



**St. Matthias Parish Office:**  
**Effective Jun. 20, 2022 Summer Hours**  
 Open Mon-Thu 8:30-4:00PM; Fri: 8:30-12:30PM  
 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, Eff. 8/29/22**  
 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) Juan  
 Juan Diaz Flores, Custodian  
 Nathalie Godet, Website Coordinator, [ngodet](mailto:ngodet@stmatthias.net)  
 Leslie Guillen, Bulletin Editor, [lguillen](mailto:lguillen@stmatthias.net)  
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 Development, [akelly](mailto:akelly@stmatthias.net)  
 Mike Lanyi, Sacristan  
 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  
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**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 11, 2022– 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

# Parish & School Picnic

**COME CELEBRATE ST. MATTHIAS CHURCH 60TH ANNIVERSARY!**

- Sunday, September 18th 1PM- 4PM
- Behind the School Building
- Hamburgers and Hotdogs Provided
- Bring your own drinks or other food items.
- Bring an extra chair! :)

**FUN FOR THE FAMILY!  
FACE PAINTING,  
TATTOOS, GAMES,  
MUSIC, AND MORE!**

### 60th Anniversary Edition Cookbooks are In!!!!



Are you ready to cook delicious and fantastic food? Then wait no more!!! **The 60th Anniversary Edition Cookbooks are in!!!!**  
 They look fabulous !!

Thank you to all who submitted new recipes to be included. They added to the already 224 incredible recipes from the original cookbook created ~30 years ago by the Rosary Altar Society.

The Committee will be distributing the advance sale books after all Masses the weekend of **Sept. 17 & Sept. 18th**. There are a limited number of cookbooks available for sale at \$20.00 each.



Please select **St. Matthias Church/School** as your charity on Amazon Smile. You only need to do this once. Then always shop at [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com), and we will automatically receive a portion of the purchase total. Thank you!

# This Week @ St. Matthias From the Pastor

Masses are also livestreamed on our YouTube channel: [youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ](https://www.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 11, 2022**

8:00AM Mass Church  
 10:00AM Mass Church  
 12:00PM Mass Church  
 4:00PM Sept. 11 Memorial Service Church

**Monday, Sep 12, 2022 Holy Name of Mary**

8:00AM Mass/Miraculous Medal Novena Church

**Sep 13, 2022 St. John Chrysotom, Bishop & Doctor**

8:00AM Mass Church

**Wednesday, Sep 14, 2022 Feast—Exaltation of the Holy Cross**

8:00AM Mass Church  
 9:30AM Holy Spirit Prayer Grp. de Porres Rm  
 2:00PM Alzheimer's Mtg. Zoom

**Thursday, Sep 15, 2022 Memorial— Our Lady of Sorrows**

**First Day of Hispanic Heritage Month**

8:00AM Mass Church  
 6:00PM SMS: Back to School Night Café & Classrms  
 7:00PM Prayer Shawl Ministry Neumann Rm  
 7:30PM Adult Choir Rehearsal Church

**Friday, Sep 16, 2022 Memorial— Pope Cornelius & St. Cyprian, Martyrs**

8:00AM Mass Church

**Saturday, Sep 17, 2022 St. Robert Bellarmine, Bishop & Doctor**

3:30PM Reconciliation Church  
 5:00PM Mass Church  
 6:00PM Cook Book Pick-Up (after Mass) Cry Rm

**Sunday Sep 18, 2022**

After Masses Cook Book Pick-up  
 8:00AM Mass Church  
 10:00AM Mass Church  
 12:00PM Mass Church  
 1:00PM 60th Anniversary Parish/School-wide Picnic Church Grounds

**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 **8 AM, MONDAY, 6 before the bulletin date** (earlier for holiday weekends). Approved content is published on a space-available basis.

