



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 -- 8, 10 AM & 12 noon
M/T/W/Th/F at 8:00AM

And also on our YouTube channel
youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ

St. Matthias School (SMS): open M –Thur
9:00-1:00. 732-828-1402 or 1540. 170 JFK Blvd.,
Somerset, NJ 08873 www.stmatthias.info

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
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St. Matthias School (add @stmatthiasnj.org)

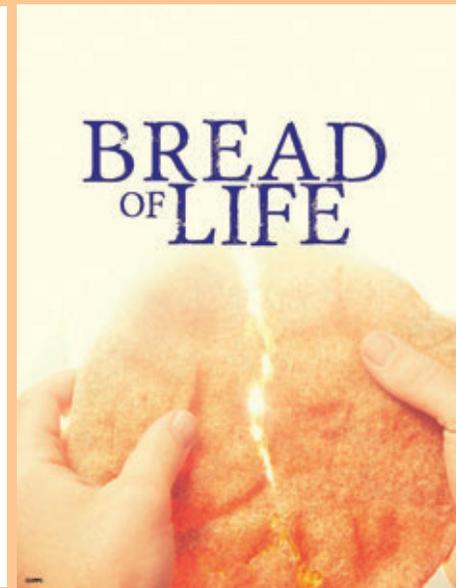
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THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS
SUNDAY, AUG 8, 2021 –
Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Highlights—This Week

Information from the Diocese regarding Fr. Doug's sentencing:
Please go to our website, www.stmatthias.net, to read the press release and the letter from Bishop Checchio regarding the recent court decisions.



Thank You from Fr. Joe Curry

Dear St. Matthias Family:

Words can not express my gratitude for the wonderful mass on July 24th and the many acts of kindness and support that you have offered me over these past weeks and really over these past, almost two years!

I am grateful to you and to almighty God that we have had this time to share the journey of faith together. May we always be open to where God leads us and who He brings into our lives.

You will always have a special place in my heart and prayers!

Servus,

Fr. Joe



Welcome to the New Families
who have enrolled their children
at St. Matthias School!



We do still have some openings available for the 2021-2022 school year for PreK 3, PreK 4, and Kindergarten through grade 8. Before School and After School programs are available. ALL are welcome!

Explore our website, www.stmatthias.info, and contact mkosty@stmatthiasnj.org to schedule an appointment.

We look forward to welcoming your child!



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

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

- All Masses will be celebrated **in-person**.
- Masses will also be **livestreamed on our YouTube channel: [youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ](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, Aug 8, 2021

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

Monday, Aug 9, 2021

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

Tuesday, Aug 10, 2021

8:00AM	Daily Mass	Church
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Wednesday, Aug 11, 2021

8:00AM	Daily Mass	Church
9:30AM	Prayer Group-Holy Spirit	de Porres Rm
7:30PM	Parish Vocation Ministry	Zoom

Thursday, Aug 12, 2021

8:00AM	Daily Mass	Church
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Friday, Aug 13, 2021

8:00AM	Daily Mass	Church
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Saturday, Aug 14, 2021

10:00AM	Secular Franciscans Profession	Mass
		Church
3:30PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation	Church
5:00PM	Mass	Church

Sunday, Aug 15, 2021

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



Bulletin Article Requests:

If you would like to send information to be included in our bulletin, please email it to bulletin@stmatthias.net by 12 Noon, **WEDNESDAY, 10 days before the intended issue** (earlier for holiday weekends). Approved content is published on a space-available basis.

Dear Friends,

It is not easy for me to write about what we, as a parish community, are going through in the context of the sentencing of Fr. Doug on Wednesday, August 4. Of course the sentencing date was known to all of us in May when Fr. Doug pleaded guilty to one count of second-degree theft for misusing the parish money for his own personal use. Yet the sentencing itself brings about mixed feelings.



On the one hand there is the sadness and compassion I, many of our staff, and many more of our parishioners feel towards our longtime pastor Fr. Doug who has to suffer this unfortunate consequence for his culpable actions. In my first Sunday homily after taking over the stewardship of St. Matthias in November 2018, I had said this, referring to Fr. Doug: *“No human being can be defined by one mistake – no matter how big it may be.”* I wish to repeat the same now that he is sentenced. Even as we accept the legal system for justice, we need to be more conscious of God’s will for us at this time, the call to be compassionate in our judgments and to offer forgiveness. The sinfulness in all of us should make us say, *“If not for the grace of God, there go I.”* Are we humble enough to have this attitude?

