



**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  
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 Leslie Guillen, Bulletin Editor, [lguillen](mailto:lguillen@stmatthias.net)  
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 Deacon Russell Demkovitz, [rdemkovitz](mailto:rdemkovitz@stmatthias.net)  
 Ana V Kelly, Pastoral Associate for Marketing &  
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 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, SEP 12, 2021 –

### Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

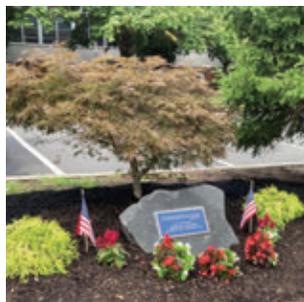
#### Highlights—This Week

**Saturday, 9/11 Memorial Service,**  
 2:00PM—church and outside. See below.

**This Weekend—Peter's Pence Collection** to support the Pope's charitable efforts to assist victims of war, oppression, natural disasters, and others most in need. Details at: [www.obolodisanpietro.va/en.html](http://www.obolodisanpietro.va/en.html)

**Next Saturday, Sept. 18:**  
**Hispanic Heritage Mass OUTDOORS**  
 at 5 PM, with Mariachi Band at 4:30 PM. Bring your own chair.

**Next Weekend: Mission Appeal—**  
 See article on page 8.



#### 9/11 Memorial Service —

### TODAY, Saturday, September 11, 2021

### 2 pm, in church and at our 9/11 Memorial

September 11, 2021 marks the 20th anniversary of 9/11. It is especially poignant this year as we watch so many people fleeing Afghanistan this past week. We invite our entire community, including older children who were born after this tragic event, to join us for our 9/11 Memorial Service. We begin at 2 pm inside the church and then will move to the Memorial that is located between our parking lot and JFK Blvd., in front of our school.

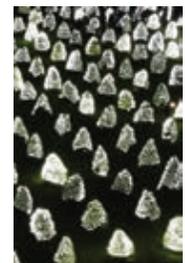
#### Sponsor Your Christmas Tree Today!

We again will "Spread the Light" this Christmas with trees in the field next to our church. The trees will be lit every evening from early December through early January.

The donation to sponsor a tree is \$200. You may sponsor a tree today by going to: [www.stmatthias.net/tree](http://www.stmatthias.net/tree).

On the above web page, you have the option of printing the form and paying by check, or using an online form to pay online (via Parish Giving).

Please note that the deadline for ordering a tree is **Thursday, October 14**, since we need to place the entire order at one time. Trees may be dedicated in honor of someone, in memory of someone, or in gratitude. Then everyone is invited to visit the trees in December.



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, Sep 12, 2021 Peter's Pence Collection

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

## Monday, Sep 13, 2021

8:00AM Daily Mass Church  
8:30AM Miraculous Medal Novena Church  
6:30PM HSA Board Mtg. Zoom  
7:00PM SMDP Racial Justice Core Grp. Zoom

## Tuesday, Sep 14, 2021

8:00AM Daily Mass Church  
7:00PM Pastoral council + Ministry Leaders Mtg. Zoom

## Wednesday, Sep 15, 2021, 1st Day of Hispanic Heritage Month

8:00AM Daily Mass Church  
9:30AM Prayer Group-Holy Spirit de Porres Rm  
7:00PM Baptism Prep Class Zoom

## Thursday, Sep 16, 2021

8:00AM Daily Mass Church  
7:00PM Prayer Shawl Ministry Zoom  
7:00PM Eucharistic Ministry Update Zoom

## Friday, Sep 17, 2021

8:00AM Daily Mass Church

## Saturday, Sep 18, 2021 Mission Appeal Weekend

10:00AM Secular Franciscans de Porres Rm  
3:30PM Sacrament of Reconciliation Church  
4:30 PM Mariachi Band before Mass Outdoors  
5:00PM Mass (outdoor **Hispanic Heritage Celebration**) Bring your own chair.

## Sunday, Sep 19, 2021 Mission Appeal Weekend

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,

A couple of Sundays ago, our sanctuary was decorated with some exquisite flower arrangements. People loved to see such beautiful flowers and commented on them. Those were more than the usual for a Sunday. That was thanks to the good will of Ed and Marcia Santucci who had a Sunday Mass offered in memory of Marlene and Anthony Volpe who were long-time parishioners of St. Matthias until their passing away last year. Mr. Volpe was a committed Catholic who used his career as a dentist and his compassionate heart to do so much good together with his wife Marlene. A few years ago he was honored by the Oral Health Alliance of USA for his many achievements in international research in science and his involvement with "Bridges to Peace" in the middle east, particularly in Israel and Palestine.

