



**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](http://www.stmatthias.net)

**Mass Schedule (in person):**

Sat - 5 PM, Sun - 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM & 12 noon  
M/T/W/Th/F at 8:00 AM  
also on our YouTube channel  
[youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ](https://youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ)

**St. Matthias School (SMS):**

170 JFK Blvd., Somerset, NJ 08873  
[www.stmatthias.info](http://www.stmatthias.info) 732-828-1402  
**School Office Hours**, Monday - Friday,  
7:45 AM - 3:30 PM

For all Parish emails, add @stmatthias.net

**Pastor:** Rev Abraham Orapankal, **Abraham**  
Fr. Lancelot McGrath, *Parochial Vicar* **lmcgrath**  
Mary Pat Burke-Grospin, *Business Administrator*  
**mpburke-grospin**

Deacon Ron Caimi, *Senior Deacon*  
Kelly Counts, *Receptionist*, **kcounts**  
Deacon Russell Demkovitz, **rdemkovitz**  
Nathalie Godet, *Website & Bulletin Coordinator*,  
**ngodet**

Leslie Guillen, *Bulletin Editor*, **lguillen**  
Amy Hanna, *Accountant/Databases*, **ahanna**  
Mike Lanyi, *Sacristan*

Sue Lenczewski, *Youth Coordinator*, **SMYLE**  
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**

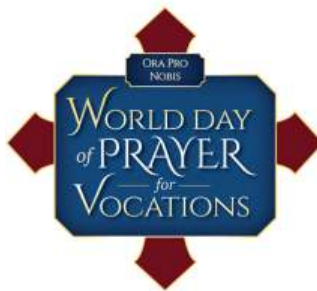
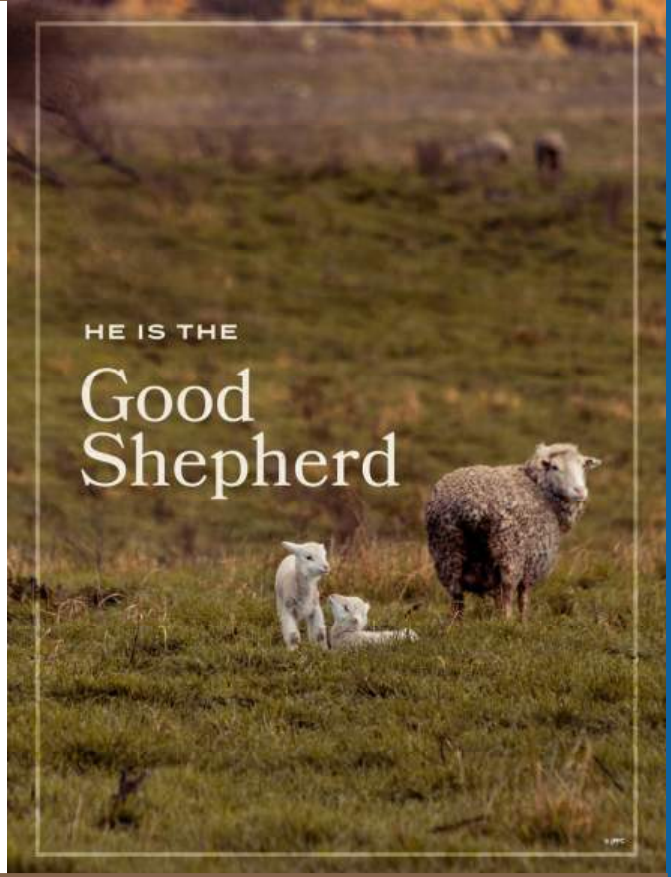
Sr. Marie Therese Sherwood, *OSF, Pastoral*  
*Assoc. for Social Concerns*, **msherwood**

**St. Matthias School** (add @stmatthiasnj.org)  
Mary Lynch, *Principal*, **mlynch**

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS  
SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 2024  
4th Sunday of Easter



Next  
Sunday's  
Second  
Collection  
is for  
Catholic  
Relief  
Services



TODAY IS  
WORLD DAY  
OF PRAYER  
FOR  
VOCATIONS

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL  
SEEKS NEW MEMBERS

Are you interested in joining the  
Parish Pastoral Council (PPC)?

Please see page 8 for details.

Masses are also livestreamed on our YouTube channel: [youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ](https://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 21, 2024 4th Sunday of Easter**  
 8:00AM Mass Church  
 9:00AM HSA: SMS Spring Craft Fair Cafeteria  
 10:00AM Mass Church  
 12:00PM Mass Church

**Monday, Apr 22, 2024 St. Soter, Pope**  
*Earth Day*  
 8:00AM Mass Church  
 6:00PM Eucharist Adoration Church

**Tuesday, Apr 23, 2024 St. George of Lydda, Martyr**  
 8:00AM Mass Church

**Wednesday, Apr 24, 2024 St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen, Priest & Martyr**  
**Administrative Professionals Day**  
 8:00AM Mass, St. Joseph Novena Church  
 7:30PM Folk Group Rehearsal Church

**Thursday, Apr 25, 2024 St. Mark, Evangelist & Martyr**  
 8:00AM Mass Church  
 10:00AM Prayer Shawl Ministry Ruiz Rm  
 3:30PM Children's Choir Rehearsal gr. 3&4 Church  
 4:00PM Children's Choir Rehearsal gr. 5-8 Church  
 7:30PM Sunday 10AM Choir Rehearsal Church

**Friday, Apr 26, 2024 St. Anacletus, Pope**  
*Arbor Day*  
 8:00AM Mass Church

**Saturday, Apr 27, 2024 St. Zita, Patroness of Servants & Maids**  
 12:00PM 1st Communion Parent/Child Retreat Cafeteria  
 3:30PM Reconciliation Church  
 5:00PM Vigil Mass Church

**Sunday, Apr 28, 2024 5th Sunday of Easter**  
**Catholic Relief Services Collection**  
 8:00AM Mass Church  
 10:00AM Mass –Sign Language Interpreter Church  
 10:00AM Small Group Live Lent Gathering St. John XXIII Rm  
 12:00PM Mass Church  
 3:30PM SMYLE Youth Group Cafeteria



**Bulletin Article Requests:**

If you would like to send information to be included in our bulletin, please email it to [bulletin@stmatthias.net](mailto:bulletin@stmatthias.net) by 9 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,

This Fourth Sunday of Easter is known as ‘Good Shepherd Sunday’ as the focus is on Jesus who has accorded that beautiful title of ‘Good Shepherd’ to himself. Today is World Day of Prayer for Vocations when the Church throughout the world prays for and promotes vocations to priesthood and religious life. We have been doing this often. Our Parish Vocation Ministry has been promoting vocation as a call to holiness to which God has called everyone.

