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 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

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

St. Matthias School (SMS):
 170 JFK Blvd., Somerset, NJ 08873
www.stmatthias.info 732-828-1402

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THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS

SUNDAY, SEP 5, 2021 –

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Highlights—This Week

Monday—Labor Day, School & Parish Office will be closed.

Tuesday—1st full day at St. Matthias School, including BSP & ASP.

Saturday, 9/11 Memorial Service, 2:00PM—church and outside. See Fr. Abraham's column and page 7.

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



Welcome St. Matthias School Families!



We were thrilled to welcome our PreK 3 & 4 and Kindergarten students, as well as our older students and families, who came to campus this past week. We look forward to returning to full-day, in-person classes, including Before Care and After Care, on Tuesday!

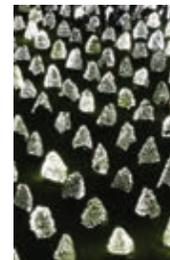


Pope Francis and the Covid Vaccine

Listen to Pope Francis and bishops from around the America's as they speak about the Covid vaccine. This short video released by the Vatican is in Spanish with English subtitles. Go to: <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=V5dbCpmv8Mc> (If you are reading this bulletin online, just hold down the CTRL key and click on the above link.)

Coming Soon: Christmas Trees!

We again will "Spread the Light" this Christmas with trees in the field next to our church. The trees will be lit every evening from early December through early January. Stay tuned for more details about sponsoring a Christmas tree for 2021!



GIFT Registration —for K-8 Religious Ed

If you have not yet registered for our Religious Education program, please do so now. Details are on page 8.



If you shop on Amazon, please help us by starting at: www.stmatthias.net/Amazon

This Week at St. Matthias From the Pastor's Desk

- All Masses will be celebrated in-person.
- Masses will also be livestreamed on our YouTube channel: youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ

The Church is open for individual prayer Sun-Fri from 7:30 am to 7pm & Sat from 9 am to 7pm, unless another event is taking place (Mass, Funeral, Wedding, etc.)

Sunday, Sep 5, 2021

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

Monday, Sep 6, 2021 Labor Day, SMS, Parish Office & Church closed

Tuesday, Sep 7, 2021

SMS— BSP & ASP begin

8:00AM	Daily Mass	Church
8:00AM	SMS Pre-K to 8th Gr. Full Day	School

Wednesday, Sep 8, 2021, Nativity of Mary

8:00AM	Daily Mass	Church
9:30AM	Prayer Group-Holy Spirit de Porres Rm	
7:00PM	SMDP Mtg.	Zoom
8:00PM	K of C Mtg.	Cafeteria

Thursday, Sep 9, 2021

8:00AM	Daily Mass	Church
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Friday, Sep 10, 2021

8:00AM	Daily Mass	Church
9:00AM	SMS Opening School Mass	Church
8:30AM	1st Friday Holy Hour	Church
7:00PM	Boy Scout Trp. 154 Mtg.	Cafeteria

Saturday, Sep 11, 2021 20th Anniversary

2:00PM	9/11 Service	Church & Outside
3:30PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation	Church
5:00PM	Mass	Church

Sunday, Sep 12, 2021 Peter's Pence Collection

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 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,

The 20th anniversary of 9/11 is upon us. Last year when our parishioners joined hands with the Firefighters and the local law enforcement agencies and organized our annual 9/11 memorial day ceremony here in our church, only a few people showed up. That was disappointing to me and to others. The experience of 9/11 is fresh in the minds of those in their 30's and above. They can never forget the trauma we underwent as a nation, and so we cannot allow the anniversary to be erased from our memories as the years pass by. We need to be more enthusiastic about it and make every effort to keep those memories alive in gratitude to those fallen heroes, including our fellow parishioner John Collins, and family members and friends of many in our community.

But the younger generation, especially those in their teens and early twenties, will have no idea of 9/11 except as a history lesson that could become folklore with the passage of time. That is all the more reason for us to keep this anniversary as an opportunity to enlighten our younger generation about this historic tragedy that struck our nation. They need to be present at the anniversary ceremonies so that they can understand the pain and agony – physical and emotional – of those who suffered and continue to suffer.

I am asking our parents to bring their children who are in the higher grades here at St. Matthias School to this year's 9/11 Memorial Service in our church this coming Saturday at 2 pm. I am grateful to Bill Cullen, a former fire Chief and John Hauss, Director of the Fire Prevention Office of Franklin Township and others who are taking the lead in organizing this important event.

