



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

St. Matthias School (SMS):

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

For all Parish emails, 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, moriam
 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*
 Denise Sawicki, *Accountant*
 Trish Stumper, *Parish Support Secretary*

Maintenance Staff

Julio Montero, *Maintenance Supervisor*
 Conroy Davis, *Custodian*
 Juan Diaz Flores, *Custodian*
 Silvia Nizama, *Housekeeper*

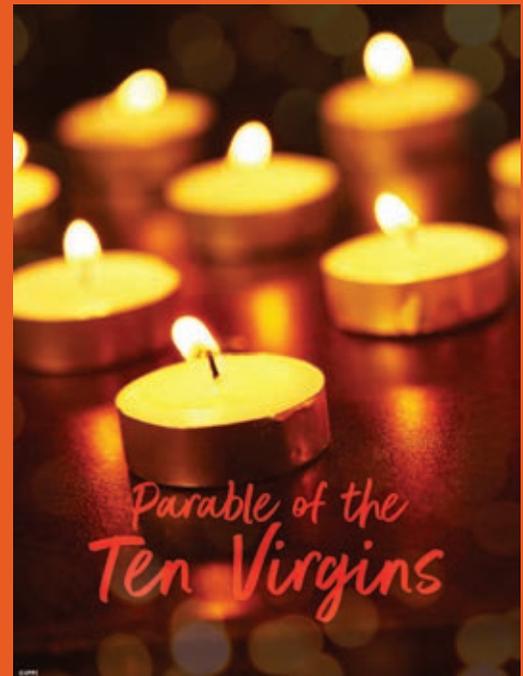
THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS
SUNDAY, NOV 8, 2020 –
Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Stewardship Weekend

This is Stewardship weekend and we will again have brief witness talks at all Masses. If you missed the ones from last weekend, you can view them on our YouTube channel.

Car Wash TODAY, SATURDAY—
 See below.

Last Chance to Place Super 50 -50 tickets in the Collection basket — Next weekend. See below.



Car Wash TODAY — Saturday, Nov. 7
10 am to 3 pm
 Sponsored by Cub Scout Pack 195

Our Cub Scout Pack is ready to clean your car on Saturday, in front of the church/school! Suggested donation (cash/check/credit card) is
 Car—\$10; Minivan/SUV—\$15



You stay in your car with windows up, while the outside of the car is cleaned.

All proceeds will fund Pack 195 Cub Scout Activity Program. See www.scoutpack195nj.com

Urgent Need for More Volunteers to Help with Liturgy

We need Ministers of Hospitality, Eucharistic Ministers, Mass Safety Captains, and volunteers to help with Environment. See the "Liturgy Angels" article on page 7.

Deadline for Super 50-50 Drawing Is Approaching!



The total for the Super 50-50 is currently **\$ 20,376**. Tickets are \$3 each or a book of 15 tickets for \$45.

The DEADLINE for buying tickets is **2 PM, THURSDAY, November 19** in the Parish Office. The last date to place Super 50-50 tickets in the collection basket is **NEXT weekend: November 14/15**.

This Week at St. Matthias

- All Masses will be celebrated in-person (overflow in the cafeteria).
- Masses will also be livestreamed on our YouTube channel: [youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ](https://www.youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ)

The Church is open for individual prayer Sun-Fri from 7:30 am to 7pm & Sat from 9 am to 7pm, unless another event is taking place (Mass, Funeral, Wedding, etc.)

Sunday, Nov 8 2020 Stewardship Sunday Week 6 Fall into Faith Small Groups

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

Monday, Nov 9, 2020

8:00AM Mass Church
6:15PM HSA Exec. Bd. Mtg. via Zoom
6:30PM Dee's Small Grp. Mtg. via Zoom

Tuesday, Nov 10, 2020

8:00AM Daily Mass Church
6:30PM School Adv. Council (SAC) online
7:00PM SVDP Mtg. Via Zoom

Wednesday, Nov 11, 2020 Veterans' Day

8:00AM Daily Mass Church
7:00PM Bereavement Support Grp via Zoom
7:00PM K of C Prayer Service via Zoom

