

**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 add@stmatthias.net
Pastor: Rev Abraham Orapankal, abraham
Parochial Vicar: Rev. Msgr. Joseph Curry, jcurry

Pastoral Staff
Deacon Russell Demkovitz, rdemkovitz
Ana V Kelly, *Marketing & Development*, akelly
Dolores R. Nann, *Faith Formation*, dnann
Mary Beth Oria, Business Administrator, moria
Deacon John Radvanski, deaconjohn
Joan Best Seamon, *Music Ministry*, jseamon
Sr Marie Therese Sherwood, *OSF, Social Concerns*,
msherwood
Phyllis Stone, *Liturgy/RCIA and Administrative Assistant to the Pastor*, pstone

St. Matthias School (add@stmatthiasnj.org)
Elena Malinconico, Principal, emalinconico
Joseph Gidaro, Vice Principal, 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*

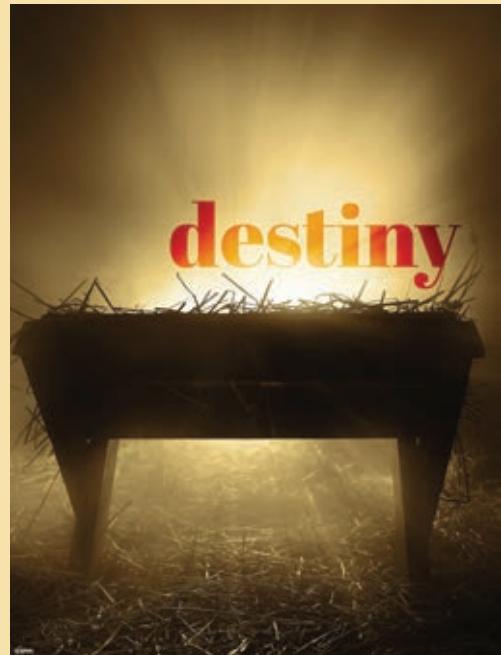
THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS

SUNDAY, DEC 27, 2020 –

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

The Solemnity of Mary will be celebrated on **Thursday, Dec. 31** at the 5:00PM Mass, and on **Friday, Jan 1**, at the 10:00AM Mass.

Together in Charity Special Collection- next weekend. There is a special Ivory envelope in your packet for this collection. Details are on page 6.



Looking for a Great School for Your Child or Grandchild?

Learn more about our wonderful PreK3–8th grade school! St. Matthias School is open **in-person, full days, five days a week**. Our dedicated faculty excels at educating the next generation of leaders in a faith-filled, caring environment.



We are now accepting applications for 2021/2022. Whether you are interested in exploring how our school might be an ideal fit for your child next year, or exploring a mid-year transfer, contact Ms. Elena Malinconico, Principal, at 732-828-1402.



Visit our “Spread the Light” Christmas Tree Display & Manger

The trees are lit every evening from 5PM to 12AM through Jan. 6, The Feast of Epiphany. Please be patient when we have heavy rains if some lights are out; we are in the process of addressing this issue. Thank you!

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

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 27, 2020

10:00AM	Mass	Church
10:30AM	Communion outside front doors	
12:00PM	Mass	Church
12:30PM	Communion outside front doors	

Monday, Dec 28, 2020 SMS closed all week

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

Tuesday, Dec 29, 2020

8:00AM	Daily Mass	Church
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Wednesday, Dec 30, 2020

8:00AM	Mass	Church
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Thursday, Dec 31, 2020 New Year's Eve

5:00PM	Vigil Mass—Solemnity of Mary	Church
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Friday, Jan 1, 2021 New Year's Day

10:00AM	Mass—Solemnity of Mary	
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Saturday, Jan 2, 2021 Together in Charity Special Collection

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

Sunday, Jan 3, 2021 Together in Charity Special Collection

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	



Bulletin Article Requests:

If you would like to send information to be included in our bulletin, please email it to 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



We did it! We got through our very first and hopefully our very last Pandemic Christmas Eve/ Christmas Day. We will be telling stories about Christmas 2020 for years to come; so will our children. There will be Hallmark movies, TV shows, and podcasts about Christmas 2020, and we will be able to say, "We did it!"

