



**St. Matthias Parish Office:**

Monday - Friday, 8:30 am - 4:00 pm.  
 168 JFK Boulevard, Somerset, NJ 08873  
 732-828-1400, fax: 732-828-0866  
[www.stmatthias.net](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  
 School Office Hours, Mon-Fri 8AM to 3PM.

*For all Parish emails, add @stmatthias.net*  
**Pastor:** Rev Abraham Orapankal, [abraham](mailto:abraham@stmatthias.net)  
**Senior Priest:** Msgr. Seamus Brennan, [sbrennan](mailto:sbrennan@stmatthias.net)  
 Mary Pat Burke-Grospin, Business Administrator  
[mpburke-grospin](mailto:mpburke-grospin@stmatthias.net)  
 Deacon Ron Caimi, *Senior Deacon*  
 Kelly Counts, *Receptionist*, [kcounts](mailto:kcounts@stmatthias.net)  
 Deacon Russell Demkovitz, [rdemkovitz](mailto:rdemkovitz@stmatthias.net)  
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 Nathalie Godet, *Website Coordinator*, [ngodet](mailto:ngodet@stmatthias.net)  
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 Sue Lenczewski, *Youth Coordinator*, [SMYLE](mailto:smyle@stmatthias.net)  
 Julio Montero, *Maintenance Supervisor*  
 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)  
 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 25, 2022-**  
**26th Sunday in Ordinary Time**



**FALL INTO FAITH**

**Please Consider Joining a St. Matthias Small Faith Group**

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

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. Participants are extremely happy with such a 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. This aspect of our human life is taken care of in a very practical way by the small groups.



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

**Groups begin October 10.**

**What a wonderful picnic we had!**

Our parish picnic was a tremendous success. We thank God for the beautiful weather and turnout of so many parishioners. Special thanks to the 60th Anniversary Committee members, Jeff Hentz, Anne Marie Francis, Pat Cullen, Dee Christmas, Joanna Diana, Gondee Tibay, Mary Frances Chavez, Emily Chavez, Father Abraham, Msgr. Brennan, and Mary Lynch, Principal of St. Matthias School, and all the wonderful volunteers-youths and adults, who helped make this event a successful and fun day for all.



Please select **St. Matthias Church/School** as your charity on Amazon Smile. You

# This Week @ St. Matthias From Msgr. Brennan

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

The Church is open for individual prayer

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

**Sunday Sep 25, 2022 Fall into Faith—new Registration begins & continues all week**

8:00AM	Mass	Church
10:00AM	Mass	Church
12:00PM	Mass	Church
1:00PM	SMYLE Youth Group Social	Cafeteria

**Monday, Sep 26, 2022 Sts. Cosmas & Damian—Martyrs**

8:00AM	Mass/Miraculous Medal Novena	Church
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**Tuesday Sep 27, 2022 St. Vincent De Paul—Priest & Founder**

8:00AM	Mass	Church
7:30PM	Social Justice Mtg.	Zoom

**Wednesday, Sep 28, 2022 St. Lorenzo Ruiz—1st Filipino Saint & St. Wenceslaus—Martyrs**

8:00AM	Mass	Church
9:30AM	Holy Spirit Prayer Grp.	de Porres Rm
7:30PM	Folk Group Rehearsal	Church

**Thursday, Sep 29, 2022 Feast of Michael, Raphael & Gabriel—Archangels**

8:00AM	Mass	Church
3:30PM	Children's Choir Gr. 3 & 4	Church
4:00PM	Children's Choir Gr. 5-8	Church
7:30PM	Adult Choir Rehearsal	Church

**Friday, Sep 30, 2022 St. Jerome—Hermit & Doctor**

8:00AM	Mass	Church
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**Saturday, Oct 1, 2022 St. Teresa of the Child Jesus—Doctor**

9:00AM	Faith & Racial Healing Session	Zoom
3:30PM	Reconciliation	Church
5:00PM	Mass	Church

**Sunday Oct 2, 2022 Fall into Faith—new Registration continues**

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



**Feast of Saint Francis Animal Blessing Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> after the 12 noon Mass at 1:15PM.**

We will celebrate our annual Animal Blessing! All animals large and small are welcome to attend this blessing as long as they are accompanied by a human!

