



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*, **igidaro**

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS
SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 2023-
4th Sunday of Easter

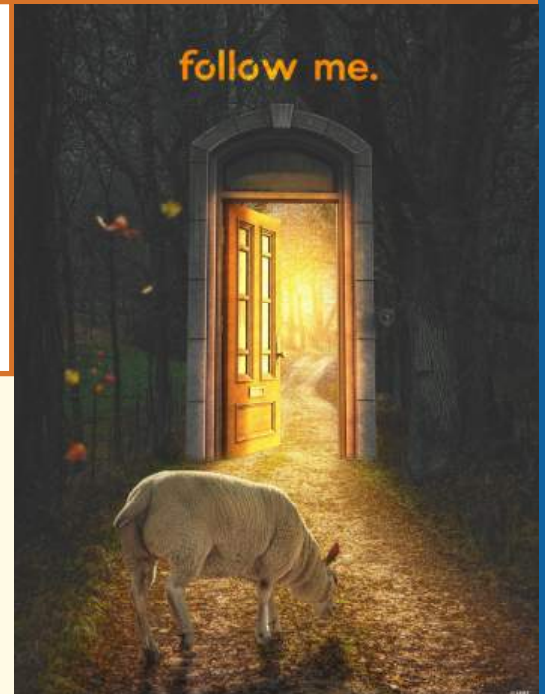


SMYLE will meet
TODAY
April 30th at 4:00PM
 in the cafeteria.



Next Sunday, May 7th is
the Development of the
People Collection

follow me.



2023 SMS Golf Classic

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



St. Matthias Rosary Altar Society

The St. Matthias Rosary Altar Society will meet on
Sunday, May 5 immediately following the 10AM Mass in
 the breezeway to pray the rosary by the shrine. We will
 also have a crowning of Our Blessed Mother.
 All are welcome to join us. Light refreshments will be
 served following the service.

Spring Bake-Less Bake Sale

The St. Matthias Rosary Altar Society is holding its Spring Bake-Less Bake Sale to be used for our annual scholarship fund for 2 St. Matthias graduates. If you would like to contribute, please send a check to the:
 St. Matthias Rosary Altar Society c/o St. Matthias /
 168 JFK Boulevard, Somerset, NJ 08873. Thank you for your help.

This Week @ St. Matthias

From Our Pastor

Masses are also livestreamed on our YouTube channel: 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 30, 2023 Catholic Relief Services Collection

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

Monday, May 1, 2023 St. Joseph the Worker Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

8:00AM	Mass/Miraculous Medal Novena	Church
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Tuesday, May 2, 2023 St. Athanasius of Alexandria, Bishop & Dr. of the Church

8:00AM	Mass	Church
6:30PM	SAC Mtg.	de Porres Rm
7:15PM	Handbell Rehearsal	Church
7:30PM	SVDP Mtg.	de Porres Rm

Wednesday, May 3, 2023 Feast—Sts. Philip & James, Apostles

8:00AM	Mass—St. Joseph Novena	Church
9:30AM	Prayer Group 1 Holy Spirit	de Porres Rm
7:00PM	Baptism Prep	Zoom
7:30PM	Folk Group Rehearsal	Church

Thursday, May 4, 2023 St. Florian, Martyr

8:00AM	Mass	Church
3:30PM	Children's Choir Gr. 3&4	Church
4:00PM	Children's Choir Gr. 5-8	Church
7:30PM	Adult Choir Rehearsal	Church
8:00PM	K of C Mtg.	Cafeteria

Friday, May 5, 2023 St. Judith of Prussia, Patroness SMS Dismissal— 12:15PM & Cinco de Mayo

8:00AM	Mass	Church
8:30AM	1st Friday Holy Hour w/Benediction	Church
10:30AM	Mass at Spring Hill	

Saturday, May 6, 2023 St. Dominic Savio, Youngest non-martyr to be canonized

12:00PM	1st Communion #1	Church
3:30PM	Reconciliation	Church
5:00PM	Vigil Mass	Church