Thursday, Nov 12, 2020

8:00AM Daily Mass Church

Friday, Nov 13, 2020

8:00AM Daily Mass Church
6:00PM Friday Fall into Faith Grp via Zoom

Saturday, Nov 14, 2020

10:30AM Baptism Prep Class John XXIII Rm
3:30-4:30PM Confessions Church
5:00PM Mass Church

Sunday, Nov 15, 2020

Week 7 Fall into Faith Small Groups
10:00AM Mass Church
10:30AM Communion outside front doors
12:00PM Mass Church
12:30PM Communion outside front doors
1:00PM Next Level Regional Mtg. Cafeteria

View Our Online Parish Calendar:

for the most up-to-date schedule of events/times — www.stmatthias.net/connect/calendar

Read Our Bulletin Online Each Week:

www.stmatthias.net/connect/bulletin

View Our Videos on Our Parish YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ>

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



“Wisdom is glorious, and never fadeth away, and is easily sought by them that love her, and is found by them that seek her.”

As an educator, I could not help but be drawn to the first line of our first reading today. After reading it several times I needed to differentiate the term wisdom from that of knowledge. As a teacher, I am charged with imparting knowledge to my students but what about wisdom? What is the difference between it and knowledge, and how do we “get “ it? I turned to trusty Google and in .47 seconds found that there were 185 million writings on that very topic...wisdom versus knowledge.

It seems since ancient times, artists, philosophers, leaders, and other learned men have been searching for that very answer. I am sure in the space that has been allotted for me here, I will not be writing any dissertations on the definitive answer but I may have space for a peripheral one.

Knowledge is simple facts and figures, bits of information that can be memorized. In simplest terms, it is simply knowing. Wisdom adds perspective, it adds being able to take facts and figures and determine what is true, valuable, pertinent to our lives.

When you possess knowledge, it is a safe bet that you will excel at taking a test or maybe be a multi-day winner on a game show. These are reasonable aspirations; however, when you possess wisdom you are raised to a whole new level. You know the meaning or reason when you are wise; you possess understanding on a deeper level about why something is, and what it means to your life. It seems to me, that wisdom comes from God and thoughtful prayer. It comes from listening closely to our Father in our heart, mind, and soul and not only knowing the facts but knowing how to take those facts and live a faith-filled life. It is taking the wisdom we find in God’s words and our prayers to him that allows us to take knowledge to that higher level of wisdom. As the reading indicates, if we love wisdom and seek her, she is easily found. The direct path to wisdom, I believe, can easily be made through God. He is where we can find the reason. He helps us find perspective and He is what is true, valuable, and pertinent to our lives.

In His Peace,

Elena Malinconico
Principal

Readings for the Week

Monday: Ez 47:1-2, 8-9, 12; Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9; 1 Cor 3:9c-11, 16-17; Jn 2:13-22

Tuesday: Ti 2:1-8, 11-14; Ps 37:3-4, 18 and 23, 27 and 29; Lk 17:7-10

Wednesday: Ti 3:1-7; Ps 23:1b-3a, 3bc-4, 5, 6; Lk 17:11-19

Thursday: Phmn 7-20; Ps 146:7, 8-9a, 9bc-10; Lk 17:20-25

Friday: 2 Jn 4-9; Ps 119:1, 2, 10, 11, 17, 18; Lk 17:26-37

Saturday: 3 Jn 5-8; Ps 112:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Lk 18:1-8

Sunday: Prv 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31; Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5; 1 Thes 5:1-6; Mt 25:14-30 or Mt 25:14-15, 19-21

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

Mass Intentions for the Week*

Saturday, Nov 7	5:00PM	Anna Moran, by Eileen, Ginny & Joe
Sunday, Nov 8	8:00AM	Msgr. Joseph Penna, by The Penna Family
	10:00AM	Intention of Parishioners
	12:00PM	Leonarda Borysewicz, by granddaughter, Irene
	5:30PM	Jack Meagher, by Tom Meagher
Monday, Nov 9	8:00AM	John Gleason, by Barbara Gleason
Tuesday, Nov 10	8:00AM	Nicandro Ventura, by Kathleen
Wednesday, Nov 11	8:00AM	Richard Mayfield, by Phyllis Stone
Thursday, Nov 12	8:00AM	Charles Turano, by The Milligan Family
Friday, Nov 13	8:00AM	Marlene Volpe, by Mr. & Mrs. Gary LoMonaco
Saturday, Nov 14	5:00PM	Ann. V. Banghart, by The Lanyi, Kantor & Banghart Families
Sunday, Nov 15	8:00AM	Florentina & Teresita Sabinosa, by Violy Garcia
	10:00AM	Hubert & Rita Fowler, by Teresa & Bruce Cuddeback
	12:00PM	Intention of Parishioners
	5:30PM	Wtadyslaw Wojcik, by daughter & son-in-law

