



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

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

St. Matthias School (SMS):

170 JFK Boulevard, Somerset, NJ 08873
 732-828-1402; www.stmatthias.info

For all Parish emails, add TM stmatthias.net

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

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

Pastoral Staff

Deacon Russell Demkovitz, [rдемkovitz](mailto:rдемkovitz@stmatthias.net)
 Ana V Kelly, Marketing & Development, [akelly](mailto:akelly@stmatthias.net)
 Dolores R. Nann, Faith Formation, [dnann](mailto:dnann@stmatthias.net)
 Mary Beth Oria, Business Administrator, [moriam](mailto:moriam@stmatthias.net)
 Deacon John Radvanski, [deaconjohn](mailto:deaconjohn@stmatthias.net)
 Joan Best Seamon, Music Ministry [jseamon](mailto:jseamon@stmatthias.net)
 Sr Marie Therese Sherwood, OSF, Social
 Concerns, [msherwood](mailto:msherwood@stmatthias.net)
 Phyllis Stone, Liturgy/RCIA and Administrative
 Assistant to the Pastor, [pstone](mailto:pstone@stmatthias.net)

St. Matthias School (add @stmatthiasnj.org)

Elena Malinconico, Principal, [emalinconico](mailto:emalinconico@stmatthiasnj.org)

Joseph Gidaro, Vice Principal, [jgidaro](mailto:jgidaro@stmatthiasnj.org)

Parish Office Staff

Kelly Counts, 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, FEB 21, 2021 –
First Sunday of Lent

Last Chance to Sign Up for a Live Lent Small Group . See page 8 for details. Groups begin this week.

Pastoral Council Meeting— Tues., Feb 23 via Zoom at 7:00PM. Please see note below.

Next weekend is the SMYLE Youth Project. See page 7 for all information.

Lenten Day of Reflection is next Sat., 2/27. See page 6 for all information.

Confirmation Service WorX—next Sat., 2/27. See calendar on pg.2



**Lenten Day of Reflection on
 Racial Justice in the Catholic Church: Creating a Culture of Life**

Next Saturday, Feb. 27. 10 am, via Zoom

Brought to you by the St. Martin De Porres Society
 (St. Martin de Porres - The patron saint of racial harmony)

See page 6 for details.



Finance Council Seeks Additional Members

The Parish Finance Council is seeking additional members to join. If you are interested in being considered for this ministry, please contact Fr. Abraham at abraham@stmatthias.net

Parish Pastoral Council Recruitment

Learn more about the Parish Pastoral Council by reading the Ministry Spotlight on page 8. Parishioners who are considering ministering on the Pastoral Council are invited to observe a PC meeting on Tuesday, 23rd Feb, contact Nick Grippo at nickgrippo@gmail.com or Lisa Robinson at laro504@comcast.net.

When It Snows...



Please check our website, www.stmatthias.net, to find out what events have been cancelled or whether Mass will be in-person, or only virtual. If you have subscribed to our calendar (also on the home page of the website), you will automatically see updates on your phone/computer.

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.)

Black History Month

All Month Collection for Catholic Spirit

Sunday, Feb 21, 2021 1st Sunday of Lent

Sunday LiveLent Groups via Zoom

10:00AM	Mass	Church
10:30AM	Communion outside front doors	
10:30AM	RCIA	Zoom
12:00PM	Mass	Church
12:30PM	Communion outside front doors	
2:00PM	RCIA Sessions	Zoom

Monday, Feb 22, 2021

Monday LiveLent Groups via Zoom

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

Tuesday, Feb 23, 2021

Tuesday LiveLent Groups via Zoom

8:00AM	Mass	Church
7:00PM	Pastoral Council Mtg.	Zoom

Wednesday, Feb 24, 2021

Wednesday LiveLent Groups via Zoom

8:00AM	Daily Mass with Ashes	Church
7:00PM	RCIA Sessions	Zoom

Thursday, Feb 25, 2021

Thursday LiveLent Groups via Zoom

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

Friday, Feb 26, 2021

Friday LiveLent Groups via Zoom

8:00AM	Daily Mass	Church
7:00PM	Stations of the Cross	YouTube & Church

Saturday, Feb 27, 2021 2nd Sunday of Lent

Saturday LiveLent Groups via Zoom

8:30AM	Lenten Day of Reflection	Zoom
9:00AM	Confirmation Service WorX	Café
3:30-4:30PM	Confessions	Church
4:45PM	SMYLE Youth Project Collection	Cry Room
5:00PM	Mass	Church

Sunday, Feb 28, 2021 2nd Sunday of Lent

Sunday LiveLent Groups via Zoom

9:45AM	SMYLE Youth Project Collection	Cry Room
10:00AM	Mass	Church
10:30AM	Communion outside front doors	
12:00PM	Mass	Church
12:30PM	Communion outside front doors	
2:00PM	RCIA Sessions	Zoom

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, Thursday, 9 days before the intended issue (earlier for holiday weekends). Approved content is published on a space-available basis.