On the other hand, this brings us all a sense of closure and we need to move forward in our healing and growth as a parish community that has gone through this awful crisis of betrayal of trust. The way the investigation lingered for about three years has made the wound in our collective psyche take longer to heal. Now is the time for us to make a concerted effort to put this sad saga behind us and move forward with a renewed sense of hope for the revitalization of our parish. I am grateful to you for the constant support you have been giving me as you are aware of the many mechanisms I have put in place to prevent any such incidents in the future. Our excellent Finance Council has total access to carefully review all our financial matters and they have already communicated to you multiple times our financial health. Besides, our Bishop Checchio has put another mechanism in place (NAVEX Global EthicsPoint) for the whole diocese empowering anyone to alert the Diocese if any impropriety in a parish is suspected. I’m sure you already read about this anonymous hotline on our website and on other media. I wish to thank Bishop Checchio for his constant concern for St. Matthias and the guidance we received from the Diocesan leadership especially from Chancellor Kearns, Very Rev. Fr. Tim Christy the Vicar General, Msgr. John Fell, Tara Smith, the Communications Director and others.

As I continue to keep my promise of accountability, transparency, honesty and communication on all parish matters, especially on finance, I wish to continue my focus on our spiritual healing and growth. In this regard, may I suggest you to revisit the series I had written two years ago, titled, *“Healing Our Parish”* which is on our website: <https://www.stmatthias.net/series-on-healing-our-parish>. That will be an invaluable help for us to ground ourselves in God’s grace and strength.

I humbly ask you to pray for me to lead this Community with the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

I humbly ask you to reach out to me directly – or to Msgr Seamus Brennan – with ideas for moving our parish forward or for sharing concerns you may have about our parish.

Your brother in Christ,
Fr. Abraham Orpankal

Readings for the Week

Monday: Dt 10:12-22; Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20; Mt 17:22-27

Tuesday: 2 Cor 9:6-10; Ps 112:1-2, 5-6, 7-8, 9; Jn 12:24-26

Wednesday: Dt 34:1-2; Ps 66:1-3a, 5, 8, 16-17; Mt 18:15-20

Thursday: Jos 3:7-10a, 11, 13-17; Ps 114:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Mt 18:21 — 19:1

Friday: Jos 24:1-13; Ps 136:1-3, 16-18, 21-22, 24; Mt 19:3-12

Saturday: Jos 24:14-29; Ps 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 11; Mt 19:13-15

Sunday: Vigil: 1 Chr 15:3-4, 15-16; 16:1-2; Ps 132:6-7, 9-10, 13-14; 1 Cor 15:54b-57; Lk 11:27-28

Day: Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Ps 45:10, 11, 12, 16; 1 Cor 15:20-27; Lk 1:39-56

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, Aug 7	5:00PM	Marlene & Tony Volpe, by Ed & Marcia Santucci
Sunday, Aug 8	8:00AM	Edgardo Bongga, Remembering you in prayer on your birthday, by Marie Maceren
	10:00AM	Marlene & Tony Volpe, by Ed & Marcia Santucci
	12:00PM (5:30PM)	Elba Iris Lagares, by Lois, Ed & Brian Jerzewski Intention of Parishioners
Monday, Aug 9	8:00AM	Michael Nicholas Paredes, by The Family
Tuesday, Aug 10	8:00AM	Marlene & Tony Volpe, by Ed & Marcia Santucci
Wednesday, Aug 11	8:00AM	Frank Lawyer, by The Family
Thursday, Aug 12	8:00AM	Servillano Derekito, by The Jarin Family
Friday, Aug 13	8:00AM	Fr. Bill Mickiewicz, by Vinnie
Saturday, Aug 14	5:00PM	Cora Gabriel, by The Chan & Gabriel Families
Sunday, Aug 15	8:00AM	Teofilo Bathan, by The Bathan Family
	10:00AM	Marlene & Tony Volpe, by Ed & Marcia Santucci
	12:00PM (5:30PM)	In memory of Richard L. Curtis, by Frances & Daughters Intention of Parishioners

Pray for Those Getting Married...