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
Cecillia Bongga Alcantara
Marion Bradford
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
Briana Edwards
Anne Fortune
Emma Gergely
Rose Gessner
Mary Gidaro
Katherine Giustino
John Gross
Michael Hagerty
Emma A. Himey
Sloopy Hoffman
Merla Isabelo
Pamela Kannaire
Allison Karakowski
Michael Kirugi
Millicent Kraft
Herman Krueger

Taylor LaCort
William Lecorchick
Pat Leposa
Alexander LiCausi
The Litakis Family
Alexander Maceven
Monique Marie Mageot
Al Maglio
Sue Maglio-Alese
Patrick Mahoney
Anne McElwee
Elizabeth Miller
Dave Moynihan
Baby Ezran Natural
Patricia Nese
Danny Ongchango
Julianne Opydike
Mafalda Parafioriti
Julie Parks
Jim Pettit
Annie Powderly
Doris Regan
Samantha Renaud

Datius Rutashobya
Rudy Schaar
Maria Schwenzer
Lena Sciotto
Sr. Mary Amata Shina, OSF
Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF
Encarnacion (Gina) So
Alessandro Spagnolo
Dennis Stuewe
Juan Ulerio
Denise Urquhart
Fred & Carolyn
Vanmiddlesworth
Eulalia Villanueva
Luzminda Villarica
Mona Wilson
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...

Maryanne Farino

- "His mercy endures forever." *Chronicles*

PRROP (Pandemic Recovery & Re-Engagement of Parish) Update

Reflections from a Parishioner...



Hi! My name is Cathy Allegro and it has been my great pleasure to be a teacher at St. Matthias School for over 25 years.

Long before I was a faculty member, I was a parishioner. My family joined the parish before it was built, celebrating masses in local schools. I grew up in this parish, and my siblings and I made most of our sacraments here. In high school, I joined youth ministry (called CYO) and learned a lot about my faith, making friends with people from many of the local high schools. I also joined the Folk Group at that time, which allowed me to learn about music. Over the years I have volunteered at numerous parish activities: coaching basketball and soccer, (Did you know St. Matthias had one of the first soccer leagues in town?), the carnival, Youth Ministry, Adult Choir, and the Pastoral Formation Committee to name a few. I always tried to find time if there was something that needed doing, and I met so many like-minded parishioners who I now call friends. Along the way I learned more

about being called into living our Catholic faith.

One of my greatest joys has been being a teacher at SMS. While I will never get rich financially as a parish teacher, my riches have been found in the relationships I have made over my career. I have watched students have that "Aha" moment, when the light bulb went on and they came to some important revelation in class. They discovered something new and couldn't wait to share their new found knowledge with others. I have shared in birthdays and new siblings and communions and confirmations. I have watched students grow and move onto high school and college. It is always a pleasure to have students come back to tell me what they are up to in their new schools or as they enter the work force. I am always amazed that some student that I had a while ago is now a teacher, or graphic artist or doctor or lawyer or engineer.

Being a teacher does not mean your relationships are strictly with your students. I have learned from so many wonderful educators who have taught me about caring for others. I have got-

ten to know so many kind and concerned parents who work so hard to help their children learn. I see them at church explaining parts of the Mass. I see them in the library checking out books. I watch them sharing their joy during sporting events, or at choir rehearsals, or volunteering at the carnival or an HSA event. They model their faith by their commitment, and their children learn from that experience.

