



St. Matthias Parish Office:

Monday - Friday, 8:30 am - 4:00 pm.
 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):

170 JFK Blvd., Somerset, NJ 08873
www.stmatthias.info 732-828-1402
 School Office Hours, Mon-Fri 8AM to 3PM.

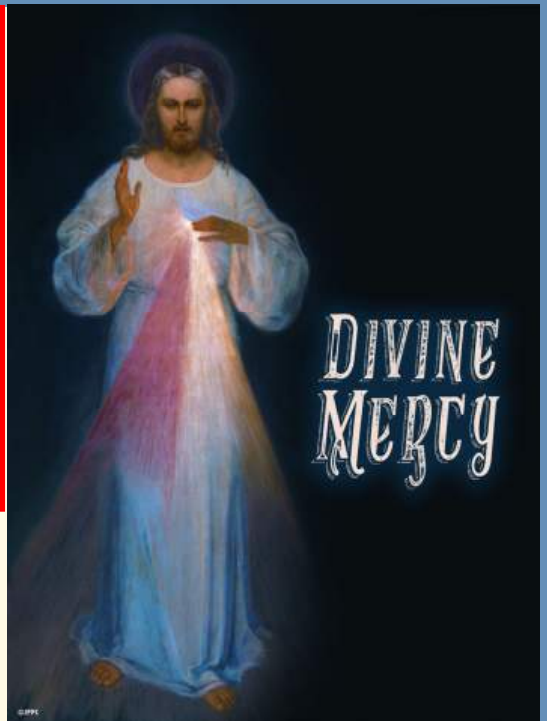
For all Parish emails, add @stmatthias.net

- Pastor:** Rev Abraham Orapankal, **abraham**
Senior Priest: Msgr. Seamus Brennan, **sbrennan**
 Mary Pat Burke-Grospin, Business Administrator
mpburke-grospin
 Deacon Ron Caimi, *Senior Deacon*
 Kelly Counts, *Receptionist*, **kcounts**
 Deacon Russell Demkovitz, **rdemkovitz**
 Nathalie Godet, *Website Coordinator*, **ngodet**
 Leslie Guillen, *Bulletin Editor*, **lguillen**
 Amy Hanna, *Accountant/Databases*, **ahanna**
 Mike Lanyi, *Sacristan*
 Sue Lenczewski, *Youth Coordinator*, **SMYLE**
 Mary Jo Loboda, *Parish Staff, Development*,
mjloboda
 Julio Montero, *Maintenance Supervisor*
 Dolores R. Nann, *Pastoral Associate for Faith*
Formation, **dnann**
 Vinnie Natale, *Bookkeeper*, **vnatale**
 Silvia Nizama, *Housekeeper*
 Deacon John Radvanski, **deaconjohn**
 Joan Best Seamon, *Pastoral Associate for Music*
Ministry, **jseamon**
 Sr. Marie Therese Sherwood, *OSF, Pastoral*
Assoc. for Social Concerns, **msherwood**
 Trish Stumper, *Parish Support Secretary*,
tstumper
St. Matthias School (add @stmatthiasnj.org)
 Mary Lynch, *Principal*, **mlynch**
 Joseph Gidaro, *Vice Principal*, **jgidaro**

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS
SUNDAY, APRIL 16, 2023-
Divine Mercy Sunday

Feast of Divine Mercy

Join us **TODAY, Apr. 16th**,
before the 1200PM Mass
(at 11:45AM). We will
 pray the Divine Mercy
 Chaplet on this Mercy
 Sunday. Don't know how
 to recite the chaplet?
 Come & Learn this special
 prayer that Jesus gave to
 St. Faustina, and also to
 us! **See page 8 for more**
Information.



smyle The next **SMYLE**
 gathering will
 be on Sunday,
 April 23, 2023 at
 4:00 PM in the cafeteria.



2023 SMS Golf Classic

This annual event is scheduled for
May 15, 2023 at Royce Brook Golf Club.
 For all details, see page 8.

Join Us For the St. Matthias

2023 SPRING FLEA MARKET
 SATURDAY, APRIL 22nd

170 John F. Kennedy Blvd.
 from 10:00 AM-2:00 PM

.....
 \$30 per table
 \$20 to BYOT (Bring Your Own Table)
 e-mail:
SMSESAParentGroup@stmatthiasnj.org
 to register

EVENT SPONSORED BY
 THE SMS HSA

HELP SPREAD THE WORD!
SCHOOL YEAR 2023-2024

Saint Matthias School registration is open. We are enrolling students in PreK 3, PreK 4, Kindergarten and grades 1-8. Please help us spread the word about our school filled with faith, caring, and excellence to your relatives, friends, and neighbors.