Even as we pray for more young people to answer the call to priesthood and religious life, we need to realize that shepherding is a vocation that is limited not only to priests, deacons, or religious men and women but also to parents, grandparents, teachers, counselors and others who guide, care for, nurture and lead those under their charge. Each of these shepherding roles has many challenges. Look at parenting for instance. Parenting is a divine call by which you become co-creators and sustainers of life with God. Children are a gift from God (Psalm 127:3-5) and the Bible is very clear about the responsibility of both father and mother in bringing up children with the right values. The Bible demands several things from Christian parents in their duty of parenting. Some of these are:

- Availability** – morning, noon, and night (Deuteronomy 6:6-7).
- Involvement** – interacting, discussing, thinking, and processing life together (Ephesians 6:4)
- Teaching** – the Scriptures and a biblical worldview (Psalm 78:5-6; Deuteronomy 4:10; Ephesians 6:4)
- Training** – helping a child to develop skills and discover his/her strengths (Proverbs 22:6) and spiritual gifts (Romans 12:3-8 and 1 Corinthians 12)
- Discipline** – teaching the fear of the Lord, drawing the line consistently, lovingly, firmly (Ephesians 6:4; Hebrews 12:5-11; Proverbs 13:24; 19:18; 22:15; 23:13-14; 29:15-17)
- Nurture** – providing an environment of constant verbal support, freedom to fail, acceptance, affection, unconditional love (Titus 2:4; 2 Timothy 1:7; Ephesians 4:29-32; 5:1-2; Galatians 5:22; 1 Peter 3:8-9)
- Modeling with Integrity** – living what you say, being a model from which a child can learn by “catching” the essence of godly living (Deuteronomy 4:9, 15, 23; Proverbs 10:9; 11:3; Psalm 37:18, 37).

That is a tall order! What makes it all the more difficult is the hostile cultural environment in which Christian parents find themselves fighting to protect their children. Many of the cultural values clash with the values that parents want to instill in their children. Hence, we need to support, help, appreciate, and encourage all our parents, as we pray for more good priests, more good deacons, and more good consecrated men and women. For, as Saint John Paul II said: “Jesus has a specific task in life for each and every one of us. Each one of us is handpicked, called by name by Jesus! There is no one among us who does not have a divine vocation!” Yes, a vocation to holiness is for all of us.

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Orapankal

## Readings for the Week

**Monday** Acts 11:1-18 Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4  
Jn 10:1-10

**Tuesday** Acts 11:19-26 Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7  
Jn 10:22-30

**Wednesday** Acts 12:24-13:5a Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6  
and 8 Jn 12:44-50

**Thursday** 1 Pt 5:5b-14 Ps 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17  
Mk 16:15-20

**Friday** Acts 13:26-33 Ps 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11ab  
Jn 14:1-6

**Saturday** Acts 13:44-52 Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4  
Jn 14:7-14

**Sunday** Acts 9:26-31 Ps 22:26-27, 28, 30,  
31-32 1 Jn 3:18-24 Jn 15:1-8

## Mass Intentions for the Week

<b>Saturday, April 20</b>	5:00PM	Intention of Parishioners
<b>Sunday, April 21</b>	8:00AM	Ellin Ossandon, by the Sharing Group
	10:00AM	Albert Larangeira, by Linda Piscadlo & family
	12:00PM	Beth Calimano, by The Family
<b>Monday, April 22</b>	8:00AM	Emily & Frank Gatarz, by Claire
<b>Tuesday, April 23</b>	8:00AM	Jerry Edwin, by Mercy Gabriel
<b>Wednesday, April 24</b>	8:00AM	Patrick & Mary Ellen Reavey, by Brian & Mary Frances
<b>Thursday, April 25</b>	8:00AM	Andrew Mutchler, by Helen Mutchler
<b>Friday, April 26</b>	8:00AM	Gertrude Quinn, by Maureen Quinn Mount
<b>Saturday, April 27</b>	5:00PM	Jose & Leonor Calimlim, by The Family
<b>Sunday, April 28</b>	8:00AM	Angela Frigiola, by Loving Family & Friends
	10:00AM	Intention of Parishioners
	12:00PM	Health & Blessings for Stacy Brooks, by Nathalie Godet

## Pray for those getting Married

Amanda Rosa & Gaetano Fattorusso  
April 28, 2024

## Pray for those who are sick...

If you or a family member are sick, please call the Parish Office or **email Kelly Counts** at [kcounts@stmatthias.net](mailto: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.

