



**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)

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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@stmatthias.net)

Joseph Gidaro, Vice Principal, [jgidaro](mailto:jgidaro@stmatthias.net)

**THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS**  
**SUNDAY, SEP 19, 2021 –**  
**Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Highlights—This Week**

**TODAY, Saturday, Sept. 18, 4:30PM**  
 Hispanic Heritage Mass &  
 Celebration. See below.

**Mission Appeal –THIS Weekend—**  
 See article on page 8.

**Sponsor Your Christmas Tree Today!**  
 See article on pg. 9

**St. Matthias School is off to a great start** — in person, all day, all grades (PreK3—8th grade), including Before care and After care. We do have some openings in some grades. If you would like to learn more about our school, call 732-828-1402 to see if this is a good fit for your child!



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

**St. Matthias will celebrate Hispanic  
 and Latinx Heritage Month**

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

**followed by**

**the 5:00 PM Mass TODAY, Saturday, September 18th**

**BYOC - BRING YOUR OWN CHAIR**

**WEAR CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE ETHNIC ATTIRE**

**(SPAIN, MEXICO,  
 SOUTH AMERICA,  
 CENTRAL AMERICA &  
 the CARIBBEAN)**



**Last Weekend's Bulletin** — Our bulletin printer, located in Ewing, NJ, suffered damage from the floods and was unable to produce a print copy of our Sept. 12 bulletin. Please remember that our bulletins are all available online at: [www.stmatthias.net/bulletin](http://www.stmatthias.net/bulletin)



**Sponsor your  
 Christmas Tree  
 Today!**

Details are on page 9. All trees must be ordered no later than Oct. 14.



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 19, 2021 Mission Appeal Weekend

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

### Monday, Sep 20, 2021

8:00AM	Daily Mass	Church
8:30AM	Miraculous Medal Novena	Church

### Tuesday, Sep 21, 2021 St. Matthew, Apostle

8:00AM	Daily Mass	Church
7:00PM	Pastoral Council Mtg.	Zoom

### Wednesday, Sep 22, 2021

8:00AM	Daily Mass	Church
9:30AM	Prayer Group-Holy Spirit	de Porres Rm

### Thursday, Sep 23, 2021, Padre Pio

8:00AM	Daily Mass	Church
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### Friday, Sep 24, 2021

8:00AM	Daily Mass	Church
7:00PM	B.S. troop 154 mtg.	Cafeteria

### Saturday, Sep 25, 2021

3:30PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation	Church
5:00PM	Mass	Church

### Sunday, Sep 26, 2021 World Day Of Migrants & Refugees

#### Fall into Faith Registration Begins

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

#### Bulletin Article Requests:

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

Dear Friends,

We are excited to celebrate the Hispanic Heritage during our 5 pm Mass this weekend, on Saturday the 18th. I'm very happy to welcome Rev. Ron Machado, Pastor of the Most Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Perth Amboy, as our presider for this outdoor Mass. We are arranging for a traditional Mariachi band to augment the celebratory mood. This Mass is part of the National Hispanic Heritage Month observed from September 15 to October 15, celebrating the contributions and importance of Hispanics and Latinos to the United States and those American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, Central America, and South America.

The theme for this year is "Esperanza: A Celebration of Hispanic Heritage and Hope." According to the National Council of Hispanic Employment Program Managers (NCHEPM), this year's theme "invites us to celebrate Hispanic Heritage and to reflect on how great our tomorrow can be if we hold onto our resilience and hope. It encourages us to reflect on all of the contributions Hispanics have made in the past, and will continue to make in the future. It is also a reminder that we are stronger together."