The pandemic has been difficult for everyone. So many people have been affected in so many different ways. We have lost family members and friends, some people have lost their jobs and businesses, many people are afraid of what might be coming next. In all the calamity, there is always God. I cherish all the good things I have been given and pray that the future will bring a bright new beginning. I am glad to be back at church each week. It grounds me in my faith and brings me hope. I also like seeing friends each week at mass. It makes life seem almost normal. I hope to see more of you in the coming months especially as we round the calendar to begin Advent. Thanks for letting me share!

Sunday Reflections



Smile with Your Family



You are like God? My grandson was visiting one day when he asked, "Grandma, do you know how you and God are alike?" I mentally polished my halo while I asked, "No, how are we alike?" "You're both old," he replied.

It depends: A tour group was riding in an elevator to the top of the Empire State Building. At about the 102nd floor, a woman asked the tour guide, "If the cables on this elevator break, do we go up or down?" The tour guide answered, "Well, that depends on the kind of life you are living."

Tithe first: A missionary in Africa heard a knock on the door of his hut one afternoon. Answering, the missionary found a native boy holding a large fish in his hands. The boy said, "Father, you taught us what tithing is. So I have brought you my tithe." As the missionary gratefully took the fish, he asked the boy. "If this is your tithe, where are the other nine fish?" At this, the boy beamed and said, "Oh, they're still back in the river. I'm going back to catch them now."



Parenting Tune-Up

November is National Adoption Month. 30% of the nation's homeless adults have a history of foster care. Consider whether your family is in a position to provide a permanent home for a foster child. A loving family can break this sad cycle.

Marriage Tune-Up



"Whoever seeks Wisdom shall quickly be free from care." (Wisdom 6:15)

Besides marrying you, what is a wise thing your beloved recently did or said?

Sunday Reflections

Sunday Reflection: Lessons from the Dying

"The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. The foolish ones, when taking their lamps, brought no oil with them, but the wise brought flasks of oil with their lamps."

— Matthew 25: 1-13

A hospice nurse writes about the valuable lessons she has learned from her care of the dying:

"Although I struggle, like every other human being, with the daily challenges of overwork, impatience, fear, anger, and disappointment, I know that it is always my choice instead to choose happiness, forgiveness, compassion, and joy, to live each day as if it were my last, and to be grateful for every day that I have. "Working with the dying has brought light into my own life, illuminating the shadowy corners of negativity that I alone have the choice to relinquish or to transform into something more positive. Even though the work I do is with the dying, it has also been work within myself, and I thank God every day for both of those opportunities.

"So, in the end, what is it that the dying teach others around them? They teach how to love and how to allow ourselves to be loved; how to forgive and how to ask for forgiveness; how to find our joy and how to spread that joy around to others. They also teach us how to spend valuable time connecting our earthly self with our spiritual self so that these two separate but vital aspects of our being aren't strangers when they meet as the time of our own death draws near. "And so it is perhaps meant to be that, with every person's dying, another person is learning to live well. " Although I can't know for certain, I suspect from what I have witnessed that, possibly, the very best part of living might actually be the dying."

The parable of the ten bridesmaids reflects what this dedicated hospice nurse has learned from those entrusted to her care: that we have only so many opportunities to become part of Jesus' work of mercy and reconciliation; that we have only so much oil in our lamps to illuminate the love of God in our lives. There is so much we want to accomplish in our lives - but the many demands on our time to make a living derail us from making a life, a life that is centered in the love of family and friends, in an awareness of God's loving presence in our midst, in a yearning to contribute to the greater good of all. Christ warns us not to fall into the trap of the five "foolish" bridesmaids who squander their time before the Bridegroom's arrival, but to embrace the wisdom of the five "wise" bridesmaids, trimming our "lamps" with the "oil" of compassion, generosity and forgiveness in the precious time we have until Christ's coming.

Being a Steward Even with Debt/Student Loans!

"A couple of days ago, my wife and I faced one of the downsides of moving across country from Washington to Nebraska. My wife Allison went to turn the car on in the morning, and every warning light started to say hello to her on the dashboard. As we suspected, our car needed a new battery. That's not all that surprising, since we have shared one car between the two of us for our six years of marriage, and it's been a few years and a couple cross-country moves since getting a new battery. Unfortunately, one of the other downsides of moving, wear, and tear is that your car might also need new tires, plus its next regular oil change. So, with new tires, fresh oil, and a new battery, we spent a bit more this week on our car than we like to do in one day. This could easily have led us into despair and debt. Thankfully, we budget for such days as this, so it wasn't that bad. But interestingly, there is another faith element to this.