Sunday, May 7, 2023 Development of the People

8:00AM	Mass	Church
10:00AM	Mass	Church
11:00AM	Rosary Altar Society Mtg.	John XXIII Rm
12:00PM	Mass	Church

Bulletin Article Requests:

If you would like to send information to be included in our bulletin, please email it to bulletin@stmatthias.net by 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,

Three weeks have passed after Easter Sunday, and I still hear so many good comments about our celebration of the Holy Week, Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday. For instance, here's what a parishioner wrote to me: *"Thank you for our beautiful holy week services. It was all so well-planned, the music lifted our spirits, the homilies were more affecting than any I can remember. This is not just me speaking, but this comes from comments from others who came to St. Matthias this week and were touched."*

As I reflect on our experience of this holiest week of the year, I think of the words of Psalm 133: *How good it is and how pleasant where brethren dwell as one.* That is the reality I enjoy with Msgr. Seamus Brennan who is such a wonderful brother priest to me and certainly someone you all have experienced as a prayerful, available and gracious priest. I am happy that we have three great deacons – John Radvanski, Russ Demkovitz and Ron Caimi – who give us invaluable assistance in prayer and service.

The beauty of our St. Matthias community is that our divine worship involves not just the ordained clergy, but all of us. Many thanks to our excellent music director Joan Seamon who continues her many years of faithful service, directing and coordinating all our musicians and choirs, including the many cantors, instrumentalists, and drummers. You have been very expressive of your appreciation with applause for their prayerful and inspiring singing. If God has given any of you the talent to sing, please put it to service to the People of God of our parish. All you need to do is to meet Joan and tell her.

The altar servers enhance our liturgies. Besides the regular altar servers that Cathy Allegro, our Altar Servers Ministry coordinator, had lined up, we were fortunate to have the help of Kelly Dillon and Joe DeLorenzo who have been veterans in this ministry for over 16 years. The Community is very appreciative of their presence and altar serving. I request the parents to encourage your sons and daughters to do altar serving at Sunday Masses.

The many readers/lectors who read the scriptures, the Eucharistic Ministers who brought communion to us all, the Mass captains setting up for each Mass, the tech-people helping with live streaming as well as projection of prayers and music are all deserving our deepest gratitude. These are some of the ministries that many more could join. Will you consider?

There are many others whose service and time are also essential for a happy experience of the Sunday Masses. Our Ushers/Ministers of Hospitality warmly welcome everyone and they carefully handle the collections and assign families to bring up the gifts to the altar. Our Sacristan Mike Lanyi, other dedicated former sacristans, volunteers, members of the Martha Ministry, and Julio Montero our maintenance head, worked hard to take care of all the sacred objects, change of banners, beautifying the environment and the worship space, coordinating with our dedicated parish staff.

Every Sunday, Msgr. Brennan and I express our gratitude to all those who help us to have a positive experience of the Eucharist. Holy Week and Easter are very special times when more is asked of all these ministers and they delivered. Thank you! How fortunate we are to be the Catholic Community of St. Matthias! May the Easter Blessings continue to be with us all.

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Orapankal



Readings for the Week

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

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

Wednesday: 1 Cor 15:1-8; Ps 19:2-3, 4-5; Jn 14:6-14

Thursday: Acts 13:13-25; Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25, 27; Jn 13:16-20

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 6:1-7; Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19; 1 Pt 2:4-9; Jn 14:1-12

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, Apr 29	5:00PM	Health & Blessings for Stacy Brooks, by Nathalie
Sunday, Apr 30	8:00AM	Intention of Parishioners
	10:00AM	Angela Frigiola, by Irene Nowakowski
	12:00PM	Birthday Blessings for Anne Marie Francis, by Karen, Brandon & Patrick
Monday, May 1	8:00AM	Birthday Blessings for Violet Patrick, by Anne Marie
Tuesday, May 2	8:00AM	John Petrine, by Mary & Family
Wednesday, May 3	8:00AM	Marion Fischer, by Family
Thursday, May 4	8:00AM	Albert Larangeira, by Linda & Maria
Friday, May 5	8:00AM	Brita Marrero, by Mike & Julie Burke
Saturday, May 6	5:00PM	Deceased Members of the Kohler & Gatarz Families, by Claire
Sunday, May 7	8:00AM	William & Geraldine Washkevich, by James & Mary Woods
	10:00AM	Intention of Parishioners
	12:00PM	Erlina Liem & Tita Rohayu Dipasuharjo, by The Sudendro 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 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.*