From the Pastor & the Pastoral Staff

Dear Friends,

With a different way of receiving ashes on our forehead this year, we have just entered the holy season of Lent. We all need some good motivation if we want to make Lent a success, that is, to make Lent truly meaningful and fulfilling for us. The motivation is the awareness that we can be better and holier persons, that we can go beyond our present situation and experience true peace and joy, if only we are willing to make some changes in our lives.



Any attempt to build a spiritual life that neglects the pillars of prayer, fasting and almsgiving is like building on sand. That's why the gospel we heard on Ash Wednesday is worth reading and reflecting over again. Please read *Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18*. *Jesus is teaching us some good lessons in that passage: Prayer* purifies our intentions and relates all we do to God. *Fasting* detaches us from our comfort and ourselves. *Almsgiving* reflects our brotherhood/sisterhood with the poor of Jesus' family and reminds us that our true wealth is not in things, but in the love of God. We all need to do a reality check of our spiritual lives to make sure we are committed to prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

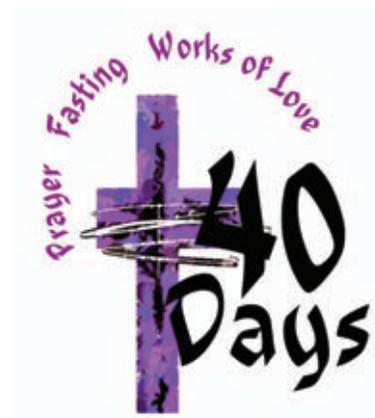
Speaking of prayer as the first pillar: As we all know, Covid-19 had forced us to suspend our 8 am and 5:30 pm Masses on Sundays. Considering the limited number of people attending Mass in person due to obvious safety reasons, there is no compelling reason to restore them in the immediate future. And yet, **it is good to give an opportunity to those who wish to have one more option for Mass during Lent. Hence I will restore the 8 am Mass on a temporary basis during the four Sundays of March, on 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th.** The livestreaming of the Masses will still continue.

Let me now leave you with this prayer: *Lord, you know how much I need you and depend on you. You know my weakness and my faults. I put all my confidence in your love and mercy in my daily actions. I hope to learn to trust more in your power, your promise, and your grace. Lord, I wish to start this season of Lent with a sincere desire to grow in love, loving you more, loving my family and friends more, especially reaching out to those who I am not so fond of. Therefore Lord, help me learn to change what needs to change in my life. Give me the grace to begin this Lent with great enthusiasm and love, practicing a Lenten program of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Help me live it with joy, knowing that I am living it in your presence to please you and to live in true fellowship with those around me. Amen.*

Have a happy and holy Lent.

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Orapankal



Readings for the Week

Monday: 1 Pt 5:1-4; Ps 23:1-3a, 4, 5, 6; Mt 16:13-19

Tuesday: Is 55:10-11; Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19; Mt 6:7-15

Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10; Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19; Lk 11:29-32

Thursday: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8; Mt 7:7-12

Friday: Ez 18:21-28; Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8; Mt 5:20-26

Saturday: Dt 26:16-19; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8; Mt 5:43-48

Sunday: Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Ps 116:10, 15, 16-17, 18-19; Rom 8:31b-34; Mk 9:2-10

Sunday Mass Intentions

Mass Intentions for the 8AM Mass will be combined with that at the 10AM Mass, and the 5:30PM intention will be combined with that at 12PM.

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, Feb 20	5:00PM	Eleuterio Banaag, by Lozminda
Sunday, Feb 21	8:00AM	John McGurn, by William & Doreen Vorce
	10:00AM	Intention of Parishioners
	12:00PM	Theresa MacMurdo, by The Madison Family
	5:30PM	Alfonso Bombita, Jr, by The Bombita Family
Monday, Feb 22	8:00AM	Sally Hughes, by The Family
Tuesday, Feb 23	8:00AM	All deceased members of the Edwin Family, by the Family
Wednesday, Feb 24	8:00AM	Health & Blessings for Adoracion DeGuzman, by Alma & Family
Thursday, Feb 25	8:00AM	Sally Hughes, by the Family
Friday, Feb 26	8:00AM	Andrea Banaag, by Luzminda
Saturday, Feb 27	5:00PM	Rose Marie LaTorre, by Arthur & MaryAnn Kriegsmann
Sunday, Feb 28	8:00AM	Intention of Parishioners
	10:00AM	Birthday Blessings for Sr. Amata, by Vinnie, Ethel & Mary
	12:00PM	Spiritual Intention for Fatama Stone, by Phyllis Stone
	5:30PM	George Suarez, by Mayra Berros

Pray for those who are sick...