Ed and Marcia Santucci's gesture of bringing those lovely flower arrangements on the Sunday for the Mass for the Volpe's was their way of honoring the memories of this wonderful couple who made a difference in the lives of many people. It made me realize that it would be something that many of our parishioners may want to emulate. Every Sunday Mass is usually offered in memory of a beloved departed family member. Will the family like to honor that person by coming to attend that particular Mass? Yes many do that. Will the family like to honor that person by getting two flower arrangements in the sanctuary as the Santucci's did? Maybe. In any case, I wanted to share this idea with you. If anyone wishes to do that, kindly contact the Parish Office and you will be directed on how to go about it. If more than one family likes to do it, the expenses can be shared. The names of those who sponsor such flower arrangements can be announced in the bulletin.

Quite a few of you have told me that you are happy to hear the intention for each Mass (weekdays and Sundays) announced and prayed for. I am happy to do so, as it brings a special focus on that family member whose memory is important for the family who asked for that prayer intention. I am told that this practice was discontinued a few years ago due to complaints about mispronouncing some of the names when announced during Mass. I'm sure all of us will agree that certain names are difficult to pronounce in the way it should be pronounced. I was happy that I myself was corrected a couple of times when I pronounced the intention names wrongly. Therefore I request you to let me and Msgr. Brennan know the specific pronunciation of a difficult or uncommon name so that any unpleasant feeling, though unintended, can be avoided. And if it does happen, I am taking an anticipatory bail through this column. 😊

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Orapankal.

## Readings for the Week

**Monday:** 1 Tm 2:1-8; Ps 28:2, 7, 8-9; Lk 7:1-10

**Tuesday:** Nm 21:4b-9; Ps 78:1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38; Phil 2:6-11; Jn 3:13-17

**Wednesday:** 1 Tm 3:14-16; Ps 111:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Jn 19:25-27 or Lk 2:33-35

**Thursday:** 1 Tm 4:12-16; Ps 111:7-8, 9, 10; Lk 7:36-50

**Friday:** 1 Tm 6:2c-12; Ps 49:6-7, 8-10, 17-18, 19-20; Lk 8:1-3

**Saturday:** 1 Tm 6:13-16; Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5; Lk 8:4-15

**Sunday:** Wis 2:12, 17-20; Ps 54:3-4, 5, 6, 8; Jas 3:16 — 4:3; Mk 9:30-37

## Mass Intentions for the Week

<b>Saturday, Sep 11</b>	5:00PM	Firefighter, John Collins, by Dad
<b>Sunday, Sep 12</b>	8:00AM	Rose Marie LaTorre, by John & Barbara Cooney
	10:00AM	Concetta & Luigi Mangiardo, by The Collier Family
	12:00PM	Sadie, Milton & Jean Callender, by Antoinette Surdo-Palladino
	(5:30PM)	Intention of Parishioners
<b>Monday, Sep 13</b>	8:00AM	Frances Natale, by Vinnie
<b>Tuesday, Sep 14</b>	8:00AM	Elaine Novobilski, by Mary
<b>Wednesday, Sep 15</b>	8:00AM	Dominick Clementi, by Emma, Angelina & Adam
<b>Thursday, Sep 16</b>	8:00AM	Carl Snipes, by Frank McCann
<b>Friday, Sep 17</b>	8:00AM	Hildegard Scheurle, by The Rosary Altar Society
<b>Saturday, Sep 18</b>	5:00PM	Frank Sciotto, by Wife & Children
<b>Sunday, Sep 19</b>	8:00AM	Hildegard Scheurle, by John & Barbara Cooney
	10:00AM	Mary & Patrick Geraghty, by Mary & family
	12:00PM	Gerard (Jerry) Connelly, by St. Matthias School
	(5:30PM)	Intention of Parishioners

## Pray for those who are sick...

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

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  
 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  
 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

Agnes Olsson— Mother of Jeff Hentz

## From the Pastoral Staff

August 2021 was a sad month for our St. Matthias Music Ministry.

We lost one of our most dedicated and faithful musicians, **Angela Frigiola**, who died after a brief struggle with cancer.

Angela was a member of the alto section of our Sunday 10:00 Choir for 54 years!



