



**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  
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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)  
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 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 26, 2021 –

### Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

### World Day of Migrants & Refugees

#### Highlights—This Week

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

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

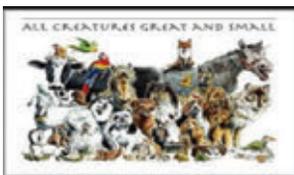
**The Super 50/50 is Back!** Look for  
 your tickets in the mail!

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



#### HELP SPREAD THE WORD!

Saint Matthias School will have an  
**Open House on October 15, 2021,**  
 beginning at **9:00 am.** Please help us spread the word  
 about our school filled with faith, caring, and excellence  
 to your relatives, friends, and neighbors. We are  
 looking forward to enhancing our enrollment this school year and the  
 following year as well. ALL are welcome!



#### BLESSING OF ANIMALS

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

#### Meet & Greet—Sister Mary Vertucci

Please join fellow parishioners for a Meet & Greet on  
**October 10<sup>th</sup>** following the **Noon Mass.** Our special Guest  
 from the Emusoi Centre in Tanzania is Sr. Mary Vertucci.  
 She will be updating us on the ministry of the Emusoi Centre  
 during COVID. Light refreshments; free will donation to help the  
 Emusoi Centre. For more information, see [www.emusoicentre.co.tz](http://www.emusoicentre.co.tz)



#### Have You Sponsored Your Christmas Tree Yet?

Help us turn the field next to the church into a winter  
 wonderland. And then come visit often with your family  
 and friends from Dec. 4 through Jan. 6. Details are on page  
 9. All trees must be pre-ordered by Oct. 14, so don't delay.



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 26, 2021 World Day Of Migrants & Refugees**

**Fall into Faith Registration Begins**

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

**Monday, Sep 27, 2021, St. Vincent de Paul**

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

**Tuesday, Sep 28, 2021, Lorenzo Ruiz**

8:00AM Daily Mass Church

**Wednesday, Sep 29, 2021, Archangels Michael & Raphael**

8:00AM Daily Mass, Year of St. Joseph Prayer Church  
 9:30AM Prayer Group-Holy Spirit de Porres Rm

**Thursday, Sep 30, 2021, St. Jerome**

8:00AM Daily Mass Church  
 3:30PM Children's Choir gr. 3 & 4 rehearsal Church  
 4:15PM Children's Choir 5th-8th gr. rehearsal Church

**Friday, Oct 1, 2021, St. Therese of Child Jesus**

**SMS dismissal 12:15PM**  
 8:00AM Daily Mass Church  
 8:30AM 1st Friday Holy Hour Church  
 9:00AM SMS First Friday Mass Church

**Saturday, Oct 2, 2021, Guardian Angels**

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

**Sunday, Oct 3, 2021 Respect Life Sunday**

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

**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.

*Please Note: This column is reprinted from the Sept. 12, 2021 bulletin which did not appear in print due to the recent floods.*



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

**A Pear of Wisdom for this Week**

Never Think Hard About The PAST , It Brings Tears...  
 Don't Think More About The FUTURE, It Brings Fear...  
 Live The PRESENT Moment With A Smile, It Brings Cheer.

## Readings for the Week

**Monday:** Zec 8:1-8; Ps 102:16-18, 19-21, 29, 22-23; Lk 9:46-50

**Tuesday:** Zec 8:20-23; Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7; Lk 9:51-56

**Wednesday:** Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 or Rv 12:7-12ab; Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 4-5; Jn 1:47-51

**Thursday:** Neh 8:1-4a, 5-6, 7b-12; Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11; Lk 10:1-12

**Friday:** Bar 1:15-22; Ps 79:1b-2, 3-5, 8, 9; Lk 10:13-16

**Saturday:** Bar 4:5-12, 27-29; Ps 69:33-35, 36-37; Mt 18:1-5, 10

**Sunday:** Gn 2:18-24; Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6; Heb 2:9-11; Mk 10:2-16 or 10:2-12

## Mass Intentions for the Week

<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
<b>Monday, Sep 27</b>	8:00AM	Elmer Natale, by Vinnie
<b>Tuesday, Sep 28</b>	8:00AM	Sadie, Milton & Jean Callender, by Antoinette Surdo-Palladino
<b>Wednesday, Sep 29</b>	8:00AM	Marta Go, by Mary Anjou
<b>Thursday, Sep 30</b>	8:00AM	Reno Domic, by The Family
<b>Friday, Oct 1</b>	8:00AM	Feast Day Blessings Sr. Marie Therese, by The OSF Community
<b>Saturday, Oct 2</b>	5:00PM	Isabelle Doyle, by Isabelle & John Baker
<b>Sunday, Oct 3</b>	8:00AM	Hildegard Scheurle, by Fina Sica
	10:00AM	Deceased Members of the Rosary Altar Society, by St. Matthias Rosary Altar Society
	12:00PM	Raquel Fischbach, by Kathy & Bill Gorka
	(5:30PM)	Intention of Parishioners