**New people on our prayer list are noted in blue.**

Beth & Jay Adams	Vivian Dong	Amanda Isele	Alexandra Marquez	Maria Schwenzer
Rosario Anglo	Sanora Doyen	Baby Elaine Isele	Christine Matthews	Amy Shepp
Kristin Baio	Andrea Dubuisson	Nick Isele	Ann McElwee	Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF
Olga Marie Bando	Dennis Enright	Renée Jolly	Jessica Marie Merrick	Sr. Bernadine Marie Stemnock
Carolyn Banghart	Hattie Evans	Donna Kahora	Gail Miranda	Catherine Steele
Brandon Barbarite	Heinley Gaspard	Betsy Kondrat	Menchie Molano-	Anita Vance
Ghislaine Baron	Claudia Gemgnani	Kathy Langenbacher	Sotelo	Eileen Weber
Helen Bell	Emma Gergely	Rose Larangeira	Danny Ongchango	Nancy Whelan
Samantha Bellouny	Claude Godet	Armando D. Liban	Robert Pellegrino	Theresa Sau-Ling Yung
Carmen Bender	Marie Godet	Mary Lou Litrakis	Robert Pietrowiak	GINETTE ZAMOR
Mary Bostrom	Shelly Greene	John Litrakis	Randolff Pinard	Anne Zando
Tara Capatosto	Linda Hartong	Denis Loboda	Valerie Polci	
Elizabeth Card	Jeff Hentz	Aries Magali	Kim Price	
Rustico Castellano, Jr.	Sloopy & PJ Hoffman	Kenneth & Kelly Magat	Denise Pultro	<b>And for all who are ill, homebound, elderly, in nursing care, or living with chronic illness, we pray.</b>
Kyle Davidson	Gene Horan	Al Maglio	Gabriel Rivera	
Lisa DeFeo	Marilyn Horvath	Susan, King & Tosh	Arina Robinson	
Zenon DeGuzman	Jerry & Donna Hucul	Manansala	Bob Rotz	

## Pray for those who have died...

— "His mercy endures forever." Chronicles

William Thole, Giuseppe Graziosi

## Reflect



### Smile with Your Family



☺ It's been said that every pastor ought to have six weeks of vacation each year, because if he is a really good shepherd, he deserves it; and if he is not a very good shepherd, his congregation deserves it. . . ☺

A pastor places his order at the pet store: "I need at least 50 mice, 2000 ants and as many of those little silverfish you can get." The clerk replies, "We can probably do that, but it might take some time. Mind if I ask why you are placing such an unusual order?" The pastor replied, "I've accepted a call to another church and this Church's Board of Trustees told me to leave the parsonage the way I found it." ☺

A mom shakes her son awake. "C'mon! Get up, time to go to church!" "Awww... I don't wanna go." "Why not?" "I will give you two reasons: Nobody there really likes me. And I don't like them!" "OK Son, I will give you two reasons why you should go to church: you are 45 years old, and, you ARE the pastor of the church!" ☺

#### Earth Day Smiles ☺

What did the tree wear to the pool party? — Swimming trunks.

What did the ground say to the earthquake? — You crack me up!

What kind of shorts to clouds wear? — Thunderwear!

Take care of Earth. There's no planet B.

I love the way the Earth rotates. It makes my day.

Earth is so calming, it keeps me grounded.

What makes the Earth so great? It's well-rounded.

Mother to son: "You shouldn't always lounge around so lazily on the couch!" Son: "I'm doing something for the environment — I'm saving energy!"



#### Parenting Tune-Up

April 22 is Earth Day. Often our children teach us how to be responsible recyclers, take care of nature, etc. Brainstorm with your child ways that your family can take a step to care for creation. Do one of the ideas today.

#### Marriage Tune-Up



"Jesus made himself known to them in the breaking of the bread. (Luke 24:35) Sometimes when I have been around my beloved for a long time, it's easy to seem invisible to each other. Consciously look at your spouse at dinner tonight. See the likeness of God within him or her.

### TOMORROW IS EARTH DAY!

Tomorrow marks the anniversary of the birth of the modern environmental movement. It was on April 22, 1970, that 20 million Americans took to the streets, parks, and auditoriums to demonstrate for a healthy, sustainable environment in massive coast-to-coast rallies. Thousands of colleges and universities organized protests against the deterioration of the environment. Groups that had been fighting against oil spills, polluting factories and power plants, raw sewage, toxic dumps, pesticides, freeways, the loss of wilderness, and the extinction of wildlife suddenly realized they shared common values. Earth Day reached into its current status as the largest secular observance in the world, celebrated by more than a billion people every year, and a day of action that changes human behavior and provokes policy changes. Today, the fight for a clean environment continues with increasing urgency, as the ravages of climate change become more manifest every day.

The Catholic Church brings a distinct perspective to the discussion of environmental questions, by lifting up the moral dimensions of these issues and the needs of the most vulnerable among us. This unique contribution is rooted in Catholic teaching calling us to care for creation and for "the

least of these." (Mt 25:40) The **Environmental Justice Program** (EJP), educates and motivates Catholics to a deeper reverence and respect for God's creation, and encourages Catholics to address environmental problems, especially as they affect poor and vulnerable people. The Catholic bishops' pastoral statement on the environment, *Renewing the Earth*, is worth reading. The appeal of Pope Francis few years ago, with his "On Care for Our Common Home (*Laudato Si'*)", is addressed to "every person living on this planet" for an inclusive dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet. Pope Francis calls the Church and the world to acknowledge the urgency of our environmental challenges and to join him in embarking on a new path. This encyclical is written with both hope and resolve, looking to our common future with candor and humility.

In parishes, diocese and other Catholic organizations, there are efforts to bring about discussion on issues affecting the environment (climate change, consumption, pollution, stewardship of the land) that is civil and constructive, that invokes the virtue of prudence in seeking solutions, and that is more responsive to the needs of the poor, both here in the United States and abroad.

## The Good Shepherd in Football Cleats

*"I am the good shepherd [who] lays down his life for the sheep." John 10:11-18*

There are many words that could be used to describe Aaron Feis: Selfless. Giving. Loyal. Resilient. But when it came to his everyday life at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High, the word "ubiquitous" might fit best. Coach Feis had an all-encompassing presence that both athletes and nonathletes knew and loved, a presence that extended beyond the school walls to the Parkland, Florida, & community. In a piece written for ESPN.com, not one friend or former player interviewed expressed surprise that Coach Feis ran toward the gunfire and take a bullet for the students at his school, the place where he played football, graduated in 1999 and returned to help his beloved community. They want everyone to know: This is who Aaron Feis was - every minute, every day.