Hispanic Americans have been integral to the prosperity of the U.S. Their contributions to the nation's economy and culture are praiseworthy. But the most important gift that our Hispanic/Latino Catholics bring to the Church in the U.S. is the faith and popular piety. Bishop Arturo Cepeda, chairman of the US Bishops Committee on Cultural Diversity in the Church, says: "We celebrate our faith within our Church, in our communities. We celebrate our faith with our families, and we want to continue to celebrate our faith in the larger context of our society." Bishop Cepeda elaborated further in these words:

*"One of the greatest gifts is the sense of community... that sense of being together, of solidarity, of being united with our own planet, celebrating and respecting life, our own Catholic traditions, our great love for Our Lady and the celebration of our faith through the sacraments. This is a sign of hope in a society divided by racism that is also grappling with Covid. We find strength within our families and I think that's one of the greatest gifts – and that openness to talk to one another, to listen to one another and to be able to encounter one another."*

Such values are extremely important for us all. We join our Hispanic/Latino parishioners to welcome everyone for this Mass and celebrate our diversity. We are happy and proud that our tradition of welcoming and celebrating cultural diversity is one of the significant and meaningful ways to bring about the Kingdom of God more fully here at St. Matthias.

Sr. Marie Therese is the coordinator of our St. Matthias Cultural Diversity Council that has been organizing diversity events, especially during the feast of the Epiphany. She feels that this important Council can be strengthened further by having new members. If any of you feel called to this colorful ministry, kindly contact Sr. Marie Therese at [msherwood@stmatthias.net](mailto:msherwood@stmatthias.net)

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Orapankal



## Readings for the Week

**Monday:** Ezr 1:1-6; Ps 126:1b-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5, 6; Lk 8:16-18

**Tuesday:** Eph 4:1-7, 11-13; Ps 19:2-3, 4-5; Mt 9:9-13

**Wednesday:** Ezr 9:5-9; Tb:13:2, 3-4a, 4b-fghn, 7-8; Lk 9:1-6

**Thursday:** Hg 1:1-8; Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a, 9b; Lk 9:7-9

**Friday:** Hg 2:1-9; Ps 43:1, 2, 3, 4; Lk 9:18-22

**Saturday:** Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a; Jer 31:10, 11-12ab, 13; Lk 9:43b-45

**Sunday:** Nm 11:25-29; Ps 19:8, 10, 12-13, 14; Jas 5:1-6; Mk 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

## Mass Intentions for the Week

<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
<b>Monday, Sep 20</b>	8:00AM	Emilia Almeida Holgado, by George & Perla Bandong
<b>Tuesday, Sep 21</b>	8:00AM	In loving memories of Angeles & Vincente Ocampo Sr. & Jr., by A. Santos Family
<b>Wednesday, Sep 22</b>	8:00AM	Adoracion De Guzman & Esther DeGuzman Eiban, by Holy Spirit Prayer Group
<b>Thursday, Sep 23</b>	8:00AM	Peter Chotin, by The Klimik Family
<b>Friday, Sep 24</b>	8:00AM	Anthony Pasek, by Anne Marie Francis
<b>Saturday, Sep 25</b>	5:00PM	Charles Martino, by Carol Rochford
<b>Sunday, Sep 26</b>	8:00AM	Marianna Michalina, by Granddaughter
	10:00AM	Lillian Bartlett, by William Bartlett
	12:00PM	Gregory Dolphin, by Marion, Pat & Bill
	(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  
 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

Linda Grey –mother of Colleen Eriksen  
 Maurice Regan



Did you ever wish you could have a voice and give your feedback on the direction of our church at the universal level? You are being invited to do just that, by none other than Pope Francis!

Every few years, Pope Francis calls a Synod. You have probably read about some of them — the Synod on the Family (2015), the Synod on Young People (2018) and the Synod on the Amazon (2019). This time, Pope Francis has called a Synod on Synodality, that is, a Synod on the process of how we as a church listen to and discern God’s call for our universal church.

In just three weeks, on October 9 & 10, the three-year synodal journey begins

## The Pope Wants to Hear from You!

at the Vatican. It will have three consultation phases: 1) Diocesan, 2) Continental, and 3) Universal. Every diocese in the world has been asked to designate a contact who will facilitate consultations within that diocese. Then this feedback will be brought to the continental level (all of Canada and the U.S. in our case). Then the continental feedback will be brought to the universal level when the Synod members gather in October 2023 to listen, discern, and make recommendations at the universal level.