**Angela Frigiola-**  
1944 - 2021  
**Member of the**  
**St. Matthias Sunday**  
**10:00 Choir ,**  
1967- 2021  
**Assistant Director of the**  
**St. Matthias Children's**  
**Choir,**  
2007-2021

members remember Angela's enthusiasm, sense of humor, willingness to show new choir members the ropes,

and the thoughtful way she often asked about our families, our jobs, our lives, and our faith.

Angela and her husband Joe hosted many a Sunday 10:00 Choir Christmas party, replete with great food, great stories, and of course, amazing renditions of every Christmas Carol ever written!

In 2007, Angela became our first ever Assistant Director of the St. Matthias Children's Choir. She sang in her own Children's Choir in Yonkers starting in 4th grade, and every year she brought in a picture of her choir and asked our choir members to guess which one she was! She joyfully shared her passion for music, especially sacred music, with our children, but made time for lots of fun and games too, - the "introduction Game", "wrists and elbows baby one-two-three?" and her calming yoga positions that we faithfully practiced for 5 minutes at every 5th-8th grade rehearsal.

At our last Children's Choir award Ceremony in May of 2021, Angela spoke to our parents and children. She quoted St. Francis, "For what else are the servants of God than His singers, whose duty it is to lift up the hearts of the faith

community: and move them to spiritual joy!"

Then Angela told our Children' Choir, "The end of the year is a time for honoring YOU, remembering all of our accomplishments and how music has shaped your faith. I am in awe when I consider how your singing so mystically lifts spirits and deepens faith. Music moves us in ways that nothing else can; it is truly one of God's greatest gifts. And you dear children have had that spiritual home and you will always be welcomed here as part of our extended family. May God richly bless you as you continue on your journey."

As we sang so fervently the song Angela requested at her funeral,

**"And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be, and through eternity, I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and through eternity, I'll sing on."**

Rest in peace, Angela. You will be in our hearts forever...

Joan Best Seamon,  
Pastoral Associate for  
Liturgical Music



## Reflect



### Smile With Your Family —



**College student:** "Hey, Dad -- I've got some great news for you!" Father: "What, son?" College student: "Remember that \$500 you promised me if I made the Dean's list?" Father: "I certainly do." College student: "Well, you get to keep it!" 😊

**A college student** could not take his seminar final exam because of a funeral. "No problem," the teacher told him. "Make it up the following week." That week came, and again he couldn't take the test due to another funeral. "You'll have to take the test early next week," the professor insisted. "I can't keep postponing it." "I'll take the test next week if no one dies," the undergrad replied. By now the instructor was suspicious. "How can you have so many people you know pass away in three weeks?" "I don't know

any of these people," the student exclaimed. "But I'm the only gravedigger in town." 😊

#### Wonder why?

◇ Why does someone believe you when you say there are four billion stars, but check when you say the paint is wet?

◇ Why do they use sterilized needles for death by lethal injection?

◇ Why doesn't Tarzan have a beard?

◇ Why does Superman stop bullets with his chest, but ducks when you throw a revolver at him?

# Reflect



## Parenting Tune-Up

Have you had a Family Night recently? Don't know what to do? Try a walk down Memory Lane with your kids. Dig out some photos of their birth to more recent times and reminisce together. Maybe they'd even like to see photos of you growing up, if you dare.

## Marriage Tune-Up



Research studies show that men who kiss their wives before leaving in the morning live 5 years longer than those who don't. So if you don't want to be a widower, remember this! Although I haven't done the research, I suppose this works in the reverse too (wives kissing their husbands before leaving).

### A Pearl of Wisdom for this Week:

*If You Are Right Then.....There is No Need to Get Angry.  
And If You Are Wrong Then.....You Don't Have Any Right to Get Angry.*

## Sunday Reflection: The Vocation of the "Anvil".

*"Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me." Mark 8: 27-35*

Among the horrors of the Nazi regime during World War II was a plan to euthanize all mentally and physically challenged children and adults throughout Germany and its occupied territories. The Catholic bishop of Münster in the Rhineland would have none of it. Bishop Clemens August von Galen exhorted the people of the region to take into their homes or find hiding places in their barns for all the exceptional children and adults being cared for by Church-related schools and institutions - and then dared the government to try to find them. In a famous sermon preached in his cathedral on July 20, 1941, Bishop von Galen called Catholics to resistance:



"At this moment we are the anvil rather than the hammer. Other men, strangers, renegades, are hammering us . . . Ask the blacksmith and hear what he says. The object which is forged on the anvil receives its form not alone from the hammer but also from the anvil. The anvil cannot and need not strike back: it must only be firm, only be hard! However hard the hammer strikes, the anvil stands firmly and silently in place and will long continue to shape the objects forged upon it. If it is sufficiently tough and firm and hard, the anvil will last longer than the hammer. The anvil represents those who are unjustly imprisoned, those who are driven out and banished for no fault of their own."

