



### St. Matthias Parish Office:

Open 8:30-6:00PM Mon-Fri  
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-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 Boulevard, Somerset, NJ 08873  
732-828-1402; [www.stmatthias.info](http://www.stmatthias.info)

For all Parish emails, add [@stmatthias.net](mailto:@stmatthias.net)

Pastor: Rev. Abraham Orapankal, [abraham](mailto:abraham)

Parochial Vicar: Rev. Msgr. Joseph Curry, [jcurry](mailto:jcurry)

#### Pastoral Staff

Deacon Russell Demkovitz, [rdemkovitz](mailto:rdemkovitz)

Ana V Kelly, *Marketing & Development*, [akelly](mailto:akelly)

Dolores R. Nann, *Faith Formation*, [dnann](mailto:dnann)

Mary Beth Oria, Business Administrator, [moriam](mailto:moriam)

Deacon John Radvanski, [deaconjohn](mailto:deaconjohn)

Joan Best Seamon, *Music Ministry*, [jseamon](mailto:jseamon)

Sr Marie Therese Sherwood, *OSF, Social Concerns*,  
[msherwood](mailto:msherwood)

Phyllis Stone, *Liturgy/RCIA and Administrative*  
*Assistant to the Pastor*, [pstone](mailto:pstone)

#### St. Matthias School ([add@stmatthiasnj.org](mailto:add@stmatthiasnj.org))

Elena Malinconico, Principal, [emalinconico](mailto:emalinconico)

Joseph Gidaro, Vice Principal, [jgidaro](mailto:jgidaro)

#### Parish Office Staff

Kelly Counts, *Day Receptionist*

Nathalie Godet, *Formation/Parish Support Sec.*

Leslie Guillen, *Bulletin Editor*

Amy Hanna, *Parish Support Secretary*

Vinnie Natale, *Bookkeeper*

Trish Stumper, *Parish Support Secretary*

Mike Lanyi, *Sacristan*

#### Maintenance Staff

Julio Montero, *Maintenance Supervisor*

Conroy Davis, *Custodian*

Juan Diaz Flores, *Custodian*

Silvia Nizama, *Housekeeper*

## THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS

### SUNDAY, DEC 13, 2020 – Third Sunday of Advent

#### Warmth & Joy Service Project

9:30AM– 1:00PM **Today,**

**Sunday** we are collecting Gift Bags of Warmth & Joy Service project; drop off by garage in parking lot. **Must be in gift bags!**

#### Nativity Videos Due TODAY,

**Sunday**

Dec. 13, is the **LAST DAY** to send a video of your child/children reading the Christmas Story. See page 8.

#### Giving Tree

Visit our website to select a virtual gift tag. See page 10.

#### Advent Reconciliation Service —

next Sunday at 6:30PM. See below.

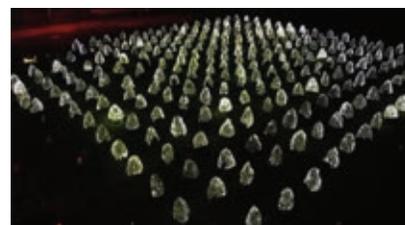


### Sign Up Today to Attend Christmas Mass In-Person

Due to Covid restrictions, everyone who plans to attend a Christmas Eve/Day Mass in-person, is **required** to Sign-Up ahead of time. We do not want to be like the Inn Keeper 2,000+ years ago who stood at the door and said there was no more room. To sign up, see the article on page 7.

### Spread the Light” Christmas Tree Display

Visit our “Spread the Light” Christmas Trees and our Manger. The trees are lit every evening from 5 pm till midnight through Jan. 6, The Feast of Epiphany. Bring your family and friends, but please wear a mask, practice social distancing and follow all safety protocols.



**Advent**  
Reconciliation



Our parish **Advent Reconciliation Service** has a new time, **Sunday December 20th at 6:30 pm**. The service will be both in-person and livestreamed on our St. Matthias YouTube channel, with in-person confession following the service at 7:00 pm. Both Frs. Abraham and Joe will be here at the church to hear confessions starting at 7:00 pm on Sunday December 20th.

Throughout Advent for the remaining Saturdays (December 12th and 19th), Frs. Joe and Abraham will also hear confessions from 3:30 to 4:30 in the Cry Room and in the Vesting Sacristy just off the main entrance of the church. For a private confession off-hours, please call the Parish Office.