## October, The Month of the Holy Rosary



Next Saturday is October first, the beginning of the Month of the Holy Rosary. And October seventh is the day the church celebrates the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. As we begin this month I make a special appeal to all families and individuals to make an attempt to pray the rosary daily during this month or if that seems too much perhaps once or twice a week. Rediscover the power and peace this prayer can bring to your life and to your family.

This October marks the 20th anniversary of pope Saint John Paul 11's apostolic letter on the rosary entitled Rosarium Virginis Mariae. (RVM) In the introduction the pope describes the rosary as follows; "Simple yet profound, it still remains at the dawn of this third millennium. A prayer of great significance, destined to bring forth a harvest of holiness". Though clearly Marian in character, the rosary is at heart a Christocentric prayer. All of the 20 mysteries of the rosary are clearly scripture based and Christ centered, from the Annunciation to the birth of Christ, to the Transfiguration, Crucifixion and Resurrection. The letter proclaims, "With the rosary the Christian people sits at the school of Mary and is led to contemplate the beauty on the face of Christ and to experience the depths of His love". Pope John Paul acknowledges, "The rosary is my favorite prayer. A marvelous prayer! Marvelous in its simplicity and its depth "

For some time now the rosary has been devalued by some and has not been taught to children as in the past. In my home growing up the family rosary was prayed every day, no exception and still is prayed today. Pope John Paul asserts that praying the rosary enables us to enter more deeply into the celebration of the Eucharist and the great mysteries of our redemption. "The rosary belongs among the finest and most praiseworthy traditions of Christian contemplation "(RVM #5)

The rosary is proposed as a prayer for peace and the family." At the start of the millennium which began with the terrifying attacks of 11 September 2001, a millennium which witnesses every day in numerous parts of the world fresh scenes of bloodshed and violence, to rediscover the rosary means to immerse oneself in contemplation of the mystery of Christ who "is our peace", since he made "the two of us one, and broke down the dividing wall of hostility" (Ephesians 2:14) . Consequently, one cannot recite the rosary without feeling caught up in a clear commitment to advancing peace". On several occasions in recent months Pope Francis ha appealed to Catholics to pray the rosary for peace in Ukraine.

Speaking of the family the letter reads " A similar need for commitment and prayer arises in relation to another critical contemporary issue; the family, the primary cell of society , increasingly menaced by forces of disintegration on both the ideological and practical planes, so as to make us fear for the future of this fundamental and indispensable institution and , with it , for the future of society as a whole " (RVM # 6). Since the pope wrote these words the disintegration and pressures on the family has greatly increased.

On October 7th 2020, the feast of the Holy Rosary, Pope Francis invited all Catholics to pray the rosary daily and to carry a rosary beads in their pockets. In part he said "I invite everyone to rediscover, especially during this month of October, the beauty of the prayer of the rosary, which has

Continued on pg. 4

## Readings for the Week

**Monday:** Jb 1:6-22; Ps 17:1bcd, 2-3, 6-7; Lk 9:46-50  
**Tuesday:** Jb 3:1-3, 11-17, 20-23; Ps 88:2-3, 4-5, 6, 7-8; Lk 9:51-56  
**Wednesday:** Jb 9:1-12, 14-16; Ps 88:10bc-11, 12-13, 14-15; Lk 9:57-62  
**Thursday:** Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 or Rv 12:7-12ab; Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 4-5; Jn 1:47-51  
**Friday:** Jb 38:1, 12-21; 40:3-5; Ps 139:1-3, 7-8, 9-10, 13-14ab; Lk 10:13-16  
**Saturday:** Jb 42:1-3, 5-6, 12-17; Ps 119:66, 71, 75, 91, 125, 130; Lk 10:17-24  
**Sunday:** Hab 1:2-3; 2:2-4; Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9; 2 Tm 1:6-8, 13-14; Lk 17:5-10