Dear Friends,

Today is the 21st anniversary of 9/11. We are grateful that our annual tradition of the 9/11 Service will be held today at 4 pm, here at St. Matthias. The Fire Companies of Franklin Fire District # 1 are hosting this service to honor the emergency service members who were killed on September 11, 2001, including our parishioner FDNY Firefighter John M. Collins, who graduated from St. Matthias School and Immaculata High School. Yes, we will never forget.



I'm sure you must have heard about the "Pay it forward 9/11" project. Their website: [www.payitforward911.org](http://www.payitforward911.org) says that this 20 year tradition was begun by American Kevin Tuerff, so we never forget the tragedy, and also to pay tribute to the heroes of Newfoundland, Canada, who showed him and the world their kindness in 2001. The town of Gander, population 9,000, took care of him and nearly 7,000 other stranded airline passengers from 90 countries for five days when US airspace was closed. Here's how they explain their current goal: "This year, our aim is to restore the kindness and unity the world witnessed in 2002. Last year, we launched the "11 Days of Kindness and Unity" campaign and we need your help to repeat it again. Encourage houses of worship, schools and business to join "11 Days of Kindness and Unity" (Sept 1-11)." Practicing kindness and unity is an ongoing process. Hence we can be consciously doing acts of kindness and unity even after the date this project had proposed is over.

One area that will help us in this project is the way we think of and treat grandparents and elderly. Today is 'National Grandparents Day' - a time to honor grandparents and grand-friends for their contributions to our families, neighborhoods and communities. Pope Francis has been an avid advocate for grandparents and the elderly. He established the 4th Sunday in July as the Day for the Catholic world to celebrate Grandparents and the elderly. Presenting the Pope's special message to the world months in advance, Cardinal Kevin Farrell, prefect of the Dicastery for the Laity, Family, and Life, observed: "The Pope's message is the alternative to the culture of rejection: it helps all of us, and the elderly themselves, to understand that - far from being material to be thrown away - they have a precise vocation within our communities. In this time that yearns for peace, the Church has a great need for elders, who have the 'gift' of tenderness, who are able to protect and intercede." It is good for us to read the short and beautiful letter of the Pope, available from the Vatican site at: <https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/nonni/documents/20220503-messaggio-nonni-anziani.html>

Our Diocese of Metuchen will have the official closing and Mass of thanksgiving for the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the diocese. **On Saturday, September 24, 2022, Bishop Checchio will be leading a pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.** He will be the principal celebrant of the Pilgrimage Mass. Many busloads of parishioners from various parishes will attend this event, accompanied by many priests, deacons and religious. I'm happy that our Msgr. Brennan will be attending this pilgrimage. If any of you wish to join, it is not too late. Please contact Angela Marshall at [amarshall@diometuchen.org](mailto:amarshall@diometuchen.org) for more information or transportation.