Desmond Tutu, the famous Anglican theologian from South Africa, said: "As human beings we have the most extraordinary capacity for evil. We can perpetrate some of the most horrendous atrocities." 9/11 anniversary is a somber time to remind ourselves not only the truth of that statement but also that we are capable of the opposite: that we have infinite capacity to do good. We can build up instead of tear down, because we are created in God's own image and likeness (Genesis 1:27). Hence we are capable of bringing about conditions for living in harmony and peace with all as St. Paul reminds us:

Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone..., live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. On the contrary, if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.... Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. (Romans 12:16-21)

God bless America!

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Orapankal

Readings for the Week

Monday: Col 1:24 — 2:3; Ps 62:6-7, 9; Lk 6:6-11

Tuesday: Col 2:6-15; Ps 145:1b-2, 8-9, 10-11; Lk 6:12-19

Wednesday: Mi 5:1-4a or Rom 8:28-30; Ps 13:6ab, 6c; Mt 1:1-16, 18-23 or 1:18-23

Thursday: Col 3:12-17; Ps 150:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6; Lk 6:27-38

Friday: 1 Tm 1:1-2, 12-14; Ps 16:1b-2a, 5, 7-8, 11; Lk 6:39-42

Saturday: 1 Tm 1:15-17; Ps 113:1b-2, 3-4, 5, 6-7; Lk 6:43-49

Sunday: Is 50:5-9a; Ps 116:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9; Jas 2:14-18; Mk 8:27-35

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, Sep 4	5:00PM	Craig Slyman, by Mom & Dad
Sunday, Sep 5	8:00AM	Jerry Connelly, by The Mazzeo Family
	10:00AM	Raymond Moran, Jr. by Judy & Ron Cerminaro
	12:00PM	Concetta & Luigi Mangiardo, by The Collier Family
	(5:30PM)	Intention of Parishioners
Monday, Sep 6	8:00AM	No Mass
Tuesday, Sep 7	8:00AM	Nancy Collins, by Marty
Wednesday, Sep 8	8:00AM	Walter & Emma Deutsch, by The Deutsch Family
Thursday, Sep 9	8:00AM	Regina Vidal, by Menchie & Family
Friday, Sep 10	8:00AM	Margaret Strollo, by Deacon John Radvanski
Saturday, Sep 11	5:00PM	Firefighter, John Collins, by Dad
Sunday, Sep 12	8:00AM	Rose Marie LaTorre, by John & Barbara Cooney
	10:00AM	Concetta & Luigi Mangiardo, by The Collier Family
	12:00PM	Sadie, Milton & Jean Callender, by Antoinette Surdo-
	(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 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
 Nancy Diaz

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

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

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

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

Pray for those who have died...

—“His mercy endures forever.” Chronicles

Elizabeth McCallion

From the Pastoral Staff

In today's Gospel we see Jesus perform one of His many miracles. He cures a man who is deaf and has a speech impediment. In healing the man Jesus touches his ears and touches his tongue and says the word, "Ephphata" which means "Be opened."

This miracle has come down through the years and has become part of the Baptismal Rite. In the Baptismal Rite, the Priest or Deacon Performs the Rite of Ephphata. The Priest or Deacon touches the child's Ears and lips and says "May the Lord Jesus who made the deaf hear and the mute speak grant that you may soon receive His word with your ears and profess the faith with your lips in the glory and praise of God the Father.

Through Ephphata we are called to be opened to the Word of the Lord and to profess our faith. And so we pray,

Open my eyes Lord, enlighten my mind so that I will discover your presence and you will be in each moment, in every circumstance.

Sometimes the obstacles to making your kingdom grow seem insurmountable but in truth they never are.

You made the deaf hear and the mute speak Lord!

You can give me all the grace I need to overcome every obstacle and fulfill my mission in in life.

Help me to take advantage of every moment in order to know and serve you better. In all my relationships, Lord, especially the ones most difficult for me, grant me the grace to be like you: patient, humble and generous.

My sisters and brothers we need to take to heart Ephphata that is given as a charge to us at Baptism. We need to open our ears to hear His word, and our lips to proclaim His word. We cannot turn a deaf ear or be silent in proclaiming His word.

The world needs it more than ever. Ephphata!

Peace of Christ
Deacon Russ



Reflect



Smile With Your Family —



For one reason or another, a group of friends missed an exam in a class they all had together, they decided to tell the professor they'd been stranded with a flat tire. When they came in for the make-up exam they were handed out test booklets and when they opened the booklets the only question was "Which Tire?" 😊

Son: I'm not going back to school ever again!