One of the gifts of our Catholic liturgical tradition is that the Christmas season lasts, this year, all the way up until January 10, the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. So we have that many more days to be "merry and bright," and to celebrate in a very unique way the joy of the Incarnation.

Today is the Feast of the Holy Family, which was moved to the Sunday after Christmas in 1969. When we think about the Holy Family, we really know a lot about Jesus, but so little about Mary and even less about Joseph.

A few years ago I received from Fr. Doug the book "*Seeing Haloes—Christmas poems to Open the Heart*" by John Shea. He "interviews" his Holy Family crèche figures. Here's what they have to say...

Joseph - "You may have me kneeling with a staff, my eyes unwavering downward on the child, a portrait of commitment and readiness. Or I might have my hands on the reins of a donkey, showing my willingness to journey to keep mother and child safe. Or I might be standing to the side, indicating a supportive but secondary role. I am hard to properly place. Wherever you put me is fine. I know what I have to do."

Mary - "I have more titles than I need. I am queen of this and mother of that. But I want to tell you I am most at home in your crèche. It is here, as I contemplate my Son I have the time to treasure all things in my heart. It is here I realize the truth of the Virgin mother, the one who conceived in the Spirit and brought forth in the flesh."

Jesus - "My son is too young to speak. So I will say a few words to help you place him at the center of your crèche and, as you do it, allow him to place himself in the center of you."

So, today, let's stay merry and bright, whether you have a Holy family or a "helluva" family. And let's pray for all families, especially the Family of St. Matthias, that we may stay strong, supportive and connected to Jesus, the true Center of Our Lives.

"Gloria in excelsis Deo!"

Joan Best Seamon
Pastoral Associate for Liturgical Music

Readings for the Week

Monday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2; Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8;
Mt 2:13-18

Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 ; Lk
2:22-35

Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:12-17; Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10;
Lk 2:36-40

Thursday: 1 Jn 2:18-21; Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13; Jn
1:1-18

Friday: Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Gal 4:4-7;
Lk 2:16-21

Saturday: 1 Jn 2:22-28; Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; Jn
1:19-28

Sunday: Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13;
Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

Mass Intentions for the Week*

Saturday, Dec 26	5:00PM	John Natale, by Vinnie & Joanne
Sunday, Dec 27	8:00AM	Julian, Felisa & Ben De Guzman, by Alma Valdez
	10:00AM	William Oberlander, by Jim & Vivian Kalchbrenner
	12:00PM	Robert Dunne, by The Rossi Family
	5:30PM	Intention of Parishioners
Monday, Dec 28	8:00AM	Deceased Members of the Inzano Family, by Vincent & Nancy Inzano
Tuesday, Dec 29	8:00AM	Thomas Napolatino, by The Ellmyer Family
Wednesday, Dec 30	8:00AM	Dave Parry, by The Connelly Family
Thursday, Dec 31	5:00PM	Norman & Michele Siebenlist, by Eileen
Friday, Jan 1	10:00AM	
Saturday, Jan 2	5:00PM	Louis Nastasi, by Fran, children & grandchildren
Sunday, Jan 3	8:00AM	
	10:00AM	Anthony Volpe, by Barry & Virginia Stern
	12:00PM	Remia Alomia, by The Capuno Family
	5:30PM	Intention of Parishioners

*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.

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
Agdeppo
Rosemary Albaugh
Robert Bachman
Lourdes Banaag
Edward Bauer
Cecilia Bongga Alcantara
Barbara Branham
Dylan Braunstein
Timothy Brennan
Marie Brody
Baby Isla-Rose Callahan
Tara Capatosto
Ellen Catalina
Frank Catalina
Barbara Coan
Wes Coddington
Lisa DeFeo
Marie DeFeo
Adoracion & Cenon
DeGuzman
Mary Ellen Delaney
Alaina Derecola

Nancy Diaz
Mary Dolan
William Dolphin
Dorothy Domenici
Jaclyn, Ariana & Thomas
Donlon
Mary Eads
Raquel Fischbach
Anne Fortune
Emma Gergely
Rose Gessner
Mary Gidaro
Katherine Giustino
John Gross
Michael Hagerty
Sloopy Hoffman
Allison Karakowski
Michael Kirugi
Milicent Kraft
Taylor LaCort
Al & Rose Larangeira
William Lecorchick
Pat Leposa

