option of virtual learning in cases where students are diagnosed with COVID. None of this would have been possible without your help. We are proud of our students and our school families for all that you do on an ongoing basis. We are stronger together because of you. Thank you for your continued support.

At this time of year, we invite you to participate in the **School's Annual Fund for 2021-2022**. The Annual Fund is critical to our continued success and growth, because we are a private, Catholic school, and we rely on tuition and voluntary contributions to support the school's general operating expenses as well as ongoing improvements. The Annual Fund provides the largest source of "unrestricted" funds for current use in the areas that the school needs it most -- from academic initiatives to arts and athletic supplies, to professional development for our faculty, to building and grounds maintenance, to community service activities. The pandemic continues to place an extra burden on our budget as we have had to adapt our technology, teaching, and maintenance procedures.

We are filled with gratitude for all of you and the many blessings we see all around us, and we are hopeful for the great future that St. Matthias School brings to all of us.

To donate to the Annual Fund, you may write a check to "St. Matthias School Annual Fund" or donate online through *ParishGiving*.

May God Bless each of you always and keep you safe,

Fr. Abraham Orapankal  
Pastor

Mrs. Mary Lynch  
Principal



**St. Matthias School 2020-2021 Annual Fund**

Make your gift by check (mail to: 168 John F. Kennedy Blvd, Somerset, NJ 08873, or place in the collection basket) or donate online at [www.ParishGiving.org](http://www.ParishGiving.org). Please make checks payable to: "St. Matthias School Annual Fund."

Yes, I accept your invitation to support St. Matthias School and its students through a tax-deductible gift.

\_\_\_\_\_ \$500 \_\_\_\_\_ \$250 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ \$25 \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: (first and last): \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Double your impact! Ask your employer about a Matching Gift! Thank you!

## From the Pastoral Staff

Christ's Peace!

**Verse 1 Corinthians 12:14 states, "For the body is not one member, but many."** How true this statement is when we think about all of us at the parish of St. Matthias. All of us come together as one, no matter if we are in person worshipping or still at home. We join together to celebrate the goodness of Jesus Christ.

Last Saturday, as I sat outside at the Hispanic Heritage Mass, I thought to myself, how beautiful this liturgy is. All of us came together as one community and celebrated our diversity here in this wonderful parish. From the Mariachi band to the readings in Spanish, it truly touched my soul. Celebrating diversity is one of my favorite aspects of the Saint Matthias Community. This is one of the reasons that our daughter at-

tends school here. It is so wonderful how people of all races, ethnicities, and cultural backgrounds come together as one. All of us need to continue to open our hearts and minds to celebrate one another as members of the body of Christ.

We have opened our doors here at St. Matthias School, welcoming all students and families back in person. We are back together celebrating as one community. We are back listening to and spreading the good word of Jesus.

For this school year, we have many spiritual events that we are planning. Besides school masses, and prayer services, the school will be participating in a living rosary, May Crowning, and Stations of the Cross to name a few. We have spruced up our area outside the library to create a prayer nook for both

teachers and students. This is a place where the faculty shares morning prayer together. It is also a place where classes can come to have some quiet time in reflection and prayer. We have a prayer bowl, where students and staff can write special intentions for those they want to pray for. The nook is such a peaceful place.

If you are interested in our school, please reach out to us. We would love to offer you the opportunity to come celebrate with us. Celebrate our diversity as a school, and celebrate the teachings of Jesus Christ!

Grace and Peace,  
Mary Lynch  
Principal



## Reflect



### Parenting Tune-Up

During this Respect Life Month pick the life issue that you feel most strongly about (preventing abortion, supporting new mothers, helping those whose lives are mired in poverty, caring for the frail elderly, working for gun control, eliminating the death penalty, bullying...) Tell your child why this is important to you.

### Marriage Tune-Up

"It is not good for the man to be alone." (Gen 2:18) Indeed, it is not good for anyone to be alone. In marriage you are blessed to have chosen a helpmate to share your spiritual journey toward home. Make some time to be alone together today.