Carolyn Banghart
Arthur & Regina Berlowitz
John Blum
Bishop Paul Bootkowski
Barbara Butler
Bianca Canlas
Tara Capatosto
Ellen Catalina
Kyle Davidson
Lisa DeFeo
Ann Devlin
Michael DiMaggio
William Dolphin
Vivian Dong
[Hattie Evans](#)
Josephine Geenty

Claudia Gemgnani
Helen Geraghty
Emma Gergely
Marilyn Horvath
Robert Kashinsky
Kathleen Langenbacher
Henrietta Lesiak
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 Yetyet

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

Reflect



Smile with Your Family



Good news/bad news jokes aimed at pastors 😊

GOOD NEWS: Pastor, you baptized seven people today in the river. BAD NEWS: You lost two of them in the swift current. 😊

GOOD NEWS: Pastor, the Women's Missionary Society voted to send you a get-well card. BAD NEWS: The vote passed by 31-30. 😊

GOOD NEWS: Pastor, church attendance rose dramatically the last three weeks. BAD NEWS: You were on vacation then. 😊

GOOD NEWS: Pastor, your biggest critic just left your church. BAD NEWS: He has been appointed the Head Bishop of your denomination. 😊

A pastor was teaching the 23rd Psalm in the Sunday school. He told the children about sheep, that they weren't smart and needed lots of guidance, and that a

shepherd's job was to stay close to the sheep, protect them from wild animals and keep them from wandering off. He pointed to the little children in the room and said that they were the sheep and needed lots of guidance. Then the pastor put his hands out to the side, palms up in a dramatic gesture, and with raised eyebrows said to the children, "If you are the sheep, then who is the shepherd?" He was pretty sure that all the kids would point out to him as the shepherd. A silence of a few seconds followed. Then a young girl said, "Jesus! Jesus is the shepherd." The young pastor, obviously caught by surprise, said to the little girl, "Well then, who am I?" The girl frowned thoughtfully and then said with a shrug, "I guess you must be a sheep dog." 😊

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



Parenting Tune-Up

Jesus is the Good Shepherd who leads us to the right path in life. Good parenting looks like shepherding. How would you rate yourself as a shepherd of your children? Share with your spouse the shepherding qualities you admire in him/her.

"Play On ..."

Jesus said: "I am the gate for the sheep . . ." John 10: 1-10

It was the worst autumn of her life. She had just begun teaching at Harvard - for a first-generation college student fresh out of graduate school that was stressful enough. But three weeks into the semester, just as she was feeling something "approximating normal," her beloved father died. A month after that, she and her husband were unexpectedly evicted from their apartment. A month after that, her mom was diagnosed with breast cancer. And, during the spring semester, she suffered from adrenal fatigue and didn't fully recover until well into the summer.

No one would have blamed her if she skipped church during those troubled months, but she didn't. She couldn't. Because a few weeks before that awful fall semester began, her church's long-time pianist moved away. She volunteered to take on the role - and, in the end, what started as an imposition turned out to be a blessing.

Marriage Tune-Up



The couple that shops together - may learn something. Many women enjoy shopping as an "experience" while many men shop with a "hunter" mentality (get what you need as quickly as you can.) Although these are stereotypes and not always true, shopping together can often be frustrating. Just once try shopping as a date. Enter into your beloved's world and learn something new about them.

"The church I attend is not a wealthy one, so it is difficult to find a skilled musician who is willing to work dependably for what we can pay," she writes. I grew up playing the piano in church. It's a routine I know well; I know all the songs inside and out, and it's a skill that comes easily to me. It's something I enjoy. Thanks to my day job at Harvard, I don't need extra cash. Still, the most stressful year of my life seems like a strange time to take on a *pro bono* side gig as a church musician. And, honestly, if the position had opened up even one month later, I might never have agreed to start.