The Litrakis Family
Alexander Maceren
Kelly Magat
Al Maglio
Sue Maglio-Alese
Patrick Mahoney
Christine Matthews
Steve McGovern
Elizabeth Miller
Dave Moynihan
Russel Mulholland
Baby Ezran Natural
Patricia Nese
Cassian Ndukuwu
Danny Ongchang
Julianne Opydike
Mafalda Parafloriti
Julie Parks
Jim Pettit
Christina Pietrowiak
Annie Powderly
Samantha Renaud
Chris Retz

Aubree Rezac
Diane Rice
Datus Rutashobya
Rudy Schaar
Maria Schwenzier
Lena Sciotto
Sr. Mary Amata Shina, OSF
Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF
Encarnacion (Gina) So
Alessandro Spagnolo
Dennis Stuewe
Juan Ulerio
Fred & Carolyn
Vanmiddlesworth
Eulalia Villanueva
Mark T. Worthington
Edward Yeager

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...

Earl Jackson - "His mercy endures forever." *Chronicles*

Sunday Reflections



Smile with Your Family



Family Jokes: A mother said to her son, "Look at that kid over there; he's not misbehaving." The son replied, "Maybe he has good parents then!" ☺

*Teacher: "Answer this math problem: if your father earns \$500 a week and gives half to your mother. What will he have?"
Student: "A heart attack." ☺*

The mother comes home after shopping and the father is excited to announce: "Can you believe, our little girl served me tea!" The mother responds, "Did it ever occur to you that the only place she can reach to get water is the toilet?" ☺

Son: "Dad, when will I be old enough so I don't have to ask mom for her permission to go out?"

Dad: "Son, even I haven't grown old enough to go out without her permission!" ☺

A man called the doctor, "Hello! My son just snatched my pen when I was writing and swallowed it. Please come and help." The doctor replied, "Ok, I'm on my way; what will you do till I reach?" The man says, "I will write with another pen." ☺

"Johnny, why did you kick your brother in the stomach?" exclaimed the angry mother. "It was pure accident, Mama. He turned around." ☺

Parenting Tune-Up

 How will you celebrate the end of 2020? Gather the family and ask all to thank God for the lessons we learned during the pandemic; and remember the joys of the year (birthdays, accomplishments, milestones) despite the pandemic.

Marriage Tune-Up

We humans mark time with watches and calendars. As we start a new year, however, perhaps it would be meaningful today, to enter into a conscious NOW with your beloved. As you read this, pause, find your spouse, and look at each other tenderly. Ponder the goodness of being together.



"Am I not a Family Valuable?"

Rabbi Neil Kurshan in his book *Raising Your Child to be a Mensch* (a Yiddish word for a person having admirable characteristics such as fortitude and firmness of purpose), tells this real story:

A young woman about to be married had come to the Rabbi for counseling. When she told the Rabbi that she hoped she would not make the same mistakes her parents had made, he pressed her to elaborate.



The woman explained that each summer her wealthy parents traveled to Europe while she remained behind with a nanny. One year, when the girl was 11, the housekeeper suddenly quit just shortly before her parents' annual trip to Europe. Upset that their vacation might be jeopardized, the parents quickly found a replacement. A few days before their departure, the girl noticed that her mother had wrapped the family jewels and silverware and placed them in the safe. Since this had never been done before, she asked why. Her mother explained that she could not trust the new housekeeper with the family valuables. Though certainly not intended, that insensitive remark so shocked and hurt the little girl that she never forgot it. Wasn't she a family valuable? Didn't she have more value than silver knives and silver forks? That is a question all of us could ask about our attitudes toward dependent fam-

ily members, young, old or in-between, this Holy Family Day.

Marriage: a Sacrament of Holiness.