## This Week at St. Matthias

- **All Masses** will be celebrated **in-person** (overflow in the cafeteria).
- **Masses** will also be **livestreamed on our YouTube channel: [youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ](https://www.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, Dec 13, 2020 3rd Sunday of Advent Retirement Fund for Religious

9:30AM- 1:00PM Collecting Gift Bags of Warmth & Joy Service project drop off by garage in parking lot. **Must be in gift bags!**  
10:00AM Mass Church  
10:30AM Communion outside front doors  
12:00PM Mass Church  
12:30PM Communion outside front doors

### Monday, Dec 14, 2020

8:00AM Mass - Novena Church  
6:30PM Dee's Small Grp. Mtg. via Zoom

### Tuesday, Dec 15, 2020

8:00AM Daily Mass Church

### Wednesday, Dec 16, 2020

8:00AM Daily Mass Church

### Thursday, Dec 17, 2020

8:00AM Daily Mass Church

### Friday, Dec 18, 2020

8:00AM Daily Mass Church

### Saturday, Dec 19, 2020 4th Sunday of Advent

3:30-4:30PM Confessions Church  
5:00PM Mass Church

### Sunday, Dec 20, 2020 4th Sunday of Advent

10:00AM Mass Church  
10:30AM Communion outside front doors  
10:30AM RCIA de Porres Rm  
12:00PM Mass Church  
12:30PM Communion outside front doors  
6:30PM Advent Reconciliation Service Church



#### Bulletin Article Requests:

If you would like to send information to be included in our bulletin, please email it to [bulletin@stmatthias.net](mailto:bulletin@stmatthias.net) by **6 pm, Wednesday, 10 days before the intended issue** (earlier for holiday weekends). Approved content is published on a space-available basis.

## From the Pastor & the Pastoral Staff



Today is the third Sunday in Advent. It's called *Gaudete* Sunday.

*Gaudete* means rejoice.

The candle we light on the Advent wreath is Pink instead of purple. We start to rejoice because we have only one more Sunday until we celebrate the Savior's rebirth in our hearts on Christmas Day.

We celebrate the birth of Christ who is the light Of the world. Just as the world waited in hope over 2000 years ago, we too look for hope as we again Celebrate Jesus' birth. We hope that with the coming of the vaccines we can begin to get back to our lives prior to the pandemic.

In today's Gospel, we hear John's account of John the Baptist preparing the way for his Cousin, the Savior of the world. This is why we have the liturgical season of Advent before Christmas, to prepare our hearts for His coming.

Usually Advent signals a time to slow down during the hustle and bustle of the time before Christmas, shopping for presents and getting together with friends and family. Well this is not a "usual" Advent during what has turned out to be a very unusual year. As I am up on the altar the view is so different — people with masks and social distancing.

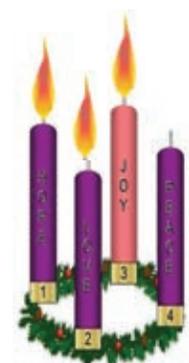
But as we celebrate this Advent season we mustn't forget the hope — the hope of the birth of Christ in our hearts. As we reflect on these trying times we must not forget that Jesus himself is always with us. We need to remember that we as Christians must keep the spirit of Christmas alive, not only in our hearts, but with the ones we love, whether in person or by zoom.

My wish for you and your families is that, despite what's going on around us, you have a blessed Christmas and a blessed New Year!

I'll see you in Church on Christmas Day, or online!

The Peace of Christ

Deacon Russ



## Readings for the Week

**Monday:** Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9; Mt 21:23-27

**Tuesday:** Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23; Mt 21:28-32

**Wednesday:** Is 45:6c-8, 18, 21c-25; Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14; Lk 7:18B-23

**Thursday:** Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17

**Friday:** Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25

**Saturday:** Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25

**Sunday:** 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

\*The Mass intentions will be fulfilled by Fr. Abraham and Fr. Joe as they celebrate private masses for these intentions, when we don't have a public mass scheduled. Everyone is welcome to join us in spirit as we pray for these intentions.

## Mass Intentions for the Week\*

|                          |         |  |
|--------------------------|---------|--|
| <b>Saturday, Dec 12</b>  | 5:00PM  | Elsie Meagher, by Tom Meagher                                  |
| <b>Sunday, Dec 13</b>    | 8:00AM  | Msgr. Joseph Penna, by The Penna Family                        |
|                          | 10:00AM | Intention of Parishioners                                      |
|                          | 12:00PM | Al Nowakowski, by Marge Schmidt                                |
|                          | 5:30PM  | Charles Coffaro, by Barbara Linko                              |
| <b>Monday, Dec 14</b>    | 8:00AM  | Frank Brandofino, by The Russo Family                          |
| <b>Tuesday, Dec 15</b>   | 8:00AM  | Eleanor Morehouse, by The Russo Family                         |
| <b>Wednesday, Dec 16</b> | 8:00AM  | Anthony Lombardo, by Mildred De Rasmi                          |
| <b>Thursday, Dec 17</b>  | 8:00AM  | Mom & Dad Kenefick, by The Family                              |
| <b>Friday, Dec 18</b>    | 8:00AM  | Health & Blessings for the Jarin Family, by The Jarin Family   |
| <b>Saturday, Dec 19</b>  | 5:00PM  | Bill Murphy, by St. Matthias Folk Group                        |
| <b>Sunday, Dec 20</b>    | 8:00AM  | Health & Blessings for Julian & Stacy Colletti, by Alma Valdez |
|                          | 10:00AM | Bonnie Joyce Von Ohlen, by The Family                          |
|                          | 12:00PM | Intention of Parishioners                                      |
|                          | 5:30PM  | Kimberly Hancaviz, by Barbara Giannotto                        |