So how can you become involved? You can start right now by reading about your role. A short video and schedule are available at: [www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2021-05/synod-of-bishops-will-begin-in-the-local-churches.html](http://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2021-05/synod-of-bishops-will-begin-in-the-local-churches.html)

More importantly, there are two documents you should read now. The first is the **“Preparatory Document for a Synodal Church—Communion, Participation, Mission”**. It clearly explains the journey and also includes the 10 thematic “nuclei” to be explored. It is available at:

<http://www.synod.va/en/news/preparatory-document.html>



The second document you should read now is: *The “Vademecum” for the Synod on Synodality*. This is otherwise known as the “Official Handbook for Listening and Discernment in Local Churches: First Phase (Oct. 2021—April 2022) in Dioceses and Bishops’ Conferences.” This Vatican document explains what every diocese in the world is being asked to do and how each bishop is being asked to gather feedback from all of us, along with a roadmap and timeline for the process. One suggestion is for Parish Pastoral Councils to have a role. Other suggestions are also offered. This document is available at: <http://www.synod.va/en/news/vademecum-for-the-synod-on-synodality.html>

Start preparing and then stay tuned as our Diocese of Metuchen kicks off the first phase of this worldwide consultation!

Ana V. Kelly  
Pastoral Associate for Marketing & Development

## Reflect



### Smile With Your Family —



While away from home in college I wrote a letter to my dad. It said: "No mon, no fun, your son." He wrote back saying: "Too bad, so sad, your dad." ☹️

Teacher: What do you all aspire to become? Student 1: A Doctor! Student 2: An Engineer! Student 3: A Lawyer! Student 4: I just want to watch and see whether they'll become what they say they'll become." ☹️

Back in my hippie college days, a professor came up to me

in the cafeteria and asked me, "Ya dig?" I thought to myself, this guy's pretty far out. I answered, "Yeh, man, I dig!" That's how I got hoodwinked into joining his archaeological expedition. ☹️

Wonder why?

- ◊ Why do Kamikaze pilots wear helmets?
- ◊ If people evolved from apes, why are there still apes?
- ◊ Why is it that no matter what color bubble bath you use the bubbles are always white?

### A Pearl of Wisdom for this Week

Patience With Family is Love..... Patience With Others is Respect.  
Patience With Self is Confidence. And Patience With GOD is Faith.

# Reflect



## Parenting Tune-Up

The 4th Monday of September is national *Eat Dinner Together Day*. Maybe you always (or mostly) eat dinner together. Good. If so, talk about something like favorites (food, dessert, place, toy, vacation...) If not, eat together today or as often as possible this week.

## Marriage Tune-Up



"Where do the wars and where do the conflicts among you come from" (James 4: 1)  
Couples fight about many different things - money, whose job it is to clean up, the kids... Identify your top gripe of today and decide to let it go. Is one day of peace too hard?

## Sunday Reflection: "Sam's Relief"

**"If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be last and the servant of all." Mark 9: 30-37**

Sambonn Lek - known as "Sam" to his customers - is a bartender at Washington's St. Regis Hotel, just a few blocks from the White House. Sam is a Vietnam-era Cambodian refugee; at 66, he's been mixing drinks since the Carter administration. He's a favorite among the regulars: he remembers names and favorite cocktails, he arranges rides home when needed, and, in slow times, he entertains with a repertoire of magic tricks. But his greatest act is the foundation he started, "Sam Relief." With the help of his affluent customers, he collects spare change and big checks and uses the money to aid the people of his native Cambodia. Since 2000, his nonprofit has built 27 schools, dug nearly 400 wells, delivered 290 tons of rice and awarded 120 scholarships.

Sam came to the United States in 1974. His father was a diplomat and the family fled Cambodia when the country fell to the communist Khmer Rouge. They first settled in France. Sam was among the lucky students offered refugee status to come to the United States. He studied at the University of the District of Columbia, but in need of money to continue, he landed his first bartending job at the landmark Mayflower Hotel. Four years later he married Nara Sok, a fellow Cambodian refugee he met at a friend's wedding. They went on to have two children. Sam became a U.S. citizen in 1980. In 1998, Sam's mother died, leaving him \$2,500. In keeping with Buddhist practice, he used the money to "buy rice for the poor people who don't have food. And clothing for children to attend school." Sam told a few patrons, who contributed, too, and "Sam Relief" was born.