The Feast of the Holy Family reminds us that, as the basic unit of the universal Church, each family is called to holiness. In fact, Jesus Christ has instituted two Sacraments in His Church to make society holy – the Sacrament of priesthood and the Sacrament of marriage. Through the Sacrament of priesthood, Jesus sanctifies the priest as well as his parish. Similarly, by the Sacrament of marriage, Jesus sanctifies not only the spouses but also the entire family. The husband and wife attain holiness when they discharge their duties faithfully, trusting in God, and drawing on the presence and power of the Holy Spirit through personal and family prayer, meditative reading of the Bible, and devout participation in Holy Mass. Families become holy when Christ Jesus is present in them. Jesus becomes truly present in the parish church through the Sacrifice of the Holy Mass. Similarly, Jesus becomes truly present in a family when all the members live in the Christian spirit of sacrifice. This happens when there is mutual understanding, mutual support and mutual respect. There must be proper care and respect given by children to their parents and grandparents, even after they have grown up and left home.

Sunday Reflections

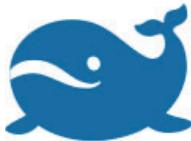
Sunday Reflection: The Friendly Blue Whale Lamp!

"Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted . . ." Luke 2: 22-40

It's one of the great television ads of the year. Touching, but real. In the 30-second story created for Home Goods, a little boy is going through the "monsters under the bed" anxiety stage. Each night at bedtime, his understanding mom and dad patiently check for monsters behind the closet door and under his bed. And to further assure him that he has nothing to be afraid of, they place a special lamp, with a friendly whale at the base, to keep him company at night as he falls asleep. The whale lamp works like a charm.

Well, the little boy soon becomes a big brother. And the first night his new baby sister comes home, he goes through all the doors of the nursery and searches under the baby's crib himself to make sure there are no monsters lurking. And then he gives his little sister his first big-brother gift: his friendly blue whale lamp to keep her company as she falls asleep.

This charming little commercial tells us a lot about what it means to be family: patience to help one another through life's scary passages, selflessness to walk together in hard times, generosity to give from our own need for the good of the family. On this Sunday after Christmas, the Feast of the Holy Family, we celebrate what it means to be a family. Within our families we experience the heights of joy and the depths of pain. The memories we treasure and the values we embrace within our families are the most important and lasting lessons we will ever learn. Our belonging to a family means that each one of us - parent and child - reflects for one another the selfless, limitless and unconditional love of Christ the light (a light that can shine even from a friendly blue whale), both in good times and (more importantly) in bad times, in the joy of the birth of new brothers and sisters and the fear of monsters under the bed.



New Year's Prayer for the Digitally Savvy "The Lord is my server, I shall not crash!"

"The Lord is my Programmer, I shall not crash.
He installed His software on the hard disk of my heart;
all of His commands are user-friendly.
His directory guides me to the right choices
For His names sake Even though I scroll through the problems of life,
I will fear no bugs, for he is my backup. His password protects me.

Grandparents are a Treasure!

Pope Francis said that as a child, he heard a story of a family with a mother, father, many children and a grandfather. The grandfather, suffering from Parkinson's illness, would drop food on the dining table, and smear it all over his face when he ate. His son considered it disgusting. Hence, one day he bought a small table and set it off to the side of the dining hall so the grandfather would eat, make a mess and not disturb the rest of the family. One day, the Pope said, the grandfather's son came home and found one of his sons playing with a piece of wood. "What are you making?" he asked his son. "A table," the son replies. "Why?" the father asks. "It's for you, Dad, when you get old like grandpa, I am going to give you this table." Ever since that day, the grandpa was given a prominent seat at the dining table and all the help he needed in eating by his son and daughter-in-law. "This story has done me such good throughout my life," said the Pope, who celebrates his birthday on December 17. "Grandparents are a treasure," he said. "Often old age isn't pretty, right? There is sickness and all that, but the wisdom our grandparents have is something we must welcome as an inheritance." A society or community that does not value, respect and care for its elderly members "doesn't have a future because it has no memory, it's lost its memory," Pope Francis added.