## 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  
[Mary Ellen Delaney](#)  
 Alaina Derecola  
 Surya & Juliany Dharma

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

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

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

Everyone who is ill with Covid-19  
 ...and for all who are homebound,  
 elderly, in nursing care, or living with  
 chronic illness

## Pray for those who have died...

—“His mercy endures forever.” Chronicles

Henrietta Kaiser  
 Sharon Sincoskie

## From the Pastoral Staff

The world for some time now seems to be asking when we will get back to “normal.” The short answer is that nobody knows for certain. The scholars in faith formation which I have been following and reading this past year, don’t think we will be going back [or should go back] to the pre-pandemic normal in exactly the same way. It appears that the world has been permanently disrupted by the pandemic. As Pope Francis has repeatedly said, “... (the pandemic) set before us a choice: either to continue on the road we have followed until now, or to set on a new path.” So what will we do? What will church and faith formation look like as we emerge from the pandemic in fall 2021 and beyond?

The first choice is pretty clear: reinstitute pre-pandemic faith formation, even if the conditions are very different.

The second choice focuses on learning, adapting, and innovating. The second choice builds on the adaptation that has already been happening in so many churches during the pandemic as they use online and hybrid approaches to faith formation, emphasize at-home and small groups, create digital platforms for faith formation content and

experiences, and other settings.

*... the central challenge for pastoral ministry today concerns the most important mark of good ministry: the ability to effectively mediate faith as an integral way of life to persons, communities and cultures.*

*This has been true throughout history, in every culture and for every community of faith. In our time, however, communities of faith seem to be falling short precisely at this point. . . . the main problem is that the communities of faith have not found effective ways to offer a compelling vision of an integral way of life that is worth living. Many people are seeking precisely that. [Miroslav Volf, theologian and author, 2002]*

Some years ago, Peter Senge, professor and author of the Fifth Discipline, was asked to speak to a group of 500 pastors. Prior to the session, he visited a local bookstore. He asked the owner, “What is the most popular book?” He was told the two top selling types of books... How to make money? And, Buddhism as a ‘way of life’. Why are books on Buddhism so popular and not books on Christianity? Senge replied, “I think it’s because Buddhism presents itself as a way of life, and Christianity

presents itself as a system of belief. So I would want to get Christian ministers thinking about how to rediscover their own faith as a way of life, because that’s what people are searching for today. That’s what they need more.” (McLaren, 2-3)



Believe, Belong, Behave has long been the model and order of formation in our faith. The suggestion now suggests this order: **Behave [practices], Belong [a community living those practices], Believe [how the tradition informs our practices].**

Our St. Matthias faith formation program, **GIFT** [Growing In Faith Together] begins on **Sunday, October 3** in church at 2PM; Tuesday and Wednesday evenings [**October 5 & 6**] will begin at 6:30PM in church. Masks will be required by all. Our first sessions will focus on the faith practice of Keeping the Sabbath.

If your family has not registered as yet, please do so **today** at <https://www.stmatthias.net/faith-formation>. We’re looking forward to an enriching year of Living Well: Christian Practices for Everyday Life!

Dee Nann, Faith Formation

## Reflect

### Gandhi, Mandela, Dorothy Day and Martin Luther King Jr.

In today’s Gospel, Jesus gives his disciples a lesson in Christian tolerance along with a warning against jealousy and scandal. With our fallen human nature, we fall victim to the evil tendency of trying to control the Spirit of God by our intolerance. Our own arrogance insists that another is not qualified to speak on justice or morality because of his/her lower educational qualifications, low-grade lifestyle, humble social background or race. There are Christians who still look on believers belonging to non-Christian religions and on members of Christian denominations different from their own as heretics and semi-pagans. There are numerous brave men and women who challenged such evils in society. A few examples:

Mohandas Gandhi, a Hindu leader in India, challenged the colonial rule of the British Empire over India with his principles of peace and non-violence. But the intolerant British Empire, initially dismissing him as a “silly, half-naked fakir,” tried to silence him by imprisonment. But later they found, to their horror that the entire nation was behind him in its fight for freedom from colonial rule.