In its early days, Sam would take the money to Cambodia on his vacation each summer, going into the villages and buy rice to make sure it got delivered. One of his patrons, an accountant, drew up the paperwork to set up the foundation. Washington is known more for power politics than humanitarian works. What inspires these movers and shakers to fork over thousands of dollars to a bartender with a story? One public relations lobbyist who has been supporting Sam's work for two decades, explains: "Despite what might be interpreted as a meanness in today's world, there's an impulse to help. We are all our brother's keepers. People like Sam remind us of that."

**Sambonn Lek personifies the ideal of "greatness" that Jesus speaks of in today's Gospel. Such greatness is found in the lives we touch, in the joy we bring into our world, in the holy and sacred we make real for family and friends. To put another's needs, hopes and dreams ahead of our own, to seek to bring forth and affirm the gifts of others for no other reason than the common good, to seek reconciliation no matter the cost is to be the Gospel "servant" in the spirit of Jesus.**

## Why Join St. Matthias Small Groups?

### Fall into Faith

**Small groups, in fact, are where much of what is preached from our pulpits begins to be fleshed out in conversation and action.** The implications of the Biblical passages come alive when we hear how each member of the group shares his/her story of struggling to make sense of God's will in their own lives. The sharing of struggles and challenges, joys and triumphs provide a great mutual spiritual support.

**Small faith-sharing groups also meet a very practical and human need: the need to belong.** We are communal creatures: we were made by a community of love called the Trinity and because community is our origin, we'll always find life and direction within a community better than we will on our own. That means small groups deliver deeper friendships that double as accountability. When people know you, really know you, your life becomes far more transparent, including your shortcomings and imperfections. Others learn to read you and will call you out for those areas you wish to improve, creating opportunities to deal with real life difficulties as they surface. This is part of what we should expect from good friends.

**So, why not plan to sign up if you have never tried this small group experience? Contact the Parish Office.**

# Reflect

## Humility in Thoughts, Words, and Actions!



**“Learn from me for I am meek and humble of heart.”**

“What is the essential thing in the religion and discipline of Jesus Christ?” St.

Augustine asks, and then responds,

**“I shall reply: first humility, second humility and third humility.”**

We should not seek recognition and recompense for the service we do for Christ and the Church as parents, teachers, pastors, etc. Trusting Faith resulting from true humility is essential for all corporal and spiritual works of mercy. Since children reflect the innocence, purity, simplicity and tenderness of our Lord, and since they are given the protection of a guardian angel, we are to love them, train them and take care not to give scandal to them. We need to try to treat everyone with love and respect because, “Beside each believer stands an angel as protector and shepherd leading him to life” (St. Basil), CCC # 336.

### Why Does a Just Person Suffer?

Today’s first reading from the book of Wisdom reminds us that often the just man has to endure suffering not because he has done evil, not because he has sinned but precisely because He is walking the path of justice, the path of truth, and the path of God. Because of his upright life others feel threatened, others feel uncomfortable, others feel guilty and challenged and so they retaliate, they hit out at the just person who stands for God and His values. When we are put to the test do we resort to proving how tough we are, or are we ready to accept our powerlessness so that God can reveal His power and presence in our lives?

## The First Shall be the Last!

The Greeks had a story of a Spartan called Paedaretos. Three hundred men were to be chosen to govern Sparta and Paedaretos was one of the candidates. When the list of the successful was announced his name was not on it. “I am sorry,” said one of his friends, “that you were not elected. The people ought to have known what a wise officer of state you would have made.” “I am glad,” said Paedaretos, “that in Sparta there are three hundred men better than I am.” Here was a man who became a legend because he was prepared to give to others the first place and to bear no ill will, as Jesus demands in today’s Gospel: “If you want to be first in God’s kingdom, first in God’s eyes, you have to be ready to be last of all, to be servant of all.”