We need to learn lessons from the Holy Family: By celebrating the Sunday following Christmas as the Feast of the Holy Family, the Church encourages us to look to the Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph for inspiration, example and encouragement. They were a model family in which both parents worked hard, helped each other, understood and accepted each other, and took good care of their Child so that He might grow up not only in human knowledge but also as a Child of God. Jesus brought holiness to the family of Joseph and Mary as Jesus brings us holiness by embracing us in His family. *The Catechism of the Catholic Church* gives the following advice to the parents: "Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children. They bear witness to this responsibility first by creating a home where tenderness, forgiveness, respect, fidelity, and disinterested service are the rule. The home is well suited for education in the virtues. This requires an apprenticeship in self-denial, sound judgment, and self-mastery - the preconditions of all true freedom. Parents should teach their children to subordinate the 'material and instinctual dimensions to interior and spiritual ones.' The CCC adds: "Parents have a grave responsibility to give good example to their children." (CCC #2223).



He prepares a menu before me in the presence of my enemies.
His help is only a keystroke away.
Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life,
And my file will be merged with His and saved forever."

Sunday Reflections

Advice from the Supreme Court to Families!

"Make the family a confessional rather than a court room." A senior Judge of the Supreme Court recently congratulated the bride and groom in a marriage with a pertinent piece of advice: "See that you never convert your family into a court room; instead let it be a confessional. If the husband and wife start arguing like attorneys, in an attempt to justify their behavior, their family becomes a court of law and nobody wins. On the other hand, if the husband and the wife -- as in a confessional -- are ready to admit their faults and try to correct them, the family becomes a heavenly one."

Thus we can avoid the dangers we watch in dysfunctional families as presented in TV in the shows like *Married with Children*, *The Simpson's*, *Everyone Loves Raymond* and *Malcolm in the Middle*.



Extend the Boundaries of our Family!

The homeless man or woman today in the streets of big cities, fighting the cold and the snow, is part of our family. The drug addict in a den, or living in fear and aloneness this day, is member of our family. The sick person, dying, alone, dirty and maybe even obnoxious, is a member of our family. The person sitting in the prison cell for whatever reason is also a child of God, and as such, according to St. John, is a member of our family. All these, as well as the cherished intimate members of our family, are "family valuables," and, as such, are worthy of safekeeping and reverence.



On the Feast of the only perfect Family that ever lived on this earth, all parents might examine themselves and see how well they are fulfilling the grave responsibility which God has placed on them. As they heard during their marriage ceremony: "children are a gift from God to you." Children serve as the joy of their parents' young years and the help and comfort of their old age, but above and beyond that, they are a gift for which their parents are accountable before God, as they must, in the end, return these, His children, to Him. Let us pray for the grace of caring for one another in our own families, for each member of the parish family, and for all families of the universal Church.

Dorothy Law Nolte: "Kids Learn what they Live!"

If children live with criticism, they learn to condemn.
If children live with hostility, they learn to fight.
If children live with fear, they learn to be apprehensive.
If children live with pity, they learn to feel sorry for themselves.
If children live with ridicule, they learn to feel shy.
If children live with jealousy, they learn to feel envy.
If children live with shame, they learn to feel guilty.
If children live with encouragement, they learn confidence.
If children live with tolerance, they learn patience.
If children live with praise, they learn appreciation.
If children live with acceptance, they learn to love.

If children live with approval, they learn to like themselves.
If children live with recognition, they learn it is good to have a goal.
If children live with sharing, they learn generosity.
If children live with honesty, they learn truthfulness.
If children live with fairness, they learn justice.
If children live with kindness and consideration, they learn respect.
If children live with security, they learn to have faith in themselves and in those about them.
If children live with friendliness, they learn the world is a nice place in which to live.

Celebrating Our Faith: Liturgy

Together in Charity Collection Next Weekend

On January 2 & 3, the annual "Together in charity collection will take place. The proceeds of this collection help to fund Catholic Charities' Parish Assistance Program which provides 24 hour/7-days-a-week assistance to parishes faced with individuals and families with serious and urgent financial, housing or medical needs. In 2020, over 48% of the parishes in the Diocese availed themselves of this program. Please give generously to this collection and contribute to making this a blessed new year for a family or individual in crisis. You may donate through ParishGiving.org or write a check to "St. Matthias Church" and include "Together in Charity" in the memo line.

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.