### Smile with Your Family



A woman explained her divorce: "My husband and I divorced over religious differences. He thought he was God and I didn't." An unmarried woman: "I never married because there was no need. I have 3 pets at home which answer the same purpose as a husband: I have a dog that growls every morning, a parrot which swears all afternoon and a cat that comes home late at night."

Henry Ford on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his wedding: "The secret of my success in my married life and in my business is the same. I don't change models every now and then; instead I stick on to one and try to improve it." A man tells his wife of 15 years that it feels like they've only been married for 5 minutes, the wife says that's so sweet, and he says yeah like 5 minutes under water.

### Guinness World Record for the Longest Marriage!

A British couple holds the Guinness world record for the longest marriage. Percy and Florence Arrowsmith married on June 1, 1925 and celebrated their 80th anniversary on June 1, 2005. "I think we're very blessed," Florence, 100, told the BBC. "We still love one another, that's the most important part." Asked for the secret of their long marriage, Florence said you must never be afraid to say "sorry." "You must never go to sleep bad friends," she said. Of course, she's right. There are times in every marriage for forgiving and forgetting and saying, "I'm sorry" and going to sleep good friends. That's positive sentiment override. By the way, Florence's husband Percy, 105, said his secret to marital bliss was just two words: "Yes, dear." **Are you able to overlook one another's faults and forgive one another's mistakes? Marriage demands that the couple should become the right person for each another. It means a union based on committed, sharing and forgiving, sacrificial agape-love. It requires a lot of mutual adjustments; generosity and good will to forgive and ask for forgiveness; sincere cooperation in training children and raising them as practising Catholic Christians; and daily strength from God, obtained through personal and family prayers and punctual participation in the parish liturgy.**

## The Heart that Fixes and Mends

**"Because of the hardness of your hearts, [Moses] wrote this commandment . . . [T]hey are no longer two but one flesh." ". . . Whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it." Mark 10: 2-16**

An adult - now a spouse and parent himself - remembers his mom and dad: "I grew up in the '50s with very practical parents. A mother, God love her, who washed aluminum foil after she cooked in it, then reused it. She was the original recycle queen, before they had a name for it. My father was happier getting old shoes fixed than buying new ones. Their marriage was good, their dreams focused. Their best friends lived barely a wave away. I can see them now: Dad in trousers, tee shirt and a hat, with screwdrivers and wrenches going from one project to the next; and Mom in a house dress, a dish towel or some cooking utensil always in her hand." It was the time for fixing things. A curtain rod, the kitchen radio, the screen door, the oven door, the hem of a dress. Things we keep. It was a way of life, and sometimes it made me crazy. All that re-fixing, re-heating, renewing, I wanted just once to be wasteful. Waste meant affluence. Throwing things away meant you knew there'd always be more.

"But then my mother died, and on that clear summer's night, in the warmth of the hospital room, I was struck with the pain of learning that sometimes there isn't any more. Sometimes, what we care about most gets all used up and goes away . . . never to return. So, while we have it . . . it's best we love it . . . and care for it . . . and fix it when it's broken . . . and heal it when it's sick. This is true for marriage . . . and old cars . . . and children with bad report cards . . . and dogs with bad hips . . . and aging parents . . . and grandparents. We keep them because they are worth it, because we are worth it."

**In today's Gospel, Jesus speaks of marriage as the joining of two hearts into one by God, a single heart that loves, that lifts up, that mends other broken hearts - including, when necessary, each other's. That is the mystery and wonder of the marriage covenant. A couple's life together and their generous response to the vocation of parenthood model the unfathomable and profound love of God. Marriage demands not perfection but commitment; it requires the hard work of patience, understanding and humility; despite disappointment and failed expectations, marriage centered in the love of God always moves beyond "hardness of heart" to embrace a spirit of generosity and selflessness. In the life a couple creates together, Christ is the ever-present Wedding Guest, who makes a couple's simple, everyday life together a miraculous sacrament in which the love of God is revealed to all.**

## You Can Still Join Small Groups

As you know, Small groups are about to start their first session next week. Aren't you curious why so many of our parishioners are in small groups? Don't you want to know what motivates them to commit six weeks in this busy Fall season to gather in small groups? Have you ever wished you were more connected to our parish community? Do you long for ways to connect your faith with your life, especially when faced with so many challenges in your personal and family life?