Steven Holloway & Manishka Mishra—Aug. 14

Pray for those who are sick...

If you or a family member are sick, please call the Parish Office or email Kelly Counts at kcoun@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.

Elbren, Sr. & Natalia Agdeppa	Mary Dolan	Margaret Menendez	Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF
Lucille Albani	Marty Dolphin	Gail Miranda	Catherine Sloomaker
Carolyn Banghart	William Dolphin	Dave Moynihan	Encarnacion (Gina) So
Maria Barreiro	Dorothy Domenici	Baby Ezran Natural	Alessandro Spagnolo
Virginia Briggs	Josephine Geenty	Patricia Nese	Dennis Stuewe
Marie Brody	Claudia Gemgnani	Danny Ochangco	Jeff Tami
Thomas Burns	Emma Gergely	Julianne Opydike	Madeline Tarantino
Baby Isla-Rose Callahan	Rose Gessner	Maria Pennington	Fred & Carolyn Vanmiddlesworth
Tara Capatosto	Mary Gidaro	Jim Pettit	Eulalia Villanueva
Ellen & Frank Catalina	Jill Gordon-Szabo	Christina Pietrowiak	Mark T. Worthington
Sean Clancy	Emma Himey	Oscar Poisler	
Barbara Coan	Sloopy Hoffman	Kevin Reavey	Everyone who is ill with Covid-19
Tom Current	Kathleen Lagenbacher	Chris Retz	...and for all who are homebound,
Canon DeGuzman	Al & Rose Larangeira	Ann Ritchick	elderly, in nursing care, or living with
Mary Ellen Delaney	William Lecorchick	Angela Romanek	chronic illness
Alaina Derecola	The Litrakis Family	Datius Rutashobya	
Surya & Juliany Dharma	Al Maglio	Rudy Schaar	
Nancy Diaz	Sue Maglio-Alese	Maria Schwenzer	
Jim Dolan	Beatrice May	Sr. Mary Amata Shina, OSF	

Pray for those who have died...

—“His mercy endures forever.” Chronicles

From the Pastoral Staff



Christ's Peace!

"Jesus said in reply to them, 'Stop complaining to each other...I am the living bread which has come down from heaven. Anyone who eats

this bread will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is my flesh, for the life of the world.'"

How often do we find ourselves complaining? Grumbling about a neighbor, a co-worker, a waiter, or even members of our family? Our day isn't going as planned, so what do we do? We complain. It is so easy to fall into that mindset and to become negative and spread that negativity to others. That said, when you take a step back and think about it, the minor inconveniences and slights that we experience in our life are truly insignificant in the grand scheme.

Jesus is telling all of us to stop complaining about the trivial things and to recognize that we have been gifted with the eternal positive. "Anyone who eats this bread lives forever." A life with the Lord is a life worth living. Jesus Christ is in all of us, every single minute of our lives. He has given us the greatest gift of himself through the Eucharist. We should live our lives by sharing these gifts, spreading positivity, his good news, and his friendship.

I cannot overstate how humbled and honored I am to have been given the opportunity to spread the good news of Jesus Christ to all of our students at St. Matthias School. As the new principal, I will remember each day those words that were spoken in the gospel today. How can I create an atmosphere of positivity and kindness? How can I help the teachers foster that positivity and spread it to our children? A small amount of positivity goes a long way. It

is contagious and it brightens the day of all who encounter it. When we remember each day Jesus and the gifts that he has bestowed upon us, we cannot help but be positive and spread positivity to those around us.

What is something positive that happened to you today? What is something positive that you can do for someone else today? I challenge all of us to ask those two questions daily, particularly when we find ourselves fighting the urge to complain about the minor inconveniences in our lives. What great peace and happiness would that bring to our own lives and to those in our community.

We belong to Jesus Christ and Jesus Christ belongs to all of us. May God bless all of you always and forever.

Grace and Peace,
Mary Lynch
Principal

Reflect



Smile With Your Family —



Pastor's feeding: President Woodrow Wilson's father was a preacher who eked out a meager living. One day, when he was riding his horse, he stopped to chat with a member of his parish. "That's a handsome looking animal you have there," said the latter admiringly. "But why is that your horse is so big and strong and you are so thin?" "Perhaps," replied Pastor Wilson, "it is because I feed the horse and the congregation feeds me."