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

Elbren, Sr. & Natalia Agdeppa
 Kristy Alexander
 Robert Bachman
 Barbara Branham
 Marie Brody
 Baby Isla-Rose Callahan
 Sadie Callender
 Tara Capatosto
 Ellen Catalina
 Frank Catalina
 Wes Coddington
 Adoracion & Cenon DeGuzman
 Mary Ellen Delaney
 Alaina Derecola
 Nancy Diaz
 Jim Dolan
 Mary Dolan
 William Dolphin
 Dorothy Domenici
 Emma Gergely
 Rose Gessner

Mary Gidaro
 Emma Himey
 Michael Kirugi
 Taylor LaCort
 Al & Rose Larangeira
 William Lecorchick
 Alice Leong
 Pat Leposa
 The Litrakis Family
 Al Maglio
 Sue Maglio-Alese
 Shirley Mahoney
 Steve McGovern
 Margaret Menendez
 Elizabeth Miller
 Linda Misuraca
 Dave Moynihan
 John Mulholland
 Baby Ezran Natural
 Patricia Nese
 Julianne Opydike

Mary Beth Oria
 Jim Pettit
 Christina Pietrowiak
 Anthony & Andrew Referente
 Kathleen & Mannix Referente
 Samantha Renaud
 Aubree Rezac
 Diane Rice
 Nina Ripley
 Datus Rutashobya
 Maria Schwenzer
 Sr. Mary Amata Shina, OSF
 Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF
 Encarnacion (Gina) So
 Alessandro Spagnolo
 Dennis Stuewe
 Fred & Carolyn Vanmiddlesworth
 Carmencita Ventura
 Eulalia Villanueva
 Mark T. Worthington
 Kenneth Yacavino

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*

Sunday Reflections



Smile with Your Family



Lenten Effort: A new pastor tried in vain to get his congregation to do something for Lent. Exasperated, he announced that he would be serving them prune juice for Holy Communion. When asked why he would dare entertain such a thought, his reply, "If the Holy Spirit won't move you--the prune juice will!" 😊

An old Lenten Joke: A bartender notices that every evening, without fail, one of his patrons orders three beers. After several weeks of noticing this pattern, the bartender asks the man why he always orders three beers. The man says, "I have two brothers who have moved away to different countries. We promised each other that we would always order an extra two beers whenever we drank as a way of keeping up the family bond." Several weeks later, noticing that the man only ordered two beers, the bartender said, "Please accept my condolences on the death of one of your brothers. You know, the two beers and all..." The man replied, "You'll be happy to hear that my two brothers are alive and well... It's just that I, myself, have decided to give up drinking for Lent."

Fun quotes: "I started out with nothing and I still have most of it." 😊 "My annual performance review says I lack "passion and intensity." I guess management hasn't seen me alone with a Big Mac." 😊

Marriage Tune-Up

Ways to Turn Your Beloved Off #10 - Let your body language show disdain or contempt. Rolling your eyes, a scowl, ignoring a request by walking away can speak louder than a yell. Check out any belittling mannerisms you may have that hurt your spouse.



Parenting Tune-Up

February 12 begins the 2021 Chinese New Year (<https://www.thechinesezodiac.org/horoscope-2018/>). This year the featured animal is the ox. Help your children learn about another culture - unless of course you are Chinese :-). Try these activities. (<https://www.activityvillage.co.uk/chinese-new-year>) Do you know anyone who is Chinese? Talk with them. Eat Chinese food today.



Is it too Late to Join a Small Group?

Over 200 people have just enjoyed the first session of the small groups last week. Is it too late for you to join? NO! You are most welcome to join, or at least to give a try. Just contact Dee at the Parish Office, dnann@stmatthias.net



Or, are you wondering, what's the point of joining a small group? In fact a pastor was asked this question. He gave many reasons, but at the end he said:

"But what I feel is one of the most important reasons to join a small group is time. Time is a limited commodity and, frankly, most of us use it badly. We commit to things that are temporal and will pass away, and waste so much of our precious energy growing in everything except love and knowledge of Christ. We unintentionally teach our kids that Church comes after sports and social obligations, and then we are surprised when they grow up and live the lesson we taught. By committing to a small group and being faithful to that obligation, you are declaring to yourself, your schedule and all who know you that you have faith as a priority in your life. A declaration like that will always bear good fruit."