**Discipleship often calls us to be the "anvil": to sacrifice our own safety and security to absorb the blows directed at the poor, the vulnerable, the powerless. In resisting injustice, in remaining constant in seeking what is right, our lives are "shaped" in the spirit of Jesus' servanthood and "formed" in his Gospel of justice and mercy. To be an authentic disciple of Jesus means to put ourselves in the humble, demanding anvil-strong role of servant to others, to intentionally seek the happiness and fulfillment of those we love regardless of the cost to ourselves.**

## Some False Public Opinions about Christ!



**MORMONS:** The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, more commonly called the Mormons, incorporates the Lord's name in its title, but its beliefs about Jesus are fatally flawed. A basic compendium of the Mormon gospel, entitled *Mormon Doctrine*, was written by apostle Bruce Redd McConkie, an influential Mormon theologian. According to McConkie, Mormons believe that "Lucifer, the son of the morning, is our elder brother, and the brother of Jesus." The *Journal of Discourses*, a 26-volume Mormon publication presenting public sermons by many early Mormon leaders, includes such statements as this: "Jesus, our elder brother was begotten in the flesh by the same character that was in the Garden of Eden, and who is our father in Heaven." The same volumes assert, "Jesus was married at Cana of Galilee and had many wives ... he also had many children." From these writings, it is clear that the Mormons fail the test when it comes to answering Jesus Christ's question, "Who do you say I am?" (v. 29).

**JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES:** "Who do you say Jesus is?" The Jehovah's Witness publication, *New Heavens and New Earth*, declares by way of response, "Michael the Archangel is no other than the only begotten Son of God, now Jesus Christ."

**ISLAM:** Ask the Muslim who Jesus is and the answer we get from official publications is "Jesus was no more than a mortal whom Allah favored and made an example to the Israelites. They are unbelievers who say God is Messiah, Mary's son" (Sura 43:59, Quran).

**Public opinion about Jesus Christ, even by those who claim to be Christians, is false or incomplete. Until people see Jesus like Peter did, as "the Christ, the Son of the Living God," they all miss the mark.**

## Larry King to interview Jesus Christ!

Barbara Ann Walters, the first female evening news anchor on *The ABC Evening News* and ABC commentator on news specials, once asked the CNN talk show host Larry King, "If you could interview anyone in history, who would it be?" King replied with unguarded honesty: "Jesus of Nazareth." Her next question was, "If you could ask him one question, what would it be?" After a brief pause, he responded, "I think I would like to ask him, 'Were you truly virgin born?' because if he was, that would change everything."

**Larry King was correct. If the accounts of the virgin birth and the bodily Resurrection of Jesus are true, then they change everything. It means that He was more than a man; consequently, His words are absolutely authoritative. It means that what He said about life and death, God and the devil, sin and salvation, and heaven and hell is true. Today's Gospel describes the great profession of faith made by Peter recognizing Jesus as the Christ, the promised Messiah, and the Son of the Living God.**

## "Take up Your Cross?" Who will want to?

Taking up one's cross seems to be an unpleasant or unacceptable notion in today's world. Yet, in a national study, when the nation's top achievers were asked to rate the factors they consider most important in contributing to their own success, hard work emerges as the highest-rated factor. Not talent or luck but hard work. Psychologists followed the careers of violinists studying at the Music Academy of West Berlin. By the time they were 18, the academy's best students had already spent about 2,000 more hours in practice, on average, than had their fellow students. That is denying yourself and taking up a cross. Business Guru Tom Peters recalls a wonderful story of a musician, it may have been cellist Pablo Casals, who died at almost one hundred years of age. The morning he died he was downstairs practicing at 6:00 a.m. "That's just lovely," says Peters.