## Mass Intentions for the Week

<b>Saturday, Sep 24</b>	5:00PM	Eillen McAdams, by Margaret Gallagher
<b>Sunday, Sep 25</b>	8:00AM	Michalina & Stefan Tobiasz, by Granddaughter & Family
	10:00AM	Hugh Scott, by The 10 o'clock Mass Choir
	12:00PM	Norman Siebenlist, by Eileen
	(5:30PM)	Intention of Parishioners
<b>Monday, Sep 26</b>	8:00AM	Lillian Bartlett, by William Bartlett
<b>Tuesday, Sep 27</b>	8:00AM	Elmer Natale, by Vinnie
<b>Wednesday, Sep 28</b>	8:00AM	Lou Carcich, by Frances Curtis & daughters
<b>Thursday, Sep 29</b>	8:00AM	Madeline Tarantino, by Vinnie
<b>Friday, Sep 30</b>	8:00AM	Reno Domne, by The Family
<b>Saturday, Oct 1</b>	5:00PM	Isabelle Doyle, by Isabelle & John Baker
<b>Sunday, Oct 2</b>	8:00AM	Dennis Stuewe, by The Latorre Family
	10:00AM	Feast Day Blessings for Sr. Marie Therese, by the OSF Community
	12:00PM	Onofrio Barbuto, by the Barbuto & Seidman Families
	(5:30PM)	Intention of Parishioners

## Pray for those who are sick...

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

Carolyn Banghart  
 Gloria Barone-Tuckey  
 Edith Benko  
 Angela Berlund  
 Tara Capatosto  
 Ellen Catalina  
 Michael DiMaggio  
 William Dolphin  
 Vivian Dong  
 Claudia Gemgnani  
 Helen Geraghty  
 Emma Gergely  
 Rose Gessner  
 Mary Gidaro  
 Carol Gryskiewicz  
 Eileen Hansen  
 Sloop & John Hoffman  
 Marilyn Horvath  
 Baby Isla-Rose Huffman

Robert Kashinsky  
 Kathleen Lagenbacher  
 The Litrakis Family  
 John Litrakis  
 Clarissa & Kevin Magat  
 Al Maglio  
 Beatrice May  
 Margaret Menendez  
 Carol Millemann  
 Sabrina Moloney  
 Kathlyn Moore  
 Eleanor Nagy  
 Janice Navatkowski  
 Paul & Doris Paetow  
 Robert Pellegrino  
 Jim Pettit  
 Christina Pietrowiak  
 Doris Regan  
 Gabriel Rivera

Jaxon Rivera  
 Maria Schwenzer  
 Lena Sciotto  
 Tippur Seshagiri  
 Sr. Mary Amata Shina, OSF  
 Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF  
 Kathleen Smith  
 Jeff Sullivan  
 Angie Montalbo Tinio  
 Jerry Tongson  
 Regina Wellman  
 Robert Wesner  
 Nancy Whelan  
 Mark T. Worthington

*And for all who are ill, homebound, elderly, in nursing care, or living with chronic illness, we pray.*

## Pray for those who have died...

— “His mercy endures forever.” *Chronicles*

Dave Moynihan  
 Alfredo B. Rebadavia

## From Msgr. Brennan (continued)

nourished the faith of the Christian people through the centuries”.

Consider praying the rosary this October as a regular part of your daily prayer. If you are not familiar with how to pray the rosary you will find a prayer card entitled How to pray the Rosary on the bookshelves in church. Please take only one and share with other members of your family. Happy Month of the Holy Rosary and may your praying this powerful prayer bring you many divine blessings.

Msgr. Brennan

## Reflect



### Smile with Your Family



The parish church was badly in need of repair. So the pastor called a special meeting inside the church to raise funds. At the assembly the pastor explained the need of an emergency fund for plastering the roof and supporting pillars and the other areas which needed repair. He invited pledge of contributions. After a brief pause Mr. Murphy, the richest man in the parish, volunteered he would give 50 dollars. Just as he sat down, a hunk of plaster fell from the ceiling on his head. Mr. Murphy jumped back up looking terribly startled and corrected himself: “I meant to say 500 dollars.” The congregation stood silent and stunned. Then a lone voice cried out: “*Oh Lord, hit him again!*” 😊

There is a town in Norway named Hell. Once some Catholics from the U.S. visited Norway and then sent a postcard to their pastor back home. He read it at a meeting of the parish council. “Dear Father,” it said, “We passed through

Hell today. Though the majority are Lutherans, Catholics are the next biggest group. We're concerned!” 😊

“I’m thinking about taking a vacation to hell. After all, everybody’s always telling me to go to hell.” 😊

A man is at home when he hears a knock at the door. He opens the door and sees a snail on the porch. He picks up the snail and throws it as far as he can. A few months later there’s a knock on the door. He opens it and sees the same snail. The snail says: “What the hell was that all about? 😊