ALL are welcome!
Thank you

This Week @ St. Matthias From Our Pastor

Masses are also livestreamed on our YouTube channel: [youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ](https://www.youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ)

The Church is open for individual prayer

Mon-Fri: 7:30 am to dusk, Sat: 9 am to 6pm, and Sun: 7:30 am to 1 pm, unless another service is taking place.

Sunday, Apr 16, 2023 Divine Mercy Sunday

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

Monday, Apr 17, 2023 St. Anicetus, Pope SMS Returns to Classes

8:00AM Mass/Miraculous Medal Novena Church
4:30PM SMS Cheer Camp St. John XXIII Rm

Tuesday, Apr 18, 2023 St. Galdino Della Salla, Archbishop of Milan Tax Day

8:00AM Mass Church
4:30PM SMS Cheer Camp St. John XXIII Rm
7:30PM Pastoral Council Mtg. de Porres Rm

Wednesday, Apr 19, 2023 St. Leo IX, Pope

8:00AM Mass—St. Joseph Novena Church
9:30AM Prayer Group 1 Holy Spirit de Porres Rm
4:30PM SMS Cheer Camp St. John XXIII Rm
7:30PM Folk Group Rehearsal Church

Thursday, Apr 20, 2023 St. Agnes of Montepulciano, Nun

8:00AM Mass Church
10:00AM Lazarus Ministry Mtg. de Porres Rm
3:30PM Children's Choir Gr. 3&4 Church
4:00PM Children's Choir Gr. 5-8 Church
4:30PM SMS Cheer Camp St. John XXIII Rm
7:00PM Prayer Shawl Ministry Neumann Rm
7:30PM Adult Choir Rehearsal Church

Friday, Apr 21, 2023 St. Anselm, Archbishop & Doctor of the Church

8:00AM Mass Church
4:30PM SMS Cheer Camp St. John XXIII Rm

Saturday, Apr 22, 2023 St. Soter, Pope

7:00AM SMS Craft/Yard Sale Parking Lot
8:00AM The National Black Catholic Congress -
Diocesan Day of Reflection St. John XXIII Rm
9:00AM Annual Stream Clean-up By Blue Garage
3:30PM Reconciliation Church
5:00PM Mass Church

Sunday, Apr 23, 2023

8:00AM Mass Church
10:00AM Mass Church
12:00PM Mass Church
4:00PM SMYLE Mtg. Cafeteria

Bulletin Article Requests:

If you would like to send information to be included in our bulletin, please email it to bulletin@stmatthias.net by 8 AM, MONDAY, 5 business days before the needed bulletin date (earlier for holiday weekends). Approved content is published on a space-available basis.

Dear Friends,

Happy Easter! Yes, Easter is such a foundational feast of our faith, which the Church continues to celebrate it for about seven weeks. Each of these Sundays are named 2nd Sunday of Easter, 3rd Sunday of Easter, etc. The power of Easter has transformed the face of the earth as believers began to increase and Christianity began to spread all over the world. The early Christians themselves were the best missionaries to their own neighbors and friends, sharing the power of the Resurrected Jesus to bring about change of hearts. It still continues to happen in our own times.

Today is Divine Mercy Sunday – a feast instituted by St. John Paul II, in order to realize the depth of the mercy of God for each one of us personally. Sister Faustina, who had revelations about this desire from Jesus, wrote the words of Jesus in her diary entry # 206: *“On the day of My feast, the Feast of Mercy, you will go through the whole world and bring fainting souls to the spring of My mercy. I shall heal and strengthen them”*.

Some have asked me: “Father, are we bound to believe in such revelations to individuals like St. Faustina?” Let me answer with a quote from the most authoritative document of the Church, *Catechism of the Catholic Church*: *“Throughout the ages, there have been so-called ‘private’ revelations, some of which have been recognized by the authority of the Church. They do not belong, however, to the deposit of faith. It is not their role to improve or complete Christ’s definitive Revelation, but to help live more fully by it in a certain period of history” (#67)*.