**It is lovely if being the best at what you do is important to you. So we have a choice. We can heed part of Jesus' words, "Deny yourself and take up your cross," and have all the success this world has to offer. And there's nothing really wrong with that. Jesus wants us to be the very best of whatever we choose to be, as long as it does not cost us our souls. There is a better way, however. Use Jesus as your guide. Follow Jesus. Deny yourself by giving yourself for others in Jesus' name. That's where real happiness lies. That's what ultimate success is all about.**

## "Deny Yourself??" Who wants to!!

"Deny yourself and take up your cross." Jesus said so, but who likes to practice this? The University of Chicago did a five-year study of leading artists, athletes, and scholars. Directed by Dr. Benjamin Bloom, the research was based on anonymous interviews with the top twenty performers in various fields. These people included concert pianists, Olympic swimmers, tennis players, sculptors, mathematicians, and neurologists. Bloom and his team of researchers from the University of Chicago probed for clues as to how these achievers developed.

For a more complete picture, they interviewed their families and teachers. The report stated conclusively that drive and determination, not great natural talent, led to the extraordinary success of these individuals. Bloom noted, "We expected to find tales of great natural gifts. We didn't find that at all. Their mothers often said it was another child who had the greater talents." What they found were extraordinary accounts of hard work and dedication: The pianist who practiced several hours a day for seventeen years; the swimmer who rolled out of bed every morning at half past five to do laps for two hours before school, etc. [Dr. Denis E. Waitley, *Winning the Innovation Game* (New York: Berkley Books, 1986).]



## Lithuania's Pride: The Hill of Crosses

The people of Lithuania take their cross-bearing a little more seriously than we do. For them, the cross symbolizes Faith, Hope and Love. There, crosses are everywhere in the countryside, on roads, in city parks and village squares. Communities and individuals erect crosses to bring them health and to commemorate events like weddings, births and christenings. Crosses are also erected to commemorate historical events. One of these is the Baltic Way, in which millions of people linked hands stretching across the Baltics from Estonia to Lithuania on August 25, 1989. About 9 monuments commemorate this extraordinary event. The nation's pride is the Hill of Crosses, located north of Siauliai. Lithuanians erected crosses there as early as the mid-19th century. The Soviet government couldn't tolerate that kind of spiritual expression, so they totally destroyed the hill in 1961, then again in 1973 and 1975. But people kept erecting more crosses, until in 1980 their destruction stopped. Today the crosses number in the thousands. They are different sizes and shapes, some simple, some ornate, but they immortalize Lithuania's troubles, misfortunes, joys, hope and Faith. ([Http://lithuanian-american.org/folklife/crosses.htm](http://lithuanian-american.org/folklife/crosses.htm))

**For the Lithuanian people, the cross is more than a symbol in the Church. It is symbol for the world to see, a symbol that will not go away. It is a symbol of sacrifice, a sacrifice that gives each and every one of us Hope and Faith and courage.**

# Reflect

## Are You in the 12% of Americans...?

According to research conducted by George Gallup, 12% of Americans are "highly spiritually committed." They are those who truly understand what Jesus meant when he said, "Deny yourself, take up your cross and follow me." Gallup says the members of this group are "a breed apart from the rest of the populace in at least four ways: 1. They're happier. 2. Their families are stronger. 3. They're more tolerant of people of different races and religions. 4. They're community-minded." They're involved in service to others. That is cross-bearing that really makes a difference.

**Do we have enough Faith to offer up a genuine sacrifice for Christ's sake? Can a Church in today's self-centered culture ask its people to sacrifice something for the sake of the Gospel? Jesus' challenge to all would-be**

**disciples requires more than a "feel-good" spirituality. A true disciple asks, "Am I willing to sacrifice something for the God Who loves me?" What made it possible for first-century Christians to choose a martyr's death? What has kept generations of Christians from losing Faith and falling apart when confronted by the violence and hatred of this world? Can we offer even the day-to-day sacrifices asked by Jesus when they demand things we don't want to do? Can we sacrifice some of our time in order to visit Him in a homeless shelter or soup kitchen? Can we sacrifice our job security and refuse to "go along" with a policy that is unjust? Can we sacrifice our need to be in control and let Christ do with us what he will? Can we refuse to let our children watch television programs filled with sex and violence?**

## Who is Jesus for us?

Founder of a religion? Revolutionary Jewish reformer? One of the great teachers? Son of God and personal Savior? This can perhaps be broken down into other questions: "How do I really see Jesus? Is Jesus a living experience for me, walking with me, loving me, forgiving me, helping me and transforming my life and outlook? What difference does Jesus make in my life? Have I really given my life to him? Are there areas where I have excluded Him, where my life is not noticeably different from the lives of those who see Jesus as irrelevant? Who do we say that Jesus is in our daily life? Who do we say that Jesus is when we are in the presence of those who don't know him, those who aren't interested in him? What does the way we live and behave say about who Jesus is? Is the joy, the love, the peace that we find in Jesus reflected in the way we live our lives? We are gathered here today in the name of Jesus. We have not come together to celebrate a continuing memorial for a merely good man who died long ago. We are here in the church to celebrate the death and Resurrection of Christ, the Messiah, our Lord and personal Savior in this Eucharistic celebration in which we encounter directly the Living God.