Your brother in Christ,  
 Fr. Abraham Orapankal

## Readings for the Week

**Monday:** 1 Cor 11:17-26, 33; Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 17; Lk 7:1-10

**Tuesday:** 1 Cor 12:12-14, 27-31a; Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5; Lk 7:11-17

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

**Thursday:** 1 Cor 15:1-11; Ps 118:1b-2, 16ab-17, 28; Jn 19:25-27 or Lk 2:33-35

**Friday:** 1 Cor 15:12-20; Ps 17:1bcd, 6-7, 8b and 15; Lk 8:1-3

**Saturday:** 1 Cor 15:35-37, 42-49; Ps 56:10c-12, 13-14; Lk 8:4-15

**Sunday:** Am 8:4-7; Ps 113:1-2, 4-6, 7-8; 1 Tm 2:1-8; Lk 16:1-13 or Lk 16:10-13

## Mass Intentions for the Week

<b>Saturday, Sep 10</b>	5:00PM	Dominic Fama, by The Family
<b>Sunday, Sep 11</b>	8:00AM	Elizabeth D'Alessio, by John & Susan Young
	10:00AM	Robert (Bob) & Charlie Yackman, by Kathy Delehanty
	12:00PM	Firefighter John Collins, by Dad
	(5:30PM)	Intention of Parishioners
<b>Monday, Sep 12</b>	8:00AM	Albert Larangeria, by Mr. & Mrs. Tom Picadlo
<b>Tuesday, Sep 13</b>	8:00AM	Frances Natale, by Vinnie
<b>Wednesday, Sep 14</b>	8:00AM	Lou Carcich, by Frances Curtis & Daughters
<b>Thursday, Sep 15</b>	8:00AM	Celeste Donnellan, by Anne & Bill Lemanski
<b>Friday, Sep 16</b>	8:00AM	Davife Victorio, by Tessie & Mata Salem
<b>Saturday, Sep 17</b>	5:00PM	Frank Sciotto, by Lena & grandchildren
<b>Sunday, Sep 18</b>	8:00AM	Elizabeth D'Alessio, by Gail & Paul Smoley
	10:00AM	Ethan Archer, by Karen & Joe Pinder
	12:00PM	Frank Catauna, by Catherine Campen
	(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  
Gloria Barone-Tuckey  
Edith Benko  
[Angela Berlund](#)  
Tara Capatosto  
Ellen Catalina  
Michael DiMaggio  
William Dolphin  
Vivian Dong  
Marion Fischer  
Claudia Gemgnani  
Emma Gergely  
Rose Gessner  
Mary Gidaro  
Carol Gryskiewicz  
Eileen Hansen  
Sloopy & John Hoffman

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  
Dave Moynihan  
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  
[Barbara Toland](#)  
Jerry Tongson  
Regina Wellman  
Robert Wesner

Nancy Whelen  
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

Marion Fischer  
Gloria Feliciano

# September 11th Memorial Service



## Welcome to the 9/11 Memorial Service

The Fire Companies of Franklin Fire District # 1 will be holding a 9-11 memorial service to honor the emergency service members who were killed on September 11, 2001, **including FDNY Firefighter John M. Collins, who graduated from St. Mathias School and Immaculata High School.** The service will be at St. Mathias **TODAY, Sunday, at 4 pm.** All are welcome.

## Reflect



### Smile with Your Family



What kind of school do you go to if you're any of these:  
... an ice cream man? Sundae school.  
... a giant? High school.  
... a surfer? Boarding school.  
... King Arthur? Knight school.

**Johnny:** Teacher, would you punish me for something I didn't do?

**Teacher:** Of course not.

**Johnny:** Good, because I didn't do my homework. 😊

Q: Matt had 60 cookies. He ate 30 of them. What does he have now? A: a Tummy ache. 😊

A driver is pulled over for speeding. As the officer writes the ticket, he notices several machetes in the car. "What are

those for?" he asks, suspicious. "I'm a juggler," the man replies. "I use those in my act." "Prove it by showing me," demands the officer. The man gets out and performs his trick, juggling several blades. Just then, another car passes by. Doing a double take, the driver turns to his passenger and says, "As if there wasn't already enough incentive not to drink and drive—look at the sobriety test they're giving!" 😊

A baker taking an order for cake over the phone: "And what would you like the cake to say?"  
The customer covers the phone to ask his wife, "Do we want a talking cake?" 😊



### Parenting Tune-Up

"I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky." (Exodus 32:13) No matter the number of children you have, each one is a promise for the future. Do something to make the world better for your offspring today. (Recycle, donate to a cause, make peace with someone.)

### Marriage Tune-Up



September 11, 2001 took most people by surprise. You don't know the time or the place you or your beloved will die. Take advantage of the time you have today to show your love, even as we still grieve those we lost on 9/11.