"I am going to be a preacher:" After his return from church one Sunday a small boy said, "You know what, Mommy? I'm going to be a preacher when I grow up." "That's fine," said

his mother, "but what made you decide to be a preacher?" "Well," said the boy thoughtfully. "Since I have to go to Church every Sunday anyway, I think it would be more fun to stand up and yell than to sit still and listen." 😊

Wondered at these?

◇ Once you're in heaven, do you get stuck wearing the clothes you were buried in for eternity? 😊

◇ Why does a round pizza come in a square box? 😊

◇ What disease did cured ham actually have? 😊



Parenting Tune-Up

"All the things that have happened to me have been important in making me who I am. To wish that certain things didn't happen is to wish that I am not myself." (Author unknown)

Help your child unravel the mystery of how mistakes and problems teach life lessons to be used for future success.

Marriage Tune-Up



"God created man in the image of himself, in the image of God he created him, male and female he created them." (Genesis 1:27)

Pronouns can be confusing and so can the differences between males and females. How does your spouse fit gender stereotypes? How not? More importantly, how does he/she reflect something of the Divine to you?

Two Fat Ladies



Clarissa Dickson Wright is a British celebrity chef. She and Jennifer Paterson, are best known as **the Two Fat Ladies** on the British television cooking show of that name which accurately, if irreverently, described them both. They preached the joys of cooking. The show was heavy on humor as well as calories. Avoiding popular low-fat diets, the two fat ladies sought to reclaim traditional home-cooking. They themselves were the best advertisements for their recipes, which usually featured heavy doses of butter and cream. The two fat ladies are part of a trend to forget food deprivation and just say yes to bacon. Dieticians have recognized that fat-free foods are high in sugar and calories - which explains why people on low-fat or no-fat diets get fat.

Gwen Shamblin's *The Weigh Down Diet*, which advises using spirituality to avoid overeating, has sold more than 1.2 million copies to overweight Christians. The bottom line is that people are scrambling like crazy to find the diet that is right for them.

But there is another diet not many people talk about, presented in today's Gospel: the "Bread of Life Diet." It's spiritually high-carb, but offers full nutritional value. Jesus says, "*I am the Bread of life,*" and promises that people on his program "*will never hunger or thirst again!*" These are extravagant claims, like the kind you might find on soy milk or fat-burners. But Jesus can deliver on what He promises.

Is Jesus really Present in the Eucharist?!



Based on sound tradition and the centuries-long teaching of the Magisterium, the Roman Catholic Church has consistently held fast to the belief in the Real Presence. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states: "The mode of Christ's presence under the Eucharistic species is unique. It raises the Eucharist above all the other sacraments as the perfection of the spiritual life and the end to which all sacraments tend." In this most blessed Sacrament of the Eucharist "the Body and Blood, together with the soul and Divinity, of our Lord Jesus Christ and, therefore, *the whole Christ, is truly, really, and substantially contained*" (CCC #1374).

The Fathers of the Church explain that, while ordinary food is assimilated into man, the very opposite takes place in Holy Communion. Here man is assimilated into the Bread of Life. Hence, let us learn to receive Jesus, really present in the Eucharist, with due reverence, true repentance, proper preparation and grateful hearts. Let us remember that Holy Communion

- increases our intimate union with Christ;
- preserves, increases, and renews the Sanctifying Grace received at Baptism;
- cleanses us from past sin and preserves us from future sins;
- strengthens the theological virtue of Charity in us, thus enabling us to be separated from our disordered attachments and to be rooted in Christ; and
- unites us more deeply to the mystery of the Church.

Al and Barbara's Banana-Nut Bread

During Operation Desert Storm, Al and Barbara Davis, a retired Virginia couple, read that soldiers in the field weren't getting enough potassium and protein. One problem was that bananas, an excellent source of potassium, spoiled before they could get to the soldiers. So Al and Barbara had an idea: why not make banana-nut bread and send it to the soldiers overseas? Their bread-making operation became a daily task: they made 100 loaves every morning, which they mailed to soldiers in the Middle East. Since 1991 when they first began their bread-baking, Al and Barbara Davis have made and mailed over

35,000 loaves of bread to U.S. troops. I thought of Al and Barbara when I read these words of Jesus. "This is the Bread that came down from Heaven . . ." When planes land in the Middle East carrying Al and Barbara's banana-nut bread, it must have seemed like manna from Heaven to the soldiers there.