A Protestant Testimony about Lent

Mark D Roberts, a Pastor, speaker and author, wrote this in his blog: "Growing up as an evangelical Christian, I experienced Lent as little more than a joke. "What are you giving up for Lent?" my friends would ask. "Homework," I'd say with a smirk, or "Obeying my parents." Lent was one of those peculiar practices demanded of Roman Catholics – another great reason to be Protestant, I figured. It never even occurred to me that Lent was something I might actually be interested in, or benefit from, or decide to keep, or come to value as a way of getting to know God better.



In the last twenty years I've discovered that Lent is in fact recognized by millions of Protestant Christians, in addition to Catholic and Orthodox believers. ... After ignoring Lent for the majority of my life, I've paid more attention to it during the last two decades. Sometimes I've given up something, like watching television or eating sweets, in order to devote more time to Bible study and prayer. (The television fast was especially tough because I love watching March Madness, the NCAA basketball tournament, on TV.) Sometimes I've added extra devotional reading to my regular spiritual disciplines. I can't claim to have had any mystical experiences during Lent, but I have found that fasting from something has helped me focus on God."

Sunday Reflections



“My Year of No Shopping!”

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert, and he remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan. Mark 1: 12-15

Ann Patchett is the author of the best-selling **Commonwealth**, **Bel Canto** and eight other novels; she is also co-owner of Parnassus Books, an independent book store in her hometown of Nashville. At the end of 2016, she writes, "when our country had swung in the direction of gold leaf," she felt the anxiety and fear many Americans were feeling. Inspired by the experience of a friend, Patchett decided to opt out of the empty glitz and resolved that 2017 would be her year of "no shopping." Her ground rules: No clothes or electronics. Shampoo, batteries and printer cartridges were OK, only if she ran out. She could buy anything in a grocery store, including flowers. Plane tickets and eating out in restaurants were also OK. Because she's an author (and owns a book store), she would continue to indulge in buying books, and curtailed her gift-giving to books (one exception: a wedding gift for her editor).

Patchett discovered that "the trick of no shopping isn't that you don't buy things. You don't shop. That means no trawling the sale section of the J. Crew website in idle moments. It means the catalogs go into the recycle bin unopened on the theory that if I don't see it, I don't want it. Halfway through the year I could go to a store with my mother and sister if they asked me. I could tell them if the dress they were trying on looked good without wishing to try it on myself." She also realized the wisdom of what her parents taught her as a child: If you want something, wait awhile. Chances are the feeling will pass. And "once I stopped looking for things to buy, I became tremendously grateful for the things I received."

"The things we buy and buy and buy are like a thick coat of Vaseline smeared on glass: We can see some shapes out there, light and dark, but in our constant craving for what we may still want, we miss life's details . . . I came to a better understanding of money as something we earn and spend and save for the things we want and need. Once I was able to get past the want and be honest about the need, it was easier to give more of my money to people who could really use it. "For the record, I still have more than plenty. I know there is a vast difference between not buying things and being able to buy things. Not shopping for a year hardly makes me one with the poor, but it has put me on the path of figuring out what I can do to help."

This season of Lent challenges us to opt out of business as usual to discover to new paths to walk, new ways of seeing, new perspectives to embrace. In giving up shopping for a year, Ann Patchett rediscovered the wealth she already possessed. In the Lenten desert experience, Christ calls us to lay aside the material and ephemeral in our lives in order to realize the lasting treasures that are ours: love, mercy, forgiveness, justice, compassion. These 40 days of Lent are an invitation to us to spend time in the "wilderness," to confront the hard choices we must confront in our lives: choices between the values of God and the values of "Satan," choices between the values we believe in the depths of our hearts and the "marketplace" values of prestige, wealth and security. In making these choices honestly, sincerely and faithfully, we come to a new realization of God as the center of our lives and hopes and a renewed focus on fulfilling the Easter promise in our own lives.

Danger of Keeping A Tiger & Alligator as Pets?