## Pray for those who are sick...

If you or a family member are sick, please **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.

|                           |                         |                      |                                      |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Elbren, Sr. & Natalia     | Nancy Diaz              | Alexander Maceren    | Aubree Rezac                         |
| Agdeppo                   | Mary Dolan              | Kelly Magat          | Diane Rice                           |
| Rosemary Albaugh          | William Dolphin         | Al Maglio            | Datius Rutashobya                    |
| Robert Bachman            | Dorothy Domenici        | Sue Maglio-Alese     | Rudy Schaar                          |
| Lourdes Banaag            | Jaclyn, Ariana & Thomas | Patrick Mahoney      | Maria Schwenzer                      |
| Edward Bauer              | Donlon                  | Christine Matthews   | Lena Sciotto                         |
| Cecillia Bongga Alcantara | Mary Eads               | Anne McElwee         | Sr. Mary Amata Shina, OSF            |
| Barbara Branham           | Anne Fortune            | Steve McGovern       | Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF               |
| Dylan Braunstein          | Emma Gergely            | Elizabeth Miller     | Encarnacion (Gina) So                |
| Timothy Brennan           | Rose Gessner            | Dave Moynihan        | Alessandro Spagnolo                  |
| Marie Brody               | Mary Gidaro             | Russel Mulholland    | Dennis Stuewe                        |
| Baby Isla-Rose Callahan   | Katherine Giustino      | Baby Ezran Natural   | Juan Ulerio                          |
| Tara Capatosto            | John Gross              | Patricia Nese        | Fred & Carolyn                       |
| Ellen Catalina            | Michael Hagerty         | Cassian Ndukwu       | Vanmiddlesworth                      |
| Frank Catalina            | Sloopy Hoffman          | Danny Ongchango      | Eulalia Villanueva                   |
| Barbara Coan              | Allison Karakowski      | Julianne Opydike     | Mark T. Worthington                  |
| Wes Coddington            | Michael Kirugi          | Mafalda Parafioriti  | Edward Yeager                        |
| Lisa DeFeo                | Millicent Kraft         | Julie Parks          |                                      |
| Marie DeFeo               | Taylor LaCort           | Jim Pettit           | Everyone who is ill with Covid-19    |
| Adoracion & Cenon         | Al & Rose Larangeira    | Christina Pietrowiak | ...and for all who are               |
| DeGuzman                  | William Lecorchick      | Annie Powderly       | homebound, elderly, in nursing       |
| Mary Ellen Delaney        | Pat Leposa              | Samantha Renaud      | care, or living with chronic illness |
| Alaina Derecola           | The Litrakis Family     | Chris Retz           |                                      |

## Pray for those who have died...

Rose Marie La Torre  
Eileen Hussey  
Dr. Yvonne McBride  
Aurelia Italia  
Elaine Haney

-"His mercy endures forever." Chronicles

# Sunday Reflections



## Smile with Your Family



Christian home! After the Baptism of his baby brother in Church one Sunday, little Johnny sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car. His father asked him three times what was wrong. Finally, the boy replied, "That priest said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home, but I want to stay with you guys!" Father got the message and they began to go to Church regularly... Needless to say, the family had a bit of catching up to do. !"☺

Keeping the vow! You know that story about the four young monks who take a vow of silence? They're sitting in the meditation hall, when one of them complains out loud about something. Then the second one says "be quiet!" then the third one says, "you are both talking!" Then the last one says, proudly, "I am the only one who has not spoken!" ☺

Did you ever wonder: When two airplanes fly close to each other, it's called a near miss. Shouldn't it be called a near hit? ☺

The three hardest things to say are: 1. I was wrong, 2. I need help, 3. Worcestershire Sauce ☺



### Parenting Tune-Up

Where does God live? Ask your child. Perhaps each of you can draw a picture of God's home. Is God in the sky, in nature, inside you, even in your enemy? YES. Help your children recognize God as an omnipresent Holy Spirit who makes everything they see, hear, and touch sacred. You too!

### Marriage Tune-Up

Do not turn your beloved off! – Do not let the busyness of Christmas preparations blind you to the gift of your relationship. Don't let shopping or decorating or worries keep you from treasuring the presence of your beloved.



### Why is Today "Gaudete Sunday?"

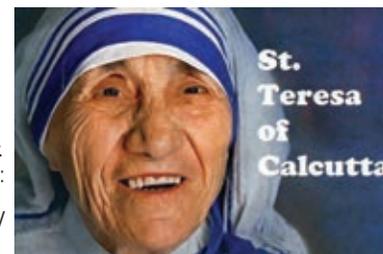


Today is called "*Gaudete Sunday*" because today's Mass (in its Latin, pre-Vatican II form), began with the opening antiphon: "*Gaudete in Domino semper*" -- "Rejoice in the Lord always." In the past, when Advent was a season of penance, the celebrant of the liturgy used to wear vestments with the penitential color of purple or violet. In order to remind the people that they were preparing for the very joyful occasion of the birth of Jesus, the celebrant wore rose-colored vestments on the third Sunday. (By the way, we have a similar break--*Laetare Sunday*-- during the Lenten season). Today we light the rose candle, and the priest may wear rose vestments, to express our joy in the coming of Jesus, our Savior. The primary common theme running through today's readings is that of encouraging joy as we meet our need for the preparation required of us who await the rebirth of Jesus in our hearts and lives. The second common theme is that of bearing witness. The prophet Isaiah, Mary and John the Baptizer all bear joyful witness to what God has done and will do for His people.