Feis, a school security guard and assistant football coach at his high school alma mater, was one of 17 killed in the Ash Wednesday shootings at Stoneman Douglas. He died shielding two students from the gunfire. He was 37. Feis - nobody ever called him Aaron - was a loving father and husband and coach - more than a coach, especially to kids at-risk. His colleagues and friends all said that Feis thought about others more than he thought about himself. College recruiters also got to know Feis because he made it his business to know them. Feis wanted his players to find opportunities to keep playing. He spent countless hours making highlight DVDs for any player who'd ask. He did this on his own time, on the same salary he made as a school security guard.

Feis would say to a college coach about one of his players, "Here's a DVD of a player who needs help. If he doesn't fit at your school, Coach, could you please talk to your other colleagues and help him find a home?" Feis helped get 50 to 70 players into college who might have fallen through the cracks. Brower County Sheriff Scott Israel said of his friend, "Before you even heard how he died, you knew he died putting himself in harm's way to save others. That's who he was. [He died] running toward danger while others were correctly running away from danger. "Head coaches have come and gone [from Parkland] but what's the one constant? Big Feis. Kids would do more for Feis because they never wanted to let him down." And Feis never let them down.

**Christ the Good Shepherd walks among us still in the lives of people like Coach Feis, whose love and compassion enable them to "lay down their lives" for the students, the patients, the soldiers, the mentally and physically challenged entrusted to their care. In Christ, we belong to one another; in imitating Christ, our lives are at the service of one another. On this Good Shepherd Sunday, may we give thanks for the courage and love of those who have laid down their lives for us and for others and seek for ourselves the grace to "lay down" our lives for the sake of justice and mercy for all the members of the "one fold."**

## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

The church is badly in need of good shepherds. Hence today is a special day to pray for vocations. But the term vocation simply means calling. We all are called to a particular way of life according to the plan of God. Hence we pray for vocations not only to the priesthood, diaconate and the consecrated life, but also for the different lay vocations to the married life, to single life of consecration, to missionary calling, etc., so that we may have more holy and Spirit-filled shepherds to lead, feed and protect the Catholic community. Christian thinking on vocation has been summarized in one profound saying: "All are priests, some are priests, but only one is the Priest." Christ Jesus is the Priest in the full sense because he is the one mediator between God and humanity who offered Himself as a unique sacrifice on the cross. The universal priesthood of all believers, the sharing of all the baptized in the priesthood of Christ, has received special emphasis since Vatican II. Those who are called to make a lifelong commitment to serve as ordained ministers share the ministerial priesthood of Jesus. On this *World Day of Prayer for Vocations* we are asked to encourage and pray for our young men to respond to God's call to serve His Church in the ministerial priesthood.

## Reflect

### "I only know them by name!"

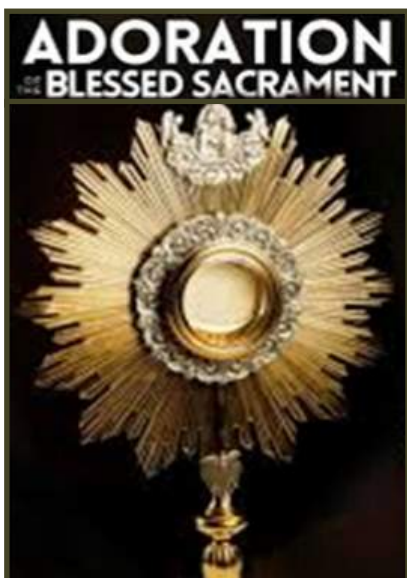
There is this story of a particular census taker who went to the home of a rather poor family in the mountains of West Virginia to gather information. He asked the mother how many dependents she had. She began, "Well, there is Rosie, and Billy, and Luella, Susie, Harry, and Jeffrey. There's Johnny, and Harvey, and our dog, Willie." It was then that the census taker interrupted her and said: "No, ma'am, that's not necessary. I only need the humans." "Ah," she said. "Well, there is Rosie, and Billy, and Luella, Susie, Harry, and Jeffrey, Johnny, and Harvey, and...." But there once again, the census taker interrupted her. Slightly exasperated, he said, "No, ma'am, you don't seem to understand. I don't need their names, I just need the numbers." To which the old woman replied, "But I don't know them by numbers. I only know them by name."

***In today's gospel Jesus the good shepherd says that he knows his sheep by name. Introducing himself as the good shepherd of his flock, Jesus knows his sheep and his sheep hear his voice: Just as the Palestinian shepherds knew each sheep of their flock by name, and the sheep knew their shepherd and his voice, even so Jesus knows each one of us, our needs, our merits and our faults. Of course the knowledge talked of here is not mere intellectual knowing but knowledge that comes from love and leads to care and concern for the other. He loves us as we are, with all our limitations, and he expects us to receive and return his love by keeping his words. He speaks to us at every Mass, through the Bible, through our pastors, through our parents, family and friends and through the events of our lives. "God whispers to us in our pleasures, he speaks to us in our consciences, and he SHOUTS to us in our pain!"***

### The Good Shepherd and the Terrorists

In the film *The Delta Force* there is the beautiful picture of a good shepherd presented by a Catholic priest. A jet plane with American tourists is hijacked by Arab terrorists and later the tourists are held hostage in the plane which was landed by force in Beirut. At the beginning of the tragedy, the two Arab terrorists aboard the jetliner begin to separate the few Jewish tourists from the rest of the hostages. One of the most moving moments of the film is when Fr. William O'Malley, a priest from Chicago played by George Kennedy, gets up from his seat and walks into the First Class compartment where the Jews are being held. The priest courageously walks into the compartment where he is disdainfully met by the leading terrorist. The terrorist asks what his name is and the priest responds that his name is William O'Malley. Perplexed by the situation, the terrorist asks what the priest wants. He responds that since he is a Catholic priest and a follower of Jesus Christ who was a Jew, he too is Jewish. "If you take one, you have to take us all", answers the priest who willingly accompanies the Jewish hostages. At the end of the story we find Lee Marvin and Chuck Norris lead an elite team of U.S. Special Forces that rescues the endangered travelers.