***But His own disciples do not understand the point that Jesus is trying to make; so Jesus takes a little child present, sets him in the centre and says to his disciples: “Anyone who welcomes one of these little children in my name, welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me, welcomes not me but the one who sent me.” What is the point Jesus is making through this enigmatic statement? Why did Jesus use a little child? In the time of Jesus the child had no rights till it grew up to be an adult. Yet God came to us in the form of a child, totally dependent on others. Jesus in today’s Gospel once again affirms his readiness to give up all power, to submit to suffering, to submit to death itself, the ultimate loss of the power of life. In embracing the child, Jesus is embracing weakness, is affirming his choice of being on the side of the powerless, who believe not in their own strength but rely totally in the power of God. Are we ready to embrace our weakness to experience His power in our lives?***

## Persecution of the Just

Elie Wiesel, Jewish writer and Nobel Peace Prize winner tells a disturbing story in one of his books about Auschwitz. As soon as children arrived by train at Auschwitz, together with the elderly and the sick, they were immediately selected for the gas chamber. On one occasion a group of children were left to wait by themselves for the next day. A man asked the guards if he could stay with the children during their last night on earth. Surprisingly, his request was granted. How did they spend that last night? He started off by telling them stories in an effort to cheer them up. However, instead of cheering them up, he only succeeded in making them cry. So, what did they do? They cried together till daybreak. Then he accompanied the little ones to the gas chamber. Afterwards he returned to the prison yard to report to work. When the guards saw him, they burst out laughing.



***The story has most of the ingredients of our reading. In it we see the brazenness of the evil-doers, the persecution of the innocent, and the apparent triumph of evil, which is the subject of the first reading. The man’s heroic act of service towards the little ones shines out in the darkness of Auschwitz. He risked his life to befriend the little ones. He had no answers to give them, no salvation to offer them. All he could do was suffer with them and accompany them on their last journey. Though he was an ordinary person with no rank or status of any kind, he was undoubtedly the greatest person in that sad place on that sad occasion. What made him great was his goodness.***

## Reflect

### Episcopal Careerism vs Child-Like Innocence

Father John R. Donahue,  
([www.americamagazine.org](http://www.americamagazine.org)):

The Gospel reminds the Church today of the dangers of ambition and posturing for positions of power. In recent years the genie of ecclesiastical ambition has been again let out of the bottle, so much so that Cardinal Gantin, once dean of the College of Cardinals and former prefect of the Congregation for Bishops, deplored episcopal careerism and said he was shocked by bishops seeking promotion from smaller to larger dioceses (*America* 6/19/99), a view echoed two months later by the then Cardinal Ratzinger ... Yet the pilgrim Church of God's people continues the work of justice, and the unprotected and vulnerable are welcomed and protected. Jesus has many unnamed companions today as he follows the path of self-giving for others that leads through death to resurrection. Only humility exalts.

### The Christian Criterion of Greatness!

Jesus says that people who serve humbly are the greatest. He uses a play on an Aramaic word that can mean either *servant* or *child*. Presenting a child before them, Jesus explains that one who wishes to be the first among them must be a *servant* to all. True greatness consists in serving one's fellow men and is never self-centered. It lies in the ability to see and respond to the needs of others, and it presupposes compassion and sympathy. The two conditions of true greatness are humility and service. This vocation to service belongs to the Church as a whole and to every member of the Church. In other words, the Christian vocation is an apostolate of bearing witness to Christ through loving, humble service. Christian history teaches us that whenever the members of Christ's Church have forgotten or ignored this call to service, the Church has suffered. John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, gives us this motto on service: "Do all the good you can; By all the means you can; In all the ways you can; In all the places you can; At all the times you can; To all the people you can; As long as ever you can."

### All are God's Children!

There is a legend told about Patriarch Abraham in the Mideast. According to the legend, he always held off eating his breakfast each morning until a hungry man came along to share it with him. One day an old man came along, and of course Abraham invited him to share his breakfast with him. However when Abraham heard the old man say a pagan blessing over the food, he jumped up and ordered the old man from his table and from his house. Almost immediately, God spoke to Abraham. "Abraham! Abraham! I have been supplying that unbeliever with food every day for the past eighty years. Could you not have tolerated him for just one meal?" We are all children of God. God has no grandchildren!