Celebrating Our Faith: Liturgy



Thank you to all the Christmas Liturgy Angels

Decorators (Environment)

Overflow Mass Set-up

Hospitality Ministers

Lectors

Musicians, Choirs and Cantors

Extraordinary Ministers

Live-streaming Tech Support

Projection Operators

And the many, many angels who stay after Mass each weekend to sanitize and ready the pews for the next Mass



We could not have celebrated Christmas so beautifully without you.

Prayer of Renewal of Consecration (from the Diocese of Metuchen)

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mother of God, and Mother of the Church of Metuchen, you who were chosen by the Father from all eternity, to offer the blessed fruit of your womb, Jesus Christ, as the one pleasing sacrifice back to God; and, whom that same Son, at the moment of his agony gave the Church, you as Mother forever: listen to the prayers of your children, who cry to you, and intercede for us before your Son in heaven.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, today, we renew our consecration of ourselves to you, for you do not abandon any person who loves your Son, Jesus, but instead accompany the Christian people in true discipleship. O most beautiful Virgin, each day we entrust ourselves, and our diocese, to your powerful intercession for you have never forsaken the prayer of faith, but constantly show to your Son the sorrows of your heart, that He may have favor towards all who turn to you.

Help us, Joyful Mother, through your example of living the Gospel, to faithfully proclaim Jesus Christ to be Savior of our lives; and lead us, by your overflowing grace, to return, with you, to the throne of your Son; where, with you as our Queen and Mother, we shall forever enjoy fellowship with Him and all the saints.

Therefore, assist us in our prayer to the Father, that we, as the Church of Metuchen, may be renewed as missionary disciples, to set hearts on fire here in our Diocese of Metuchen so that, the world may come to know the love of Christ that will transform all people. Mother of the Americas and Star of the New Evangelization, pray for us.



Discovering God: Formation



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, or Diane Flanagan, dflanagan@stmatthiasnj.org at the school.



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 27, The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

"...as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must forgive." -
Colossians 3:13

Forgiving is one of the hardest things for people to do. We can't give what we don't have. We need to receive God's mercy and forgiveness first before we can give it to others. Go to the sacrament of Reconciliation and receive God's mercy and forgiveness. Then, share give the gift of forgiveness with someone – a family member, a friend or a co-worker. Pick up the phone or text someone right now.

Reflexiones — 27 de diciembre de 2020 La Sagrada Familia de Jesús, María y José

"... como el Señor te ha perdonado, así debes perdonar". -
COLOSENSES 3:13

Perdonar es una de las cosas más difíciles de hacer para las personas. No podemos dar lo que no tenemos. Necesitamos recibir la misericordia y el perdón de Dios primero antes de poder dárselo a otros. Vaya al sacramento de la Reconciliación y reciba la misericordia y el perdón de Dios. Luego, comparta el regalo del perdón con alguien: un familiar, un amigo o un compañero de trabajo. Levanta el teléfono o envía un mensaje de texto a alguien ahora mismo.

* * * * *

16th Annual Night of Winners
To support St. Matthias School
Saturday, February 13, 2021

The success of this event is due in large part to the generous donations that we receive from our parishioners and school families.

Any new, unused items, in their original packaging are welcome to be dropped off in the Parish or School Office during normal business hours.

The deadline for donations is January 22, 2021.

Not sure what we might be looking for? Look no further than the list below for ideas/suggestions or visit our Amazon Wish List to donate with just a few clicks!

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/dl/invite/85UrXJn?ref_=wl_share

Thank you in advance for your generosity and kindness!
Please note that all donations are tax-deductible.

Gift Certificates/Gift Cards
Jewelry
Bottles of Wine/Liquor
Housewares
Appliances
Electronics (TV's, iPads, Kindles, etc.)
American Girl Dolls
Collectibles
Barware
Sporting Equipment
Gaming Stations
Pet Items
Beauty Items
Vacation Home Rentals

Any questions about donations can be directed to Melissa Garlatti -
melissa.garlatti@gmail.com

* * * * *



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 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, melissamillerizzo@gmail.com.

Building Community

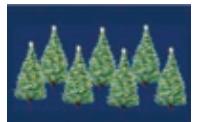
"Spread the Light" Part 2 — Volunteers Needed on January 9!