***"I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep" (John 10: 11). Jesus dies for his sheep: Just as the shepherds of ancient days protected their sheep from wild animals and thieves by risking their own lives, so Jesus died in expiation for the sins of all people. In the final part of this gospel Jesus invites those who are touched and saved by the love of the Shepherd, to shepherd and care for others. "There are other sheep that are not of this fold and these I have to lead as well." Though he cares for his own, he does not discriminate and ultimately dies because he cares for all peoples.***



**PLEASE COME JOIN THE MANY WHO  
SPEND SOME QUIET TIME WITH  
THE EUCHARISTIC LORD.  
OUR NEXT ADORATION WILL BE  
MONDAY EVENING,  
APRIL 22, 2024  
FROM  
6 PM TO 8 PM.**

## From the Vocations Ministry



### Celebrating World Day of Prayer for Vocations

Today we celebrate **World Day of Prayer for Vocations**. This day holds profound significance in the Catholic Church and extends its relevance to all individuals who

seek God's help in recognizing their particular calling in life. It is a day dedicated to reflection, discernment, and supplication, as we ask God to inspire us and lead us to a life of purpose, service, and fulfillment. Today we reflect on, and pray for, vocations to the ordained and consecrated life, the married and single life, and all forms of service both within and outside the Church.

The *World Day of Prayer for Vocations* serves as a reminder of the universal call to holiness and the unique way that each of us is called to live out our faith. This day highlights the belief that every one of us has a specific role to play in God's plan of salvation, and that discerning one's vocation is critical for fulfilling this role.

The *World Day of Prayer for Vocations* underscores the importance for us as a faith community to support, encourage, and nurture vocations. It calls upon the parish

and individual families to offer guidance, encouragement, and practical support to those discerning their vocation. Today we are invited to reflect on the deeper meaning of vocation. It reminds us that vocations are not just about individual fulfillment but also service to others. Our vocations are essential for building up our Church and spreading God's kingdom on earth. Today is a day for both celebration and contemplation, inspiring all to seek and embrace their unique calling with faith and courage.

Please mark your calendars for the morning of Saturday June 8<sup>th</sup> for a *Morning of Prayer & Reflection for Vocations to the Ordained and Consecrated Life* to be held here at St. Matthias. More information will be available soon. Until then we can continue to pray:

***O God, who enlightens the minds and inflames the hearts of the faithful by the Holy Spirit, grant that through the same Spirit we may come to know our true vocation in life and may have the grace to follow it faithfully. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.***

For more information on the St. Matthias Vocations Ministry feel free to email Joe Percoco at [percoco@rutgers.edu](mailto:percoco@rutgers.edu).

## Learn



### CAMP INVENTION AT ST. MATTHIAS SCHOOL!

June 17-21, 2024

Thanks to rave reviews from campers, parents, and teachers, we're bringing **Camp Invention** back for its 7th year at St. Matthias School!



Camp Invention®

Even better, our 2024 program is full of all-new, hands-on STEM fun!

Don't miss out—register students going into grades Kindergarten - 6th grade at [invent.org/mylocalcamp](https://invent.org/mylocalcamp) until camp starts. Register by **March 27<sup>th</sup>** using **FUN25** to **save \$25** or by **May 16<sup>th</sup>** using **FUN15** to **save \$15!** If you have multiple children use **SIBLOVE30** to **save \$30** for 2 siblings and **SIBLOVE40** to **save \$40** for 3 or more siblings!

Contact Camp Director, **Christine Taylor** at [ctaylor@stmatthiasnj.org](mailto:ctaylor@stmatthiasnj.org) for any questions.

**Camp Week: June 17-21, 2024**

For students 7th grade to 9th grade, you can register as Leaders-in-Training to help support the teachers at a discounted registration fee and for students 10th grade and up you can get 40 volunteer hours by registering and helping that week!

## 2024 SMS Golf Classic

Tuesday May 21, 2024

Neshanic Valley Golf Course

Neshanic Station, NJ



## Pastoral Council Seeks New Members

The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) is the primary advisory body for the Pastor. As we continue to recruit new members, we would like to invite everyone in our parish to help make this leadership body more representative of our entire parish community.

What does this mean for you? Do you know a fellow parishioner who you think would be great to have on the Pastoral Council? Speak with that person and ask them to contact the Council's Co-Chairs:

Marilyn Wegg, [mcw-wam@comcast.net](mailto:mcw-wam@comcast.net) or Frank Rees, [Frees814@gmail.com](mailto:Frees814@gmail.com). If you have been considering joining this ministry, don't be shy. Contact the co-chairs. Everyone who is prayerfully considering this ministry is invited to observe a Pastoral Council meeting.



## 1st Communion Project 2024

SMYLE will be collecting Communion Dresses and Suits this Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup> and Next Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>. Donations should be placed in the Box marked SMYLE in the Back of the Church.



St. Vincent De Paul ministry is also accepting monetary, clothing and accessory donations for needy children in Perth Amboy churches who need dresses, veils, suits, rosaries for their First Communion. Help them make their First Communion with pride and thankful hearts. Any amount is greatly appreciated. Please try to have donations in no later than April 28th. The sooner the better!

**Send checks to:** KG Brown, 704 Hoover Way, Woodbridge, NJ, 07095

**Checks payable to:** St. Vincent de Paul Society- Metuchen Council

**Memo:** 1st Communion Project 2024



The Alzheimer's Association and Saint Matthias Catholic Church are co-hosting a monthly Support Group for individuals living with Alzheimer's or Dementia, their care partners, and others dealing with the disease. **Our next meeting will be Wednesday, May 8th, from 2:00 pm- 3:00 pm on Zoom.** Registration is required in order to get the Zoom link. To register, call 800-272-3900 and mention the St. Matthias group.

The Group provides a safe and supportive environment and offers dementia-related education, emotional support, and connections with resources so that the group members may enhance their lives in the midst of the journey. For more information, visit [alz.org/NJ](http://alz.org/NJ).