## Pray

### RCIA

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

RCIA begins **TODAY, 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



**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**





## Spread the Light! Sponsor a Christmas Tree

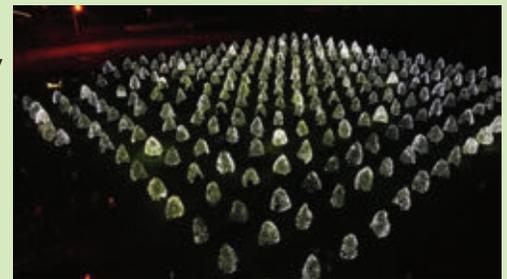
Ready for a different way of celebrating Christmas — one that will touch not only your family and friends, but people all across the region?



For the second year in a row, St. Matthias will celebrate the Christmas Season by illuminating our property with beautiful, personalized, 6-foot, freshly-cut Christmas trees, decorated with white lights. Each tree will also have a plaque that can be customized with a name or a message that you would like to include. This can be a great way to memorialize a loved one or to celebrate your family. Perhaps you are looking for a special Christmas gift for someone, or would like to express your gratitude to a group of people.

We will bless and light the trees on **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2021**, following the 5:00 PM Mass. The trees will remain lit every night from **6:00 PM until midnight**, through the Feast of the Epiphany on January 6, 2022.

Last year we had 279 trees. Everyone in the region is welcome to come visit the trees and read the plaques throughout this time. And everyone driving by on JFK Blvd. will be reminded of the hope and peace that breaks into our darkness at Christmas time.



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 October 14, 2021, since we have to place the order for all of the trees at one time.

Be part of this beautiful Christmas celebration and “Spread the Light!” Then come by 168 John F. Kennedy Blvd as many times as you would like during the holiday season to stroll through the trees and visit the Nativity. Bring your families and friends. All are welcome!



*We Have 34 Trees Sponsored So Far!*

## Bereavement Support Group Meetings

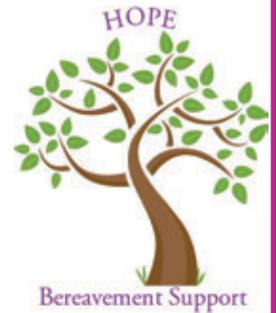
If you are experiencing the recent loss of a loved one, and are seeking emotional and spiritual support in dealing with your grief, you are invited to join our Seven-Week Bereavement Support Group which will be held VIA ZOOM on the following dates:

WEDNESDAYS: OCT. 20 OCT. 27 NOV. 3 NOV. 10 NOV. 17  
TUESDAY, NOV. 23 and WEDNESDAY, DEC. 1

TIME: 7:00 - 8:30 PM

TO REGISTER: PLEASE CONTACT SISTER MARIE THERESE AT: [msherwood@st.matthias.net](mailto:msherwood@st.matthias.net)

DEADLINE TO REGISTER: OCT. 15



## School Advisory Council Seeks Volunteer Consultant to Help with Development



Do you value Catholic education? Would you like to help our St. Matthias School (SMS)? The School Advisory Council (SAC) is seeking a volunteer to serve as a consultant to assist the Development Committee. Do you have experience in any area of development? You do not need to have a direct connection to SMS to volunteer.

Please contact Sheila Connelly, Chair of the SAC, at [sheilacnj@gmail.com](mailto:sheilacnj@gmail.com) or Joseph Gidaro, SMS Director of Development, at [jgidaro@stmatthiasnj.org](mailto:jgidaro@stmatthiasnj.org) to learn more.

## Vocations Ministry - Called to Build God's Kingdom — Sep 19, 2021



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

"May you come to realize what that word is, the message of Jesus that God wants to speak to the world by your life. Let yourself be transformed. Let yourself be renewed by the Spirit, so that this can happen, lest you fail in your precious mission. The Lord will bring it to fulfillment despite your mistakes and missteps, provided that you do not abandon the path of love but remain ever open to his supernatural grace, which purifies and enlightens."

When was the last time you felt TRANSFORMED? Have you ever made a thorough and complete change in your life, for the better, which helped you feel that the future was full of hope?

The Holy Spirit can renew us if we open ourselves to this dramatic possibility. We cannot fail, if we are led by the Spirit's purifying, enlightening and AMAZING GRACE.

## 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



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