"In many ways, though, it was precisely that additional 'job' that saved my sanity during such a hard year. There were so many weeks that it would have been tempting just to sleep in or to spend those hours on Sunday with Netflix, in order to simply rest. But I couldn't, because I had to be there. There had to be music. And, in subtle

[Continued on next page](#)

Reflect

"Play On ... " (continued.)

ways that I didn't appreciate at the time, being in that space meant being surrounded by loved ones, [but] by people . . . whose lives and struggles were also drastically different from my own. Being in that simple sanctuary every week, under the arched ceiling, before the cross, surrounded by the hum of friendly chaos, furnished me with a broader and more robust sense of self by de-centering my own central importance.

"When I played that music, my body became a conduit through which the bonds between all of the people gathered there - old and young, poor and less poor, every shade of tan and brown - grew stronger as we sang together. While I wasn't fully aware of it at the time, the experience of sharing music with others turned out to be what I needed most during a time when everything else felt uncertain and shaky."

[From "On Habit" by Michelle C. Sanchez, Harvard Divinity Bulletin, Summer-Autumn 2016.]

Despite the stresses of work and the family crises she had to deal with, this young college professor managed to hear the voice of the Good Shepherd and heed his call to be a source of peace and support for his "flock." Like Jesus the "gate," she becomes a "conduit through which the bonds of all people gathered there . . . [grew] stronger as we sang together. Every life is created by God for one purpose: to manifest his love for all. That is the ultimate test of the Christian vocation, which is the Good Shepherd's call to everyone in his flock: to live faith that takes on the Good Shepherd's work of being a "gate" to God's Kingdom of reconciliation and peace.

Jesus knows us all by Name!

There have always been people with a good memory for names: Napoleon, "who knew thousands of his soldiers by name . . ." or James A. Farley, "who claimed he knew 50,000 people by their first name . . ." or Charles Schwab, "who knew the names of all 8,000 of his employees at Homestead Mill . . ." or Charles W. Eliot, "who, during his forty years as president of Harvard, earned the reputation of knowing all the students by name each year . . ." or Harry Lorayne, "who used to amaze his audiences by being introduced to hundreds of people, one after another, then giving the name of any person who stood up and requested it."

But can you imagine Christ knowing all his sheep by name? That's millions and millions of people over 2,000 years. No wonder we call him Master, Lord, Savior – watching over his flock, calling each by name.

Showing the way

In San Salvador on March 24, 1980, an assassin killed Archbishop Oscar Romero with a single shot to the heart while he was saying Mass. Only a few minutes before, Archbishop Romero had finished a hope-filled homily in which he urged the people to serve one another. Since Archbishop Romero was demanding human rights for his people under oppression, he knew that his life was in danger. Still he persisted in speaking out against tyranny and for freedom. He once told newspapermen that even if his enemies killed him, he would rise again among his people.

Today, good shepherds who lay down their lives are husbands and wives who can't do enough for each other to demonstrate their commitment to each other; parents who make countless sacrifices for the good of their children; teachers who spend untold hours instructing the weak students; doctors and nurses who work untiringly to show they care for their patients; employers who share profits with their workers; politicians who unselfishly promote the common good of their voters and parishioners who generously support their parish community.

"I am the gate!"

In his book 'The Holy Land', John Kellman describes a field pen. It consists of a circular stone wall about four feet high with an



opening in it. Kellman says that one day a Holy Land tourist saw a field pen near Hebron. He asked a shepherd sitting nearby, "Where's the gate for your pen?" The shepherd said, "I am the gate." The shepherd then told the tourist how he herded his flock into the pen each night and then lay down across the entrance. No sheep could leave the pen and no wild animal could enter it, without stepping over his body.