A few days earlier we had received a refund check in the mail for the balance of Allison's seminary cost, as she graduated from seminary and actually had money left on her account in her favor. We didn't think much of the check at the time. The day after the car was running like new, we remembered that check. It was just about the exact cost of all of the car expenses. Sometimes I think God truly has a sense of humor. It's experiences like this that remind me of just how much abundance we live in and have, thanks to our abundant God. It means enjoying, giving, sharing, and using all that God has first entrusted us with to live our lives and steward them for the sake of our neighbors and communities. That check, in addition to helping with our car expenses, will be stewarded in part back to the larger church in gratitude, and in support of other future seminarians." (Timothy Siburg in www.stewardshipresources.org)



"Bury Me with a Fork in My Hand!"

There was a young woman who had been diagnosed with a terminal illness and had been given three months to live. As she was getting her things in order, she contacted her pastor and had him come to her house to discuss her final wishes. She told him which songs she wanted sung at the funeral Mass, what Scriptures she would like read, and what outfit she wanted to be buried in. Everything was in order and as the pastor was preparing to leave, the young woman suddenly remembered something very important to her. "There's one more thing," she said excitedly. "What's that?" asked the pastor. "This is very important," the young woman continued. "I want my body to be buried with a fork in my right hand." The pastor stood looking at the young woman, not knowing quite what to say. "That surprises you, doesn't it?" the young woman asked. "Well, to be honest, I'm puzzled by the request," said the pastor. The young woman explained. "My grandmother once told me this story, and that's where I got the idea. I have, also, always tried to pass along its message to those I love and those who are in need of encouragement. In all my years of attending Church socials and potluck dinners, I always remember that when the dishes of the main course were being cleared, someone would inevitably lean over and say, 'Keep your fork!' It was my favorite part of the meal because I knew that something better was coming, like chocolate cake or deep-dish apple pie. Something wonderful, and with substance! So, I just want people to see me there in that casket with a fork in my hand and I want them to wonder, "What's with the fork?" Then I want you to tell them: "Keep your fork--the best is yet to come."

Sunday Reflections



A True Stewardship Story!

Not long ago, two ministers of the gospel were waiting in line for seating at a restaurant. There were two immediate problems. First, the restaurant was popular because it served good food and secondly, the restaurant was smaller than your average fast food place. But the ministers, who frequently preach on patience, were offering a visible sermon by their calm demeanor. No matter that several people already seated appeared to be eating their meals extremely slowly. The ministers were next in line when suddenly like a mighty wind a group of six people came in behind them. And as luck sometimes has it, the next table to become available was one which could easily sit both ministers with room to spare. It could also seat all six of the people behind them in line.

If this were you, what would you do? Sit down when seating became available? After all, you were there first and we live in a first come, first served society. Or might the Jesus thing to do be to step aside and let the larger party have the larger table while waiting for the "next" available spot? Relax! This is a true story and thus, I can tell you exactly what happened. The ministers, being true to their convictions, gladly let the group of six have the table and they continued to wait patiently. In good time, they were able to sit down and order meals which they then took their own sweet time to devour. But no bill came because the people they allowed to eat ahead of them picked up the tab.

Jesus does not call us to be kind to others because we might get a free meal out of it. It is simply the right thing to do. Sometimes there is a reward, and it does not matter when there is not. Look at this story from God's point of view. Every day we receive blessings. Every day there are acts of kindness. Few of us need worry too much about whether we can afford our next meal. We have many reasons to pick up the tab for all the blessings God sends our way. That's what it means to be a good Steward! (Duane Grady in www.stewardshipresources.org)

"Will Starve for Food!"

The T-shirts said, "Will Starve for Food." Every member of the youth group wore one during their World Vision 30-Hour Famine lock-in. We were fasting together, 30 hours with nothing but juice, to heighten our understanding of world hunger and deepen our commitment to God.