Let us accept the challenge to become bread and drink for others: "You are what you eat!" Let us recognize that Jesus whom we consume in the Holy Eucharist is actually God Who assimilates us into His being. Then, from Sunday to Saturday we will grow into Jesus, as Jesus grows in us, our lives will

be transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit, and we will become more like Jesus. Thus, we shall share in the joyous and challenging life of being the Body of Christ for the world – Bread for a hungry world, and Drink for those who thirst for justice, peace, fullness of life, and even eternal life. In other words, the Eucharist challenges us to sacrifice ourselves for others, as Christ has done for all of us.



What is the Weigh-Down Diet?

When people start hearing about the *Weigh-Down Diet*, they always want to know more details. Every person involved with WD would explain it differently, but the basic premises are the same.

1. God made your body, and your nutritional needs are different from anyone else's.
2. God made your stomach a certain size, and when it becomes "stretched out" it is no longer a reliable source of how much food is enough. Therefore, one of the first goals of WD is to allow your stomach to return to its God-given shape and size.
3. God gave you hunger and thirst to indicate when your fuel levels are low. You should only eat and drink when your hunger and thirst mechanisms tell you it's time.
4. When you determine you are truly hungry, eat whatever you desire, but only enough to be politely full. You will cut down the amount of food greatly as your stomach returns to normal size.
5. Learn to determine the difference between stomach hunger and head hunger. We eat for so many reasons other than nutrition. Some eat when tired, bored, nervous, excited, to please others, you name it. All that needs to STOP.
6. Go to the Lord for the strength to follow his way of eating. When you read His Word (BIBLE) and spend time with Him in prayer and fellowship, He will fill your needs and give you the ability to succeed.

"Stop murmuring among yourselves... I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world." John 6: 41-51

In her new book *Grateful: The Transformative Power of Giving*, Diane Butler Bass recalls her first college teaching job. It was not a happy experience. Her credentials were strong but the college - a small, Christian School in California - turned out to be a poor match of her talents with the school's expectations. After four years at the school, she was let go. The president of the school told her, "Your work is wonderful. You are an excellent teacher. But you just don't fit in here." He looked at her and added, "One day you will thank me for

this." "Thank him?" Bass writes. "I wanted to throttle him. In less than two months, I would be without a job and a paycheck, with few prospects for the work in a weak academic job market. Being grateful to the person who put me in this position was the last thing on my mind."

A week later, Bass was telling a friend of the exchange at that final meeting: "Can you imagine the nerve of him? That one day I will *thank* him? What kind of nonsense is that?" She expected her friend to rush to her defense. Instead, he leaned back in his chair and said, "You know, he's right." What? "Years ago," he continued, "I lost a job. It was painful, and I was angry. It didn't seem a favor. But, eventually, it was the event that made me un-

derstand that I was an alcoholic. And that led me to get sober. Eventually, I understood that it was what I needed for my life to change. Not that it was easy."

But "I'm not an alcoholic," Bass shot back. "That's not the problem here." "I get that," he said. "But we all need to look at ourselves more honestly. To figure out who we are and where we are really heading. To correct course. Sometimes that only happens in circumstances like this. One day, I bet you will thank him." "Did you? Thank the guy that fired you?" "Yes," he replied. "I did. But not at first. Mostly I wanted to throw him off a cliff. And yes. I did thank him. Years later. After I learned gratitude."

(continued on next page)

He died Arguing with them...



He died arguing with them that the canisters were empty! John Krakauer wrote a book entitled *Into Thin Air*, the story of an expedition to Mount Everest during the spring of 1996 which resulted in a great loss of life. One of the most unfortunate stories was about a young man named Andy Harris, who was one of the expedition leaders. He had stayed at the peak past the deadline that the leaders themselves had set, and as he was coming down, he was in dire need of oxygen. He radioed his problem to the base camp telling them what he needed and told them that he had come upon a cache of oxygen canisters left by some of the other climbers, but they were all empty. The problem was they were not empty - they were absolutely full, but because his brain was already so starved for oxygen and he wasn't thinking clearly, he died arguing with them that the canisters were empty when in reality they were full. The problem was that the lack of what he needed so disoriented his thinking that, even though he was literally surrounded by what he needed, he never took advantage of it. The very life that he needed he held in his hand. He just didn't take it.