# Pray

### CALLING ALL ACTIVE EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

You're Invited for a Zoom **EM UPDATE AND REFRESHER** Thursday, September 16, 2021 at 7:00 pm

If you are an active EM and did not receive an invitation contact Phyllis Stone for the Zoom link!



### RCIA FOR ADULTS, TEENS AND CHILDREN 7 YRS OF AGE AND OLDER SEEKING BAPTISM/DESIRE TO COMPLETE INITIATION SACRAMENTS

**RCIA begins SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH at the 10:00 MASS TWO CLASSES ----YOUTH AND ADULTS**

**ST. JOHN XXIII ROOM (ADULTS), LIBRARY ANNEX (YOUTH)**

**AT OUR FIRST SESSION, WE WILL SHARE OUR FAITH STORIES**

Contact Phyllis Stone in the Parish Office for more Information 732-828-1400 X 127

### DON'T MISS THE MARIACHI (OUTDOOR) BILINGUAL MASS

**St. Matthias will celebrate Hispanic and Latinx Heritage Month at the 5:00 PM Mass on Saturday, September 18th**

**BYOC - BRING YOUR OWN CHAIR WEAR CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE ETHNIC ATTIRE (LATIN AMERICA, SOUTH AMERICA, CENTRAL AMERICA, PUERTO RICO, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, PANAMA, MEXICO, AND OTHERS)**

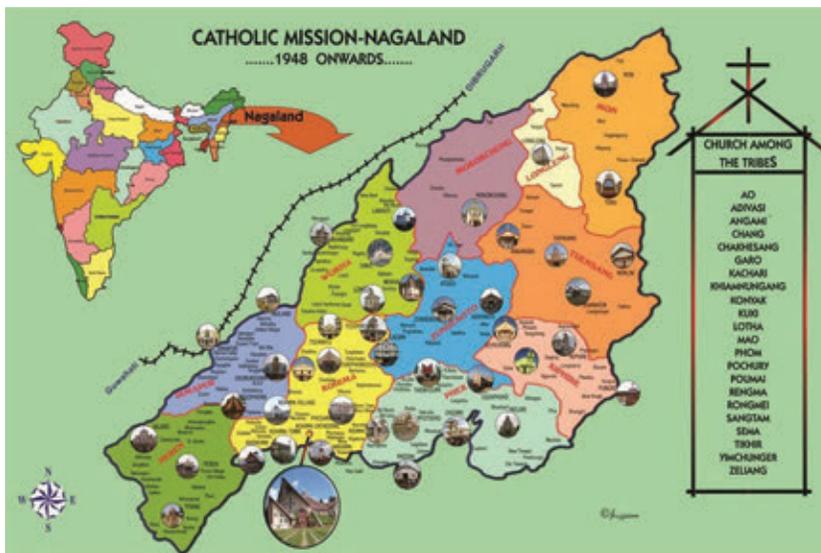
**COME PREPARED FOR A LIVELY CELEBRATION WITH A MARIACHI BAND PRELUDE AT 4:30 PM**



MISSION APPEAL — NEXT WEEKEND, Sept. 18 & 19



'Tis the season for the Diocesan Mission Appeal - a time in which we “sort of” adopt a community of Catholic brothers and sisters less fortunate, and share our financial resources. This year the beneficiary of our contributions will be the Diocese of Kohima, India, a fairly new diocese with about 60,000 Catholic converts belonging to 15 major tribes.



The Bishop of Kohima, Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, had planned to come for an in-person visit to St. Matthias. But due to the COVID visa restrictions, he cannot be with us. So he has asked Fr. Abraham to speak on his behalf. Here is a picture of Bishop Thoppil along with a bit of information about his diocese in northeast India.