Thus the Church is very clear that the revelations experienced by Saint Faustina were of a private nature, which are not essential to anyone’s acceptance of the Catholic faith. And yet the Church promotes this popular devotion because God’s loving mercy, the focus of Divine Mercy Sunday, is the very heart of the gospel. So we see that the devotion to Divine Mercy in no way replaces any of our rich liturgical traditions or faith. The Divine Mercy devotion fosters the virtue of trust in God’s mercy that finds its fulfillment in the liturgy of Reconciliation and the Holy Eucharist.

And yet, today’s gospel is about doubting the resurrection of Jesus by one of his own disciples! Presenting the doubting Thomas’ famous profession of Faith, *“My Lord and my God,”* the Gospel illustrates how Jesus showed his mercy to the doubting apostle and emphasizes the importance of Faith. We are invited to receive liberation from doubts and reservations about our faith, first by verbalizing our doubts and trying to get answers from those who know, and second by surrendering our lives to the Risen Lord of Mercy.

May the Resurrected Lord help us experience his mercy as we keep the season of Easter.

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Orapankal



Readings for the Week

Monday: Acts 4:23-31; Ps 2:1-3, 4-7a, 7b-9; Jn 3:1-8

Tuesday: Acts 4:32-37; Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5; Jn 3:7b-15

Wednesday: Acts 5:17-26; Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9; Jn 3:16-21

Thursday: Acts 5:27-33; Ps 34:2, 9, 17-18, 19-20; Jn 3:31-36

Friday: Acts 5:34-42; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Jn 6:1-15

Saturday: Acts 6:1-7; Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19; Jn 6:16-21

Sunday: Acts 2:14, 22-33; Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11; 1 Pt 1:17-21; Lk 24:13-35

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, Apr 15	5:00PM	Dave Moynihan, by Bill & Pat Bellas
Sunday, Apr 16	8:00AM	Genevieve Nesbitt, by Paul & Luann New
	10:00AM	David Moynihan, by The Ivovich Family
	12:00PM	Intention of Parishioners
Monday, Apr 17	8:00AM	Alex Manuel, by Jayson & Francina Abante
Tuesday, Apr 18	8:00AM	Paul Hughes, by The Family
Wednesday, Apr 19	8:00AM	Julia George, by Kim Hadley
Thursday, Apr 20	8:00AM	Barbara Gibbons, by Mary Ducca
Friday, Apr 21	8:00AM	Health & Blessings for Gregory Godet, by Mom, Nath & Ysa
Saturday, Apr 22	5:00PM	Intention Of Parishioners
Sunday, Apr 23	8:00AM	Nicholas Hughes, by Daddy, Michael, Patrick, & Brittany
	10:00AM	Jerry Edwin, by Mercy Gabriel
	12:00PM	Jack Sullivan, by Mary & Family

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.*

Carolyn Banghart
Arthur & Regina Berlowitz
John Blum
Bishop Paul Bootkowski
Anthony Brandi
Barbara Butler
Bianca Canlas
Tara Capatosto
Ellen Catalina
Kyle Davidson
Lisa DeFeo
Ann Devlin
Michael DiMaggio
William Dolphin
Vivian Dong

Josephine Geenty
Claudia Gemgnani
Helen Geraghty
Emma Gergely
Robert Kashinsky
Kathleen Langenbacher
Henrietta Lesiak
The Litrakis Family
Mary Lou Litrakis
John Litrakis
Joseph Lubrano
Jude Raymond Maceren
Aries Magali
Al Maglio
Anne McElwee

Margaret Menendez
Carol Millemann
Kathlyn Moore
Eleanor Nagy
Danny Ongchango
Paul & Doris Paetow
Robert Pellegrino
Jim Pettit
Valerie Polci
Kim Price
Doris Regan
Gabriel Rivera
Jaxon Rivera
Arina Robinson
Arthur Robinson

Maria Schwenzer
Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF
Sr. Bernadine Marie Stemnock
Jeff Sullivan
Tom Szabo
Nancy Whelan
Mark Worthington
Carl Wyopen
Angie Yetety

And for all who are ill, homebound, elderly, in nursing care, or living with chronic illness, we pray.

Pray for those who have died...