A drunken man gets on the bus late one night, staggers up the aisle, and sits next to an elderly woman. She looks the man up and down and says, “I've got news for you. You're going straight to hell!” The man jumps up out of his seat and shouts, “Man, I'm on the wrong bus!” 😊



### Parenting Tune-Up

This Monday (Sept. 26) is “Eat Dinner Together Day.” (<https://www.informedfamilies.org/>) How many days a week should your family eat together? Experts say try for at least 4 or 5. Research by The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University consistently finds that the more often children eat dinner with their families, the less likely they are to smoke, drink or use illegal drugs.

### Lazarus at our gates . . .

Many of us are pretty much done with COVID. Enough of the masks and hand sanitizers. Book our favorite restaurants; get seats for the game, order tickets for theatre or cinema — we’re there. And, please, no more shots. But then, there’s Lazarus: the elderly parent, the friend whose immune system is compromised by a chronic illness, the co-worker who’s been through a couple of rounds of the virus. For their sakes, maybe we shouldn’t be so fast to ditch our masks and responsible behavior.

There’s an election coming up. You’re checking out the candidates’ positions and records — good. You want legislators and public officials who will represent your interests. Nothing wrong with that. But then, there’s Lazarus: the hard-working poor, those who have no power in our social and political structures, the families who are dealing with issues that they can’t possibly deal with on their own — catastrophic illness, unsafe drinking water, substandard educational opportunities for their children, lack of affordable housing. Shouldn’t their

interests matter in our voting decisions, as well?

Filling up our gas tanks and shopping for groceries have been painful experiences these past few months. So most of us have tightened our belts for the rocky ride ahead. That’s the way it is. But then, there’s Lazarus: those who barely scratch by in the best of times, those families are just an auto repair or unexpected prescription away from economic disaster. Can we make room for them in our hearts — and tight budgets?

(Cont’d on next page)

### Lazarus at our gates . .

Jesus' story of Lazarus and the rich man seems to belong to a time long ago and a place far away — but the fact is that there are many Lazaruses at our own gates whom we overlook, ignore, dismiss. While we rejoice for Lazarus and applaud the rich man's fate in the story, our own self-centeredness and self-interest anesthetize our consciences from realizing the plight of the beggars around us, the cries of the Lazaruses at our own doors. Today's Gospel challenges us to remove the blinders from our eyes and hearts to see God in our midst in the poor, the forgotten, the isolated, the marginalized; to behold the dignity of every human being as created in the image of God; to possess the humility that enables us to embrace one another as brothers and sisters, sons and daughters of God.

#### ***This Is Us: "The Train"***

*" . . . lying at [the rich man's] door was a poor man named Lazarus . . ." Luke 16: 19-31*

This spring the acclaimed television series **This Is Us** concluded its six-year run on NBC with a moving episode about death — and hope. **This Is Us** chronicled the lives of the Pearson Family over 50 years — but not in an orderly narrative: each episode jumped from the present to the past to the future. We saw how the family's past shaped their present, how the experiences they experienced in the present set the stage for the challenges to come.

In one of the series' final episodes, eighty-year-old Rebecca, the family matriarch, is dying. She is bedridden and in the final stages of Alzheimer's disease. The nurse has summoned the family — Rebecca probably won't make it through the night. As Rebecca's body shuts down, her spirit begins its journey to eternity — on a train, the kind of vintage train she rode with her father when she was a child, a train decorated in brocade and plush seats, a train on which passengers dress in elegant formal wear. Rebecca is again as young and beautiful as she was the day she married her beloved Jack a half century before. As Rebecca moves through the train, she sees her children at every stage of their lives, all happily hanging out with each other. In each car, she is greeted by the many wonderful people who have blessed her life, including her daughter-in-law and sons-in-law and grandchildren. The light in Rebecca's eyes reveals the joy she is experiencing in remembering again.

In the "bar car," she is greeted by Dr. K, the obstetrician who delivered her three children. He's serving as bartender. As he mixes a cocktail for her, Rebecca

confesses her fear that she made too many mistakes in raising her family.