## NATIONAL Eucharistic Congress

### NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS

This is a very unique event, to be held in Indianapolis in July. Details and registration for the event can be found at <https://diometuchen.org/nec2024>



## MOTHER MARY & SAINTS PILGRIMAGE

MOTHER MARY & SAINTS PILGRIMAGE to ENGLAND, IRELAND, and SCOTLAND. **Sept 16-27, 2024.** 12 Days \$4990. Includes RT Airfare from Newark, Daily Breakfasts & Dinners, Hotel accommodations, professional guided tours, deluxe motor coach & more. **Fr. Abraham Orapankal**, Tour Chaplain. For more information call or Email: JULIET HOBSON 732-439-2835 Email: [yetjcb@icloud.com](mailto:yetjcb@icloud.com)



# Give (and Receive!)

Stewardship Totals for Fiscal Year July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024			
Current Month	In-Pew/Mail	Parish Giving	Weekly Total
Week 41 - April 7, 2024	\$8,123.50	\$22,957.00	\$31,080.50
Week 42 - April 14, 2024	\$11,716.00	\$17,667.50	\$29,383.50
Week 43 - April 21, 2024			\$0.00
Week 44 - April 28, 2024			\$0.00
			<b>Month-to-date Total</b>
<b>Corrections have been made to reflect the correct Current Year-To-Date totals.</b>			\$60,464.00
			<b>Current Year-to-date Total</b>
			\$1,123,202.70

## Stewardship Reflection April 21, 2024 4th Sunday of Easter

*"I am the good shepherd...and I lay down my life for the sheep... and they will heed my voice."- John 10:14-16*

When you pray, do you only ask Jesus for the things that you want? Do you ever ask Jesus what He wants from you? How do you listen for His response? Many times Jesus responds in "quiet whispers" that are not so obvious. So, take time every day, in silence, to actively listen for His voice.

## Reflexiónese - 21 de abril de 2024 4º Domingo de Pascua

*"Yo soy el buen pastor... Y doy mi vida por mis ovejas.... Y ellas reconocerán mi voz."- Juan 10:14-16*

Cuándo usted reza, ¿solo le pide a Jesús las cosas que usted quiere? ¿Alguna vez le ha preguntado a Jesús lo que Él quiere de usted? ¿Cómo escucha Su respuesta? Muchas veces Jesús responde en "suaves murmullos" que no son obvios. Por lo tanto, dedique tiempo cada día, en silencio, para escuchar activamente Su voz.



### IF YOU HAVE NOT SIGNED UP WITH PARISH GIVING...

Most of our contributing parishioners have signed up with our online Parish Giving Program. That has been a big help to the parish in so many ways. If you are one of the few who have not, here's why it is helpful to you and important for St. Matthias: Parish Giving offers secure flexible online giving for our parishioners who would like

to make their donations online using a credit card or bank transfer. You never have to bring cash or checks to church. Giving electronically also helps the church save money and plan the budget. If you want to simplify your life, scan the QR code or go to our website [www.stmatthias.net](http://www.stmatthias.net) and click on the Parish Giving Link under 'Give'. Parish Giving offers you complete control over your account to change your giving as needed. You have the benefit to generate a giving report and easily choose the specific collections you wish to support. We thank you for your support which enables St. Matthias to minister to the community.

# Serve

## A DAY OF SERVICE

The next Morning of Service will be held on **Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup>**. If you are interested in volunteering that morning, please email **John and Coleen Zdziarski** at [jzdzarski@comcast.net](mailto:jzdzarski@comcast.net). Please note that those under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult. The sites are:

1. Franklin Food Bank - 224 Churchill Avenue in Somerset - sorting canned goods, etc. Minimum age is 14. Limited to six people (8:15 - 12:00 noon).
2. Pregnancy Aid Center - 59 Thompson Street in Raritan - sorting children's clothing. Limited to eight people (9:30 - 12:00 noon).



# Connecting to Our Local Community

## AN INVITATION TO ALL PHOTOGRAPHERS, WRITERS, GRAPHIC DESIGNERS, AND ARTISTS

The Diocese of Metuchen extends an invitation to all photographers, writers, and graphic artists residing within the Diocese of Metuchen to participate in the upcoming showcase celebrating World Communications Day 2024. This year's theme, inspired by the Holy Father, Pope Francis, revolves around "Artificial Intelligence and Wisdom of the Heart: For a Fully Human Communication." **Application deadline is April 30, 2024.** Application and submission guidelines are available at [www.diometuchen.org/wcdshowcase](http://www.diometuchen.org/wcdshowcase)



## THE GOSPEL OF PEACE

Tuesday, May 7

Peacemaker, author, and Nobel Peace Prize Nominee, Father John Dear, will be with us to talk about and sign copies of his new book, his life's work: *The Gospel of Peace: A Commentary on Matthew, Mark, and Luke from the Perspective of Nonviolence*. It is the first ever commentary on the Synoptic Gospels from the perspective of active nonviolence in the tradition of Gandhi and Dr. King. In this original work, Fr. John walks us through every line of the three synoptic

Gospels pointing out Jesus' practice and teachings on nonviolence, peace, and universal love and invites us to follow him. Limited in person availability.

Presenter: Fr. John Dear Tuesday, May 7 from 7-9 pm at the House of Prayer and on Zoom \$20-\$30 as you are able.

**Registration for all offerings is required 10 days in advance** to avoid the program being cancelled.

You can register and pay for any program at [www.msmhope.org](http://www.msmhope.org).