— “His mercy endures forever.” Chronicles

Robert Isola, Doris Kempton, Anthony Ostrowski, Soledad Lazaro, Gordon Weighart

Reflect



Smile with Your Family



A priest was forced by a police officer to pull over for speeding. As the officer was about to write the ticket, the priest said to him, "*Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.*"[®] The police officer handed the priest the ticket, and said, "*Go, and sin no more.*" 😊

Mr. Brown was about to be sentenced and he pleaded, "Your honor, please, have mercy! I have a wife and 3 kids!" The Judge replied: "I am sorry to hear that, Mr. Brown. That means you have served the sentence and paid your debt, you are free now." 😊

A boy is in court for killing his parents. He is presented in front of a judge and he begs the judge to show mercy while delivering his punishment. The judge says to him, "You killed your own parents. Why would I show mercy to

you?"

The guy looks at the judge and says, "Well, because I am an orphan." 😊

Today, I picked up my first pair of running shoes. May God have mercy on my Sole. 😊

A pastor was giving a lesson to a group of children on the 23rd Psalm. He noticed that one of the little boys seemed disquieted by the phrase "Surely, goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life..." "What's wrong with that, Johnny?" the pastor asked. "Well," answered Johnny, "I understand about having goodness and mercy, for God is good. But I'm not sure I'd like Shirley following me around all the time." 😊



The Work of Peace

*Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them,
"Peace be with you."*

When their father was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, the family was devastated. But the kids immediately rallied around their mother and, together, talked through the difficult road that lay ahead. Mom realized she couldn't do this alone - and appreciated the fact that this was not only her husband but their father, too, and that they should be part of his care. And her children were adamant that, no matter what the difficulties and challenges they faced, their love for their dad was total and unwavering. With humility and gratitude and grace, they worked as one, consulting with doctors, arranging for help and care, and dividing up responsibilities. There were no "turf wars" or hurt feelings. This was about Mom and Dad and enabling them to live their final days with dignity and happiness. Despite the painful "long goodbye" they would experience in caring for their husband and father, this family was at **peace**.

The graffiti was discovered by the janitor on Monday morning, scrawled on one of the school's restrooms. The racist words and images were ugly and vicious. Of course, no one admitted to the vandalism. The students who were the targets of the graffiti were outraged and were ready to shut the school down; but the majority of students dismissed the graffiti as a stupid, insensitive prank and that everyone was taking it way too seriously. Before tensions escalated any further and outsiders could make things worse, the principal and teachers went to work. They organized small-group listening sessions where students of different races and ethnic backgrounds could talk about the disrespect and indignities they experience; similar meetings were held for parents, as well. It was eye-opening - and difficult to listen to; but, over time, students and teachers came to understand the pain and struggles experienced by many minority students in their school. A big step forward: the following weekend, a group of students organized on their own to remove the graffiti and repaint the restroom. Much work remained to be done to heal the school, but they managed to carry on in **peace**.

On Easter night, Jesus greets his terrified disciples with "Peace." But the peace of the Risen Christ is more than just the absence of conflict, more than just the quiet, unchallenged acceptance of another's heartless behavior or selfish expectations. Christ's peace is the hard work of loving when it is most difficult to love, of putting aside one's own disappointments and doubts for the sake of the common good, of forgiving when we are too angry or disappointed, of reaching out even when we are sure we will be rebuffed or rejected. The Risen One's gift of peace is centered in no less than Christ himself: to imitate his selflessness, his compassion, his joys in our own homes and hearts.

The Greatest Easter egg In the World

Few years ago in my previous parish, Tommy Gemma, a young boy, shared with me his experience of Easter egg:



Do you remember that Easter egg hunt at church? Those prizes inside the eggs were good! Mmmmmmmmm, candy! Also, Mrs. France hid them pretty darn well. (I had to search in the plants, move heavy logs, and dig under branches and leaves! Mrs. France said that most of the eggs that were near the office were still there!) I opened my eggs, licking my lips. I popped one open expecting candy, but when I held it upside down to collect my sweet, it was empty! Now, you might get upset, get angry, or tell an employee of the church. But I didn't do that. I was happy about my little surprise. You're probably wondering why. What else was expected to have something in it, but turned out to be empty? Jesus's Tomb! And why was his tomb empty? Because he had risen! God had given him new life! New life. New life. Think about that. It's good. And that's what we all get! So my egg actually symbolized new life instead of containing sweets. I really don't understand why it was empty. Did God empty my egg on purpose? Was it empty on accident? I don't know. But continue to love God, even when He leaves you in wonder. All of the good people will have **new life**. Well, worship and trust The LORD, and goodbye!

Forgiveness? Who? Why?

"Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained." [Thomas] said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails of his hands and put my finger into the nail marks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." John 20: 19-31

Your teenage son or daughter does something amazingly stupid - as all young people tend to do at one time or another. Their behavior might require a meeting with their teacher or principal, a run to the emergency room - or, worse, picking them up late at night at the police station. You're angry with them; they have let you down; you worry if this is the start of a pattern. But you will be there for your children always; you will love them no matter what. And in that love they are bound.

The words just came out of their mouths. They saw the look on your face and they realized immediately they had crossed the line. You laughed it off, but you were devastated. They came up to you later and apologized. What was intended to be funny hurt deeply. You quietly explained why you were hurt by what they said. Now they understand the power of words and

begin to appreciate the experience and struggles of others. You could have shot right back at them and they would have deserved it. But in your generous response, they are more empathetic and understanding. And in your forgiveness they are bound.

A coworker or an associate makes a major blunder. A great deal of damage has been done. Reputations are shattered; property is destroyed. You meet with the offending party and patiently and clearly explain the situation and their accountability in the matter. You detail exactly what is expected of them to repair the damage and what must be done to take care of those who have been hurt. But you assure them that you will be there with them every step of the way. And in your peace they are bound.

On Easter night, Jesus gives the Eleven the power to forgive sins. The Church has traditionally read these texts as Jesus' instituting the Sacrament of Reconciliation. But even more is implied in these words: that the whole Christian community - you and I - possess the power to "forgive" and "retain," and the grace to "bind" and "loosen." Father Ronald Rolheiser writes in *Forgotten Among the Lilies*: "If we are truly members of Christ's body then when we forgive sins, the person is forgiven. Likewise it means that if we love someone and hold them in our life, that person, regardless of his or her actions, is not cut off from the body of Christ. If you continue to love somebody, they are bound . . . bound to the body of Christ, sustained in salvation." The Risen Christ gives to every one of us the "power," the "authority," the grace to forgive and to bind one another in love. May we realize this Easter season the transformation we can make happen in our own "power" to forgive and bind in the love of God.



"Sir that is what I am afraid of!"

There is a story about a soldier brought before General Robert E. Lee. Accused of misconduct, the soldier was trembling. The general said to him, "Do not be afraid, son. Here you will receive justice." The soldier looked at the general and said, "Sir that is what I am afraid of."

Like that soldier, Peter would have reason to tremble. He had boasted about his bravery, how he would always stand by Jesus. Yet when Jesus needed him most, he nodded off. Perhaps one could forgive him for falling asleep, but later - when he was wide awake - he denied Jesus. "I do not know the man." Some rock! In strict justice, Peter should have been punished - at the very least, removed as head of the Church. In Christ's passion, however, a deeper justice is at work. That is what we will discover this Divine Mercy Sunday.

God's justice has a name - it is called the Divine Mercy.

St. Faustina and the Image of the Divine Mercy



St. Faustina of Poland is the well-known apostle of Divine Mercy. On 30th of April, 2000, at 10:00 AM on the Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday, the Feast requested by Jesus in His communications with St. Faustina), His Holiness Pope St. John Paul II celebrated the Eucharist in Saint Peter's Square and proceeded to the canonization of Blessed Sister Faustina.

[John Paul himself would be canonized on this same Feast Day – April 27 in 2014 – by Pope Francis.] Saint Faustina invites us by the witness of her life to keep our Faith and Hope fixed on God the Father, rich in mercy, Who saved us by the precious Blood of His Son. During her short life, the Lord Jesus assigned to St. Faustina three basic tasks:

1. to pray for souls, entrusting them to God's incomprehensible Mercy;
2. to tell the world about God's Generous Mercy;
3. to start a new movement in the Church focusing on God's Mercy.

At the canonization of St. Faustina, Pope St. John Paul II said: "The cross, even after the Resurrection of the Son of God, speaks, and never ceases to speak, of God the Father, Who is absolutely faithful to His eternal love for man. ... Believing in this love means believing in mercy." "The Lord of Divine Mercy," a drawing of Jesus based on the vision given to St. Faustina, shows Jesus raising his right hand in a gesture of blessing, with His left hand on his heart from which gush forth two rays, one red and one white. The picture contains the message, "Jesus, I trust in You!" (*Jezu ufam Tobie*). The rays streaming out have symbolic meaning: red for the Blood of Jesus, which is the life of souls and white for the Baptismal water which justifies souls. The whole image is symbolic of the mercy, forgiveness and love of God.