Dr. K assures her that "there are no perfect games in parenting. No one ever came back and said to me, 'Doc, I got this parent thing down.'" Dr. K tells Rebecca that even in "the sadness and mess" she and her family experienced, Rebecca made something beautiful and wonderful: "What a thing you made of it all, Rebecca. What a big, messy, gigantic, spectacular thing!" As her children say their goodbyes to Rebecca in real time, Rebecca's soul continues to move from car to car on the mythical train, reliving one memory after another.

Finally, at the moment of her death, Rebecca comes to the last car, the caboose. There she is reunited with her husband, Jack, who died years before as the result of a house fire. As they embrace, Jack tells her, "You did so good." Rebecca confides to Jack her fear of leaving her family now when they need her. It's hard to explain," Jack says, but you'll do all those things with them. You'll be there."

**On her train ride to eternity, Rebecca sees her life in its totality, she comes to a new awareness of the good she did as a mom, the blessings she realized in her marriage, the many broken hearts — and bones — she was able to mend. To follow Jesus is to be aware of the good that has blessed our lives, the good we and others possess because we are all created by God, and the good we are able to do as a result. That's the failing of the rich man in today's Gospel: his want of gratitude for all that he has and his lack of awareness of the good he could do for the Lazarus's at his gate. With humility and gratitude, may we open our hearts and spirits to discover, as Rebecca comes to see on "the train," the blessing, the good, the hope that "is us."**

#### **The parable that challenged Dr. Albert Schweitzer**

It is the parable of the rich man and Lazarus which made a man with three doctoral degrees (one in medicine, one in theology, one in philosophy), leave civilization with all its culture and amenities and depart for the jungles of darkest Africa to serve as a missionary doctor for 47 years. It was this parable which induced a man, who was recognized as one of the best soloist and concert organists in all Europe, to go to a place where there were no organs to play? It was this powerful parable which so intensely motivated a man that he gave up a teaching position as university professor in Vienna, Austria to go to help people who were so deprived that they were still living in the superstitions of the dark ages, for all practical purposes. At the age of 38, he became a full-fledged medical doctor with specialization in tropical medicine. At the age of 43, he left for Africa where he opened a hospital on the edge of the jungle in what was then called Equatorial Africa. He died there in 1965 at the age of 90. The man of course was Dr. Albert Schweitzer who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1952.

## Reflect

### The parable ... (cont'd)

*The single parable that so radically altered his life, according to him, was our text for this Sunday, the parable of the rich man and Lazarus, the beggar. That parable convinced Schweitzer that the rich, Europe, should share its riches with the poor, Africa, and that he should start the process.*

### Half to Doctors and half to Lawyers

Cecil John Rhodes was an enormously wealthy man. He was an English-born businessman, mining magnate, and politician in South Africa. He was the founder of the diamond company De Beers, which today markets 40% of the world's rough diamonds and at one time marketed 90%. An ardent believer in colonialism and imperialism, he was the founder of the state of Rhodesia to perpetuate his name. One day a newspaperman asked him, "You must be very happy." Rhodes replied, "Happy! No! I spent my life amassing a fortune only to find that I have spent half of it on doctors to keep me out of the grave, and the other half on lawyers to keep me out of jail." **He reminds us of the rich man in Jesus' parable in today's Gospel. We need to remember that sharing is the criterion of Last Judgment: Matthew (25: 31ff), tells us that all six questions to be asked of each one of us by Jesus when He comes in glory as our judge are based on how we have shared our blessings from Him (food, drink, home, mercy and compassion), with others. Here is the message given by Pope St. John Paul II in Yankee Stadium, New York during his first visit to the U.S., October 2, 1979. "The parable of the rich man and Lazarus must always be present in our memory; it must form our conscience. Christ demands openness to our brothers and sisters in need – openness from the rich, the affluent, the economically advanced; openness to the poor, the underdeveloped and the disadvantaged. Christ demands an openness that is more than benign attention, more than token actions or halfhearted efforts that leave the poor as destitute as before or even more so. ...We cannot stand idly by, enjoying our own riches and freedom, if, in any place, the Lazarus of the 20th century stands at our doors."**

### Want to know more about Prayer?

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

### Here is the image of God covered with rags!

There is a Jewish story about Rabbi Joshua, the son of Levi, and his trip to Rome in the third century. He was astounded to see the magnificence of the buildings, especially the care lavished upon statues which were covered with exquisite cloths to protect them from the summer heat. As he was admiring the beauty of Roman art, a beggar plucked at his sleeve and asked for a crust of bread. The sage looked at the statues and turning to the beggar in rags said: "Here are statues of stones covered with expensive clothes, and here is a man created in the image and likeness of God covered with rags. A civilization that pays more attention to statues than to human beings shall surely perish."