Nelson Mandela was ignored by the minority ruling class that practiced apartheid and was jailed for many years as a radical because of his option for the poor and the oppressed in South Africa.

Dorothy Day was imprisoned in the U. S. many times for picketing at the White House on behalf of women's suffrage, for her stand against nuclear weapons and for her other beliefs and actions. She was accused of being a Communist.

Martin Luther King Jr. challenged a nation and its policy of discrimination. He was continually under surveillance by the FBI and was accused of inciting sedition and of being unpatriotic.

# Reflect



## Parenting Tune-Up

The commandments tell us not to lie, steal, murder, or commit adultery. That's pretty clear. However, sins of greed, selfishness, or general meanness are not always as clear. What actions and attitudes create unhappiness in your family? Ask your kids.

## Marriage Tune-Up



"Whoever causes one of these little ones...to sin..." (Mark 9:42)  
Taking advantage of a child's innocence or failing to protect children from harm is a betrayal of trust. Use your voice as a Christian couple to speak truth to power whenever it is needed. Your vocation demands that you not sit silently by.

## Did You Consider Joining our Small Faith Groups?

**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. 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. Thus it creates opportunities to deal with real life difficulties as they surface. This is part of what we should expect from good friends.

**So, why not sign up if you have never tried this small group experience? Visit "Small Groups" at [www.stmatthias.net/faith-formation](http://www.stmatthias.net/faith-formation) for details. Groups begin October 10.**



## Smile with Your Family



### You Know You Are Out of College When:

Your potted plants stay alive.

- Sleeping in a twin-sized bed seems absurd.
- You pay your own credit card bill.
- Mac & Cheese no longer counts as a well-balanced meal.
- "Extended childhood" only really pertains to your salary which is a little less than your allowance used to be.
- "Twenty-something" means over-qualified, under-paid and not married.
- Jeans, flannels & baseball caps aren't staples in your wardrobe.
- You go from 130 days of vacation time to 14.
- You stop confusing 401k plan with 10K run.
- You go to parties that police don't raid.
- You don't know what time Wendy's closes anymore.
- Your car insurance goes down.
- You refer to college students as kids.
- You feed your dog a science diet instead of taco bell.
- Half your conversations with current college students start with, "When I was in college..."

**Intolerance in the blood:** In Belfast, Ireland, a Catholic priest, a Protestant minister and a Jewish rabbi were engaged in a heated theological discussion. Suddenly an angel appeared in their midst and said to them, "God sends you His blessings. Make one wish for peace and your wish will be fulfilled by the Almighty." The Protestant minister said, "Let every Catholic disappear from our lovely island. Then peace will reign supreme." The priest said, "Let there not be a single Protestant left on our sacred Irish soil. That will bring peace to this island." "And what about you, Rabbi?" said the angel. "Do you have no wish of your own?" "No," said the rabbi. "Just attend to the wishes of these two gentlemen and I shall be well pleased."

## Sodium Chloride



If there are any chemists reading this piece, you know that sodium is an extremely active element found naturally only in combined form; it always links itself to another element. Chlorine, on the other hand, is a poisonous gas that can stand by itself. Chlorine is what gives bleach its offensive odor. When sodium and chlorine are combined, the result is Sodium Chloride. What is Sodium Chloride? Salt. Common table salt. The substance we use to preserve meat and bring out its flavor. The substance we use to add spice to meals.