### Joy Comes From Love

St. Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa) and Advent joy:

Through her ministry in Jesus' name, Mother Teresa brought untold blessings and joy to the poor who lay unattended and forgotten on our streets. When asked the source of her joy, Mother Teresa replied: "Joy is prayer -- joy is strength -- joy is love -- joy is a net of love. . . A joyful heart is the normal result of a heart burning with love . . . loving as He loves, helping as He helps, giving as He gives, serving as He serves, rescuing as He rescues, being with Him twenty-four hours, touching Him in His distressing disguise." (Malcolm Muggeridge, *Something Beautiful for God*, Harper and Row, San Francisco: 1971). When Advent arrived every year, Mother Teresa's life, continued to witness the joy which is true hallmark of every Christian and the rightful inheritance of all the poor.



### Stewardship Quote:

**"Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" - 1 THESSALONIANS 5:16 -18:**

This scripture reading sums up Stewardship. "Rejoice always" means place your trust in God; He will provide all that you need. "Pray constantly" means prayer should be a running conversation with God throughout the whole day, every day. "Give thanks in all circumstances" means even in bad situations, thank God. Suffering a little bit helps build empathy for others in similar situations. (Archbishop Carlson)

# Sunday Reflections

## Advent Sunday Reflection: The Forger

*John was sent from God . . . to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. John 1: 6-8, 19-28*

Thousands of French Jews during World War II owe their lives to a dry cleaner's teenage apprentice. Adolfo Kaminsky was 18. Barely escaping internment in a French concentration camp, his father had arranged for his family to adopt false identities and go underground. He sent Adolfo to pick up their new papers from a member of the French resistance.



When the resistance member learned that Adolfo had worked at a dry cleaner's, he asked Adolfo if he knew how to "bleach" ink. Adolfo said he did: with lactic acid. Adolfo showed him how to erase the permanent blue ink that marked official documents with the word "Jew." And so began the career of one of the greatest forgers in France during the war. Kaminsky forged perfect identity cards, passports, food ration cards, and birth and marriage certificates. Kaminsky went on to form a team of forgers who created a lab right under the nose of the Nazis in a narrow attic in Paris. The neighbors thought they were all painters.

Kaminsky proved to be a genius at using everyday items to create documents that fooled even the most suspicious Nazi official: sewing machines to make "official" looking perforations, salvaged metal to fabricate perfect rubber stamps and watermarks. But there was little joy in it for Kaminsky and his colleagues: "The smallest error and you send someone to prison or death. It's a great responsibility. It's heavy. It's not at all a pleasure." It is estimated that Adolfo Kaminsky's forgeries saved the lives of as many as 14,000 Jewish men, women and children. After the war, Kaminsky spent the next 30 years forging documents for those fleeing every major conflict of the mid-20th century, from the Algerian war of independence to the anti-apartheid struggle in South Africa.

Adolfo Kaminsky never took any payment for his forgeries. He earned a modest living as a photographer. Now 92 years old, Kaminsky is only now telling his story, at his daughter's urging. He says what drove him was his hatred of oppression and injustice against the innocent. He is humbled and happy his work brought freedom and life to so many: "I saved lives because I cannot deal with unnecessary deaths. All humans are equal, whatever their origins, their beliefs, their skin color. There are no superiors, no inferiors . . . I did what I had to do when I had to . . . and I was lucky to be able to do it."

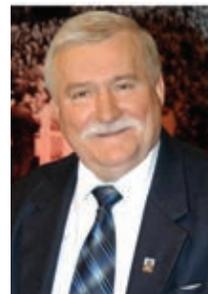
**A young man uses what he learned working at a dry cleaner to "make straight" a horribly crooked path; he risks his life to use his skill to "cry out" against the "desert" of injustice and oppression destroying his country and killing his people. We are all called to this kind of "prophetic" work: to use whatever skills and resources we possess to bring hope into prisons of despair, joy into deserts of sadness, love into hearts and spirits of stone.**

## Are You a Happy Christian?

There is a story told about a man from Louisville, Kentucky, who had to travel to St. Louis on business. This was years ago when Christians kept Sunday as a very special day. For this man, "keeping the Sabbath," also meant not riding the trains on Sunday. Thus, after he finished up his business late Saturday night, he had to stay over in St. Louis until the following Monday morning. On Sunday morning, he left the hotel looking for a place to worship. The streets were quite deserted, but finally he saw a policeman and asked him for directions to the nearest Church. The stranger thanked the policeman for the information and was about to walk off when he turned and asked the policeman: "Why have you recommended that particular Church? It looks like a Catholic Church. There must be several Churches nearby that you could have recommended." The policeman smiled and replied: "I'm not a Church man myself, but the people who come out of that Church are the happiest looking Church-people in St. Louis and they claim that they have received Jesus and they are happily taking him to their homes. I thought that would be the kind of Church you would like to attend." The Scripture for today reminds us that every Sunday in every Christian church must be a *Gaudete Sunday* or "Rejoice Sunday."