**Telling the parable of the rich man and Lazarus in today's Gospel, Jesus asks us the same question: What are our statues, our priorities? The poor and powerless, the illiterate, the homeless, the ill? We are all rich enough to share our blessings with others. God has blessed each one of us with wealth or health or special talents or social power or political influence or a combination of many blessings. The parable invites us to share what we have been given with others in various ways, instead of using everything exclusively for selfish gains.**

### "A Diet Plan I can recommend!"

Guideposts magazine, several years ago, published an account of how a young woman named Mary Bowers MacKorell found an effective weight loss plan. Mary's doctor told her she needed to lose several pounds. She went through many diet plans, counted her calories and used dietetic foods, but found she just didn't have the necessary willpower. One day she received a pamphlet about needy people in her mail. Pictured on the pamphlet was a dark-skinned, scrawny, near skeletal boy. MacKorell says that she experienced a kind of spiritual shock treatment at the sight of the starving child. She began to think more seriously about how she could take off unnecessary pounds and put them where they were needed on this starving child. "At last I had a spiritual motivation for reducing," she said. "Under God's guidance I formed a practical plan and carried it through. For a period of ten days I ate only two meals a day, skipping lunch. Each day at the lunch hour I sipped a sugar free drink and looked at the picture of the starving boy. I prayed to God to bless him and let my extra weight be transferred to him or someone like him. For each lunch I omitted I placed in a box for missions one dollar saved. "Now there is a diet plan I can recommend."

**The parable of the rich man and Lazarus in today's Gospel gives all of us a similar diet plan. Our choices here determine the kind of eternity we will have. It has been put this way: "Where we go hereafter depends on what we go after, here." Where we will arrive depends on what road we travel. We get what we choose, what we live for. We are shaping our moral character to fit in one of two places.**

## Pray



### The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

Just a reminder that the RCIA is intended for:

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

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

### Altar Servers Wanted!

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



### Calling Our Silver & Gold Wedding Jubilarians

You are cordially invited to celebrate your 25th or 50th Wedding Anniversary with the Church of Metuchen and renew your marriage vows with Bishop James Checchio at a special Evening Prayer Service at the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi in Metuchen on Sunday, October 30, 2022 at 3:30 PM. Registration is required.

**Deadline for registration is October 7.**

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

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

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



### Rosary Altar Society Meeting

The St. Matthias Rosary Altar Society will hold an in person meeting monthly beginning on Sunday, October 2. Since October is the month of the Holy Rosary, we invite all to pray with us after the 10:00 AM Mass.

Following Mass we will meet in the St. John XXIII Room for a continental breakfast.



### The Transitus of Saint Francis of Assisi

Monday, October 3, 2022  
7:00pm

St Matthias Church  
170 JFK Blvd

Somerset, New Jersey

Deacon Sal Bonfiglio, ofs President

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

## Learn

### Attention 7th & 8th Graders: Confirmation Preparation 2022-2023

**Register for Confirmation Preparation as soon as possible!**

Families who have a **7th or 8th** grader **in either St. Matthias School or the GIFT program** and desire to have their child prepare for the sacrament of Confirmation need to visit <https://www.stmatthias.net/confirmation> for more details and to complete the **2022-2023 Confirmation registration form online.**

The fees for the program are noted on parish website page

A **parent meeting for 7th grade parents** will be held in **November for all registered 7<sup>th</sup> graders-or those in Year 1 of Confirmation Preparation who may be a bit older.** **Questions?** Please email Dee Nann at [dnann@stmatthias.net](mailto:dnann@stmatthias.net)



## 2022-2023 GIFT for K-8 Religious Formation

We are happy to invite all parents/families with children in K-8, who are not attending a Catholic school, to register their children for our wonderful religious education/formation program for 2022-2023.

The 2022-2023 registration form for our K-8 family-based parish program of religious formation, G.I.F.T.