"Law vs Mercy"

Once in *Reader's Digest*, Jim Williams of Montana, wrote: "I was driving too fast late one night when I saw the flashing lights of a police car in my rearview mirror. As I pulled over and rolled down my window of my station wagon, I tried to dream up an excuse for my haste. But when the patrolman reached the car, he said nothing. Instead, he merely shined his flashlight in my face, then on my seven-month-old in his car seat, then on our three other children, who were asleep, and lastly on the two dogs in the very back of the car. Returning the beam of light to my face, he then uttered the only words of the encounter. 'Son,' he said, 'you can't afford a ticket. Slow down.' And with that, he returned to

his car and drove away."

Sometimes mercy triumphs over law. So it is for sinners who call out to Jesus."

Let us accept God's invitation to celebrate and practice mercy. One way the Church celebrates God's mercy throughout the year is through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Finding time for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is another good way to receive Divine Mercy. The Gospel command, "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful," demands that we show mercy to our fellow human beings always and everywhere. We radiate God's mercy to others by our actions, our words, and our prayers. It is mainly through the corporal and spiritual works of mercy that we practice mercy in our daily lives and become eligible for God's merciful judgment.

Ask for Mercy but also Give Mercy!

Mary and her husband suffered the tragic loss of their son, and it was her understanding of Divine Mercy that helped her and her family forgive those that took his life during a robbery. Mary tells us how her attendance at a Mother of Mercy Messengers (MOMM) Divine Mercy Program helped her overcome great obstacles and allowed her to forgive and even to pray for them. She prayed for mercy to flourish in her heart. Knowing that as long as there is life, there is hope, the family did not seek the death penalty for his murderers. How differently does the person filled with God's mercy see and react to the world.

In order to receive mercy we must ask for it and be ready to accept it. If we do not accept it sincerely we will not change our attitude towards our past life. We read in history that in 1829 George Wilson was condemned to death for robbing the mail and killing the policeman who was on the way to arrest him. President Andrew Jackson granted him a pardon but George Wilson refused to accept it. The judge said 'Pardon is a pardon only when one accepts it. George must die'. Mercy is mercy when we accept it. We read in the life of Voltaire that he wanted to live six weeks to repent for his sins. The doctor told him he would not live six days. He died unrepentant. Having mercy at his door he refused to accept it.



From the Pastoral Staff

Give yourself the benefit of the doubt!

Our lives are filled with uncertainties. We can have misgivings or distrust about the institutional church, suspicions about ethical practices of major corporations, even hesitations or disbeliefs in our own talents and abilities - these personal doubts can be the most paralyzing!

Even Thomas in today's Gospel was confronted with taking a reality check. Jesus had been dead for three days. The empty tomb, as found by some of the women, was also confirmed by Peter. Now Thomas is hearing that Jesus had appeared to the other disciples through locked doors! You can see why Thomas would verbalize his doubt by saying he would not believe until he had physically seen and touched Jesus.

I wonder how the week between Jesus' appearances might have been for Thomas. If it was me, my life and sleep would be very unsettling. I'd have been jealous that those who had seen Jesus were having a much better week because for them it started with Jesus' words "Peace be with you." They would have believed, because they had seen and heard Jesus!

Often our world is filled with opposing voices and contradictory experiences. Where do you find your sense of peace? How do you decide who or what to believe? I suggest that the answer can always be found whenever we open our eyes to resurrected life. Are the choices we make life giving? When they are, we'll experience God's peace, and our self-doubts can diminish. But when our decisions

are not life giving, we can find ourselves locked in rooms of doubt and fear insisting upon tangible signs before we'll believe. Clinging to our self-doubts will only reinforce a paralyzing and limited self-image that stifles God's peace in our lives. However, we can experience Resurrection whenever we challenge our self-doubts, and no longer allow self-limiting beliefs to overpower us.



Richard Rohr writes in his book, *Hope against Darkness*, "Out of the chaos often comes the greatest creativity. And the only thing that can endure deep doubt is faith. Those who can endure great doubt ... have been those who rise to great faith. Faith gets purified every time you go through the cycle of doubt and failure, saying, 'Why do I believe this? Do I believe this at all? What do I base my life on?' On this wheel of fortune just about everything is purified: self-image, God-image, worldview."

I pray during this Easter season that your beliefs be stretched to realize that you've been created by a God who believes in YOU! A God who is able to get you through what you otherwise think would be a hopeless situation. Give yourself the benefit of the doubt!