## Valesa – A Nightmare!



Valesa – a Nightmare is a docu-drama which was written in Poland under a pseudonym and then smuggled out of the country. It tells the story of political prisoners like Lech Walesa. Near the end of the play a prisoner priest, who usually offers a solitary Mass, is joined by the rest of the prisoners at considerable risk to celebrate the Eucharist. At this moment, the play reaches a climax with the deafening scream of crows - a Polish symbol for the Communist military regime under General Jaruzelski. The cawing of the crows suddenly gives way to the soft chirping of spring birds and the comforting notes of a piano concerto - a symbol of the optimism of the Polish people that one day their quest for religious and political freedom will be realized. *Valesa – a Nightmare* shows how Christ can come into our lives even in the worst of circumstances. The Lord came to Lech Walesa in a Communist prison through Walesa's faith and prayers, through his Polish culture and pride, through his fellow political prisoners and through the Sacrament of the Eucharist.



# Sunday Reflections

## The Cutest Smile of Inner Joy!



A number of years ago, a young college student was working as an intern at his college's Museum of Natural History. One day while working at the cash register in the gift shop, he saw an elderly couple come in with a little girl in a wheelchair. As he looked closer at this girl, he saw that she was kind of perched on her chair. The student realized that she had no arms or legs, just a head, neck and torso. She was wearing a little white dress with red polka dots. As the couple wheeled her up to the checkout counter, he turned his head toward the girl and gave her a wink. Meanwhile, he took the money from her grandparents and looked back at the girl, who was giving him the cutest and the largest smile he had ever seen. All of a sudden her handicapped was gone and all that the young man saw was this beautiful girl, whose smile just melted him and almost instantly gave him a completely new sense of what life is all about. She took him from the world of an unhappy college student and brought him into her world: a world of smiles, love and warmth.

*With the lighting of the third rose candle of the Advent Wreath and the priest's wearing the rose vestments today, we are reminded that we are called to live with joy in our world of sorrows and pain.*

*The readings for the third Sunday of Advent remind us that the coming of Jesus, past, present and future, is the reason for our rejoicing. The first reading tells us that we should rejoice because the promised Messiah is coming as our Savior and liberator, saving us by liberating us from our bondages. The Responsorial Psalm of the day is taken from Mary's Magnificat, in which she exclaims:*

*"My soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit finds joy in God my Savior." Paul, in the second reading, advises us to "rejoice always" by leading blameless, holy and thankful lives guided by the Holy Spirit, because Christ is faithful to his promise that he will come again to reward us. Today's Gospel tells us that John the Baptist came as a witness to testify to the Light, i.e., Jesus. The coming of Jesus, the Light, into the world is cause for rejoicing as he removes darkness from the world. We should be glad and rejoice also because, like John the Baptist, we, too, are chosen to bear witness to Christ Jesus, the Light of the world. We are to reflect Jesus' Light in our lives so that we may radiate it and illuminate the dark lives of others around us.*

*The joyful message of today's liturgy is clear. The salvation we await with rejoicing will liberate both the individual and the community, and its special focus will be the poor and lowly, not the rich and powerful.*

## "Have You Ever Heard John Preach?"

As Rev. Fred Craddock once asked, "Have You Ever Heard John Preach?" John the Baptist was easily the most famous preacher of his generation. The historian Josephus once wrote that in his estimation, this man John was a vastly more important and impressive figure than his cousin known as Jesus. Even years after Jesus' death and Resurrection, when the apostles visited the city of Ephesus to proclaim the Gospel, they ran across a large building that called itself "The First Church of John the Baptizer." The members of this congregation had all been baptized into the name of

John. When the apostles inquired if they had been baptized into also the name of Jesus, the people replied, "Who's that? Never heard of him." Years earlier it was John, not Jesus, who got King Herod's attention. So he arrested and eventually executed John. And once Jesus began to make a bit of a stir himself, Herod's first reaction was to say, "That must be John again! He's back from the dead!" Most scholars believe that the Gospel of John, as written by John the Apostle, places Jesus in the correct perspective assigning to John the Baptist the role of a witness and forerunner.

# Celebrating Our Faith: Liturgy



## Marian Novena at St. Matthias

*Among the popular piety, Marian devotion has a pre-eminent place of honor. Prayer is the language of the heart, and prayer to Jesus through our Blessed Mother strengthens us, gives us hope, and unites us to heaven. The Miraculous Medal is a symbol of devotion and love recognized by the Catholic Church. It is a support for those looking for a grace, for those facing a hard time in their lives, or for those who just want to remember every day that they are not alone, and have an endlessly good and loving Mother supporting and sustaining them.*



*The novena will be after the 8 am Mass on every Monday which is traditionally the day of the novena. Join us in praying our Miraculous Medal Novena.*

## November Baptisms

The Catholic Community of St. Matthias welcomes the following children who were baptized in November, 2020. 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.