Mother: Why not?

Son: The teacher doesn't know a thing, all she does is ask questions! 😊

Ever wonder about these?

◇ Did you ever notice that when you blow in a dog's face, he gets mad at you, but when you take him for a car ride, he sticks his head out the window?

◇ Why does a \$10 bill looks so small at the grocery store but so big at church?

◇ Why do we press harder on a remote control when we know the batteries are getting dead?

◇ Why do banks charge a fee on 'insufficient funds' when they know there is not enough money?



Parenting Tune-Up

Jesus cured the blind, deaf, lame, and mentally ill. Are you a healer? Maybe you're not in the medical profession, but every parent has times when they are a physical or emotional healer for their child. Remember, you walk in the shoes of the Master Healer.

Marriage Tune-Up



Most adult Americans remember Sept. 11, 2001 as a day of terror. What kinds of things terrorize you? Do you know and understand your beloved's fears? See if you can guess what your spouse will say.

A Challenge for the Church:

All three readings of today speak of a God who is partial to the voiceless and the afflicted. Today, however, many of us have lost the ability to recognize the voice of God calling us for action in our modern society. We are asked to give hearing and voice to the deaf and the mute. The person healed became a witness to the power of God. A Church that is to bear witness to the example of Jesus' love must not neglect "those who are bowed down." Through its healing presence the Church must give voice to the voiceless.

Reflection on Ground Zero

(Father Joseph Bayne, OFM Conv., is chief chaplain of the Erie County Emergency Services, chaplain of the Buffalo Fire Department, NY)

As a follower of Francis of Assisi, I'm challenged to bring joy to a broken and sorrow-filled world. In the days following September 11, 2001, I was challenged to take this ministry to Ground Zero as an emergency services chaplain. The experience changed me, and 10 years later, I still feel the emotion, and tears still come easily.

My role as chaplain for emergency services is a "ministry of presence." I roamed around Ground Zero in my turnout gear, speaking to the rescue personnel as they came off the smoking burning pile that was holy ground. I shook hands, hugged, gave bottles of water and often prayed quietly with them. I even mustered some smiles and laughter. I met the CEO of Cantor Fitzgerald, the man who lost over 700 of his staff. I spoke with cops and fire fighters. In true St. Francis of Assisi style, I patted and blessed the rescue dogs as they came off the pile after their shift.

During a break, some of us visited one of the World Trade Center buildings still standing and still safe, despite its windows being blown out. This spot allowed us to go up a floor or two and literally look down into Ground Zero. Here, I stopped my friends and said that I needed to pray for Father Mychal Judge. They instinctively huddled around me, joining hands, and surrounded me in support. I prayed quietly, then openly and I wept.

This experience changed me in some ways. I'm still a sinner, still a bit of a workaholic, still at times trying to "save the world, with my messiah complex." But this tragedy and the humbling opportunity to minister at Ground Zero made me reflect lots on the gift of life, relationships, on making every day good in some way and using the opportunities and gifts God pours upon us. It made me be more conscious of trying "not to sweat the small stuff" as my father had taught me. Life is so precious and yet so fragile. A hug, a smile, an embrace, a kind word, a strong or gentle handshake – all took on new meaning for me.

In the days following the tragedy, some said they saw the face of the devil in the smoke at Ground Zero. Many asked me about the same, and my answer hasn't changed in 10 years. No, I did not see the devil's face at Ground Zero. I saw the face of God in the people working, caring, sweating, crying, rescuing, recovering and being very spiritual in their very humanness. I was moved and changed and felt God's hand in the goodness that followed such tragedy. My ministry embodied the prayer of Saint Francis, "Lord, make me an instrument of your peace."



Deaf Heather Whitestone did that.



When Heather was a child, Daphne, her mother, was advised to send Heather to a school for the deaf and not to expect her to receive more than a third-grade education. But her mother had greater ambitions for Heather. With her mother's encouragement Heather has been able to turn a hearing disability into an asset. Many of you will recognize Heather Whitestone's name as Miss America 1995. In Heather's hometown there is a poster featuring a photo of Heather, taped on a storefront. The poster reads: "They said she would only be able to get a third-grade education. Fortunately, she wasn't listening!" (Denise George, "Capturing a Nation's Heart," *Pursuit*, Vol. III No. 4, p. 26).

Today's Gospel tells us how a deaf and mute man receives Jesus' healing touch.