Thanks to all the people who have worked so hard to bring our "Spread the Light" Christmas tree memorial to life. It has been wonderful!

Unfortunately, all things have to come to an end. We will be taking down the trees and storing all the lights and cords for next year, on **Saturday, January 9, 2021 from 10:00 am through 3:00pm** (as needed).

This will involve:

- Removing the lights and placing them in containers
- Taking down the trees and placing them along the parking lot
- Taking up the electrical cords
- Taking up the poles and placing them along the parking lot.
- Bringing the light and cord containers to the parish office/garage.



We will be again looking for people from 6th grade and older to help. If you are free, you are welcome to join us for as long as you can. Wear masks, etc. For more information, please contact Fr. Joe, jcurry@stmatthias.net.

Caring for Others

Thank You to Everyone Who Brought Hats/Scarves/Gloves for the Youth Service Project!

The youth collected over **250 gift bags** for the "Warmth & Joy Service Project". On Monday, December 14, Dee Nann and Fr. Abraham delivered these gifts to Unity Square New Brunswick which serves low income residents in the area -- just in time before the snowstorm!



Connecting with Our Local Community

Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi Choir Christmas Concert

Because of pandemic restrictions, this year the Cathedral Christmas Concert will be available virtually throughout the season beginning on Christmas day. To view the concert, visit www.diometuchen.org or www.stfranciscathedral.org. The concert will also be made available on the Diocese of Metuchen's social media pages: @diocesemetuchen and on the St. Francis Cathedral Concerts Facebook page.

Volunteer to Make Pocket Rosaries for Law Enforcement

The Office of Family Life is pleased to announce the creation of the Blue Rosary Guild. The purpose of the Guild is for community members of all ages to make pocket Rosaries for law enforcement officers. All materials and instructions will be provided and a Zoom virtual tutorial will also be scheduled.

Anyone interested should contact Cristina D'Averso-Collins, Director of the Office of Family Life at cdaverso@diometuchen.org.

Light of the World: Keeping Christmas Alive

The birth of Jesus Christ brings great joy and light, even amidst the difficult times in which we are all living. To celebrate the birth of our Savior, priests from around the Diocese of Metuchen will share their personal reflections on how we can celebrate the miracle of His birth and keep Christmas alive throughout the entirety of this joyous season. **Both Fr. Abraham and Fr. Joe will offer video reflections!** For more information or to sign-up to receive these reflections, which will be delivered straight to your email inbox everyday throughout the Christmas season, visit lightingheartsonfire.org.



Religious Awards for Catholic Girl Scouts

Since there will not be an annual Gathering Day for Girl Scouts in person this year, the

Catholic Girl Scout Committee has designed a series of virtual meetings so that Girl Scouts can continue to make progress toward their religious awards, including the following:
Juniors - I Live My Faith, Cadettes - Marian Medal, Seniors and ambassadors - Spirit Alive

If you are interested in participating in these virtual meetings, please email domgirlscouts@gmail.com and providing the following information:

- Name, - Parish, - Girl Scout level, - Religious award of interest, - Have you started to work on this award?

Mount Saint Mary House of Prayer

1651 US Hwy. 22, Watchung, NJ 07069
908-753-2091

www.msmhope.org



What Happened to Little Christmas – and why does it Matter?

Via Zoom

Traditionally, each year the feast of Epiphany was celebrated on Jan 6. As children, we knew it was a feast to celebrate the coming of the Magi. Deepen your understanding of this rich feast, relish its gifts and discover what it can mean to your faith today. Evening includes prayer, presentation, and faith-sharing.

Wed., Jan. 6, 7--9 p.m. (\$20-\$30 as you are able)
Presenter: Eileen P. Smith, RSM

Parish Leadership

Parish Pastoral Council:

Chair: Nick Grippo
nickgrippo@gmail.com

Co-Chair: Lisa Robinson
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

Susan Klimcsak
Barry Dusault
Gwen Orlowski
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 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.

Bulletin Article Requests

Please email proposed bulletin articles to 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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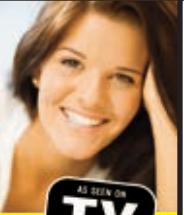
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