*Liam Juan Almonte  
Chad Derek Bundang*

*Clarke Villamaria Angeles  
Dominic Michael Marchie*

*Mariella Lucia Bradley  
Declan Xavier Ponce*

*Bryce Grayson Reyes      Emory Garcia Stewart*

# Celebrating Our Faith: Liturgy

## Now is the Time to Sign up for Christmas Mass at St. Matthias

This year we are **requiring** parishioners who would like to attend Christmas Mass **in person** (in the church or cafeteria) to **sign up**. Why? We do not want to be like the inn-keeper who has to turn anyone away at the door when there is no more room. We already have 400 people signed up, but currently have room for more.

To sign up, go to [www.thejesustoday.com/stmatthias/christmassignup.php](http://www.thejesustoday.com/stmatthias/christmassignup.php) If you do not have access to a computer, then please call Kelly Counts at the Parish Office, 732-828-1400, to sign up.

Mass Times are Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>: 2:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 6:30 pm, Midnight  
Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> 10:00 am, 12:00 Noon



Parishioners are allowed to sign up for as many as eight (8) people for one Christmas Eve/Day mass. Once you complete your sign-up, you receive a confirmation notice at your email address. **The notice will have a confirmation number which you will not need for entry but can use to cancel if needed.**

Please follow all NJ State and Diocese of Metuchen safety guidelines for the COVID-19 pandemic, including:

If you are not feeling well, you are requested to stay home. Wear a mask. Groups/individuals will be separated by 6 ft. Plenty of hand sanitizer will be on-hand. Pews and chairs will be sanitized after each mass. For proper ventilation during the winter months for enclosed building, the heat will be on but windows will be open and fans left on for air flow. Main doors will be the entry points and all mass goers will use one exit in a safely distanced manner. Those receiving communion are encouraged to receive the host on the hand. **If you receive communion on the tongue, you must remain seated at the end of mass until everyone else has received.**

Please note that we will continue to offer Communion outside approximately 30 minutes after Mass starts. Questions? Please feel free to contact Phyllis Stone, [pstone@stmatthias.net](mailto:pstone@stmatthias.net), 732-828-1400, x127.

### Oplatki Christmas Wafers



Oplatki Christmas wafers are available in the Parish Office. If you would like to receive these wafers, please come to the Parish Office during regular hours.



### DO YOU WANT TO BE A ST. MATTHIAS CHRISTMAS LITURGY ANGEL???

Volunteers Christmas Liturgy Angels are needed for various liturgical ministries for the six Christmas Eve/Christmas Day Masses – December 24 at 2:00, 4:00 and 6:30 pm, Midnight, and December 25 at 10:00 and 12:00. You can be one of these angels:



**Minister of Hospitality (greeters)** - greet and seat Christmas mass attendees according to the distancing charts in the Church, Cafeteria and John XXIII Room, and usher communion lines to ensure proper spacing.

**Eucharistic (Extraordinary) Minister** - serve communion (the Precious Body) as trained by St. Matthias and mandated by the Diocese of Metuchen. (Must be at least 16 years of age).

**Mass Safety Captain** - oversee our safety between masses by assisting volunteers who sanitize chairs and pews for the next round of mass goers.

**Decorate** – assist the Environment Team with sprucing up and decorating the church, cafeteria and the John XXIII room for Christmas services.

**Tech Support & Volunteer**—specific training will be scheduled once we have all the angels lined up.

**Volunteer**-specific training will be scheduled once we have all the angels lined up.

Sign-ups are available now into December at

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A054FA4AB2FAFF2-christmas>

or by contacting Phyllis Stone directly at (732) 828-1400, ext 127 or [pstone@stmatthias.net](mailto:pstone@stmatthias.net).

## Discovering God: Formation

### Nativity 2020



To keep everyone safe this year, we will be approaching our Christmas Eve Nativity a little bit differently. We invite children of our parish to narrate the Nativity story in their own words. We will then have actors perform the story just as they tell it. For an example, watch "Christmas According to Kids" on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=suowe2czxcA>) Although we cannot use the entirety of every entry, we will do our best to ensure that every child has a part in the video.

If you would like your children to participate, we invite you to record a video of your children telling the Christmas story **by Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>**

and upload it to:  
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1cJCUpLD-J7x90-nPziayTAOaSQ6zW0uU?usp=sharing>



If you have any questions, please email Kelly Dillon or Camryn Hadley at [kd199@comcast.net](mailto:kd199@comcast.net) We look forward to seeing your videos!