The Diocese of Kohima, is in the State of Nagaland, India. Each of the 15 major tribes represented by the parishioners has its own distinct tradition, culture and dialect. The lay leaders, especially the full time and part time catechists numbering nearly 200, are at the forefront of evangelization as they contact new villages and tirelessly work to preach and convert. Besides direct evangelization, the Church is actively involved in the everyday life of the people through other forms of apostolate like education, health care, self-help projects, rehabilitation of the sick, the orphans, and those with drug addiction. Much remains to be done for this interior and under-developed region and that is possible through the generosity of Catholics like us who join the Church’s mission of evangelization through our contributions, prayers and support.



**St. Matthias Music Ministry**  
Now’s the time to RECONNECT, RESTORE, and REJOICE! 

**St. Matthias Children’s Choir**

Who can join? - all 3rd -8th graders , no matter what school you go to!

When- Thursday afternoons, Grades 3 and 4..... 3:30 4:00 PM, Grades 5-8 ..... 4:15 -4:45 PM (if your 3rd-4th graders can only come to the later rehearsal because of late dismissal time, **we can make that work for you**)

How to register - go to [www.stmatthias.net](http://www.stmatthias.net), Click on **Ministry**, Click on **Music**, Find Children’s Choir and click on **Register now**.

**First Rehearsal- Thursday, SEPTEMBER 16** in church- safely distanced and masked



**St. Matthias Folk Group -**

Who can join? - **YOU**, if you like to sing, and are free on most Wednesday nights and Saturday afternoons

When - rehearsal on Wednesday from 7:30-8:30PM in church, Mass on Saturday at 5:00PM

How to Register - email [jseamon@st.matthias.net](mailto:jseamon@st.matthias.net) **First Rehearsal - Wednesday , September 22.**

**St Matthias Sunday 10:00 Choir**

Who can join? - **YOU** , if you like to sing and are free most Thursday nights and Sunday mornings.

When - rehearsal on Thursday from 7:30-8:30PM in church. To register, email

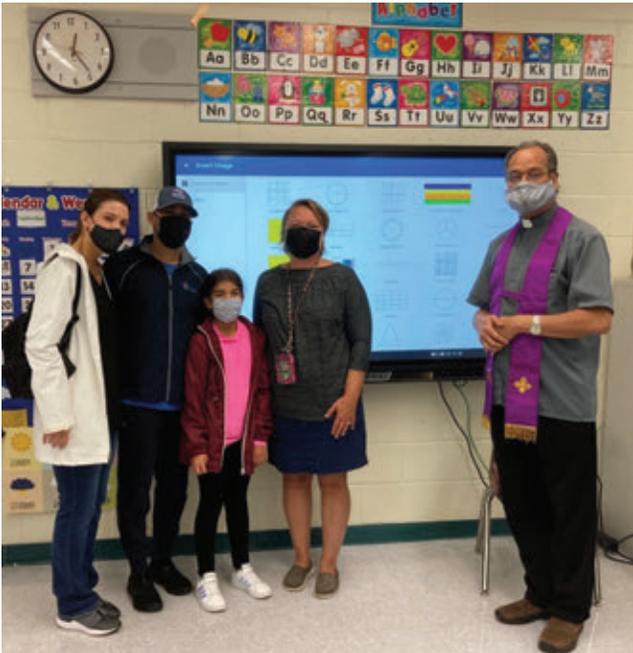
[jseamon@st.matthias.net](mailto:jseamon@st.matthias.net) **First Rehearsal - Thursday, Sept. 23**

# Give

## Thank You!

We continue to bless the Promethean Boards sponsored by individuals and families.

In this photo, the Youssef Family is standing by the Promethean board that they donated to SMS, in memory of their son Luke. Thank you!!!



## SALE OF LCD PROJECTORS, PRINTERS AND MORE...



As you know, we have recently invested heavily in Promethean Smart Boards so that St. Matthias School has the cutting edge technology for our students. Thanks to the generosity of so many people - parents and well-wishes - we have now fitted every classroom with one of these smart boards. That makes other tools that we have been using unnecessary for us; but some others could use them. Therefore we have been selling them at a very nominal cost. Here's a list of the remaining items. (as of 8/30/21). If you or someone you know need any of these, **please call the Parish Office at 732-828-1400.**