[Growing In Faith Together], is currently available to complete online at 2022-2023 GIFT for K-8 Religious Ed <https://www.stmatthias.net/faith-formation/>. Please register your family/children in grades K-8. This year we are planning to offer 3 sessions each month: on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings at 6:30PM *without a meal* because of the COVID-19 precautions; and on Sunday afternoons at 2PM, again without a meal. You choose which one of the three sessions to attend.

The fees for the program are noted on parish website page. Please register online; the fee can also be paid online. **Please note: GIFT is required for all children in grades 1-8 who are not attending a Catholic school; it is optional for kindergarten students. It is required for non-Catholic school children also during the sacramental prep years.**

### Attention 2nd Graders: First Eucharist Preparation 6466-2023

For all families in GIFT and for those who are students at St. Matthias School who have (baptized) children who are in 2nd grade [fall 2022] or older who desire to receive the Sacraments of First Reconciliation/First Eucharist in 2023, sacramental preparation is required through the parish-you **must register online**. Typically, classes are held for all children and at least one parent on certain Sunday mornings in the cafeteria or the St. John XXIII room [school building] and certain classrooms from 10:30AM -11:30AM. We are planning in person sessions for 2022-2023. Be sure to register early.

The sacramental preparation fee for this program is \$80. The 2022-2023 Registration for First Eucharist/First Reconciliation are available online at <https://www.stmatthias.net/first-eucharist-first-reconciliation/>

Questions? Please email Dee Nann at [dnann@stmatthias.net](mailto:dnann@stmatthias.net) or call the Parish Office, 732-828-1400.

# HEALTHY MINDS, HEALTHY FUTURES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Give (and Receive!)

## Stewardship Reflection Sep 25 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

*“My child, remember that you received what was good during your lifetime while Lazarus likewise received what was bad; but now he is comforted here, whereas you are tormented. Moreover, between us and you a great chasm is established...” Luke 16:25-26*

When God created the world He declared that it was good and He gave it to all mankind for us to enjoy. However, over the years we have created a chasm between those who have great gifts and those who do not. In today’s Gospel we see that with our own generosity we must bridge that gap between those who have much and those who have little or we may find ourselves on the wrong side of the chasm in the next life.

## Reflexiónese — 25de septiembre de 2022 26° del Tiempo Ordinario

*“Amigo, recuerda que durante tu vida terrena recibiste muchos bienes, y que Lázaro, en cambio, solamente recibió males. Pues bien, ahora él goza aquí de consuelo y a ti te toca sufrir. Más aun, entre nosotros y ustedes hay un abismo infranqueable ...”. Lucas 16:25-26*

Cuando Dios creo el universo declaró lo que era bueno y se lo dio a la humanidad para que lo disfrutara. Sin embargo, a lo largo de los años hemos creado un abismo entre los que recibieron grandes dones y los que no. En el Evangelio de hoy vemos que con nuestra propia generosidad debemos cerrar la brecha que permita unir a aquellos que tienen mucho con los que tienen poco, o nos podremos encontrar en el lado equivocado del abismo en la próxima vida.

Stewardship Totals for Fiscal Year July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023				Last Year's Total
Current Month	In-Pew/Mail	Parish Giving	Weekly Total	Weekly Total
Week 10 - Sept. 4, 2022	\$11,045.00	\$14,103.37	<b>\$25,148.37</b>	\$28,342.75
Week 11 - Sept. 11, 2022	\$12,713.00	\$28,515.22	<b>\$41,228.22</b>	\$31,745.25
Week 12 - Sept. 18, 2022	\$8,917.20	\$12,670.25	<b>\$21,587.45</b>	\$24,311.25
Week 13 - Sept. 25, 2022	\$0.00	\$0.00	<b>\$0.00</b>	\$15,623.53
			<b>Month-to-date Total</b>	<b>Sept Total Last Yr</b>
<b>Peter's Pence Collection:</b>	<b>\$2,918</b>		<b>\$87,964.04</b>	\$100,022.78
			<b>Current Year-to-date</b>	<b>Year-to-date as of Sep</b>
			<b>\$307,863.59</b>	\$322,603.66

### K of C Pancake Breakfast is Back!!!!

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

The cost is \$10.00 for adults, \$5.00 for ages 13-17, children under 12 are free. Breakfast menu is pancakes, eggs, sausage, bagels, juice, coffee and much more. We hope to see you there!