We need to help Jesus to heal the deaf and the mute today. Jesus desires to give us his healing touch in order to loosen our tongues so that he may speak to the spiritually hungry through us. He invites us to give him our hearts so that he may touch the lives of people in our day through us, just as he touched the lives of millions through saintly souls like Francis of Assisi, Damien of Molokai, Vincent de Paul and Mother Teresa. Like them, we are also invited to become the voice of the "poorest of the poor," the helpless, the downtrodden and the unwanted who are set aside by the "new economy," or who cannot even "speak plainly and fearlessly" about their concerns. Jesus' touch will reveal to us how we neglect, scorn or shame some people while showing favor to others. His compassionate touch will help us to hear the cries of the poor and the sick. It will teach us to show kindness, mercy and consideration to others. His healing touch will also help us convey peace and hope to those around us.

Reflect

Sunday Reflection: Five Minutes that Reveal a Great Deal

"Ephphatha!" - That is, "Be opened!"

Mark 7: 31-37

A renowned marriage therapist and counselor says he can tell in five minutes of listening to a married couple's conversation what their relationship is like and whether it will endure.

Five minutes. What he listens for is the way in which they are attuned or not attuned to one another. If they pay attention and actually listen to their partner before formulating their response; if their response is conveyed with directness and respect; if there is an underlying interest in the well-being of the other person of the relationship. If these things are present in the conversation, the relationship is strong and likely to endure, even when there are considerable differences the couple is struggling to overcome.

Christ's gift of Ephphatha is the ability to put aside one's ego and wants and the need to control in order to listen with the ear of the heart to hear every word that is not said as well as said. Our self-centeredness can make us deaf to the presence of God, isolating us from God's compassion in the midst of conflict and anger, in the midst of brokenness and hurt - but Ephphatha, while not pretending disagreements do not exist, is to listen to one another with empathy: to love enough to listen from the perspective of the other and to seek the meaning of our lives in securing happiness and fulfillment in theirs.

The Buzzard, the Bat, and the Bumble Bee

If you put a buzzard in a pen that is 6 feet by 8 feet and is entirely open at the top, the bird, in spite of its ability to fly, will be an absolute prisoner. The reason is that a buzzard always begins a flight from the ground with a run of 10 to 12 feet. Without space to run, as is its habit, it will not even attempt to fly, but will remain a prisoner for life in a small jail with no top.



The ordinary bat that flies around at night, a remarkable nimble creature in the air, cannot take off from a level place. If it is placed on the floor or flat ground, all it can do is shuffle about helplessly and, no doubt, painfully, until it reaches some slight

elevation from which it can throw itself into the air. Then, at once, it takes off like a flash.

A bumblebee, if dropped into an open tumbler, will be there until it dies, unless it is taken out. It never sees the means of escape at the top, but persists in trying to find some way out through the sides near the bottom. It will seek a way where none exists, until it completely destroys itself.



In many ways, we are like the buzzard, the bat, and the bumblebee. We struggle about with all our problems and frustrations, never realizing that all we have to do is look up! That's the answer, the escape route and the solution to any problem! Just look up. We need to allow Jesus to heal our spiritual deafness and muteness. We may find it hard to speak to God in prayer and harder still to hear Him speaking to us through the Bible and through the Church. Let us ask God's help to open our ears in order to hear Him while reading the Bible, and praise and worship him loudly in our family prayer and in our public worship by participating in the Holy Mass, singing with the choir and praying with the congregation.

The "Ephphatha Prayer"

There is a little ritual in the rite of Baptism whose name and form are taken from today's Gospel:

"The Ephphatha." The celebrant touches the ears and then the lips of the one to be baptized saying: ***"The Lord Jesus made the deaf hear and the dumb speak. May He soon touch your ear to receive His word and your mouth to proclaim His Faith."*** We are reminded that Jesus has the power to heal the spiritual deafness caused by habitually ignoring god's promptings. Hearts that have become hardened by a refusal to hear, can be changed by: ***"Ephphatha! Be opened!"***

Let us bring Jesus' holy word "Ephphatha" to a generation blighted by the materialistic cultural aggression of our times. In their day, the Romans imposed their language and culture on Palestine. Modern secular culture, in fact, is no better. Religion and God are being evicted from schools, colleges, courtrooms, politics and public life. One cannot speak of virginity or marital fidelity without a contemptuous laugh from others. The unborn child with a precious soul is often considered a "mere nuisance," a "product of conception," a "fetus," "a blob of tissue," or a "tumor that can be gotten rid of," with no human rights. In today's motion pictures, all religious gestures are either forbidden or relegated to the ignorant or superstitious. We are told that sixty-five percent of our Catholic youth have no formal religious education beyond the eighth grade. They are exposed to the culture of free sex, loose relationships, liquor, drugs and violence. No wonder, then, if they become deaf and blind to Christian ideals of morality, holiness in life and social justice! May our Lord touch us through this Gospel so that we also can say "Ephphatha" ("Be thou opened!") to everything and everyone shut in from or closed to God and His loving Providence.