The answer to all these is Small faith communities because these provide an opportunity for parishioners to get to know one another better in a unique, comfortable, and casual setting; these help participants deepen their faith and integrate it more fully into their work and relationships. Sharing life stories with each other gives concrete examples of God's grace in our lives. **So, why not try this small group experience? Or you could also just attend one of the many groups that meet throughout the week!**

**Sign up TODAY** at <https://forms.gle/RQKWL7Bgy5zBqqqm6>  
Questions? Call Dee Nann at the Parish Office or at [dnann@stmatthias.net](mailto:dnann@stmatthias.net) TODAY.

## 12 RULES FOR A HAPPY MARRIAGE!

Recently I came across the following 12 rules for a happy marriage that had been given by the well-known Ann Landers in her weekly article. Although to my knowledge, Mrs. Landers has never obeyed the Gospel of Christ, I believe she set forth twelve practical suggestions that will promote a happier home environment. These twelve rules are actually Biblical; I have included Scripture references for each rule:

1. Never both be angry at once (Proverbs 19:11)
2. Never yell at each other unless the house is on fire (Proverbs 21:23)
3. Yield to the wishes of the other as an exercise in self-discipline, if you can't think of a better reason (Col. 3:18-19; Ephesians 5:21)
4. If you have a choice between making yourself or your spouse look good--choose

- your spouse (Philippians 2:3-4; Matthew 19:19)
5. If you feel you must criticize, do so lovingly (Eph 4:15)
6. Never bring up a mistake of the past (Philippians 3:13-14)
7. Neglect the whole world rather than each other (Ephesians 5:25-31)
8. Never let the day end without saying at least one complimentary thing to your life partner (Proverbs 31:26)
9. Never meet without an affectionate greeting (Proverbs 5:18-19)
10. When you make a mistake, talk it out and ask for forgiveness (James 5:16)
11. Remember, it takes two to make an argument. The one who is wrong is the one who will be doing most of the talking (James 3:5-8)
12. Never go to bed mad (Eccles 7:9; Colossians 3:8).

### "I Don't Know, ... Fills Gaps I Guess!"

Perhaps you saw the original Rocky film before Sylvester Stallone. Do you remember the love relationship Rocky had with Adrian in Rocky? She was the little wallflower who worked in the pet shop, the sister of Pauly, an insensitive goon who worked at the meat house and wanted to become a collector of debts for a loan shark. Pauly couldn't understand why Rocky was attracted to Adrian. "I don't see it," he said. "What's the attraction?" Do you remember Rocky's answer? Rocky said, "I don't know -- fills gaps I guess." "What's gaps?" asks Pauly. "She's got gaps," says Rocky, "I got gaps. Together we fill gaps." In his simple but profound way, Rocky hit upon a great truth. He was saying that he and Adrian each had empty places in their lives. But when the two of them got together, they filled those blank spots in one another. [Dennis and Barbara Rainey, *Moments Together for Couples* (Ventura, CA: Regal Books, 1995).]