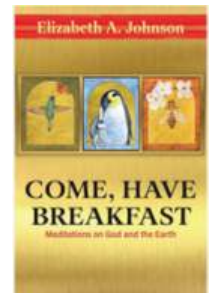
## Come, Have Breakfast: Meditations on God and Earth

A Virtual Evening with Elizabeth Johnson, CSJ  
Sister of St. Joseph Center for Spirituality, 21 Main Ave., Ocean Grove, NJ 07756

Tuesday, April 23, 2024 • 6:30 - 8:00 PM

Virtual Participation Donation: \$20

To register please email S. Joannie Cassidy at [jlc.cassidy@gmail.com](mailto:jlc.cassidy@gmail.com) or call (732) 898-9981



## Parish Leadership

<b>Parish Pastoral Council:</b> <b>Co-Chairs:</b> Frank Rees <a href="mailto:Frees814@gmail.com">Frees814@gmail.com</a> Marilyn Wegg <a href="mailto:mcw-wam@comcast.net">mcw-wam@comcast.net</a>	<b>Co-Secretaries:</b> Stephen Busono <a href="mailto:sbusono@gmail.com">sbusono@gmail.com</a> Bill Isele <a href="mailto:t33sm@aol.com">t33sm@aol.com</a> Al Drabnis Didi Molano	<b>Sheila Tartaglia</b> Fr. Lancelot McGrath, Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio <b>Trustees:</b> Pearl Scott Marge Richards	<b>Parish Finance Council:</b> Kester Hector, Chair <b>Finance Council</b> <a href="mailto:@stmatthias.net">@stmatthias.net</a> Carmen Driz-Melilli Barry Dusault Joan Pritchard	Cory Panlilio 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](http://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 8<sup>th</sup> 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.



**ARE THESE YOUR SIZE?**

**MIDDLEBUSH VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT.**  
21 OLCOTT STREET  
**FIRE FIGHTERS NEEDED WE WILL TRAIN!**

[www.middlebushfire.com](http://www.middlebushfire.com) [HELP@MIDDLEBUSHFIRE.COM](mailto:HELP@MIDDLEBUSHFIRE.COM)  
MIDDLEBUSH VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT [www.middlebushfire.com](http://www.middlebushfire.com)



**Complete Kitchen & Bathroom Remodeling**  
Porcelain Marble  
Granite Countertops  
Heated Floors  
Backsplashes  
Shower Doors  
**732-514-1500**  
Lic # 13VH00782600 (Parishioner)

EXCELLENCE GUARANTEED

**Resta's Auto Care**

AAA 732-873-8900 [Restas.com](http://Restas.com)   *Trusted For 77 Years*  
1873 Amwell Road • Somerset

Angie's List Award Winner 2015-2023  
Showroom & Design Center by Appointment

**star22home**  
www.star22home.com  
KITCHENS • BATHROOMS  
22 Plainfield Ave., Piscataway, NJ

**5 DAY BATH**  
www.my5DB.com  
O: 732-369-6387  
M: 732-343-5450

**\$10,000 Complete Bathroom Remodel. Labor /Materials**



**Diocese of Metuchen**  
Catholic Cemeteries and Crematory  
**800-943-8400**

Holy Cross Burial Park 840 Cranbury-South River Rd. Jamesburg, NJ 08831  
Resurrection Burial Park Hoes Lane and Park Ave. Piscataway, NJ 08854

[www.diometuchen.org/cemeteries](http://www.diometuchen.org/cemeteries)

**Morgan**  
basement waterproofing

*In Our 4th Decade of Quality Service*

**French Drains • Foundation Repair • Mold Remediation**  
All Work Guaranteed  
**732-777-7888**  
[www.morganbasementwaterproofing.com](http://www.morganbasementwaterproofing.com)

ROOFING • CHIMNEY • MASONRY • DECKING  
20+ Years in Business

WE FIND & FIX LEAKS



**\$1,000 OFF ANY NEW PROJECTS**

**15% OFF ANY REPAIRS**

FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED • LIC.# 13VH12761400  
**862-222-1016**  
SERVING ALL OF NEW JERSEY

**PROTECTIVE PAVING**



**DRIVEWAYS PARKING LOTS**  
FULLY INSURED  
FREE ESTIMATES  
**732-828-4177**  
SOMERSET, NJ



**RE-IMAGINE SENIOR LIVING**

An Assisted Living and Memory Care Community in your neighborhood.

**SCHEDULE A TOUR TODAY!**

**732.873.4800**  
473 Demott Lane  
Somerset, NJ 08873  
[www.springhills.com](http://www.springhills.com)

Edison Ophthalmology Associates, L.L.C. **732-565-1500**  
49 VERONICA AVE. SUITE #204 SOMERSET, NJ 08873




**Comprehensive Cataract/Cornea Glaucoma/Retina Soft & Specialty Contact Lens Fitting**

Roopinder K. Grewal, M.D. Francesca K. Lee, O.D. [www.edisonophthalmology.com](http://www.edisonophthalmology.com)

**RIDESHARE ZONE**

**S top Ask Match Inform**

**#WHATSMYNAME**



**Make a Difference in Your Community**

**VOLUNTEER**  
with the American Red Cross  
Join today at [redcross.org/Volunteer](http://redcross.org/Volunteer)

**Mallory's Army Foundation**  
United Together In The Fight Against Bullying...  
Don't Just Teach Kindness... BE KINDNESS!

[www.MallorysArmy.com](http://www.MallorysArmy.com)  
(973) 440-8657 • [info@mallorysarmy.org](mailto:info@mallorysarmy.org)  
It's easy to join our mailing list! Just send your email address by text message:  
Text MALLORYSARMY to 22828 to get started.



 Message and data rates may apply.

ROOFING • CHIMNEY • MASONRY  
GUTTERS • DECKING

WE FIND & FIX LEAKS



**\$1,000 OFF ANY NEW PROJECTS**

**15% OFF ANY REPAIRS**

FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED • LIC #13VHI020100  
**551-300-9611**  
SERVING ALL OF NEW JERSEY

**OUR SPONSORS & OUR COMMUNITY**

Sponsors can offer promotions, discounts and/or up-to-date contact information to the **ENTIRE** community

**Finding FABER**

**ANYONE** in the community can access realtime offers from their favorite sponsors to save, share & support




**C & F Paint Hardware**  
Benjamin Moore Paints  
1075 Easton Ave., Suite 12 A  
Somerset, NJ 08873  
732-764-8908  
www.candfpaint.com  
Frank Del Tufo - Owner

**SUPERIOR HARDWOOD FLOORING**  
FREE ESTIMATES  
SANDING | INSTALLS | REPAIRS | REFINISHING  
Franco Oliveira 201.744.8883  
superiorhardwoodflooring@hotmail.com