We need to be good shepherds and good leaders. Everyone who is entrusted with the care of others is a shepherd. Hence, pastors, parents, teachers, doctors, nurses, government officials, caregivers, among others, are all shepherds. We become good shepherds by loving those entrusted to us, praying for them, spending our time, talents and blessings for their welfare, and guarding them from physical and spiritual dangers. Parents must be especially careful of their duties toward their children by giving them good example. Above all, parents should pray for their children and infuse into them sound Christian moral principles.

“Follow my voice!”

On September 11, 2001, the Pentagon was slammed by a hijacked airliner. People were trapped in the flaming building. A police officer ran inside and kept repeating in the darkness, "Follow my voice." Six people did. They owe their lives to that voice. We know the popular child's game called, "Follow the Leader." As children, remember when we played, "Simon says?" Whatever Simon says, we do, because, Simon is the leader of that game. At some point of our life, we all picked out leaders to follow, some good, some bad. Depending on whom we chose, we were led well or astray.

Jesus says, "My sheep hear my voice." But hearing Jesus' voice is very difficult in the current environment of our lives. Each day hundreds of other "shepherds" are calling our names for our attention. They offer formulas for health, wealth and happiness. They offer formulas for solving problems, getting along in relationships, raising children, avoiding becoming popular and getting ahead.

TV is my shepherd: A parody on Psalm 23

(This parody on Psalm 23 was broadcast in a homily on [EWTN](#))

The TV is my shepherd, I shall not want,
It makes me to lie down on the sofa.
It leads me away from the Faith,
It destroys my soul.
It leads me to the path of sex and violence
for the advertiser's sake.
Even though I walk in the shadow of Christian
responsibilities,
There will be no interruption, for the TV is with me.
Its cable and remote control, they comfort me
It prepares a commercial for me in the midst of my
worldliness
And anoints my head with secular humanism and
consumerism.
My covetousness runs over;
Surely ignorance and laziness shall follow me all the days of
my life,
And I shall dwell in the house of wretchedness watching TV
forever.



How the unsinkable Bismarck was sunk!

In the beginning of World War II, the Nazis commissioned a massive battleship named the *Bismarck*. It was the biggest fighting vessel



the world had seen up to that time. With the *Bismarck* the Germans had the opportunity to dominate the seas. Very soon after it was commissioned, the *Bismarck* sank tons of Allied shipping and allied aircraft. Its massive armor plating resulted in the boast that the *Bismarck* was unsinkable. But the *Bismarck* was sunk. And it was sunk due to one lone torpedo. A torpedo hit the *Bismarck* in the rudder. As a result the battleship zig-zagged through the sea, unable to reach harbor. It was only a short while before the British navy was able to overtake and destroy it. No matter how large the battleship may be, it is doomed without a rudder to direct it.

Floundering on the waters of chaos without a rudder, the Bismarck is a modern-day image of a world without the direction of Jesus, the Good Shepherd. Without the Lord, the world is headed toward chaos. But with the Lord there is guidance, direction and purpose in life. But how and from where do we get this direction and purpose? Our local parish is our sheepfold, and our pastors are our shepherds. Jesus is the High Priest, the Bishops are the successors of the Apostles, the pastors are their helpers and the parishioners are the sheep. Hence, as the good sheep of the parish, parishioners are expected to

- a) Hear and follow the voice of our shepherds through their homilies, Bible classes, counseling and advice.***
- b) Receive the spiritual food given by our pastors by regular participation in the Holy Mass, by frequenting the Sacraments and by prayer services, renewal programs and missions.***
- c) Cooperate with our pastors by giving them positive suggestions for the welfare of the parish, by encouraging them in their duties, by lovingly correcting them with constructive criticism when they are found misbehaving or failing in their duties and by praying for them***
- d) Actively participate in the work of various councils, ministries and parish associations.***

From the Pastoral Staff

We are in the middle of the Easter season ... on our way to the Ascension and then to Pentecost.

Pentecost, the descent of the Holy Spirit on the apostles Jesus' promise that He will send the Holy Spirit to strengthen them to continue His ministry on earth. This coming of the Holy Spirit is repeated for us at confirmation.

Since Easter we have heard stories of Jesus' post resurrection appearances.