**Love and truth can be like sodium and chlorine. Love without truth is flighty, sometimes blind, willing to combine with various doctrines. On the other hand, truth by itself can be offensive, sometimes even poisonous. Spoken without love, it can turn people away from the Gospel. When truth and love are combined in an individual or a Church, then we have what Jesus called "the salt of the earth," and we're able to preserve and bring out the beauty of our faith.**

## Sunday Reflection: It's



## Downhill from First Grade, Kid...

**"If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off." Mark 9: 38-43, 45, 47-48**

In an episode of the daily comic strip 'For Better or For Worse' by Lynn Johnston [October 14, 2017], six-year-old Lizzy has had a bad day at school and she confides to her father: | *Daddy - why don't some kids get along with other kids? Sometimes, when you think someone's your friend, they're really not. Some kids do mean things for no reason. Kids fight over dumb stuff. They pick on each other. They don't share - an' they say things about other kids that aren't true. "I can't wait till I'm grown up . . . grown-ups don't do things like that to each other."*

Lizzy turns to walk away, leaving her dad with a stunned, sad expression on his face that says, *Oh, Lizzy, if you only knew what grown-ups do . . .*

**Jesus challenges all of us adults to consider the values and faith we are modeling for our "little ones": what our public policies, our social and cultural institutions, our political and religious rhetoric reveal about the world we are building that we are handing on to them. The great responsibility of our baptisms is to show our children the purpose that our faith gives to our lives, to help those alienated from God re-connect with their sacred, to reveal the love and mercy of God to those who do not know God. To teach with conviction without judgment, to guide by example rather than by dogma, to inspire by generosity instead of sermons is to transform our world one generation at a time, to establish the reign of God one stone upon another.**

## Did Jesus Mean that We Self-Mutilate!???

Our hands become instruments of sin according to what we touch and how we touch, in lust or greed or violence. Our feet are used for sin according to the places we have them take us. Our eyes become doorways for sins according to what we choose to look at or refuse to look at. However, it is important to understand that, in these passages about "plucking out an eye or cutting off a hand," Jesus is not speaking literally. We have more sins than we have bodily parts. Besides, even if all offending parts were removed, our hearts and minds -- the source of all sins-- would still be intact. Hence, these sayings are actually about our attitudes, dispositions, and inclinations. Jesus is inviting us to integrate our bodies into our following of Christ, so that our hands become instruments of compassion, healing and comfort, our feet help us to bring the Gospel to the world, and our eyes learn to see the

truth, goodness and beauty all around us.

By these startling words about self-mutilation, Jesus also means that we must cut out of our lives all practices that keep us away from God, and retain only those habits that draw us closer to God. Jesus is setting before all his disciples the one supreme goal in life that is worth any sacrifice. That goal is God Himself and His will for our lives, which alone leads us to everlasting peace and happiness. Just as a doctor might remove a limb or some part of the body in order to preserve the life of the whole body, so we must be ready to part with anything which causes us to sin and which leads us or others to spiritual death. Billy Graham has a fantastic way of summing up this Gospel message by concluding his Crusades with a final challenge: "Decide! Cut away anything that prevents you from a radical decision for Jesus Christ! Decide for Christ!"

## Modern-Day Scandal-Givers

The truly dangerous people to whom Jesus is referring are those evil ones who wear the mantle of religious leadership, and at the same time, by their counter-witness, turn the weak and the innocent away from God, and cause them to sin. Today, we know the irreparable harm done to the Church and the faithful by the scandals of clerical sex abuse. Likewise, scandal is often given by unorthodox theologians and false preachers, who propagate their anti-Christian ideas under the guise of Biblical and psychological research. Professors, even at some Christian universities, sometime advocate moral relativism and nihilism, converting students to their false beliefs. Even teachers at Catholic universities sometimes criticize papal pronouncements as "an infringement on academic freedom." Do they not give scandal? Our major social institutions — the news media, the Internet, law, public education, and the entertainment industry -- under the guise of "freedom of speech and expression," often seem hostile towards religion, erecting stumbling blocks to believers. We have an obligation to make known, with Christian courage, our views on these matters so as to protect the innocent.

## Envy Destroys Self

In Greek history we read of a young man who so distinguished himself in public games that his fellow citizens raised a statue in his honor, to keep fresh the memory of his victories. This statue so excited the envy of another rival who had been defeated in the races that one night he stole out under cover of darkness with the intention to destroy the statue. But he only nicked it slightly. He gave it a final heave and it fell -- on top of him and killed him. --Envy always harms the one who is guilty of it. That is why in today's Gospel Jesus warns us against jealousy and envy. That's also the scenario in the first reading from the Book of Numbers: Joshua was upset that God's gift was given to those who did not follow the community's guidelines, that God's spirit was upon those who did not follow the protocol, and so he asked Moses to stop them. But Moses replied: "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the people of the Lord were prophets! Would that the Lord might bestow his spirit on them all!"