### Their Family, my Refuge

**"Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep..." "Rejoice with me because I have found the coin that I lost..."**

Kim still cherishes the memory of Saturdays at Kathy's house. Kim would join Kathy, Kathy's parents, and her six brothers and sisters and their friends around their dining room table where they would talk and laugh for hours. Kim and Kathy had become good friends in ninth grade in 1980 — the year Kim's parents divorced. After school, Kim would hang out at Kathy's instead of taking the bus and the train to the trailer two towns away where Kim's newly single mom had moved with Kim and her sister. Kim was always wel-

comed to join the constant stream of visiting neighbors and old friends at Kathy's house. Summers were especially happy times for Kim at the Kellehers' big house that faced the ocean. Forty-years later, in an essay in *The Boston Globe* [June 26, 2022], Kim Costigan writes of those days with Kathy and the Kelleher family:

"I felt lucky, part of something special. There was a type of freedom and little worry about teenage mischief, the daily presence of parents and dinner on the table — it gave me a

## Reflect

### **Their Family, my Refuge (cont'd)**

feeling that this was a safe place where no one would be judged. Kathy's parents let their kids be themselves and make mistakes. They loved them unconditionally. I was drawn to this family, which felt like the opposite of mine. The friends of Kathy's siblings would peel off as dinnertime approached, but I would stay. [Kathy's mom and dad] and whichever kids were not away at their jobs would sit at the table, and we'd eat as a family. I hadn't had that feeling of warmth around a dinner table before, and it nourished me just as much as the food they served. The Kellehers had always taken in stray dogs and cats, and my favorite was a yellow Labrador mix with a missing leg. He ran right alongside his four-legged counterparts with no problem and was loved and cared for just like the rest of the dogs and cats that lived there. It wasn't until many years later, as an adult, that I realized I was another one of the strays who'd found their way to this refuge."

**Kathy and her family make a place for Kim at an especially traumatic time in the teenager's life. Their love as a family makes them a place of refuge for all who come to their table. Today's Gospel of the "lost" challenges us to make places of refuge for those going through difficult times, to seek out the struggling and marginalized and help find their place in community. There are many lost "sheep," lost "coins," lost brothers and sisters in our very midst: people who go unnoticed and unloved, who don't seem to fit, whose talents and gifts have no outlet. Christ calls us to seek out the lost, to see that they have their rightful place at our tables, in our churches, in our communities.**

### **The Forgiveness Dance**

He and she had one of those fights that keep married couples honest. She was shrill, he was insensitive. She railed, he yelled. Both said things that cut the other deeply. Finally, he stormed downstairs to his workshop and she shut herself off in the kitchen. In their own spaces, each mindlessly fiddled with dishes and tools. As she scrubbed the same pot for several minutes and he fiddled with every tool he owned, their anger turned to sorrow, their self-righteous indignation melted into sadness and regret. *That was a dumb thing to say. She didn't deserve that. Why did I make such a big deal over nothing?* After a while, he can no longer stand the feeling of not loving her or being loved by her. She can no longer bear the dark cloud that has enveloped their home. So, he trudges up the basement stairs to apologize. At the top of the stairs, he opens the door — to discover her standing right there, on her way down to his workshop to say the same thing. (cont'd)

**Reconciliation demands that we be both the prodigal son and the forgiving father — and find a way to put aside the anger and resentment of the older brother. To experience healing forgiveness, we must face up to our culpability and our selfishness that causes such rifts, as the prodigal does when he is mired in the muddy pigsty — and, given the opportunity, we must be openhearted enough to welcome back into our lives those who hurt us, as does the father who runs (runs!) to meet and embrace his son. Such selfless, unconditional and complete forgiveness is the cutting edge of the Gospel. God, before whom all of us are prodigals, calls us to make our homes, parishes and communities places of patient, compassionate, unconditional love — places where we prodigals are always welcomed home by the loving fathers we are all called to be.**