### Substitute Teachers Needed for SMS

Saint Matthias School is looking to augment their teacher substitute list. A minimum of sixty college credits are required for all candidates. If you or someone you know is available Monday through Thursday from 7:30 to 2:30 and/or Friday from 7:30 to 12:30, please contact Joseph Gidaro, [jgidao@stmatthiasnj.org](mailto:jgidao@stmatthiasnj.org), or Diane Flanagan,



## Being Good Stewards

### Key Provisions of the New CARES Act (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security)

The new law temporarily suspends the requirements for required minimum distributions (RMD) for the 2020 tax year. This may come as a relief to those who would have had to make a withdrawal. Many people use the RMD from their IRA to make a gift to charity. If you are 70½ or older, you can still make a gift from your IRA and reduce your taxable income, even if you do not itemize deductions.

In addition, the new law expands charitable giving incentives and allows taxpayers who take the standard deduction to make up to \$300 of charitable cash contributions to qualified charities this year. The \$300 deduction is per tax-filing unit, so the deduction is limited to \$300, even for married taxpayers filing jointly. For those who do itemize their deductions, the new law allows for cash contributions to be deducted up to 100% of your adjusted gross income for the 2020 calendar year. As always, please check with your tax advisor for details.

### Stewardship Reflection Dec 13, 2020 Third Sunday of Advent

*"Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." - 1 Thessalonians 5:16 - 18*

This scripture reading sums up Stewardship. "Rejoice always" means place your trust in God; He will provide all that you need. "Pray constantly" means prayer should be a running conversation with God throughout the whole day, every day. "Give thanks in all circumstances" means even in bad situations, thank God. Suffering a little bit helps build empathy for others in similar situations and shows our dependence on God.

### Reflexiones — 13 de diciembre de 2020 3º Domingo de Adviento

*"Regocíjense siempre, oren constantemente, den gracias en toda circunstancia; porque esta es la voluntad de Dios para ustedes en Cristo Jesús". - 1 TESALONICENSAS 5:16 - 18*

Esta lectura de las Escrituras resume la corresponsabilidad. "Regocíjate siempre" significa depositar tu confianza en Dios; Él te proporcionará todo lo que necesites. "Orar constantemente" significa que la oración debe ser una conversación continua con Dios durante todo el día, todos los días. "Dar gracias en todas las circunstancias" significa, incluso en situaciones difíciles, gracias a Dios. Sufrir un poco ayuda a desarrollar la empatía por otros en situaciones similares y muestra nuestra dependencia de Dios.

# Being Good Stewards

| Stewardship Totals for Fiscal Year July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021 |             |               |                                 | Last Year's Total                 |
|---|-------------|---------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Current Month   | In-Pew/Mail | Parish Giving | Weekly Total                    | Weekly Total                      |
| Week 23 - Dec. 6, 2020  | \$9,781.00  | \$10,608.93   | <b>\$20,389.93</b>              | \$30,063.09                       |
| Week 24 - Dec. 13, 2020   | \$0.00      | \$0.00        | <b>\$0.00</b>                   | \$27,638.09                       |
| Week 25 - Dec. 20, 2020   | \$0.00      | \$0.00        | <b>\$0.00</b>                   | \$26,708.09                       |
| Week 26 - Dec. 27, 2020   | \$0.00      | \$0.00        | <b>\$0.00</b>                   | \$27,060.09                       |
|   |             |               | <b>Month-to-date Total</b>      | <b>Dec. Total Last Yr</b>         |
|   |             |               | <b>\$20,389.93</b>              | \$111,469.36                      |
|   |             |               | <b>Current Year-to-date To-</b> | <b>Year-to-date as of Dec 31,</b> |
|   |             |               | <b>\$544,745.02</b>             | \$725,496.17                      |

## Merchant Discount Card Available for All



The Home School Association is excited to announce that this year we will be offering local discount cards in place of coupon books. Each card will be \$10.

For school families, every card you sell will earn you \$2 towards your HSA commitment.

Please use the following Sign Up Genius link below to request how many cards you wish to purchase:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A094BAAAE28AAF94-smsdiscount> Please list your child's name and homeroom, if you are an SMS family. Payment can be sent to the SMS HSA PayPal account: <https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/StMatthiasHSA>



These cards may be purchased by anyone. You may use the discount once a day per merchant at the locations listed, until the expiration date stated. Details are on the card.

**MAKES A GREAT STOCKING STUFFER!!!**



## EVERYONE Is Encouraged to Purchase Gift Cards Online to Help Our School *AT NO COST TO YOU!*

We have over 750 gift cards currently available online. No need to stop by the office, nor to touch anything. Instead, when you go shopping or to a restaurant, buy the gift card on your phone, and then pay for your items by showing the cashier your phone. The cashier will scan the gift card on your phone. And St. Matthias School will receive a percentage of the gift card price, at no cost to you. Here are the steps:

1. Go to your phone's App store and download "RaiseRight Fundraising" (If you are on a computer, go [www.raiseright.com](http://www.raiseright.com) and follow the prompts.)