Excuses Won't Work on the Last Day!

These are the ten best things to say if you get caught sleeping at your desk:

- #10. "They told me at the blood bank this might happen."
 - #9. "This is just a 15-minute power-nap like they raved about in that time management course you sent me to."
 - #8. "Whew! Guess I left the top off the White-Out. You probably got here just in time!"
 - #7. "I wasn't sleeping! I was meditating on the mission statement and envisioning a new paradigm."
 - #6. "I was testing my keyboard for drool resistance."
 - #5. "I was doing a highly specific Yoga exercise to relieve work-related stress. Are you discriminating against people who practice Yoga?"
 - #4. "Darn! Why did you interrupt me? I had almost figured out a solution to our biggest problem."
 - #3. "The coffee machine is broken . . ."
 - #2. "Someone must've put decaf in the wrong pot . . ."
- And the #1 best thing to say if you get caught sleeping at your desk . . . ". . . in His name. Amen."

Jesus tells a parable in today's Gospel about ten young women--bridesmaids— five of whom forgot their specific responsibility in a wedding celebration. The Master did not heed their excuse. They lost the chance to go in with the wedding party!

The Allegorical Elements in the Parable

The virgins represent the Church that is waiting for Christ's Second Coming. The bridegroom is Christ. The wedding feast is the great and joyous occasion in which Christ comes for his Church (Rev. 19:9).



The delay of the bridegroom corresponds to the delay of the Second Coming. The bridegroom's arrival in the dark of night is the Second Coming itself. The closing of the door is the final judgment.

Eight Steps Towards a More Satisfying Life

In a TIME magazine sidebar, there were "Eight Steps toward a More Satisfying Life." Here they are:

1. Count your blessings.
2. Practice acts of kindness.
3. Savor life's joys.
4. Thank a mentor.
5. Learn to forgive.
6. Invest time and energy in friends and family.
7. Take care of your body.
8. Develop strategies for coping with stress and hardship. (TIME, 17 (Jan. 2005), A8-A9.)

Today when we reflect on the parable of the ten virgins, we add one more step, a 9th Step to the strategy: Be prepared. Be prepared to step off life's planned paths, and trust the Spirit. After all, the Spirit can appear in many guises, disguises, and surprises.

Sunday Reflections:



Have Enough Oil!

Have enough oil: i.e., a good relationship with God. Literally, our text answers the question, "What shall we do while we wait?" The answer is: "Make sure you have enough oil for your lamps." The scripture scholars of the past and the present reflected on what this oil symbolized, and they arrived at different but related views.

- (i) Perhaps, the best explanation is that the oil stands for our personal relationship with God who is the source and power behind our good deeds or "fruit-bearing" (Matthew 3:8, 10; 7:16, 17, 18, 19, 20; 12:33; 13:8, 23, 26; 21:19, 34, 41, 43). It is not something that one can attain overnight or borrow from someone else as the foolish virgins attempted to do. This "state of grace" is something we must achieve for ourselves.
- (ii) In Scripture, oil is often a symbol for the Holy Spirit. It is when we submit our work, our intentions, our purpose to the Holy Spirit that He fills our deeds with power and effectiveness.
- (iii) Oil stands for character and Christian values which we cannot buy or borrow.
- (iv) It stands for "spiritual capital" (our merits) – all that we build up by good works: concern for the needy and acts of justice.
- (v) Perhaps, it refers to real Christian faith.
- (vi) Oil is the spirit of reconciliation with the others and a willingness to share our lives and its blessings with others.
- (vii) Oil may also be a generic reference to faithful and obedient discipleship as defined by the whole gospel.

Celebrating Our Faith: Liturgy



St. Matthias Is in Need of LITURGY ANGELS...

...more volunteers to help at mass:

- Ministers of Hospitality - greeting and seating people
- Eucharistic Ministers - serving communion
- Mass Safety Captains - overseeing the safety of the mass (checking sanitizing supplies, directing volunteers who sanitize pews, etc.)
- Environment - decorating the cafeteria and the John XXIII room for overflow Advent and Christmas masses.

Watch future bulletins for sign-up instructions through Sign-up Genius or contact Phyllis Stone @ pstone@stmatthias.net, (732) 828-1400 ext 127 and pray to discern where God is calling you.