## Reflect

### Joseph, a Man of Prayer: September Reflection for the Year of Joseph

What can we say with certainty about Joseph as a man of prayer? When the Gospel of Luke says that Jesus "grew in wisdom and age and grace before God and men," we know from the Jewish tradition the important role Joseph has as a father. Joseph by duty and privilege was the rabbi of the Holy Family to teach Jesus the Jewish faith and practices. Joseph led his family in the worship of God in their home at Nazareth.

Like in any traditional Jewish family, at meal times both Mary and Jesus looked to Joseph at the head of the table to offer the prayer of blessing. Each year when the great evening of the Passover was celebrated, the youngster Jesus played his role and addressed the ritual question to Joseph: Father, why is this night different from every other night? Then he listened with Mary to Joseph's narration of the glorious events of the Exodus and explanation of the meaning of the paschal lamb. Later Jesus

would hear John the Baptist proclaim him, the Son of Joseph and Mary, the Lamb of God who would take away the sins of the world.

When Jesus was of age, Joseph introduced him to synagogue worship. Jesus was faithful to the synagogue rituals throughout his life. Joseph also taught Jesus the work skills of a carpenter. Through the practice of this trade, Jesus supported himself and his mother after Joseph's death.

Thus, it is clear that Joseph was a man of prayer and he led the holy family in all the worship rituals. In a certain sense Saint Joseph taught Jesus to use the human words to talk to the Heavenly Father—this is prayer. When Jesus taught us how to pray, he began with the same loving title with which he addressed Joseph all his life, *abba*. Therefore, if Saint Joseph taught Jesus how to pray, how much could he teach me how to pray if I simply ask for his help? Start now: Saint Joseph, teach me how to pray!

### Jealousy Even When about to Die!

Feeling very ill, a tough businessman went to see his doctor. After examining him, the doctor backed away and said, "I regret having to tell you this, but you have an advanced case of highly infectious rabies. It appears you've had it for some time. It will almost certainly be fatal." In shock, the man asked the doctor for pen and paper. "Do you want to write your will?" the doctor asked. "No! I want to make a list of all the people I want to bite!" the man replied.

***Jealousy can make a person bitter and revengeful. That is why Jesus gives warnings against jealousy and intolerance: The apostles wanted to reserve God's love and healing power to themselves as the "sole owners" and "authorized distributors"! We hear John complaining to Jesus that a stranger was driving out demons in Jesus' Name, though he was not of their company. They wanted Jesus to condemn the man. As occasionally unsuccessful exorcists, they may have been jealous of this stranger. Jesus, however, reprimanded his disciples for their jealousy and suspicion and invited them to broaden their vision and to recognize God's power wherever it was found.***

## Pray

### Pope Francis' Prayer for World Day of Migrants & Refugees

Holy, beloved Father, Your Son Jesus taught us that there is great rejoicing in heaven whenever someone lost is found, whenever someone excluded, rejected or discarded is gathered into our "we", which thus becomes ever wider. We ask you to grant the followers of Jesus, and all people of good will, the grace to do your will on earth. Bless each act of welcome and outreach that draws those in exile into the "we" of community and of the Church, so that our earth may truly become what you yourself created it to be: the common home of all our brothers and sisters. Amen.

### Communion during the Pandemic

Please notice that the procession order for communion has temporarily changed to avoid crowding in the aisles as best we can. Please listen to the Presider for directions.



### St. Vincent de Paul Society

September 27 marks the Feast of St Vincent de Paul. His life was dedicated to serving the poor. We pray in his words that "... our presence and care to those most in need reflect the gentleness, esteem and dignity we see reflected in the life and work of Jesus." To learn more about the St. Matthias St. Vincent de Paul Society, please visit:

<https://svdpatism.wordpress.com>

## Learn



### St. Matthias Racial Justice Initiative Book Read and Discussion

**"Racial Justice and the Catholic Church" by Bryan Massingale - 240 pages**

**\*\*SAVE THE DATE\*\* — Saturday, October 30, 2021, 9:30 - 11:30 am (ZOOM Link to follow)**

This book is available at many online bookstores.