What oxygen is to the body the Bread of Life is to the soul. Without that Bread, we will never satisfy our real spiritual hunger which is why every day we need to feed on the Bread of the word of God.

Don't Expect a Thank-You Card yet...!

Reflect

(cont'd from preceding page)

Don't Expect a Thank-You Card yet...!

The challenge facing Prof. Bass, as well as Jesus' listeners in today's Gospel, is to move beyond "murmuring" about the rejections and disasters that have struck us in order to stop to listen and see the presence of God in what has happened. Eventually, it leads us from the "murmuring" of anger and despair to the "manna" of awareness and gratitude for the joy and meaning of life in God. The late Maya Angelou said: "If you must look back, do so forgivingly. If you must look forward, do so prayerfully. However, the wisest thing you can do is be present in the present . . . gratefully."



Giving up or Going on!

One day in Port Huron, Michigan a partially deaf boy came home from school with a note from his teacher. He handed it to his mother. She opened it and slowly read it. The note suggested that her son was too dull to learn. He was holding back the whole class. It would be better for everybody if he would be withdrawn from school. When the boy's mother finished reading the note, she felt awful and challenged. "My son, Tom, is not too dull to learn," she said to herself. "I'll teach him myself." When Tom died decades later on October 18, 1931, the entire nation honored him in a remarkable way. At exactly 9:59 P.M. Eastern Standard Time, every home in the United States turned off its lights for one minute, as a tribute to the man who had invented those lights. Thomas Edison invented not only the electric light but also the movie projector and the record player. When he died, the great inventor who was "too dull to learn" as a boy had over a thousand patents to his credit, thanks to his mother who never gave up. Today's first reading tells us how God himself fed his disappointed prophet Elijah and encouraged him to keep going for forty days to have an encounter with Him.



"I won the World Championship, so what?"

The night after winning the heavyweight boxing title from Jess Willard, the new champion Jack Dempsey woke up in his hotel room. It was two o'clock in the morning. Suddenly he felt terribly empty inside. He said later,

"Success didn't taste the way I thought it would. I'd won the championship. So what?" That is why Jesus gives us this warning in today's Gospel: "Do not work for the food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life."

We need to eat the living bread from Heaven and be one with Jesus: Jesus wants us to eat him because he IS Bread. "You are what you eat?" Jesus is Bread and he wants us to

eat his Flesh. Thus, we bring him into the core of our being. He is ready to come into our lives, regardless of who we have been, or how unqualified we feel. Let us live the life of Faith ... making changes so that he becomes the staple food of our spiritual life, not a side dish. Let us be people who recognize that Jesus, whom we consume, is actually God Who assimilates us into His being. Then, from Sunday to Saturday we will grow into Jesus, as he grows in us, our lives will be transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit, and we will become more like him. Thus, we shall share in the joyous and challenging life of being the Body of Christ for the world – Bread for a hungry world, and Drink for those who thirst for justice, peace, fullness of life, and even eternal life.

"We Sell Bread"

The German theologian Helmut Thielicke told of a hungry man passing a store with a sign in the window, "We Sell Bread." He entered the store, put some money on the counter, and said, "I would like to buy some bread." The women behind the counter replied, "We don't sell bread." "The sign in the window says that you do," the hungry man said. The woman explained, "We make signs here like the one in the window that says 'We Sell Bread.'" But, as Thielicke concludes, a hungry man can't eat signs.



Life sometimes fools us too. Bread isn't always found where it seems to be. Today's Gospel lesson picks up where we left off last week in John 6. Like the crowds looking for something else or that man looking in the wrong store, we often miss the point when God offers us enduring life in Jesus.

Pray



Interested in being a part of the St. Matthias RCIA Team???



Our team members will participate in an RCIA Team retreat to get ourselves spiritually ready for bringing new members into the Church through the RCIA program.