Antoine Yates lived in New York City in a multistoried apartment building. For some inexplicable reason he brought home a two month-old tiger cub and later a young alligator. It's not clear where he found them and how he reared them. But they were with him for two years — in his apartment. What was a little tiger cub became a 500 pound Bengal tiger, and the little alligator a frightening monster. The police got a distress call from Yates about a "dog" bite and when they got to the 19-story public housing apartment building, they discovered Yates in the lobby with injuries to his right arm and leg. Someone alerted the police to the possibility of a "wild animal" in his apartment. A fourth-floor resident informed them that urine had seeped through her ceiling from Yates' apartment. The police officer peered through a hole drilled into the wall of Yates' apartment and saw the huge cat prowling around in the room. To make a long story short, it took a contingent of officers at the door, and the use of a dart gun by a veterinary doctor to bring the tiger under control. When finally they entered the apartment, they found the big cat lying unconscious atop some newspapers. A big alligator was nearby guarding his unconscious friend. Both animals were trapped and relocated to shelters. His own wild pets tried to kill Yates.

That is what happens to those who habitually entertain temptations in the form of evil thoughts and desires. Let us use Lent as a time to fight daily against the evil within us and around us: Repent-ing and fighting against temptations and evil is a lifetime's task. Jesus did not overcome Satan in the wilderness; he achieved that only in his death. Lent reminds us that we have to take up the fight each day against the evil within us and around us, and never give up. Jesus has given the assurance that the Holy Spirit is with us, empowering us so that final victory will be ours through Jesus Christ.



Sunday Reflections

Lenten Obligations

The days of fast and abstinence are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. All other Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence. From the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday until the celebration of the Easter Vigil on the evening of Holy Saturday, the Easter fast should be observed so that, with uplifted and welcoming hearts, we may be ready to celebrate the joys of the Resurrection. This ancient tradition, intimately con-

nected with the Rites of Holy Week and the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults, is encouraged, especially in those places baptizing catechumens at the Easter Vigil.

The obligation to fast applies only to Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59. To fast in the Catholic tradition means to limit oneself to one full meal during the day so as to experience hunger. The obligation of abstinence

affects all Catholics who have reached the age of 14. Abstinence in the Catholic tradition means to abstain from meat. The obligation of fast and abstinence, as a whole, is a serious obligation. Those unable to abstain for a valid reason on any given Friday of Lent are asked to perform some other penitential act, or to abstain on another day.

Celebrating Our Faith: Liturgy

The Lenten Season

Ministry-Led Stations of the Cross - 7 PM (Fridays):
Feb 19, 26, March 5, 12, 19, 26

Palm Sunday Passion of the Lord:
Procession - Sat, March 27, 5 pm. Sunday, March 28, 10 am, 12pm

Last Opportunity for Reconciliation Before Easter:
Confessions - Sat, Mar 27, 3:30-4:30 pm;
Reconciliation Service and Confessions - Sunday, Mar. 28, 6:30pm



Stations of the Cross

in person and live-streamed on our St. Matthias YouTube Channel, youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ

We pray for faith and courage...our youth...
the suffering, ill and disabled...our seniors...
and end to racisms and other evil -isms...

At the foot of The Cross we stand.
Fridays during Lent - 7:00 pm



Lenten Day of Reflection

ALL ARE WELCOME TO ZOOM-IN FOR THE LITURGICAL MINISTERS DAY OF REFLECTION

brought to you by

THE ST. MARTIN DE PORRES SOCIETY

(St. Martin de Porres - The patron saint of racial harmony)

RACIAL JUSTICE IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH: Creating a Culture of Life

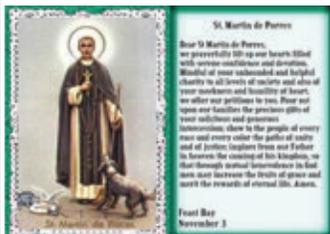
February 27th, 10:00 am - 11:30 am

FEATURING

Deacon Melvin Tardy

President: National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus

Deacon and Youth Minister at Saint Augustine Parish in South Bend, IN



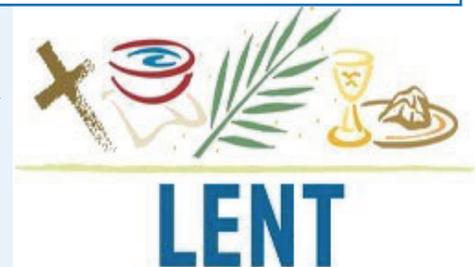
Link to join Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9702883550> Meeting ID: 970 288 3550

Presentation with Q&A (open to all) - 10:00 - 11:30 am; Group Reflection (open to liturgical ministers) - 11:30 am - 12:30 pm.