St. Cecilia 2020 – Honoring Pastoral Musicians

Each year, musicians from around the Diocese of Metuchen come together near the feast of St. Cecilia – patron saint of musicians – in praise, thanksgiving, and in celebration of the gift of making liturgical music with one another at the annual St. Cecilia Sing. Unable to gather in person this year due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Diocese of Metuchen's Office of Worship and the Metuchen Chapter of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians wishes to recognize and thank all musicians in the diocese who through their music continue to give glory to God and inspire charity, justice, and evangelization. Please keep all pastoral musicians in your prayers: that in these times they may grow in prayer, patience and hope. For more information about the pastoral musicians in our diocese, please visit: diometuchen.org/NPM.



Are You Interested in Becoming Catholic?

Your Journey of Faith Begins With Your Questions...

AM I INTERESTED IN BECOMING CATHOLIC?

DO I WANT TO BE IN FULL COMMUNION WITH THE CATHOLIC CHURCH?

AM I A TEEN OR ADULT DESIRING THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION?

...and culminates at Easter with the grace of the sacraments of initiation – Baptism, Communion, and Confirmation -

JOIN ONE OF THE NEXT RCIA INQUIRY SESSIONS BY ZOOM

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19TH FROM 11AM - 12PM

OR

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22ND FROM 2PM - 3PM

RSVP TO Phyllis Stone @ pstone@stmatthias.net or by calling the Parish Office, (732) 828-1400, ext 127



Being Good Stewards

Do You Have Experience in Marketing? In Development? Volunteers Are Needed for the Marketing & Development Committees of the School Advisory Council (SAC)

Do you have some free time to volunteer? Both the Marketing Committee and the Development Committee for the school are looking for members. Membership is open to all parishioners, plus others, who have expertise and an interest in helping our school.

We are looking for people to help with strategy and implementation in both areas. This is a chance to do some hands-on work, applying your gifts and talents, for a very good cause.

To learn more, contact **Kristy Land-**

messer, Marketing Committee Chair, at kls818@gmail.com, Laura Beck, Development Committee Chair, at ljane.beck@comcast.net or Sheila Connelly, SAC President, at sheilacnj@gmail.com. Thank you!



Super 50/50 Raffle to Be Held on Sunday, November 22

The total as of Wednesday, Nov. 4, is **\$20,376**.

Last date to place Super 50-50 tickets in the collection basket is NEXT weekend: November 14/15.
Deadline for buying Super 50-50 tickets is **2 pm, Thursday, November 19** in the Parish Office.

Merchant Discount Card Available for All



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

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

Please use the following Sign Up Genius link below to request how many cards you wish to purchase:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A094BAAAE28AAF94-smsdiscount>
Please list your child's name and homeroom, if you are an SMS family. Payment can be sent to the SMS HSA PayPal account: <https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/StMatthiasHSA?>

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



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, melissamillerrizzo@gmail.com.



STEWARDSHIP QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving." — St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta

Being Good Stewards

Stewardship Reflection Nov 8, 2020
32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Reflexiones — 8 de noviembre de 2020
32º domingo del tiempo ordinario

"Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour." - Matthew 25:13

"Por lo tanto, permanezcan despiertos, porque no saben ni el día ni la hora". - MATEO 25:13

Many of us have put off doing something because we think we are too busy. We've all said, "I'll do it later when I have time." Unfortunately, too many of us apply this attitude to our Faith. Jesus' call is urgent, in the here and now, in your current circumstances. Don't delay. How is God calling you to use your gifts today? None of us is guaranteed tomorrow.

Muchos de nosotros hemos pospuesto hacer algo porque pensamos que estamos demasiado ocupados. Todos hemos dicho: "Lo haré más tarde cuando tenga tiempo". Desafortunadamente, muchos de nosotros aplicamos esta actitud a nuestra fe. El llamado de Jesús es urgente, aquí y ahora, en sus circunstancias actuales. No se demore. ¿Cómo te está llamando Dios a usar tus dones hoy? Ninguno de nosotros tiene garantizado el mañana.