If you want to know more about us, call Phyllis Stone in the Parish Office or better yet...come to our retreat

Wednesday, August 25th

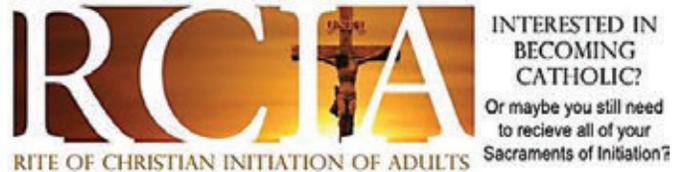
1 PM to 4 PM

Parish Office - St. Martin de Porres Room



The Cafeteria will be closed for overflow Mass during the month of August.

Expectations are that the cafeteria will reopen for overflow if needed in September. But *All Are Welcome* to worship in the church. We will continue to maintain socially distanced seating for those who require it in the front chairs of the church on either side of the altar and in the church balcony/loft.



Join us for an RCIA Inquiry Session

Sunday, August 29th

after 10:00AM Mass until 12:00PM

School Cafeteria

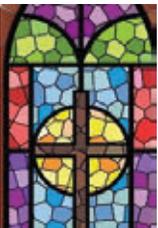


Are You Willing to be a Hospitality Minister, a Eucharistic Minister, or a Lector? Please Volunteer! We Need YOU!

We are looking to rebuild these ministries at our Masses as we enter this new "open" phase of what we hope is the end of the pandemic. Schedules are flexible.

If you are willing to volunteer for any of these liturgical ministries, please contact Phyllis Stone in the Parish Office at: 732-828-1400 x127 or pstone@stmatthias.net.

Learn



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

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

In-person sessions will be held on certain Sunday mornings, 10:30-11:30 AM, for the 2nd graders with at least one parent.



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

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

A 7th grade parent meeting will be held in October/November.



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

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

In-person monthly sessions for families will be offered at 6:30 PM on Tuesdays & Wednesdays, and at 2 PM on Sundays. No meals this year due to Covid.

Questions? Please email Dee Nann at dnann@stmatthias.net, or call or email Faith Formation Assistant, Nathalie Godet at 732-828-1400 or ngodet@stmatthias.net

** New Job Opening **

St. Matthias School is in need of a bookkeeper/office assistant. This is a full-time position, Monday - Friday 8:00am - 4:00pm. If you are interested, please call Mary Pat Burke-Grospin, Business Administrator, at (732) 828-1400 ext 121, mpburke-grospin@stmatthias.net

Learn

St. Matthias School Instructional Aid/After School/Substitute Positions Available for 2021-2022

- 1) INSTRUCTIONAL AID needed for Pre-Kindergarten class. Candidates must have a minimum of 60 college credits and will assist the classroom teacher in all aspects of preschool teaching. Twenty-nine hours per week maximum, Monday thru Friday. Compensation is hourly.
- 2) AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM ASSISTANTS needed. The program begins at 2:30 and ends at 6:00. Compensation is hourly. Working options include 1, 2 or 3 days per week. Some duties include homework help, indoor and outdoor games, playtime, and overall monitoring of children in grades Pre-K 3 to 8.
- 3) SUBSTITUTES needed to teach Pre-Kindergarten 3 to grade 8. Candidates must have a minimum of 60 college credits and be available Monday thru Friday.

For all positions, candidates must be VIRTUS trained and go through a background check. If interested, please contact jgidaro@stmatthiasnj.org



Give

Stewardship Reflection Aug 8, 2021 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Reflexiónese — 8de agosto de 2021 Domingo 19º del Tiempo Ordinario

“Get up and eat or the journey will be too much for you!” 1 KINGS 19:7

" Levántese y coma o el viaje será demasiado para usted!" 1 REYES 19: 7

God knows that committing to a stewardship lifestyle is difficult. However, we were not designed to do it on our own, we need His help. Fortunately, God gave us the greatest gift of all, His son, Jesus. Through the gift of the Eucharist we join our sacrifice with the sacrifice of the Holy Mass and receive the strength and courage to be His joyful disciples.

Dios sabe que comprometerse con un estilo de vida de corresponsabilidad es difícil. Sin embargo, no fuimos diseñados para hacerlo por nosotros mismos, necesitamos Su ayuda. Afortunadamente, Dios nos dio el mayor regalo de todos, Su hijo, Jesús. A través del don de la Eucaristía juntamos nuestro sacrificio con el sacrificio de la Santa Misa y recibimos la fuerza y el coraje para ser Sus alegres discípulos.