If you are a Liturgical Minister, watch your email for registration information or contact Phyllis Stone at pstone@stmatthias.net or (732) 828-1400, ext. 127. See the parish website for links to background resources.

If You Test Positive for Covid & Attended Church, Please Let Us Know

If you attend church and then test positive for Covid, please call the Parish Office, 732-828-1400, as soon as possible. We request your: 1) Name (we will NOT release this); 2) Phone number; 3) Dates you attended Mass; 4) Where in church you were sitting; 5) Date you tested positive. This will help us ensure that we can let others know, as well as keep our church building as safe as possible. Please also let us know if there is anything we can do to help and if you would like to be added to the Prayer List.



Celebrating Our Faith: Liturgy

The Rite of Election and The Rite of Continuing Call to Conversion for RCIA

Join us **TODAY, February 21st at the Noon Mass** as we celebrate the Rite of Election and the Rite of the Continuing Call to Conversion for our RCIA catechumens and candidates as they enter the stage of Purification and Enlightenment in their journey towards The Great Easter Vigil. **Please pray for them:**

To Be Baptized:

Nalini Malik Dashawn Durden Danielle Gille

To Be Received in Full Communion With The Church:

Loren Long Shannon Long Maritza Alimonte
Waid Barfield Natalie Ortman Nicholas Chodl
Luis Cuevas Rosana Garon

To Receive the Sacrament of Confirmation:

Jodie Scalon Ava Ortman Michael Chodl
Vaness DiRocco Michael DiRocco Kirsten Joyce Camerino
Nicholas Recine Helena Cassutt Udenna Okonkwo
Domiique Marchie Michael Marchie



Discovering God: Formation



SMYLE Youth Service Project

For Young Lives New Brunswick:
A Ministry for Teen Moms and
Pregnancy Aid Center [Raritan]

**Saturday/Sunday, February 27 & 28 only, before/after
Masses in Cry Room (Church)**

List of some needs [Please bring in plastic grocery bags] **

- Diapers of all sizes- Newborn-6
- Baby bottles
- Sippy cups
- Wipes
- Toddler winter shirts
- Toddler pajamas
- Onesies, 12 month +
- New small baby toys
- New baby board books in Spanish or English
- Nonperishable baby food
- Non-perishable food items for the moms
- Baby wipes
- Children's toothbrushes

** If you plan to buy any of these items on Amazon, please use our new parish link. Just go to www.stmatthias.net/amazon and click on the Amazon logo. Then shop as you normally would.

**Not Too Late!
You Can Still
Join a Live
Lent Group!**

Watch our two
new videos from
past participants at: www.stmatthias.net



Start for the first time or continue with a St. Matthias Small Faith Sharing Group! This Lent on Zoom!

We have 20 groups that meet on various days/times of the week. If you are new to this experience, please sign up online at: <https://forms.gle/BJK8Gken13TfbKi8>. Continuing members do not need to sign up -- simply connect with your group facilitator.

Questions? Please email Dee Nann, dnann@stmatthias.net. The LiveLent, Year B resource book will be available for pick up at the parish office, cost is \$8.

Being Good Stewards

Pastoral Council Seeks New Members

The Parish Pastoral Council is currently seeking 3 new members for the 2021/2022 season. The Council advises the Pastor and is designed to be a connection with all other ministries. Terms are for 3 years. If you are interested, please come to observe the next Pastoral Council meeting (via Zoom) on **Tuesday, February 23, at 7 pm**. If you would like to attend this meeting, or if you have any questions, please email Nick Grippo, nickgrippo@gmail.com or Lisa Robinson, laro504@comcast.net. Please prayerfully consider this ministry. Please see detailed description on the following page under **Ministry Spotlight**.

Being Good Stewards



Ministry Spotlight: Ministry Spotlight: The Parish Pastoral Council

The Pastoral Council is a ministry of service, drawing upon the diverse backgrounds, talents, and cultural experiences of the St. Matthias Catholic Community. Under the direction of the Pastor, the Council is a forum for prayerful consultation, and encourages the spiritual growth of the Parish.

The Pastoral Council concept developed from Vatican II. It is “a consultative organ in which the faithful, expressing their baptismal responsibility can assist the parish priest, who presides at the council, by offering their advice on pastoral matters” (source: [The Priest, Pastor and Leader, Instruction of 2002](#)).

At our meetings we break open the scriptures, prayerfully reading and reflecting on the Word of God. We discuss the scripture and Father Abraham also shares his thoughts with us.