Last week we heard the disciples on the road to Emmaus, who didn't recognize Jesus until they stopped to rest and He broke bread just as He did at the Last Supper.

Today we have a departure from a post resurrection appearance. We know that throughout all of scripture we have seen Jesus referred to by many names. During Easter we heard Jesus referred to many times as the Pascal Lamb.

In today's Gospel of John we see Jesus as the shepherd of the flock ...

Many times He is referred to as the Good Shepherd. But today notice how He refers to Himself as not only the shepherd... but also as the gate keeper. He says: "I am the gate whoever enters through me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. A thief comes only to steal and destroy; I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly."

Jesus makes it very clear ... he knows his flock ... and they know Him. Those who try to enter through the gate without acknowledging Jesus as The gate keeper is a thief

... an imposter. We know also that even if one sheep is lost ... Jesus will find him and welcome him back into the fold.

During the rest of this Easter season we need to remain focused on Jesus'

Resurrection. We are resurrection people. For without the resurrection the world would have no hope... we would still be in darkness.

As we look around at the world today... we see that there is so much need for us to be evangelists of the resurrection. We need to show the world that good does conquer evil. Jesus is the way. We need to keep focused on Jesus as the shepherd... the gate keeper. It is only through Him that we can reach our Eternal Life in heaven. Our faith needs to be strong.

Here is a little prayer you can pray to the Good Shepherd.

Good Shepherd you know us by our name
And our identity is not hidden from You
Gather us to yourself the sheep,
That we may know your name.
Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

My thoughts and prayers are with you throughout this Easter season.

Peace of Christ,

Deacon Russ



Pray

EUCCHARISTIC REVIVAL COMMITTEE

Thanks to those who
have volunteered to join
the Eucharistic Revival
Committee.

If anyone else feels
called to this ministry,
please contact:

Fr. Abraham or
Msgr. Brennan.

MASS-CENTERED CATECHESIS:

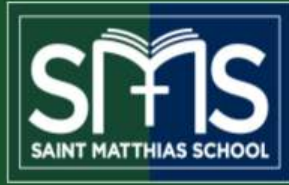
Are you concerned about the diminishing numbers at Mass? How do we get more parishioners, especially families and children, to attend Mass? The Diocese of Metuchen is taking steps to introduce parish leaders to the USCCB's vision by encouraging parishes to develop Mass and family-centered catechetical programs. A successful approach was developed in the Diocese of Paterson and introduced to our Catechetical Leaders and Pastors in August of 2022. **Presenter Deirdre Nemeth will return in June to further the conversation by delving deeper into how to design and orchestrate this model in your parishes. She will discuss bringing families to Mass, family faith sessions, and how to create thirty-minute class sessions and educational/community-building opportunities for adults.**

There are two sessions: Part A and Part B; just so you know, they are different workshops. It is important that all of us interested in this model should attend both. **Catechists, Parish Council, GIFT leaders, all ministers connected with Liturgy and others will find this very helpful in our common effort to get more people to attend Mass.**

Part A: Tuesday, June 6, from 10:00-11:30 am

Part B: Tuesday, Jun 13, from 10:00-11:30 am To register and for more information, RSVP to Anna by Friday, May 26, at adkallini@diometuchen.org or send your questions to cmascola@diometuchen.org

Learn



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.



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.

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!

Connect



Life-Giving Wounds Retreat for Adult Children of Divorce or Separation, June 3, 2023

The Life-Giving Wounds retreat is a unique opportunity for young adults (18+) and adults with divorced or separated parents to reflect intentionally on the wounds caused by their family's breakdown, together with others who know this pain and are knowledgeable, compassionate retreat leaders.

When: June 3, 2023 from 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Where: The Shrine of St. Joseph
1050 Long Hill Road, Stirling, NJ

General Admission is \$75.00

Student Admission is \$25.00.

To register visit: www.diometuchen.org/familylife

If you have any questions, please contact:

cdaverso@diometuchen.org or amarshall@diometuchen.org

New Jersey
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Six Flags
MAY 21 2023
9:AM-8PM
Open to all Youth and Young Adult ministries including Scouts, Altar Servers, Youth Choirs, Home School families, Athletic Programs, Rel. Ed. Youth Groups and Parish families!