2. Click on "Join a Program"

3. Enter the following Enrollment Code to help St. Matthias School:  
**A68921F9388**

4. Then follow the prompts, skipping the optional boxes.



Remember to use **RaiseRight** every time you shop. Also, invite friends/family/neighbors to purchase these gift cards. Questions? Contact Melissa Rizzo, [melissamillerrizzo@gmail.com](mailto:melissamillerrizzo@gmail.com).

## Connecting with Our Local Community

**Part-time  
Custodian  
Position  
Available:**



If you have custodial experience and are interested, please contact our Business Administrator, Mary Beth Oria, at 732-828-1400; ext. 121

### The Diocese of Metuchen

The Diocese has scheduled a number of events from Dec. 6-13 to celebrate the 1st Anniversary of the Consecration of the Diocese to Mary of Guadalupe. Please go to [www.lightingheartsonfire.org](http://www.lightingheartsonfire.org) for the details.



# Caring for Others

**A Joint Service Project** *St. Matthias 6-12 Youth Ministry, GIFT Families, Confirmation Prep And All Who Want to Join In!*



**GIFT BAGS OF WARMTH AND Joy** Hats, Gloves and Scarves  
FOR FAMILIES SERVED BY **UNITY SQUARE NEW BRUNSWICK**

**Sunday, December 13 Between 9:30AM-1PM**  
**Drop off Gift bags by shed/garage building at rear of St. Matthias Parking lot!**  
**Because of the pandemic all items must be in gift bags only!**  
**Questions or to help? Dee Nann, [dnann@stmatthias.net](mailto:dnann@stmatthias.net)**

**Unity Square** is a community organizing and social concerns initiative of Catholic Charities, Diocese of Metuchen. Their efforts focus on a target neighborhood of about 6,000 low-income residents of New Brunswick. Most neighborhood families are working poor, and have young children. Especially because of the pandemic these items were suggested as a need for many within the community. All gift bags will be donated directly to **Unity Square**.

## 2020 GIVING TREE – COVID-19 Edition

A symbolic Giving Tree is now in the Church; however, the ornaments will serve to provide general information only. Due to the uncertainty of the pandemic, we will be supporting the less fortunate through virtual giving. In an effort to keep the staff and our volunteers safe, we will not be making deliveries this year. Therefore, **ABSOLUTELY NO GIFTS ARE TO BE DELIVERED TO THE CHURCH OR PARISH OFFICE.** Please check the parish website for additional details.

[www.stmatthias.net](http://www.stmatthias.net)

Participating once again are: Great Expectations, Elijah's Promise, Ozanam Family Shelter, Ozanam Men's Shelter, PACT (gift cards only), Pregnancy Aid, YES Learning Center (pre-school children ages 3-5) and Willow Creek Nursing Home. **The Giving Tree will begin Thanksgiving week.** Please check the Parish website and/or bulletin for more information regarding the websites, wish lists and shipping addresses. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please call Joanne Diana (732)873-8521 or send an email to [j-diana@comcast.net](mailto:j-diana@comcast.net). Thank you.



## Parish Leadership

### Parish Pastoral Council:

**Chair:** Nick Grippo  
[nickgrippo@gmail.com](mailto:nickgrippo@gmail.com)

**Co-Chair:** Lisa Robinson  
[lar0504@comcast.net](mailto:lar0504@comcast.net)

**Secretary:**  
Tom Aussem

### Co-Secretary:

Denise Brown  
Lorraine Farr  
Anne Marie Francis  
Claudine Langrin  
Garrett Linderoth  
Joe Percoco

Rose Peng  
Marybeth Purcell  
John Taylor  
Ana Kelly, Ex-Officio  
Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio

### Parish Finance Council:

Joe Porter, Chair  
**Finance council**  
[@stmatthias.net](mailto:@stmatthias.net)

Susan Klimcsak  
Barry Dusault  
Gwen Orłowski  
Audrey Francis

Kester Hector  
Mary Beth Oria, Ex-Officio  
Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio

### Trustees:

Isaac Peng  
Marge Richards

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

**Parish Registration** — Welcome new members! Please register by calling the Parish

**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.

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

### Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

The RCIA process is an opportunity for instruction and spiritual transformation for any adult seeking a deeper understanding of the Catholic tradition or

full incorporation into the Catholic Church. If you are interested in becoming a Catholic or completing the Sacraments of Initiation-- Baptism/ Confirmation/Eucharist, please call the Parish Office.

### Stewardship

Stewardship is a way of life, a way of thanking God for all our blessings by returning a portion of the time, talent and treasure allotted to us. Whether it is clothes for the poor, food for the hungry, outreach to youth, in education, in worship, or simply arms stretched out to someone who is lonely, the Catholic Community of St. Matthias encourages everyone to become stewards of the gifts they have been given by God, returning a portion in gratitude to God for the work of ministry

here at St. Matthias and beyond our local community.



**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.

### Bulletin Article Requests

Please email proposed bulletin articles to [bulletin@stmatthias.net](mailto:bulletin@stmatthias.net) by 6 pm, Wednesday, 10 days before the intended issue (earlier for holiday weekends).



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**#WHATSMYNAME**  
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