Our agendas include updates from parish ministries, the PRROP initiative, the Youth Initiative, the Reopening Task Force, and similar matters. Before the meetings, members may add items to the agenda. All new items are considered prayerfully and respectfully using the “Shared Wisdom” model.

Father Abraham also raises topics on which he would like our input. The final decision is the pastor’s because he is responsible for the spiritual wellbeing of the parish, but he values our advice and support.

We are a diverse group. Some have been in the parish for many years, but some have not. Some are older; some are younger. Some have children in the school. All are active in church ministries. We have a diversity of talents and life experiences. We each bring a perspective that is valuable, and together we invoke the Holy Spirit to help us to better serve the parish and assist the pastor.

Council members are a group of at least nine, appointed by the pastor, following a process of discernment, for three-year terms. Each year we seek new members, as a third of the group moves on. We are seeking new members now. We invite you to prayerfully consider if this ministry is in your future. If you are interested in learning more about the Pastoral Council, we encourage you to contact any of our members, including Chair Nick Grippo, nickgrippo@gmail.com and Co-Chair Lisa Robinson, laro504@comcast.net.

Stewardship Reflection Feb 21, 2021 1st Sunday of Lent

“After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God...” - Mark 1:14

Do you ever think about how difficult it must have been for Jesus to come into Galilee, knowing that John had just been arrested for teaching the same message that Jesus was proclaiming. It must have taken great love and trust for Jesus to do what the Father had sent Him here on earth to do. In the same way, following a life of stewardship takes great love and trust from us. We must be willing to surrender completely to God, trusting that God will always give us all that we need to fulfill His plan for us.

Reflexiónese — 21 de febrero de 2021 1er. Domingo de Cuaresma

“Después que Juan había sido encarcelado, Jesús vino a Galilea a proclamar el evangelio de Dios” - Marcos 1:14

Alguna vez ha pensado lo difícil que debe haber sido para Jesús venir a Galilea, sabiendo que Juan había sido arrestado por enseñar el mismo mensaje que Jesús estaba proclamando. Debe haber requerido un gran amor y confianza para que Jesús cumpliera lo que el Padre lo había enviado a hacer aquí en la tierra. De la misma manera, seguir una vida de corresponsabilidad requiere un gran amor y confianza de nuestra parte. Debemos estar dispuestos a entregarnos por completo a Dios, confiando que Dios siempre nos dará todo lo que necesitamos para cumplir el plan que tiene para nosotros.



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Please bookmark the above link and use it every time you shop! It only takes a few seconds to do this, and it can help our finances if many people participate every time they shop. Questions? Contact Ana Kelly at akelly@stmatthias.net Thank you for helping St. Matthias!

Being Good Stewards



Parish Recovery and Re-Engagement (PRROP) Report to the Parish

February 18, 2021

Dear Parishioners,

Our Parish Recovery and Re-Engagement of Parish (PRROP) program that began in September started because Covid-19 reduced our personal interaction at Mass and in our Parish Community. We tried to address two problems.

1. How do we keep everything going so we can viably **continue Parish objectives** to grow our faith and support each other?
2. How can we **get our stewardship back** to where it was before Covid-19?

Stewardship at Saint Matthias has always been about Time, Talent, and Treasure. On the Treasure side:

- We received 283 responses, increasing weekly collections by over \$4500 per month, and receiving one-time donations.
- Over 60 new families signed up for Parish Giving.
- We are not back to 2018 levels but this is getting close to the 2019 levels.

This is thanks to the card responses to Father Abraham's letters, and many others who continued or increased their weekly contribution. Still, we have work to be done. Projected increase in weekly collections helps to meet many financial challenges so that we can continue the mission of our parish and our faith.

The PRROP Committee: Father Abraham, Laura Beck, Bob Cherill, Sheila Connelly, Nina Donahue, Sister Maria Derecola, Ann Marie Francis, Ana Kelly, Katie Navaro, Robert Piagentini, Joe Porter, Joan Prichard, Alyssa Santillan

The time and talent portion of stewardship is equally important and, as you would expect, our parishioners, church and school staff excelled.

Ministries and most committees continue to meet and provide support to the church, school, and community.

Calls continue to be made to the homebound.

In-person and online Masses are more than successful thanks to innovation and our many faithful volunteers.

Our Bulletin, St. Matthias Family Connect, YouTube, and Zoom all helped keep us engaged with Masses, videos, articles, and many meetings. Every ministry and committee stepped up their game.

Because of the pandemic we have been challenged to be with one another in ways we normally would not have been. Many of us have had or know someone who has fallen ill to Covid-19. In some unfortunate cases, we may have had friends or family pass because of the pandemic.