### **Prodigal Son's Return!**

In 1990, Michale Mohr's son, Jeff, moved to Arizona to work as a computer technician. Michale, back in Portland, Oregon, looked forward to her son's weekly calls. But after a few years in Arizona, Jeff's phone calls began to taper off. When Michale's letters to him were returned, she decided to investigate. Michale found out from Jeff's friends that he had become addicted to crystal meth, a powerful drug. One day, Jeff had just walked away from his apartment. No one knew where he was. For the next three years, Michale Mohr made it her mission in life to find her son. She flew back and forth between Oregon and Arizona, canvassing Jeff's old neighborhood and talking to his friends and associates. The police offered little help. Michale's quest to find her drug-addicted son led her into dangerous, run-down neighborhoods. At one point, she even dressed as a homeless woman in order to relate to the street people she interviewed. Finally, after three years, Michale made contact with someone who knew Jeff. She remembers distinctly the day she found him. Jeff rode up on his bicycle. He had lost weight, his teeth were rotting, he was bruised from a recent beating. But he had ridden on his bicycle for ten miles in the sweltering Arizona heat to find her. They ran into each other's arms. Jeff had been trying to fight his addiction, but he had been afraid to contact his mother, afraid of how his addiction might hurt her. You will be happy to know that Jeff Mohr moved back to Oregon, got a steady job, and joined Narcotics Anonymous. ("The Seamier Side of Life" by Michale Mohr, *Newsweek*, August 18, 1997, p. 14.)

**Chapter 15 of Luke's Gospel has been called "the Gospel within the Gospel," because it is the distilled essence of the Good News about the mercy of our forgiving Heavenly Father. The whole chapter is essentially one distinct parable, the "Parable of the Lost and Found," with three illustrations: the story of the lost sheep, the story of the lost coin and the story of the lost son. These parables are about finding something that has been lost: a lost sheep, a lost coin and a lost son. They remind us that the Church must recover its search and rescue mission, return to its apostolic roots, and start caring for lost people. That is our mission. As long as there is one lost person, all Heaven is concerned.**

## Prodigal Daughter's Return!

Many years ago, comedian Chonda Pierce met a young woman named December. December's father was a pastor. December got the message early on that pastor's children are supposed to be perfect. December knew she would never be good enough for the people at Church. So December began rebelling against her family's and her Church's expectations. By her late teens, she was living on the streets. She spent her nights partying, sleeping with any man who caught her eye. Sometimes, she would slip into her parents' Church during the service, but she always left before anyone could talk to her. After she became pregnant, December decided to return to her parents. She expected shame and condemnation. Instead, December's parents welcomed her back with open arms. As she says, "The bottom line is that I came back to my family and God because they love me with no strings attached. They forgave me. . . I thought I could do something to make them disown me, but I was wrong." [Chonda Pierce, *It's Always Darkest Before the Fun Comes Up* (Grand Rapids, MI.: Zondervan, 5332), pp. 24-84].]

### "I once was Lost, but now am Found!"

"Amazing Grace" is always listed among the favorite hymns. It is an old one. It goes back to the 18th century. It was written by John Newton, who was on the sea from the time he was a little boy. When he was a young man, he became the captain of his own ship, a ship that brought African slaves to the colonies to work the plantations. Back in England, between voyages, he went to hear George Whitefield preach and was converted. He realized the evil of his occupation, left it, and became a priest in the Church of England and served the rest of his life as the rector of a little church in a town called Olney. He wrote a number of hymns which were printed in a collection called the "Olney Hymns," (a classic collection of hymns in the Church), and "Amazing Grace" was one of them. Even people who are not members of churches, and those who do not profess faith, find something about this hymn touching them. It is over two hundred years old. It is uncompromisingly Christian in its language. It is evangelical in its message, reflecting John Newton's experience of being found. "I once was lost, but now am found." Maybe that is the clue to its popularity, because it could be called the Christian understanding of our relationship with God. God has found us.

## We Remember 9/11



Today evokes – as every 9/11 anniversary does – memories of unimaginable tragedy, of lives callously lost and of sorrow in the hearts of all of us. We pause to pray for the families who lost loved ones, for children growing up without fathers and mothers, for spouses with an empty spot in their beds, for employees and employers who will be missed.