**And that is exactly what God intended. God takes marriage seriously. Today's first reading from Genesis 2: 18-24 shows that the ancient Israelites knew the importance of man and woman being joined one to another. The woman is made of the rib of man, and, hence, she is "bone of his bone, flesh of his flesh." Figuratively, "bone" stands for strength and "flesh" stands for weakness. Woman's origin makes her one with man. They are bonded in God's deliberate creation of them. The clearest expression of this bonding is found in the marriage of a man and woman and their co-creation, with God, of a new family unit. Woman is found to be a "suitable partner" for man. That is why, God says, "a man leaves his father and mother and clings to his wife" with the result that, "the two of them become one flesh." The Genesis text attributes two essential qualities to marriage: unity (the two shall become one) and complementarity or mutual interdependence. The theme of marital bonding, which is essential for human fulfilment and happiness in marriage and families, appears in both the first reading and today's Gospel and explains Jesus' teaching on marriage and divorce. Divorce reveals an absence of marital bonding.**

### Care for the Divorced and Families with Problems

Many wrongly think that those who are divorced cannot receive Holy Communion! Those who are divorced must be taught that God has not abandoned them. They are always welcome to the Church and can receive Holy Communion. The parish community needs to accept them with respect, compassion, and sensitivity. It is the duty of the Christian community to love and support them. We must reach out to those who have been hurt by bad marriages. We may not realize the depth of their pain, but we must be aware of our own frailty. Those who are divorced and remarried must not be excluded from our community. While the Church cannot sanction remarriage unless the previous marriage was declared annulled by the diocesan marriage tribunal, we must make it clear that the church is not issuing a condemnation. "They should be encouraged to listen to the Word of God, to attend the Sacrifice of the Mass, to persevere in prayer, to contribute to works of charity and to community efforts for justice, to bring up their children in the Christian faith, to cultivate the spirit and practice of penance and thus implore, day by day, God's grace" (CCC #1651). The *National Catechetical Directory for Catholics of the United States* says: "Divorced persons and their children should be welcomed by the parish community and made to feel truly a part of parish life. Catechesis of the Church's teaching on the consequences of remarriage after divorce is not only necessary, but will be supportive for the divorced" (No. 131).

### Polygamy, Bigamy, Monogamy?

There was once a story about teacher in English who asked her sophomore class what's the word denoting a marriage with many wives. A student answered, "Ma'am, polygamy." "Correct," she said. "How about a marriage with two spouses," another student replied, "Ma'am, it is bigamy." "Correct," the teacher said, "And how about a marriage with only one wife?" A student raised his hand and blurted out, "Ma'am, monotony!" Actually what the student meant was "monogamy," of course. However, unwittingly his answer touched on a problem in marriage, that is, monotony which can lead to divorce which Jesus condemns in today's gospel.

**Of course, it is not always easy for the two partners in a marriage to get along with each other. The husband and wife bring to the marriage their strengths and weaknesses, loves and hates, hurts and wounds, hopes and fears. Hence, the first requisite for a lasting marriage is that the spouses learn to accept each other as they are: two imperfect and vulnerable human beings. They are God's gift to each other: "I will make a suitable partner for him." They must learn that healing the wounds of family life is as necessary as healing the wounds in the body. In *Familiaris Consortio* (n. 17), Pope St. John Paul II encourages families with the following plea: "Family, become what you are!" This echoes the Second Vatican Council, which calls the family, "the intimate community of life and love in which the partners are nourished spiritually and physically, accept one another as they are, and adjust to each other, deriving strength through prayer, the Word of God, the Sacrament plus guidance and counseling..." When the marriage relationship breaks down and reconciliation is not possible, the Church recognizes the right of the couple to separate and live apart permanently. If divorced Catholics then enter into a civil marriage, they are allowed to receive Eucharistic Communion only if they refrain from sexual relations.**

## Pray



### A Prayer to St. Joseph, Defender of Life

Today, October 3 is Respect Life Sunday. Please join us in prayer.

Dearest St. Joseph, at the word of an angel, you lovingly took Mary into your home. As God's humble servant, you guided the Holy Family on the road to Bethlehem, welcomed Jesus as your own son in the shelter of a manger, and fled far from your homeland for the safety of both Mother and Child. We praise God that as their faithful protector, you never hesitated to sacrifice for those entrusted to you. May your example inspire us also to welcome, cherish, and safeguard God's most precious gift of life. Help us to faithfully commit ourselves to the service and defense of human life—especially where it is vulnerable or threatened. Obtain for us the grace to do the will of God in all things. Amen.