## Serve



### BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

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

**DATES: WEDNESDAYS - OCT. 19, 26, NOV. 2, 9, 16,  
TUESDAYS - NOV. 22, Nov. 30**

**TIME: 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM**

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

**DEADLINE TO REGISTER: FRIDAY, OCT. 14**

**CONTACT SISTER MARIE THERESE: [msherwood@stmatthias.net](mailto:msherwood@stmatthias.net)**



### Become A Eucharistic Minister For Homebound & Nursing Home Ministry

An Invitation to become a Eucharistic minister to our home-bound or those in local nursing homes.

You are invited to pray and reflect upon joining the “Blessed” ministry of bringing Jesus to those who are home-bound or in nursing homes.

For information, please contact Sr. Marie Therese, 732-828-1400 x 114.

## Connect

### SENIOR MINISTRY MEETING

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

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

**DATE: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15**

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

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

**For more information, contact: Sr. Marie Therese:**

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



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

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

### The Deadline to Order Your Tree is October 14.

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

**For more information and to order a tree visit [www.stmatthias.net/tree](http://www.stmatthias.net/tree)**

## Connect

**Baby Bottle Boomerang** The Respect for Life Committee is undertaking a special campaign. The Kick-off will be Respect Life Sunday, **October 2, 2022**. Baby bottles will be distributed by various parish ministries at all Masses that weekend. Funds collected will be used to support four of our local pregnancy centers: First Choice Women's Resource Center in New Brunswick, Life Choices Resource Center in Metuchen, Great Expectations in Somerset, and the Pregnancy Aid Center in Raritan. Please take a bottle and fill it with coins, bills and/or checks. Feel free to make the checks out to one of the above organizations. Please return the bottles to Mass on the weekends of October 23 and 30. Questions, contact Fran Johnson [tfxj@msn.com](mailto:tfxj@msn.com)

## Local Community Connect

### Marriage Encounter

Now that summer is over, why not treat yourselves to a Marriage Encounter Weekend?

A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend gives you the time and tools to revitalize

Romance, deepen communication, and nourish the spirituality in your marriage. The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend will be held October 21 - 23.

Please apply ASAP as space is limited.

Phone 1-732-904-9636 for application and information (Tom & Ruth DeFalco). Visit us at: [www.wvme.org](http://www.wvme.org) for more information.



## Parish Leadership

### Parish Pastoral Council:

#### Co-Chairs:

Rose Peng, [rosepeng@optonline.net](mailto:rosepeng@optonline.net)

John Taylor, [jptaylor1068@yahoo.com](mailto:jptaylor1068@yahoo.com)

### Co-Secretaries:

Frank Rees

Marilyn Wegg

Stephan Busono

Anne Marie Francis

Bill Isele

Maria Tapia-Burch

Msgr. Seamus Brennan,

Ex-Officio

Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio

### Trustees:

Pearl Scott

Marge Richards

### Parish Finance Council:

Kester Hector, Chair

**Finance Council**

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

Carmen Driz-Melilli

Barry Dusault

Gwen Orlowski

Audrey Francis

Joe Porter

Joan Pritchard

Mary Pat Burke-Grospin,

Ex-Officio

Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio

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

**Parish Registration** — Welcome to St. Matthias! Please register on our website. [www.stmatthias.net/join-us](http://www.stmatthias.net/join-us), or visit the Parish Office.

**Marriage** — Registered parishioners should contact the parish office a year before the desired wedding date.

**Baptism** — Baptismal Preparation Sessions are held four times a year for registered parishioners. Please contact the parish office before the baby is born. The sacrament of Baptism is celebrated on the second and fourth Sunday of each month, except during Lent.

**Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)** - If you are interested in becoming a Catholic or completing the Sacraments of Initiation--Baptism/Confirmation/Eucharist, please call the Parish Office.



**St. Matthias School** is a PreK3 through 8<sup>th</sup> grade school rooted in faith, inspired by love, and dedicated to academic excellence. Before and After School Care Programs are available. Come visit! Contact 732-828-1402 to schedule a tour.



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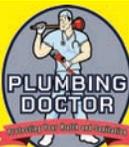


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**event dates**

Apply online prior to an event for on-the-spot interviews!

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Tuesday, 10/11

Tuesday, 10/18

Tuesday, 10/25

**November 2022**

Tuesday, 11/01

Tuesday, 11/08

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