We remind ourselves of our vulnerability and frailty even though we live as privileged and prosperous as any civilization in history. May this day help us to rededicate our efforts to promote the kind of unity we experienced soon after 9/11. And read God's reassurance in Psalm 46: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way ...

### God loves Me!

There is a wonderful story about Maya Angelou. She was an active member of Glide Memorial United Methodist Church in San Francisco. She wrote that years ago when she first came to San Francisco as a young woman she became sophisticated. She said that was what you were supposed to do when you go to San Francisco, you become sophisticated. And for that reason she said she became agnostic. She thought the two went together. She said that it wasn't that she stopped believing in God, just that God no longer frequented the neighborhoods that she frequented. She was taking voice lessons at the time. Her teacher gave her an exercise where she was to read out of some religious pamphlet. The reading ended with these words: "God loves me." She finished the reading, put the pamphlet down. The teacher said, "I want you to read that last sentence again." So she picked it up, read it again, this time somewhat sarcastically, then put it down again. The teacher said, "Read it again." She read it again. Then she described what happened. "After about the seventh repetition I began to sense there might be some truth in this statement. That there was a possibility that God really loves me, Maya Angelou. I suddenly began to cry at the grandness of it all. I knew if God loved me, I could do wonderful things. I could do great things. I could learn anything. I could achieve anything. For what could stand against me with God, since one person, any person, with God form a majority now."

# From the Pastoral Staff



## The Difference is Saint Matthias School

This week we begin our first full week of school. It was so wonderful last week to see the smiling faces of our children greeting their teachers and friends and vice versa. Within days, the children are already comfortable in their new classrooms and with their new teachers together anticipating a year of learning innovative and exciting things. This is true of all schools; however, what makes Saint Matthias School stand out is the very reason why our parish has a school: it is rooted in Gospel values following Jesus the Master Teacher. In doing so, we are able to freely pursue the teachings of Jesus and bequeath a Christ-centered education to our students, the future of the Church.

Fortunately, we are not alone in this undertaking. All Catholic schools in our nation, with the definitive support of our American bishops, are expected to follow the three-fold mission as outlined in the document "To Teach as Jesus Did": to proclaim the Gospel, to build community, and to serve our sisters and brothers. This foundational basis is further developed in a document that was issued some years ago, namely, "National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools (NSBECS)." In her article for the magazine Momentum, Dr. Lorraine A. Ozar states that, "the National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Elementary and Second-

ary Schools are school effectiveness standards rather than curriculum standards, although they support curriculum development consistent with national standards and the Common Core State Standards." The NSBECS includes three areas: Defining Characteristics, Standards, and Benchmarks.

The nine defining characteristics of Catholic schools are: 1) Centered in the Person of Jesus Christ, 2) Contributing in the evangelizing Mission of the Church, 3) Distinguished by excellence, 4) Committed to educate the whole child, 5) Steeped in a Catholic world view, 6) Sustained by Gospel witness, 7) Shaped by Communion and Community, 8) Accessible to all students, and 9) Established by the expressed authority of the Bishop. The standards address four domains: Mission and Catholic Identity, Governance and Leadership, Academic Excellence, and Operational Vitality. Finally, there are seventy Benchmarks for each standard. Following these guidelines enables St. Matthias School to continue to be a school of distinction by adhering to church teachings, best practices, and the continual proven success in our alumni, in the town of Somerset, and beyond. We have a very special school right here within this parish. Share this good news and invite your friends, neighbors, and relatives to consider sending their children to our school. Together we can make SMS even better!

Joseph C. Gidaro

# Pray

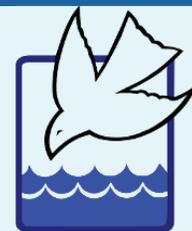
## August Baptisms

The Catholic Community of St. Matthias welcomes the following children who were baptized in 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.