Because of your dedication and generosity our parish continues to be a source of hope, care and meaning to our community and beyond. What we have accomplished as a parish through this difficult time is amazing and **we thank all families and individuals for their continued effort and support.**

Building Community

90 Cards for a 90th Birthday!



Sr. Amata is turning 90 on February 28th. Please join us in wishing her a Happy 90th Birthday!

Sr. Amata Shina OSF
395 Bridle Path Road
Bethlehem, PA 18017

or

amatashinaosf@gmail.com



The St. Martin de Porres Society Celebrates Black History Month

Throughout the course of the month of February, the St. Martin de Porres Society (SMDP) will bring to our parish writings for each bulletin, celebrating Black heritage. This article is written by Phyllis Stone.



Betty Marie Washington – May, 1936 to January 1994)

Recalling historical figures during Black History Month doesn't always

require that we recognize and remember famous figures who went before us. Any ancestor who paved the way for us is worthy of honoring. So today, I honor my mother, Betty Marie Washington, a true trailblazer in the field of Chicago journalism, and tell just a small portion of her story.

Betty Washington was an icon to me. She had a life-long passion for journalism and writing even as a young girl. She had a stellar career which began at the *Chicago Defender*, one of the most influential Black news publications in the mid-to-late 20th century. At the *Defender*, she chronicled

Building Community

Black History Month Celebration: Betty Marie Washington (cont'd from page 9)

and wrote about such events as the *March from Selma to Montgomery*, the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the events that followed, the death of her childhood best friend and the first Black astronaut, Robert Lawrence, Jr., and so many stories of the Civil Rights Movement. She even posed with a co-worker once as a couple purchasing a home for a written series on the discriminatory home buying practices towards Blacks in the housing industry. Later for the *Chicago Daily News*, where she was the second black journalist to integrate the paper, she shined a spotlight on the injustices within the Chicago projects, including the lack of healthcare, education and decent housing, and the struggles of Black families to move out of poverty. The *Daily News* also allowed Betty to evolve the focus of her writing to white collar crime, the rise of the Black middle class, religion, politics and the justice system. When the *Chicago Daily News* folded in 1978, Betty joined the *Chicago Sun Times* where she covered the federal courts but still continued to tell the stories of the poor in public housing, unemployment among Black youth, education and religion. She never veered away from the human stories of life's challenges

and the goodness of humanity. Her writings always revealed not only the factual and sometimes ugly side of the story but also the human side of every situation like helping the reader get to intimately know the moms, the plight of families living in poverty in the Chicago slums, and the humanistic intent to feed and education poor Black children behind the work of the Black Panthers, thought at that time to be domestic terrorists. Other papers where she served as a writer and editor over the years included the *Ft. Wayne Journal Gazette*, the *Lexington Herald* and the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*.

Betty wanted to be a nun out of high school but the order she tried to join turned her down because of the color of her skin. (Lucky for me and my siblings.) Later in life, she tried again to become a nun but she returned to full time work when it became clear that her mentally ill son needed to have her full time care. A detour in life in 1987 landed Betty in the position as the director of the Catholic Information Center in Ft. Wayne, which she founded for underserved families in downtown Ft. Wayne, and she remained dedicated to the center for three years before her return to journalism.

Betty was born and grew up on the south side of Chicago, Illinois and she died in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. When she died (all too early) at the age of 57 of a brain tumor, her journalism colleagues described her in these way: "quiet power", "beautiful inside and out", "soul sister", "compassionate", "a wonderful storyteller", "a lyrical writer supported with detailed reporting," "a great sense of humor along with the ability to laugh at herself," "a presence that made you feel there is goodness in the world", "a kind spirit", "a humble approach", "always sharing her wisdom, or, something even better, asking as though you might possess a little wisdom of your own."

Over the years that Betty changed cities and newspapers, what never changed was her love for humanity, her commitment to her faith, and her deep, deep love for God. These were always reflected in her writing no matter the topic. It was said that her writing through the years put a human spotlight on hard facts and even more harsh realities, but that her readers often found the human story underlying many of these realities. She is my Black history and my role model in faith.

Parish Leadership

Parish Pastoral Council: Chair: Nick Grippo nickgrippo@gmail.com Co-Chair: Lisa Robinson laro504@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 Susan Klimcsak Barry Dusault Gwen Orlowski	Audrey Francis Kester Hector Mary Beth Oria, Ex-Officio Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio Trustees: Isaac Peng Marge Richards
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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 Office.

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.



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