Getting Ready for Back-to-School Shopping? Will you be doing any shopping on Amazon?

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

www.stmatthias.net/amazon

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

Stewardship Totals for Fiscal Year July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022				Last Year's Total
Current Month	In-Pew/Mail	Parish Giving	Weekly Total	Weekly Total
Week 5 - August 1, 2021	\$11,320.00	\$10,197.25	\$21,517.25	\$20,250.70
Week 6 - August 8, 2021	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$21,258.75
Week 7 - August 15, 2021	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$27,441.80
Week 8 - August 22, 2021	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$21,636.70
Week 9 - August 29, 2021	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$21,117.70
			Month-to-date Total	Aug Total Last Yr
			\$21,517.25	\$111,705.65
			Current Year-to-date Total	Year-to-date as of Aug
			\$122,093.69	\$203,847.42

Serve

Vocations Ministry - Called to Build God's Kingdom — Aug 8, 2021

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

"This holiness to which the Lord calls you will grow through small gestures. Here is an example: a woman goes shopping, she meets a neighbor, and they begin to speak, and the gossip starts. But she says in her heart: "No, I will not speak badly of anyone". This is a step forward in holiness. Later, at home, one of her children wants to talk to her about his hopes and dreams, and even though she is tired, she sits down and listens with patience and love. That is another sacrifice that brings holiness. Later she experiences some anxiety, but recalling the love of the Virgin Mary, she takes her rosary and prays with faith. Yet another path of holiness."

In our ordinary, everyday lives, we live our call to holiness in how we listen, act, and speak. Being mindful of this, we help to build the kingdom of God.



Local Community



Study Theology at Georgian Court University!

All programs can be completed remotely, or you can come to our beautiful campus in Lakewood, NJ. Master of Arts or a Graduate Certificate in Theology, with concentrations in Pastoral Ministry or Mercy Spirituality. Not sure? Generous financial aid available.

New semester begins August 23, 2021. There is still time to apply. Contact department chair Johann M. Vento for more information: jvento@georgian.edu.

The National Blue Army Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima,

674 Mountain View Rd. E. in Asbury NJ, invites you to join us **Friday, August 13**, in celebrating a Mary-thon of Prayer in honor of Mary, Queen of Heaven, on the 104th anniversary of the 4th apparition at Fatima. Visit bluearmy.com/marython for details, or call 908-689-1700, ex. 210.

Loyola Jesuit Center

161 James St., Morristown, NJ 07960

973-539-0740, e-mail – _retreathouse@loyola.org.

9/10 - 9/12. - Weekend Retreat

"The Spiritual Decision- The Beginning of True Discipleship"

Traditionally sponsored by: St. Kateri Tekawitha, St. Mary's Deacons, St. Al's, NYC, Saint Kateri, Sparta, Notre Dame, Founders, St. Teresa, Summit, Fr. Michael McGiveny



Retreat director – Fr. Steve Pugliese, S.J.

10/1 - 10/3 – Co-Ed Weekend Retreat

"Making the Eucharist Matter"

Traditionally sponsored by: Women's September Retreat, Mount Manresa (Men & Women), Jesuit Alumni #1

Retreat director – Fr. Kirk Reynolds, S.J.

To register for these or any event at the center, contact the above telephone number or e-mail.

Parish Leadership

Parish Pastoral Council:

Rose Peng

Frank Rees

Co-Chairs:

Claudine Langrin

Mary Beth Vetter-Purcell

Co-Secretaries:

Lorraine Farr

Anne Marie Francis

Trustees:

Isaac Peng

Marge Richards

Parish Finance Council:

Joe Porter, Chair

[FinanceCouncil](http://FinanceCouncil@stmatthias.net)

[@stmatthias.net](mailto:FinanceCouncil@stmatthias.net)

Susan Klimcsak

Barry Dusault

Gwen Orłowski

Audrey Francis

Kester Hector

Joan Pritchard

Mary Pat Burke-Grospin,

Ex-Officio

Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio

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

Parish Registration — Welcome to St. Matthias! Please register on our website. www.stmatthias.net/join-us, 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 8th 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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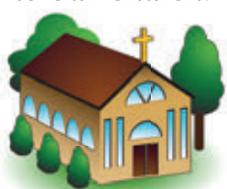
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