*Alexis Jeane Bundang,*

*Joseph Anthony Casisa,  
Osantos Gabriel Rios.*

*Lucia Miguelina Garcia,*



# Learn

## SMYLE – SURVEY FOR YOUTH IN JUNIOR HIGH & HIGH SCHOOL

SMYLE is YOUR Safe Space where you can feel comfortable and confident to just be yourself while discovering new things about God, your faith, life, and others. You can be with people who can bring you joy, create new possibilities, spark new adventures or friendships!

Please help us create these opportunities for you by telling us what kind of activities/events that would be worthwhile for you to show up - and even invite a friend? To \*SMILE\* at SMYLE!

We can only do more as we gain more support - so please pray and encourage others to participate!  
Thanks – TEAM SMYLE



## 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.

### 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 complete the 2022-2023 Confirmation registration form online, available at <https://www.stmatthias.net/confirmation/> A parent meeting for 7th grade parents will be held in November for all registered 7th 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)

## Racial Justice Initiative



**Weekly Sessions: Oct. 1 – Dec. 3 (Excluding Nov 26)**, All sessions meet virtually via Zoom 9 am – 11:30 am Plus in-person Immersion Experience (date TBD)

Presented through the lens of the Christian faith, JustFaith Ministries' *Faith & Racial Healing: Embracing Truth, Justice and Restoration* is an eight-session program that guides participants in telling the truth about the history of racism in the United States, that we might work toward true reconciliation with God and restoration with one another. **For more details or to register, please email us at [matthiasracialjustice@gmail.com](mailto:matthiasracialjustice@gmail.com)**

## Give (and Receive!)

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 6 - August 7, 2022	\$10,861.00	\$21,836.75	\$32,697.75	\$32,929.65
Week 7 - August 14, 2022	\$8,751.50	\$17,449.25	\$26,200.75	\$25,926.99
Week 8 - August 21, 2022	\$8,333.00	\$13,623.25	\$21,956.25	\$25,348.80
Week 9 - August 28, 2022	\$8,244.00	\$8,707.25	\$16,951.25	\$16,281.75
			Month-to-date Total	Aug Total Last Yr
Note: Parish Giving information has been updated.			\$97,806.00	\$100,487.19
			Current Year-to-date Total	Year-to-date as of Aug
			\$219,899.55	\$222,580.88

# Give (and Receive!)

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	\$0.00	\$0.00	<b>\$0.00</b>	\$31,745.25
Week 12 - Sept. 18, 2022	\$0.00	\$0.00	<b>\$0.00</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>\$25,148.37</b>	\$100,022.78
			<b>Current Year-to-date Total</b>	<b>Year-to-date as of Sep 30,</b>
			<b>\$245,047.92</b>	\$322,603.66

## Stewardship Reflection Sep 11 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

**“Everything I have is yours.” Luke 15:31**

Our Heavenly Father gives us everything, including the chance to share in His eternal kingdom. Yet, like the Prodigal Son, we are often lured away by the materialism of our society. Do you really want to turn your back on all that God offers in exchange for material wealth that has no lasting value? God wants us to be happy on earth as well. But, that requires us to freely accept His gift of faith; putting Him first in all things and detaching from our own self-sufficiency.

## Reflexiónese — 11 de septiembre de 2022 24º del Tiempo Ordinario

**“Todo lo que tengo es de ustedes Lucas 15:31**

Nuestro Padre Celestial nos da todo, incluyendo el chance de compartir Su reino eterno. Sin embargo, como el Hijo Pródigo, a menudo somos tentados a alejarnos por el materialismo de nuestra sociedad. ¿Realmente queremos volverle la espalda a todo lo que Dios nos ofrece a cambio de riquezas materiales que no tienen un valor perdurable? Dios también quiere que seamos felices en la tierra, pero eso requiere que aceptemos libremente Su don de fe; poniéndolo a Él primero en todas las cosas y liberándonos de nuestra propia autosuficiencia.