Reflect

Miraculous Transformation



A working man was strongly drawn towards a beautiful vase he saw in a stall down in the town market. He bought the vase and brought it home. The vase was so beautiful that it made his front room look drab, dull, and indeed plain ugly. So he got bright paints and transformed the whole house. He got colorful curtains to match the paint, a brightly patterned carpet, and he even stripped down and varnished the furniture. Because of the beauty of the vase the whole room was transformed.

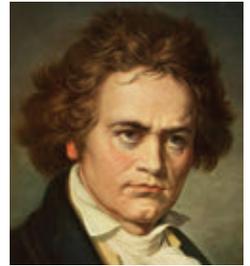
- When Jesus enters my heart, the areas in need of attention become, oh, so obvious. Holiness consists in discovering that I am a much bigger sinner than I ever thought I was! The closer I come to God the more obvious the contrast! When Jesus comes to our lives, his touch, and his presence make all the difference!

3 Most Popular Languages in the US?

Did you know that the three most popular languages in the United States are English, Spanish, and American Sign Language? There are more non-hearing people in our land than you might imagine.

One of the saddest instances of deafness that I know is that of the immortal composer of classical music, Ludwig van Beethoven. For a musician, deafness would be the tragedy of tragedies. As he himself wrote on one occasion, "How sad is my lot! I must avoid all things that are dear to me." There was a terrible time when Beethoven was struggling to conduct an orchestra playing one of his own compositions. He could not hear even the full orchestra. Soon he was beating one time and the orchestra was playing another, and the performance disintegrated in disaster. There is a pathetic picture of him after he had given a piano recital, bent over the keyboard, oblivious to the applause that thundered about him. He wrote on another occasion, "For two years I have avoided almost all social gatherings because it is impossible for me to say to people 'I am deaf.' If I belonged to any other profession it would be easier, but in my profession it is a frightful state."

Beethoven died a broken, bitter man. You and I who have our hearing, have our vision, who are able to get around with a minimum of impediments, ought to thank God every day, and we ought to salute those who overcome obstacles that we cannot even imagine.



Pray



9/11 Memorial Service — Saturday, September 11, 2021 2 pm, in church and at our 9/11 Memorial

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

We are Excited to Welcome Our Parish's Youngest Arrivals!

The Catholic Community of St. Matthias gladly welcomes the following children who were baptized in July & August. We support them with prayers and ask their parents to nurture them so they can grow to be faith-filled people of God and our Parish Community.

Ademilade Naetochi Adeleke
Charles Jansson Bosco
Delta Snow Cherris
Gemma May Hellriegel
Chiekesia Sky Ibe
Mae Callahan Johnson

Gemma Marie Kandarappallil
Brooklyn Rose Monferr
Lauretta Tumaneng Paredes
Szebastian Jmie Ramos Ranches
Nolan Bernard Schrum
Axel Joseph Smith
Jeremy James Thomas



Learn



First Eucharist Preparation
for ALL 2nd grade Families (GIFT+SMS)

Register online **NOW**, at www.stmatthias.net/first-eucharist-first-reconciliation



Confirmation Preparation

for ALL 7th & 8th graders (GIFT & SMS)

Register online **NOW**, at www.stmatthias.net/confirmation



GIFT Registration — for K-8 Religious Ed
for all children, K-8th grade not attending a Catholic school.

Register online **NOW**, at www.stmatthias.net/faith-formation

Questions? Please email Dee Nann at dnann@stmatthias.net.

Calling All Ministry Leaders!



St. Matthias Parish Pastoral Council is inviting all the leaders of the different parish ministries/associations/committees for an evening of sharing about the goals and activities of our different ministries.

Five ministries (**Finance, Bereavement, SVDPS, SMDPS and Pro-Life**) will give brief presentations at the first of these sessions that will be held via zoom on **Tuesday evening, 7 pm September 14**. The zoom link will be sent to all the Ministry leaders.

Give

Thank You!