You may download and print a copy of the above prayer card at: <https://www.respectlife.org/respect-life-month>

### Novena for Saint Joseph

We will be praying a novena to St. Joseph on the **first Wednesday of the month** until the end of this year.

Join us at the 8:00 AM Mass this Wed., Oct. 6, 2021.

## Connect



### All Adults Are Invited to Join Us for the SMS Cornhole Tournament! Next Saturday, October 9, 12 pm to 4 pm in the school back parking lot

The tournament is open to all adults (18 and over; no children). Double elimination. Feel free to bring your own coolers with drinks! No glass please! Donated prize for top winner! Sign up your team (2 persons) today! \$50 per team. 100% of proceeds go directly to St. Matthias School. Sign up at: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdaQEhIGMMIBX-hpexjGm9xXCzqwFH9qup31-ASxnUa4R29-A/viewform> Pay through HSA Pay Pal or make checks payable to SMS HSA. Come out, have some fun and support SMS! Open to all parishioners, family and friends!

## 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 on 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 1-732-828-1402 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 School Update:

**Remembering 9/11 at Opening School Mass**  
What a pleasure it was to be all-together back in church to celebrate liturgy as a school! On September 10<sup>th</sup>, our students in grades 1-8 joined in prayer to remember all who died on September 11<sup>th</sup> 2001 in NYC, the Pentagon, Shanksville, Pennsylvania, and our own SMS class of 1972 graduate, Firefighter John Collins. After Mass, all students and teachers made a prayerful visit to the 9/11 memorial we have outside of the school. We are ever

so grateful to Mr. Martin Collins (John's Dad) who was present for this Mass and who consistently supports our school.

**New Student Lunch**  
Saint Matthias School officially greeted all of our new students with a pizza luncheon on Thursday, September 16<sup>th</sup>. The pizza from a local pizzeria was complemented by school-provided ice cream. After brief introductions, our Student Council members sat with the new students and answered any concerns and/or questions they had about their new school.

While waiting for the pizza to be delivered, students played Pictionary. A good time was enjoyed by all!

**Back to School Night**  
Also on September 16<sup>th</sup>, in the evening, parents were welcomed back to school to meet their child's teacher and hear about all the wonderful and exciting things their child will be learning this school year. As usual, there were two sessions so that parents with multiple children had the opportunity to meet all of the teachers.



## 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. By now, you should have received your tickets in the mail. If not, please come to the Parish Office to pick up a book.

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! Remember that last year's winner walked away with nearly \$14,000!

You can return your tickets by dropping them off at the parish office, putting them 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**. Take a chance, this could be your year to win!

### Stewardship Reflection Oct 3, 2021

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

*“So out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name.” (Genesis 2:19)* The creation story reminds us of two important points. First, since the start, God has put the entire world into our care. Second, stewardship has been around since the beginning of mankind, it isn't something recently invented by the Church. Just as past generations built our Church, it is now our responsibility to continue to nurture and develop these gifts for future generations.

### Reflexiónese — 3de octubre 2021

Domingo 27° del Tiempo Ordinario

*“Entonces el Señor Dios formó de la tierra a todos los animales del campo y las aves del cielo, y se los llevó al hombre para que pudiera nombrarlos; y el hombre les puso nombre a todas las criaturas vivientes, y ese fue su nombre.” (Génesis 2:19)*

La historia de la creación nos recuerda dos puntos importantes. Primero, desde el inicio, Dios puso el mundo entero bajo nuestro cuidado. Segundo, la corresponsabilidad ha existido desde el inicio de la humanidad, no es algo que ha sido recientemente inventado por la Iglesia. Así como las generaciones pasadas construyeron nuestra Iglesia, nuestra responsabilidad ahora es continuar cuidándola y desarrollando estos dones para las generaciones futuras.