# Serve



## Baby Bottle Boomerang

The Respect for Life Committee is undertaking a special campaign, a Baby Bottle Boomerang, during Respect Life month. 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. If you would like to return them earlier, please bring them to the Parish Office. If you have questions, contact Fran Johnson at [tfxj@msn.com](mailto:tfxj@msn.com)

## 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.

**WEDNESDAYS: Oct 19, 26, Nov 2, 9, 16; TUESDAY, Nov 22, 30. 7:00 PM-8:30 PM**  
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)

## Volunteers Needed

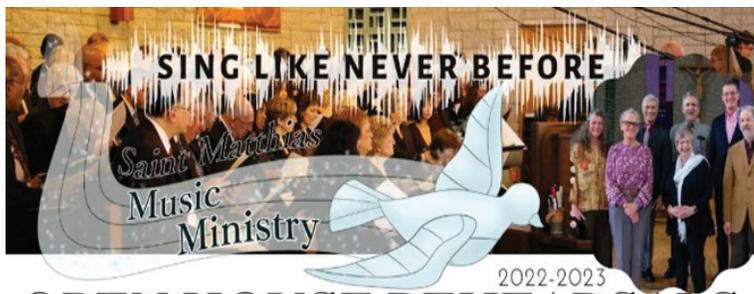
Volunteers needed to assist in the Parish Office. Please contact Mary Pat Burke-Grospin at 732-828-1400, [mpburke-grospin@stmatthias.net](mailto:mpburke-grospin@stmatthias.net) for more details and to volunteer.

## St. Matthias Music Ministry



Most of our choirs are back - now is a great time to join St. Matthias Music Ministry. Come to our Open House rehearsals listed on the next page.

Have questions or need more information? Please e-mail Joan Best Seamon, Pastoral Associate for Liturgical Music- [jseamon@stmatthias.net](mailto:jseamon@stmatthias.net). Or call the Parish Music Office- 732-828-1400, ext.107.



# 2022-2023 OPEN HOUSE REHEARSALS

## FOLK GROUP

Rehearses Wednesdays, Sings Saturday 5pm  
Open House Wednesday 9/14 at 7:30



## SUNDAY 10:00 CHOIR

Rehearses Thursdays, Sings Sunday 10am  
Open House Thursday 9/15 at 7:30

## YOUTH AND ADULT HANDBELL CHOIR

Rehearses Tuesday, Rings throughout the year  
Open House Tuesday 9/20  
Grades 6-12 at 7:00-7:45  
Adults at 7:45-8:45



## CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Rehearses Thursdays, Sings Monthly  
Open House Thursday 9/22  
Grades 3-4 at 3:30-4:15  
Grades 5-8 at 4:00-4:45



Stay tuned for more info about our **Umoja Imani Gospel Choir**, **Revelation Choir**, and **Cantors!**

## 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)

## Local Community Connect

### Our Lady of Peace Church

1730 US Hwy 130, North Brunswick, NJ 08902

**A Healing Mass** with Rev. John Campoli, I.V. Dei will be held at Our Lady of Peace Church in North Brunswick on Tuesday, October 18, 2022 at 7:00PM. Please join us for a wonderful Mass and celebration of God's healing love. Following the Mass there is an opportunity for individual prayer. All are welcome. This Mass is sponsored by the Columbiettes. For more information [www.hisloveministriescampoli.com](http://www.hisloveministriescampoli.com)

## 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

Ana Kelly, Ex-Officio  
Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio

### Trustees:

Marge Richards  
Pearl Scott

### Parish Finance Council:

Kester Hector, Chair  
**Finance Council**  
[@stmatthias.net](mailto:@stmatthias.net)  
Barry Dusault  
Gwen Orłowski  
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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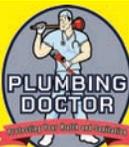


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**event dates**

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

**October 2022**

Tuesday, 10/04

Tuesday, 10/11

Tuesday, 10/18

Tuesday, 10/25

**November 2022**

Tuesday, 11/01

Tuesday, 11/08

Tuesday, 11/15

Tuesday, 11/29

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**JOB OPENINGS**



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