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

In this photo, the Nonailada Family is standing by one of the two Promethean boards that they donated to SMS.

Thank you!!

Planning on doing any shopping on Amazon?

If so, please start your Amazon shopping by clicking on the link at:

www.stmatthias.net/amazon

A portion of your purchases will be donated to St. Matthias, at no cost to you. Thank you!



Stewardship Reflection Sep 5, 2021 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Did not God choose those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom that he promised to those who love him?” JAMES 2:5

What is more important – being rich in faith or rich in possessions? Society tells us that possessions are most important. God teaches a different lesson. When we are rich in faith, we keep God first and experience true joy and peace. When we put possessions first, we soon realize we can never have enough and happiness is fleeting. When we put faith over possessions we truly realize it is better to give than receive.

Reflexiónese — 05 de septiembre de 2021 Domingo 23° del Tiempo Ordinario

¿No escogió Dios a los pobres del mundo para hacerlos ricos en la fe y herederos del reino que el prometió a aquellos que lo aman? SANTIAGO 2:5

¿Qué es más importante ser rico en la fe o rico en posesiones? La Sociedad nos dice que las posesiones son lo más importante. Dios nos enseña una lección diferente. Cuando somos ricos en la fe, mantenemos a Dios primero y experimentamos la verdadera alegría y paz. Cuando ponemos los bienes materiales primero, pronto nos damos cuenta de que nunca tenemos suficiente y la felicidad es pasajera. Cuando ponemos la fe por encima de las posesiones realmente nos damos cuenta de que es mejor dar que recibir.

Give

Stewardship Totals for Fiscal Year July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022				Last Year's Total
Current Month	In-Pew/Mail	Parish Giving	Weekly Total	Weekly Total
Week 5 - August 1, 2021	\$11,320.00	\$10,197.25	\$21,517.25	\$20,250.70
Week 6 - August 8, 2021	\$8,445.90	\$24,483.75	\$32,929.65	\$21,258.75
Week 7 - August 15, 2021	\$8,548.24	\$17,378.75	\$25,926.99	\$27,441.80
Week 8 - August 22, 2021	\$10,874.55	\$14,474.25	\$25,348.80	\$21,636.70
Week 9 - August 29, 2021	\$7,954.50	\$8,427.25	\$16,381.75	\$21,117.70
			Month-to-date Total	Aug Total Last Yr
Haiti Emergency Collection:	\$4,286.00		\$122,104.44	\$111,705.65
			Current Year-to-date	Year-to-date as of Aug
			\$222,680.88	\$203,847.42

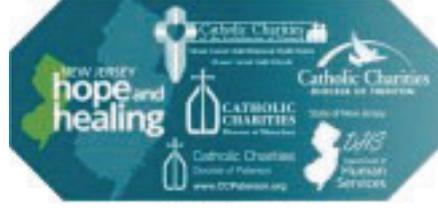
SALE OF LCD PROJECTORS, PRINTERS AND MORE...

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

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



Serve



Catholic Charities NJ Hope and Healing September 2021 Virtual Calendar

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

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

Serve

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
DEADLINE TO REGISTER: OCT. 15



Serve



Vocations Ministry - Called to Build God's Kingdom — Sep 5, 2021

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

"To recognize the word that the Lord wishes to speak to us through one of his saints, we do not need to get caught up in details, for there we might also encounter mistakes and failures. Not everything a saint says is completely faithful to the Gospel; not everything he or she does is authentic or perfect. What we need to contemplate is the totality of their life, their entire journey of growth in holiness, the reflection of Jesus Christ that emerges when we grasp their overall meaning as a person."

Pope Francis wants us all to know that holiness is not about the details. Not everything a person does or says will be perfect or completely in line with the Gospel, but we need to consider their overall character and growth as a person and how Jesus is reflected in their journey. Despite our mistakes or missteps, the Lord will bring to fulfillment our mission in life. To succeed, according to St. John Paul II: **"we must persevere in prayer, be trained in virtue and follow the divine Master in everything."**

Local Community

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ClaudMLangrin@gmail.com

Mary Beth Vetter-Purcell

marybeth.vetter@gmail.com

Co-Secretaries:

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Anne Marie Francis

Rose Peng

Frank Rees

Maria Tapia-Burch

John Taylor

Marilyn Wegg

Ana Kelly, Ex-Officio

Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio

Trustees:

Isaac Peng

Marge Richards

Parish Finance Council:

Joe Porter, Chair

Finance Council

@stmatthias.net

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, 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.



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