Stewardship Totals for Fiscal Year July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021				Last Year's Total
Current Month	In-Pew/Mail	Parish Giving	Weekly Total	Weekly Total
Week 18 - Nov. 1, 2020	\$12,941.00	\$6,943.00	\$19,884.00	\$19,910.00
Week 19 - Nov. 8, 2020				\$15,931.00
Week 20 - Nov. 15, 2020				\$16,139.00
Week 21 - Nov. 22, 2020				\$15,893.00
Week 22 - Nov. 29, 2020				\$19,068.00
			Month-to-date Total	Nov Total Last Yr
			\$19,884.00	\$86,941.00
			Current Year-to-date	Year-to-date as of Nov 30,
			\$420,917.51	\$555,459.76

Caring for Others



2020 Giving Tree

The holidays will be quickly upon us meaning it is time to think about the annual Giving Tree. Due to the Covid restrictions, we will be giving our "gifts" through a virtual/online tree this year. Within the next few weeks, we will be posting information regarding the participating organizations on the St. Matthias website and in the weekly bulletin. Please stay tuned for additional information and details. If you have questions in the interim, kindly send an email to j-diana@comcast.net.

Building Community

A PARISHIONER'S LETTER

Msgr. Joe and Father Abraham.

During this pandemic time, it is an honor to be able to attend church in person and virtual. I feel very lucky to be in a parish where our safety is of utmost concern. I have enjoyed everything about mass but I have truly enjoyed your homilies. It is great to hear encouraging words and hope. I know that both of you have worked diligently in preparing our masses and I really appreciate it.

Also, Joan Seamon has communicated with her music ministers on a daily basis since March 12th. She has reached out to all of us and she has held ZOOM meetings to check on us. Again, how truly grateful I am to be under her leadership. We have a lot to be thankful for in our parish!

Blessings to both of you and your staff,

Kimberly Lavin

Building Community

Promoting Respectful Discourse and Inclusion at St. Matthias

A practice of inclusion and respect for differing life experiences and points of view is essential to building a strong faith community. As members of St. Matthias, every interaction we have with our fellow parishioners has the potential to strengthen or weaken the sense of unity and belonging that is essential to a successful and vibrant church.

In this season of important elections and their aftermath, one way we can enhance inclusion in our parish is by being respectful of all points of view in our political discourse. This requires awareness of and sensitivity to the fact that as we meet in face to face or virtu-

al groups, we are likely to be in the presence of parishioners who think differently about politics than we do. In this context, Bishop Checchio's words in his latest column in the *Catholic Spirit* are relevant: "Too often, we allow ourselves to be Democrats or Republicans first, and Catholic second. That way of prioritizing our values and forming our conscience is a scourge upon authentic Catholic living."

This means Catholic values demand that we look at others (and our elected leaders and candidates) not through political lenses, but through the eyes of Christ. Then we will be able to see and speak to them as our brother and sister

in Christ. Differences of opinion will not make us hate others but will allow us to *respectfully* disagree. We can extend this line of thinking to almost any topic of discourse we can imagine. In groups as small as even three people, it is quite likely that at least one person holds views different from ours. To build unity and belonging in our parish, we have to be sensitive to that fact and always speak in ways that communicate respect and inclusion for those who see things differently than we do. Then, as a community we will be living up to the claim we make every Sunday: 'all are welcome'.

- Jeff Beck

Connecting with Our Local Community



Clothing Drive for Veterans

The Jersey Blue Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution is conducting a clothing drive to benefit the veterans at the New Jersey Memorial Veterans Home at Menlo Park. The dates are **November 10th & 24th from 10:00am to 2:00pm**. **Items needed are new unused sweatpants and T-shirts in size Large and XL.**

Items can be placed in the collection box located on the back porch of Buccleuch Mansion which is located inside Buccleuch Park. The address is 321 Easton Ave., New Brunswick, 08901. You may contact Susan Luczu at jerseyblurdar.regent36@gmail.com.



Part-time Custodian Position Available:

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



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](mailto:stmatthias.net)

Susan Klimcsak
Barry Dusault
Gwen Orłowski
Audrey Francis

Kester Hector
Denise Sawicki, Ex-Officio
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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