Peace be with you!

Deacon John

Pray



Role of the Paschal Candle

The paschal candle has its proper place either by the ambo or by the altar and should be lit at least in all the more solemn liturgical celebrations of the season until Pentecost Sunday, whether at Mass, or at Morning and Evening Prayer. After the Easter season the candle should be kept with honor near the baptismal font, so that in the celebration of Baptism the candles of the baptized may be lit from them. In the celebration of funerals, the paschal candle should be placed near the coffin to indicate that the death of a Christian is his/her own Passover. The paschal candle should not otherwise be lit nor placed in the sanctuary outside the Easter season.

EUCCHARISTIC REVIVAL COMMITTEE:

As announced , the Diocese is asking every parish to form a Eucharistic Revival Committee. Those who feel called to this ministry, please contact: Fr. Abraham or Msgr. Brennan.

Pray



Divine Mercy Sunday!

The Greatest Day of Grace of the Year!

Divine Mercy Sunday is **TODAY**, the greatest day of grace of the year. Official Church teaching states that those who worthily receive the Eucharist* with trust in God's mercy on this day and are merciful to others will obtain COMPLETE forgiveness of all sin and punishment. It is likened to a second baptism! In addition, Jesus promises, "ALL the divine floodgates through which grace flows are open." On this day, ask the Lord with trust for blessings, healings, reconciliations, etc. Please join us in praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet next Sunday, Apr. 16 at 11:45AM, before 12:00PM Mass.

- * To receive the Eucharist in the Roman Catholic Church, one must be in a "state of grace", meaning one has not committed any "mortal sins" since last confessing.

To learn more go to mercysundaymomentum.org.



Silver & Gold Wedding Anniversary Celebration



You are cordially invited to celebrate your 25th or 50th Wedding Anniversary with the Church of Metuchen and renew your marriage vows with Bishop James F. Checchio at a special Evening Prayer Service at the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi in Metuchen on **Sunday, October 22, 2023 at 3:30 PM**. Registration is required. Please register online at: <https://www.diometuchen.org/silver-and-gold-anniversary-celebration>. If you are unable to access, please contact the Family Life Office at 732-562-1543 or amarshall@diometuchen.org. Registration will close on **October 6, 2023**. Although no fee is required, in the past many Jubilarian couples have given a donation of gratitude to the Church in memory of this special occasion. Donations of Gratitude may be made online at <https://www.diometuchen.org/silver-and-gold-anniversary-celebration> or calling 732-562-1543.

Learn



From the 60th Anniversary Fundraising Committee



Dear Fellow Parishioners and Friends.

The 60th Anniversary Fundraising team and Father Abraham would like to express our sincere gratitude to all who have already donated to this special fundraiser to repair, renovate, and restore our church.

Some of the proposed projects are completed and planning for the rest is ongoing. A 'progress thermometer' is in the church vestibule. The funds raised to date will be noted on the progress thermometer each month. If you have not already donated, donation envelopes and a fundraiser information letter are in the church vestibule. With your support, we are confident that we will raise the funds needed to complete these projects.

If you have any questions, please call Mary Jo Loboda at the parish office at 732-828-1400.



2023 SMS Golf Classic




May 15th
Royce Brook Golf Club
West Course
Hillsborough, NJ

Sign Up Today!



Golf registration and sponsorship opportunities are available online. Please scan the QR code for details.



Give (and Receive!)



2023 Bishop's Annual Appeal Renewed and Sent on Mission by the Eucharist

Thank you to those who have already responded to the Bishop's Annual Appeal. If you have yet to make your pledge to this year's Bishop's Annual Appeal, you can still do so. Please prayerfully consider a gift to the Bishop's Annual Appeal to help our parish reach its goal. If we can exceed our goal, 50% of the amount collected over goal will be returned to us in the form of a parish rebate. Every gift, no matter the size, is important and greatly appreciated. Thank you. There are Envelopes and cards in the pews that you can use. You can find the link to the Bishop's Annual Appeal at <https://diometuchen.org/BAA>

Parish Updates

If you are now solely using a cell phone, have changed your phone number or address, please call the parish office, so we can update your records. We would also like to update our parish data base with e-mail addresses.

Email Kelly at: kcounts@stmatthias.net to have your email address included or to update an email address. Thank you!

If you are moving, please notify the Parish Office so we can keep our parishioner records current. Thank you!