**Steve's Pizza & Restaurant**  
900 Easton Ave. Somerset Village  
732-247-0400  
\$1.50 Off Large 18" Pie

**Quantum Light WELLNESS CENTER**  
Featuring cutting-edge quantum technology using light & frequency to holistically improve healing & wellness  
908-328-2112  
QuantumLightWellness.com  
Hillsborough, NJ  
Jay Vince-Cruz & Dom Campbell

**SOLD BARROOD**  
Selling, Buying or Renting Houses - Call us for help!  
700 EASTON AVE., SOMERSET  
732-846-1661  
Good people, great service, since 1940  
PARISHIONER

**Waterstone WEALTH ADVISORS, LLC**  
**John C. Moynihan, CFP®**  
Certified Financial Planner™, practitioner  
Somerset, NJ  
732.873.0433 • www.wwallc.net  
Practical Solutions for Managing Wealth

**Event Space Rental**  
Green Brook NJ 08812  
908-532-3141  
Birthday, Baby Shower, Meetings  
grandcentraljerseyevents.com

**GLEASON FUNERAL HOME**  
AT NEED CARE • PRE-NEED • MONUMENTS  
PARISHIONER OWNED  
William K. Gleason, Mgr., N.J. Lic. No. 4489  
1360 HAMILTON STREET • SOMERSET, NJ  
732-545-0700  
WWW.GLEASONFUNERALHOME.COM

**Dolan** since 1949  
Kitchen & Bath Remodeling  
American Standard HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING  
Plumbing, Heating, Cooling, Electric  
732-247-2763  
696 Franklin Blvd., Somerset, NJ 08873  
www.jackdolanandsons.com info@jackdolanandsons.com

**BRIGHT VIEW POWERWASHING & PAINTING**  
Greg Dente, Owner/Operator  
Somerset & surrounding areas  
Friendly & Reliable Services  
Free estimates • Guaranteed work  
We keep our promises • No job too small  
POWERWASHING & SMALL PAINTING WORK  
908.812.2061

**WE'RE HIRING!**  
Substitute Teachers & Support Staff throughout New Jersey  
Apply today at SOURCE4TEACHERS.com

**BRUNSWICK FURNITURE OUTLET, LLC**  
330 Townsend St., New Brunswick, NJ  
Rafael Se Habla Español  
732-354-4420

**AJS PAINTING**  
TONY SCHINELLA, PARISHIONER  
Friendly, Courteous Service  
Owner Operated, Free Proposals  
Meticulous, Guaranteed Work  
Highest Quality, Affordable Price  
No Job Too Small • Since 2001  
732-873-8477

**April Tarantino**  
Broker Associate  
Direct: (732) 735-3511  
apriltarantino@hotmail.com  
www.apriltarantino.com  
31 Years Experience - Somerset Specialist

**Home Helpers®** Your Trusted Home Care Provider!  
Making Like Easier™ Personal & Companion Care  
(732) 873-9063 Meal Preparation, Shopping And Much More!  
www.HomeHelpersHomeCare.com/Somerset

**D'Angiolillo Chiropractic Center**  
Find out more about us and how we can help you!  
Visit Our Website @  
www.DrJoeD.com  
(732) 873-2222

**RAIKE'S Home Improvement LLC**  
732-249-7113  
Fully Insured Lic. 13VH06498900 www.raikeshomeimprovement.com  
We Install & Construct  
• Windows • Finished Basements • Siding  
• Doors • Kitchens • Roofing  
• Decks • Baths • Custom Interior Woodwork  
Power Washing  
Homes • Decks • Sidewalks • Driveways • Stoops • Etc.  
No Job Too Small! Cabinet Refacing Parishioner

**PA FINANCIAL, CPA**  
Professional Tax, Accounting, Bookkeeping, Payroll  
www.pafinancials.com  
Email: philip@pafinancials.com • Parishioner  
732-325-3157 • Somerset, NJ 08873

**PROFESSIONAL CENTER AT SOMERSET**  
11 Clyde Road, Suite 103  
Somerset, NJ 08873  
Serving Our Community Since 1985

Put Your Home in My Hands  
**KATHLEEN FARAH SPERO**  
Realtor®, Broker, SRS, SRES  
C 908.331.0859 • O 908.879.4900  
Kathleen.Spero@CBRealty.com  
SperoSellsNJ.com  
Owned by a subsidiary of Anywhere Advisors LLC

**catholicmatch®**  
New Jersey  
CatholicMatch.com/dateNJ

**GRIEF RELIEF & GUILT RESOLUTION**  
Email fawltynnis@aol.com  
with Subject St. Matthias

**FARAH TURF MANAGEMENT**  
Fertilizer • Weed Control  
Seeding & Grading  
908-809-8366  
www.farahlandscapedesign.com

**DALTON**  
QUALITY PROFESSIONAL SERVICE  
Serving Central NJ Since 1986  
RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL SALES/SERVICE  
All Major Credit Cards Accepted  
P. Lic. #12425 • E. Lic. #9526  
NJ Reg #13VH02047500 • HVAC Lic. 1510  
**ELECTRIC, PLUMBING HEATING & COOLING**  
NOW HIRING QUALIFIED TEAM MEMBERS  
1186 LIVINGSTON AVENUE, NORTH BRUNSWICK, NJ  
732-247-7390 • www.DaltonElectricCo.com

**FIND YOUR NEW BEST FRIEND.**  
\$60 adoption fee | animals are spayed/neutered, micro-chipped & up-to-date on shots  
**Franklin Township Animal Shelter**  
475 DeMott Lane, Somerset, NJ 08873  
732.873.2500 x6255 | Tue-Fri 12-3 & Sat 12-6  
Ad sponsored by Second Chance For Animals

**BOYLAN Funeral Home**  
188 Easton Avenue  
New Brunswick, NJ 08901  
732-545-4040  
**Robert Fox, Manager**  
N.J. License No. 4371  
www.BoylanFH.com  
Family owned and operated since 1958  
10 Wooding Avenue  
Edison, NJ 08817  
732-572-0076