## Towards an Ever Wider “We” — Pope Francis’ Message for the 107th World Day of Migrants and Refugees

The complete text is at: [https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/migration/documents/papa-francesco\\_20210503\\_world-migrants-day-2021.html](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/migration/documents/papa-francesco_20210503_world-migrants-day-2021.html) Below is an excerpt.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

... I have wished to devote [this] Message...to the theme, Towards An Ever Wider “We”, in order to indicate a clear horizon for our common journey in this world...

The present time, however, shows that this “we” willed by God is broken and fragmented, wounded and disfigured. This becomes all the more evident in moments of great crisis, as is the case with the current pandemic. Our “we”, both in the wider world and within the Church, is crumbling and cracking due to myopic and aggressive forms of nationalism and radical individualism. And the highest price is being paid by those who most easily become viewed as others: foreigners, migrants, the marginalized, those living on the existential peripheries.

The truth however is that we are all in the same boat and called to work together so that there will be no more walls that separate us, no longer others, but only a single “we”, encompassing all of humanity...

For the members of the Catholic Church, this appeal entails a commitment to becoming ever more faithful to our being “catholic”, as Saint Paul reminded the community in Ephesus: “There is one body and one Spirit, just

as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism”.

Indeed the Church’s catholicity, her universality, must be embraced and expressed in every age, according to the will and grace of the Lord who promised to be with us always, until the end of the age. *The Holy Spirit enables us to embrace everyone, to build communion in diversity, to unify differences without imposing a depersonalized uniformity. In encountering the diversity of foreigners, migrants and refugees, and in the intercultural dialogue that can emerge from this encounter, we have an opportunity to grow as Church and to enrich one another... The Catholic faithful are called to work together, each in the midst of his or her own community, to make the Church become ever more inclusive..*

In our day, the Church is called to go out into the streets of every existential periphery in order to heal wounds and to seek out the straying, without prejudice or fear, without proselytising, but ready to widen her tent to embrace everyone. Among those dwelling in those existential peripheries, we find many migrants and refugees, displaced persons and victims of trafficking, to whom the Lord wants his love to be manifested and his salvation preached. “The current influx of migrants can be seen as a new

“frontier” for mission, a privileged opportunity to proclaim Jesus Christ and the Gospel message at home, and to bear concrete witness to the Christian faith in a spirit of charity and profound esteem for other religious communities... I also make this appeal to journey together towards an ever wider “we” to all men and women, for the sake of renewing the human family, building together a future of justice and peace, and ensuring that no one is left behind.

Our societies will have a “colourful” future, enriched by diversity and by cultural exchanges. Consequently, we must even now learn to live together in harmony and peace... To achieve this ideal, however, we must make every effort to break down the walls that separate us and, in acknowledging our profound interconnection, build bridges that foster a culture of encounter...

I invite all men and women in our world to make good use of the gifts that the Lord has entrusted to us to preserve and make his creation even more beautiful... We are called to dream together, fearlessly, as a single human family, as companions on the same journey, as sons and daughters of the same earth that is our common home, sisters and brothers all (cf. *Fratelli Tutti*, 8)...

# Give

## Stewardship Reflection Sep 26, 2021

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

**“Anyone who gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ, amen, I say to you, will surely not lose his reward.” MARK 9:41**

We are made in God’s image and likeness. We tend to forget this. When you look at others, do you see the face of Jesus in them? When others look at you, do they see the face of Jesus in you? When we realize that all lives matter to God, then gratitude and generously become easier. Why? Because that’s the way we are made! We are one Body of Christ; when one of us is hurting, all of us feel the pain.

## Reflexiónese — 26 de septiembre de 2021

Domingo 26° del Tiempo Ordinario

**“Les aseguro que cualquiera que les dé un vaso de agua en mi nombre por ser ustedes de Cristo no perderá su recompensa.” MARCOS 9:41**

Somos hechos a imagen y semejanza de Dios. Tenemos la tendencia a olvidar eso. Cuando mira a los demás, ¿ve en ellos la cara de Jesús? Cuando los demás lo miran a usted, ¿ven la cara de Jesús en usted? Cuando notamos que todas las vidas le importan a Dios, entonces la gratitud y la generosidad se nos hacen más fácil. ¿Por qué? ¡Porque esa es la manera en la que fuimos hechos! Somos uno en el Cuerpo de Cristo: cuando uno de nosotros sufre, todos sentimos el dolor.



### Spread the Light! Sponsor a Christmas Tree

For the 2nd 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 pre-order for all of the trees at the same time.