Stewardship Totals for Fiscal Year July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023				Last Year's Total
Current Month	In-Pew/	Parish Giv-	Weekly Total	Weekly Total
Week 40 - Apr 2, 2023	\$10,650.50	\$10,353.71	\$21,004.21	\$26,704.25
Week 41 - Apr. 9, 2023	\$28,623.00	\$27,486.06	\$56,109.06	\$45,751.27
Week 42 - Apr. 16, 2023	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$38,662.25
Week 43 - Apr. 23, 2023	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$19,377.25
Week 44 - Apr. 30, 2023	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$20,650.30
Collections:			Month-to-date Total	Apr Total Last Yr
Flowers - \$729 /			\$77,113.27	\$151,145.32
Holy Thursday - \$3,926 / Holy Land \$3,530			Current Year-to-	Year-to-date as of
Retirement Collection - Diocesan Clergy: \$4,132.75			\$1,137,822.06	\$1,159,682.39
NOTE: Mail in contributions were not included in				
will be adjusted next week.				
Correct total: \$15,225.50				

Stewardship Reflection Apr. 16, 2023 Divine Mercy Sunday

"Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.'" (John 20:19)

Are you good at making people feel welcome? When you meet someone new, like a new neighbor, a new work colleague or a new parishioner, do you make them feel at home? Many of us can probably do a much better job at this. When we make people feel welcome, we make them feel like they are included instead of being excluded. We are made for relationships – with God and each other. A simple "hello" and a smile goes a long way.

Reflexiónese Abril 16 de abril de 2023 – Domingo de la Divina Misericordia

"Jesús vino y se paró entre ellos y les dijo:" La paz esté con ustedes". (JUAN 20:19)

¿Eres bueno para hacer que las personas se sientan bienvenidas? Cuando conoces a alguien nuevo, como un nuevo vecino, un nuevo compañero de trabajo o un nuevo feligrés, ¿los haces sentir como en su casa? Muchos de nosotros probablemente podamos hacer un trabajo mucho mejor en esto. Cuando hacemos que las personas se sientan bienvenidas, les hacemos sentir como si estuvieran incluidas en lugar de excluirlas. Estamos hechos para las relaciones, con Dios y entre nosotros. Un simple "hola" y una sonrisa recorren un largo camino.

Serve

Meeting of Lazarus Ministers

All Lazarus Ministers are invited for prayer and sharing on **Thursday, April 20, at 10 am in the de Porres Room.**
Any parishioners who are interested in this ministry are invited to join us.
Please contact Sister Marie Therese... msherwood@stmatthias.net

Connect



"Save the Date!" Moses Live on Stage

The Senior Ministry and St. Martin DePorres Society will be hosting a trip to Lancaster, PA to see Sight & Sound "MOSES LIVE ON STAGE" Thursday 9/21/2023 . More details to follow....



Connect with Our Local Community



Senior Day at St. Francis Center for Renewal Saturday, May 13th, 10AM-3PM

Celebrating the Gift of Years, preceded by an opening prayer service and followed by lunch, discussion and sharing with other seniors, and a relaxing walk around our grounds. Share time with our Sisters as we pray together, share together and honor and celebrate our "gift of years."

All-Day Attendance (including lunch) — \$40 per person **Bring a Friend** (including lunch) — \$75 per pair

Online Via Zoom (Sister Marguerite's talk only) — \$20 per person . www.StFrancisCtr.org , 610-867-8890



Part-Time General Maintenance Person

St. Matthias is looking for a **part-time general maintenance person**. This employee will be responsible for maintaining the safety and cleanliness of the church/school. Please contact **Mary Pat Burke-Grospin** at:

mpburke-grospin@stmatthias.net or (732) 828-1400 ext.121.

Parish Leadership

Parish Pastoral Council:

Co-Chairs:

Rose Peng, rosepeng@optonline.net
John Taylor, jptaylor1068@yahoo.com

Co-Secretaries:

Frank Rees
Marilyn Wegg
Stephan Busono
Anne Marie Francis
Bill Isele
Maria Tapia-Burch

Msgr. Seamus Brennen,
Ex-Officio
Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio

Trustees:

Pearl Scott
Marge Richards

Parish Finance Council:

Kester Hector, Chair
Finance Council
@stmatthias.net
Carmen Driz-Melilli
Barry Dusault
Gwen Orłowski

Audrey Francis
Joe Porter
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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event dates

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Tuesday, 10/11

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Tuesday, 11/15

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