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| 2 Sound system compact boxes from Fender (with two speakers, and slots for guitar connections, etc, no microphone): \$125 each;<br>9 Universal Projector wall/Ceiling mounts = \$75 each;<br>13 pieces of Interactive white boards | = \$100 each;<br>8 sets of four sturdy computer desks = \$150 per set;<br>6 LCD projectors (5 Hitachi, 1 In Focus) = \$150 each;<br>20 Wavlink USB 3.0 Docking stations, unopened (\$70 each);<br>10 Dell B1260 dn Laser printer = \$100 each; | 15 Dell Computer speakers with base unit/subwoofer = \$20 each;<br>13 monitors, 15"-17" = \$30 each;<br>20 Keyboards = \$20 each;<br>15 resting docks for laptops = \$10 each |
|--|--|---|

### Stewardship Reflection Sep 12, 2021 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

***“Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.” MARK 8:34***

Living a stewardship lifestyle means not only being responsible for my own life, but for the lives of others as well. We realize that our gifts are not intended for ourselves, rather they are meant to be shared with others. “Taking up my cross” means doing things when someone else needs me and not when it’s convenient for me.

### Reflexiónese — 12 de septiembre de 2021 Domingo 24° del Tiempo Ordinario

***Quienquiera que desee venir conmigo debe negarse a sí mismo, tomar su cruz, y seguirme.” MARCOS 8:34***

Vivir un estilo de vida de corresponsabilidad no solamente es ser responsable de mi propia vida, sino también de las vidas de otros. Nos damos cuenta de que nuestros dones no son solo para nosotros, sino más bien para compartirlos con los demás. “Cargar mi cruz” significa hacer las cosas cuando alguien más me necesita y no cuando es conveniente para mí.

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
<b>Week 10 - Sept. 5, 2021</b>	\$9,717.00	\$18,625.75	<b>\$28,342.75</b>	\$21,521.63
			<b>\$0.00</b>	\$28,302.53
			<b>\$0.00</b>	\$22,427.88
			<b>\$0.00</b>	\$21,803.83
			Month-to-date Total	Sept Total Last Yr
			<b>\$28,342.75</b>	\$94,055.87

*Note: The online Parish Giving amount varies week-to-week since some parishioners donate once a month and the full amount is recorded the week it arrives.*

## Serve



### Vocations Ministry - Called to Build God's Kingdom — Sep 12, 2021

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

"This is a powerful summons to all of us. You too need to see the entirety of your life as a mission. Try to do so by listening to God in prayer and recognizing the signs that he gives you. Always ask the Spirit what Jesus expects from you at every moment of your life and in every decision you must make, so as to discern its place in the mission you have received. Allow the Spirit to forge in you the personal mystery that can reflect Jesus Christ in today's world."

Pray, listen, and discern. What is God calling me to do with my life, my talents and my time? Does this decision manifest the fruit of the Holy Spirit within the individual and community? Is this decision characterized by a genuine sense of peace relationally with God? Does this decision promote reconciliation rather than divisiveness?

## Local Community

### Catholic Charities NJ Hope and Healing

**September 2021 Virtual Calendar**  
<https://ccdom.org/nj-hope-and-healing> to view complete calendar of events & to register for them.

For more information to receive crisis counseling services pertaining to COVID-19, call 732-204-6510 or email at [hopeandhealing@ccdom.org](mailto:hopeandhealing@ccdom.org) **CLICK LINK TO REGISTER or dial in at 1 929 205 6099**



### Hispanic Youth Brunch with Bishop Checchio

"What is your story?"  
**September 25, 2021,  
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

Young people from 14 to 21 years old  
Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi – Community Room (32 Elm Ave, Metuchen, NJ 08840)  
Registration at [www.diometuchen.org/hispanicevangelization](http://www.diometuchen.org/hispanicevangelization)



**35th ANNUAL  
LEBANESE FESTIVAL  
RETURNS!**  
**Sept. 17, 18, 19, 2021**

**St. Sharbel  
Maronite Catholic Church  
526 Easton Ave.,  
Somerset, NJ 08873**

We are excited to announce that we will hold our 35th Annual Lebanese Festival on Friday, September 17, 2021 from 5 - 10:00 p.m., Saturday, September 18, 2021 from 12-11:00 p.m. and Sunday, September 19, 2021 from 12 - 9:00 p.m. Contact: Laurie Machalany 732-496-0146

## 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  
**Finance Council**  
[@stmatthias.net](mailto:@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



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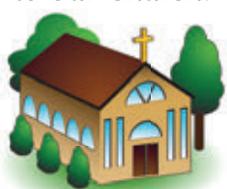
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