Stewardship Totals for Fiscal Year July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022				Last Year's Total
Current Month	In-Pew/Mail	Parish Giv-	Weekly Total	Weekly Total
Week 10 - Sept. 5, 2021	\$9,717.00	\$18,625.75	<b>\$28,342.75</b>	\$21,521.63
Week 11 - Sept. 12, 2021	\$8,941.00	\$22,804.25	<b>\$31,745.25</b>	\$28,302.53
Week 12 - Sept. 19, 2021	\$10,807.00	\$13,504.25	<b>\$24,311.25</b>	\$22,427.88
Week 13 - Sept. 26, 2021	\$0.00	\$0.00	<b>\$0.00</b>	\$21,803.83
			<b>Month-to-date Total</b>	<b>Sept Total Last Yr</b>
<b>Mission Appeal Collection: \$1,568</b>			<b>\$84,399.25</b>	\$94,055.87
			<b>Current Year-to-date To-</b>	<b>Year-to-date as of Sep 30,</b>
			<b>\$306,980.13</b>	\$297,903.29

### Serve



#### Vocations Ministry - Called to Build God's Kingdom — Sep 26, 2021

Pope Francis in “*Gaudete et Exsultate*” on the call to holiness in today’s world says:

Just as you cannot understand Christ apart from the kingdom he came to bring, so too your personal mission is inseparable from the building of that kingdom: “Strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness” (Mt 6:33). Your identification with Christ and his will involves a commitment to build with him that kingdom of love, justice and universal peace. Christ himself wants to experience this with you, in all the efforts and sacrifices that it entails, but also in all the joy and enrichment it brings. You cannot grow in holiness without committing yourself, body and soul, to giving your best to this endeavor.

To seek first the Kingdom and his righteousness means to seek to do God’s will and allow God to reign in our life. If our spiritual life is in order, our earthly priorities will fall into order also.

Does God’s kingdom matter to you? How does it matter?

## Serve

### Vocation Videos on Our Website

Be sure to check the parish website for two new videos from the vocations ministry. Watch two parishioners speak about vocation in their life here at St. Matthias. "How to Listen to God's Call in Your Life" and "My Vocation in Lay Ministry". Go to: [www.stmatthias.net/vocations](http://www.stmatthias.net/vocations)

### 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: [msherwood@st.matthias.net](mailto:msherwood@st.matthias.net) by **October 15.**



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

Our St. Matthias Pro-Life team will be distributing magnets next weekend. Show your love for babies in the womb and their families by putting a "baby feet" magnet on your car. There will be volunteers at the doors of the church **NEXT WEEKEND** giving out baby feet magnets. Please get one and put one on your car. (There is no charge but donations are gratefully accepted.) To get a car magnet by mail, email: [BabyFeetMagnet@gmail.com](mailto:BabyFeetMagnet@gmail.com) with your name and mailing address or call: 973-497-4500. Let's get this symbol all over the roads of New Jersey!

## Local Community

### 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Blue Mass for Law Enforcement

Wednesday, September 29 – 10:30 a.m.

Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi, Metuchen

At 10:30 a.m. on September 29, the Feast of St. Michael the Archangel, patron saint of police officers

Bishop James F. Checchio will preside at the Blue Mass. Gathered together with local, county, state and federal law enforcement officials, we will honor and pray for law enforcement officials of all faiths who live and work in the Diocese of Metuchen. All are welcome to attend. For more details: [www.diometuchen.org/bluemass](http://www.diometuchen.org/bluemass).

### Help Afghan Refugees

The bishops of NJ have designated the Diocese of Trenton's Catholic Charities to coordinate our assistance to the thousands of refugees that are now at Joint Base McGuire. They urgently need pro-bono attorneys and help for families. Details at: [www.catholiccharitiestrenton.org/afghan-refugees-humanitarian-crisis/](http://www.catholiccharitiestrenton.org/afghan-refugees-humanitarian-crisis/)

### Life Chain- Sunday, Oct. 3, 2021 2:00PM – 3:30PM (Rain or Shine)

Life Chain is a peaceful & prayerful public witness of pro-life individuals standing for 90 minutes praying for our nation & an end to abortion. For more information, visit [www.diometuchen.org](http://www.diometuchen.org). Nearest Location- Somerville. Somerset Street & Mountain Avenue. Contact Person- Kevin Dugan, 908-788-7736

## 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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