## Only 11 Days Left to “Spread the Light” this Christmas!

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.) **All trees must be sponsored NO LATER THAN THURSDAY, October 14.**



Please note that we have **SMS Annual Fund** envelopes available at all doors in church this weekend. Thank you for your generosity!

Stewardship Totals for Fiscal Year July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022				Last Year's Total
Current Month	In-Pew/Mail	Parish Giv-	Weekly Total	Weekly Total
Week 10 - Sept. 5, 2021	\$9,717.00	\$18,625.75	<b>\$28,342.75</b>	\$21,521.63
Week 11 - Sept. 12, 2021	\$8,941.00	\$22,804.25	<b>\$31,745.25</b>	\$28,302.53
Week 12 - Sept. 19, 2021	\$10,807.00	\$13,504.25	<b>\$24,311.25</b>	\$22,427.88
Week 13 - Sept. 26, 2021	\$6,673.28	\$8,950.25	<b>\$15,623.53</b>	\$21,803.83
			<b>Month-to-date Total</b>	<b>Sept Total Last Yr</b>
Mission Appeal Collection to date: \$3,873			<b>\$100,022.78</b>	\$94,055.87
			<b>Current Year-to-date</b>	<b>Year-to-date as of Sep 30, 2020</b>
			<b>\$322,603.66</b>	\$297,903.29

# Serve

## Vocations Ministry - Called to Build God's Kingdom — Oct 3, 2021



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

"It is not healthy to love silence while fleeing interaction with others, to want peace and quiet while avoiding activity, to seek prayer while disdaining service. Everything can be accepted and integrated into our life in this world, and

become a part of our path to holiness. We are called to be contemplatives even in the midst of action, and to grow in holiness by responsibly and generously carrying out our proper mission."

To find the right balance between contemplation and action has always been a challenge for me. I am more of a do-

er and often act without honest and prayerful reflection. And yet I know others who are deeply spiritual, but never seem to be able to reach out of their individual comfort zones to put their prayer into action. Our lives must reflect both — "contemplation in the midst of action." There's a time and a place for both.



### Bereavement Support Group Meetings

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.**



### October is Respect Life Month: Show your love for babies in the womb! Get a "Baby Feet" Car Magnet!

Our St. Matthias Pro-Life team will be distributing magnets this weekend at the doors of the church. Please put one on your car. (There is no charge but donations are gratefully accepted.) To get a car magnet by mail, email: [BabyFeetMagnet@gmail.com](mailto:BabyFeetMagnet@gmail.com) with your name and mailing address or call: 973-497-4500. Let's get this symbol all over the roads of New Jersey!

## Local Community



Catholic Charities

**Champions for Catholic Charities Virtual Gala**  
Thursday, Oct. 28 ~ 7 pm

Details at: [www.diometuchen.org/champions](http://www.diometuchen.org/champions). Questions? Contact: [champions@diometuchen.org](mailto:champions@diometuchen.org) or 732-562-2432.



**Register NOW for the Ignatian Solidarity Network Racial Justice Program – October 27, 2021, 2-3:30PM**

"A Parish Journey for Racial Justice and Equity: Let's Talk About Social Sin" Register at: [https://ignatiansolidarity.wufoo.com/forms/a-parish-journey-for-racial-justice-1027/?utm\\_source=Parishioners+and+Parish+Staff&utm\\_campaign=98e7f021db-NEWS\\_VOICES\\_052720\\_COPY\\_01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_292a80a64d-98e7f021db-257062515&mc\\_cid=98e7f021db&mc\\_eid=fc7e85ece8](https://ignatiansolidarity.wufoo.com/forms/a-parish-journey-for-racial-justice-1027/?utm_source=Parishioners+and+Parish+Staff&utm_campaign=98e7f021db-NEWS_VOICES_052720_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_292a80a64d-98e7f021db-257062515&mc_cid=98e7f021db&mc_eid=fc7e85ece8)

## 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