Register before May 12, 2023

Please visit our website to register:
<https://www.diometuchen.org/youth-rally>

Tickets are \$65.00 per person, \$30.00 for season ticket holders

Invitation to join the Parish Pastoral Council

The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) is a consultative body comprised of a representative group of parishioners who work with the Pastor, other Clergy and Parish Staff to foster pastoral activity. Each year one-third of our PPC members retire and new members are commissioned.

If you think God is calling you to this ministry, please contact one of the present PPC Co-Chairs:

Rose Peng: rosepeng@optonline.net

or

John Taylor: jptaylor1068@yahoo.com



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.

Give (and Receive!)

Stewardship Totals for Fiscal Year July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023				Last Year's Total
Current Month	In-Pew/Mail	Parish Giving	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	\$8,721.00	\$13,838.25	\$22,559.25	\$38,662.25
Week 43 - Apr. 23, 2023	\$7,958.00	\$12,961.61	\$20,919.61	\$19,377.25
Week 44 - Apr. 30, 2023	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$20,650.30
			Month-to-date Total	Apr Total Last Yr
			\$120,592.13	\$151,145.32
			Current Year-to-date	Year-to-date as of Apr
			\$1,181,300.92	\$1,159,682.39

Stewardship Reflection Apr. 30, 2023 4th Sunday of Easter

“And Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ...’” (Acts 2:38)

The word “repent” means to turn from sin, to change our actions. Change that is permanent comes from within. It requires prayer, discipline, and perseverance. Change is also hard. We have to recognize that we are broken and need help. The good news - we are not alone in our journey. Ask Jesus daily for guidance and patiently listen for his response.

Reflexiónese Abril 30 de abril de 2023 – 4° domingo de Pascua

“Y Pedro les dijo:” Arrepiéntanse y háganse bautizar, cada uno de ustedes, en el Nombre de Jesucristo ...” (HECHOS 2:38)

La palabra "arrepentirse" significa apartarse del pecado, cambiar nuestras acciones. El cambio que es permanente viene de adentro. Requiere oración, disciplina y perseverancia. El cambio también es difícil. Tenemos que reconocer que estamos rotos y que necesitamos ayuda. La buena noticia es que no estamos solos en nuestro viaje. Pídale a Jesús diariamente orientación y escuche pacientemente su respuesta.

Serve



Alzheimer's Group Meeting

The Alzheimer's Association and Saint Matthias Catholic Church are co-hosting a monthly Support Group for people living with Alzheimer's and Dementia and their care partners.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, May 10th, from 2 pm-3 pm on Zoom. Registration is required. To register, call 800-272-3900 and mention the St. Matthias group.

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.

395 Bridle Path Road, Bethlehem PA 18017

www.StFrancisCtr.org, 610-867-8890



Information and Registration for all Mount Saint Mary House of Prayer offerings can be found on our website: www.msmhope.org. E-mail us at msmhope@msmhope.org. Registration for all offerings is required **10 days in advance**.

MAN TO MAN

4th Tuesday of the Month from 7-8:30 p.m. May 25, June 20, July 25, August 22 at the House of Prayer and on Zoom Freewill Offering.

For more information call Jerry McKenna at 908-472-3969

Loyola Jesuit Center | 161 James Street, Morristown, NJ 07960

05/05- 05/07 Co-Ed Weekend Retreat

Theme: We Need New Stories: Forgiveness, Freedom, and Hope
Retreat Leader: Jim Croghan, S.J.



What are the stories we tell ourselves? What are the stories we tell others about ourselves? Are these stories really who we are? Using stories, prayer, and poetry we will seek to open ourselves more deeply to God's healing grace and living lives of generous discipleship in our following of Jesus Christ. Phone: 973-539-0740.

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](http://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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Tuesday, 10/18	Tuesday, 11/15
Tuesday, 10/25	Tuesday, 11/29

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