



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 - 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

St. Matthias School (SMS):

170 JFK Blvd., Somerset, NJ 08873
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**

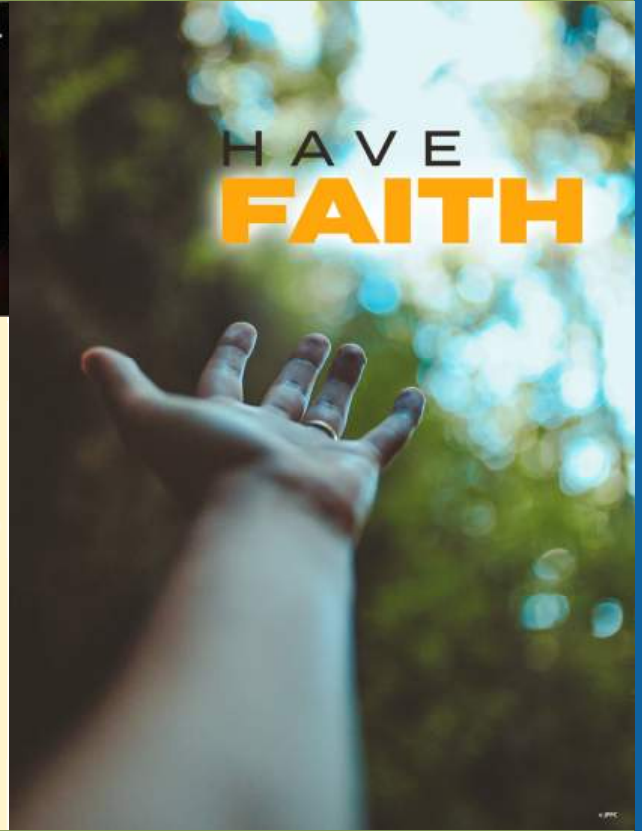
Sr. Marie Therese Sherwood, OSF, Pastoral
Assoc. for Social Concerns, **msherwood**

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

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS
SUNDAY, APRIL 7, 2024
Divine Mercy Sunday



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



**DIVINE MERCY
SUNDAY**

The recitation of the
Rosary
will take place
in the church

TODAY

after the 10:00 AM Mass to
conclude this special Novena.

www.thedivinemercy.org/message/devotions/pray-the-chaplet
www.thedivinemercy.org/message/devotions/novena

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 7, 2024 Divine Mercy Sunday

8:00AM	Mass	Church
10:00AM	Mass	Church
11:00AM	Divine Mercy Prayers	Church
11:00AM	Rosary Altar Society Mtg.	John XXIII Rm
12:00PM	Mass	Church
2:00PM	GIFT Church, classrooms, & John XXIII Rm	

**Monday, 8, 2024 The Annunciation of the Lord
SMS—Back to School**

8:00AM	Mass	Church
6:00PM	Eucharist Adoration	Church

Tuesday, Apr 9, 2024 St. Waltrude, Patron of Mons, Belgium

8:00AM	Mass	Church
6:30PM	GIFT Church, classrooms, John XXIII Rm	
7:30PM	SVDP Meeting	de Porres Rm

Wednesday, Apr 10, 2024 St. Fulbert of Chartres, Bishop

8:00AM	Mass, St. Joseph Novena	Church
7:30PM	Folk Group Rehearsal	Church

Thursday, Apr 11, 2024 St. Stanislaus, Bishop & Martyr

8:00AM	Mass	Church
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 12, 2024 St. Zeno of Verona, Bishop & Martyr

8:00AM	Mass	Church
9:00AM	SMS Honor Roll	Church
6:00PM	Blue & Gold BS Dinner	Cafeteria

Saturday, Apr 13, 2024 St. Martin, I, Pope & Martyr

10:00AM	Caregivers Meeting	Ruiz Rm
3:30PM	Reconciliation	Church
5:00PM	Vigil Mass	Church

Sunday, Apr 14, 2024 3rd Sunday of Easter

8:00AM	Mass	Church
10:00AM	Mass—Sign Language Interpreter	Church
12:00PM	Mass	Church



Dear Friends,

I'm sure that all of us noticed a much larger number of people attending the Holy Week services here at St. Matthias. The Easter Vigil was exceptionally crowded - in comparison to the previous years. Why do more people attend church? According to a new Public Religion Research Institute survey on American religion, 90% of those polled cited a desire to feel closer to God as their explanation for attending church. Other common explanations include to experience religion in a community (80%) or to instill religious values in young people (79%). No matter what, it was very gratifying to see so many of our people present at the Church services in person. We continue to pray that the new life and new hope from the Risen Christ will bring more blessings and a greater awareness of the need for God in our life.

Easter is such a foundational feast of our faith, that the Church continues to celebrate it for about seven weeks. 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. It is unbelievable but true that after the preaching of Peter: *“Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand persons were added that day.”* (Acts 2:41). Besides the preaching of the apostles, 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 continues to happen in our own times.

The importance of Easter is highlighted by our church’s instructions to celebrate Easter Sunday as one long period of eight days or Octave. The Universal Norms # 22 says: The first eight days of Easter season make up the octave of Easter and are celebrated as Solemnities of the Lord. The days of the Octave form the “early hours” of this “great Sunday,” with accounts of the Lord who rose early in the morning, and the early preaching of the disciples who were witnesses to his resurrection.

Today, the eighth day of Easter, is Divine Mercy Sunday – a feast instituted by St. John Paul II, 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”*. People all over the world, including our parishioners, began the Divine Mercy Novena on March 29. Today after the 10 am Mass, there will be a Divine Mercy celebration with praying the Rosary in our Church.

May the Risen Lord help us experience God’s mercy in ourselves and may He help us to offer the same mercy to others, thereby becoming true witnesses who will attract others to our church and our faith in Jesus Christ.

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Orapankal

Bulletin Article Requests:

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

Readings for the Week

Monday Is 7:10-14; 8:10 Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 11 Heb 10:4-10 Lk 1:26-38

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 and 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 3:13-15, 17-19 Ps 4:2, 4, 7-8, 9 1 Jn 2:1-5a Lk 24:35-48



Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, April 6	5:00PM	Christopher St. Amand, by Vincent & Nancy Inzano
Sunday, April 7	8:00AM	Soledad Lazaro, by Marcy Tolentino
	10:00AM	Intention of Parishioners
	12:00PM	Michele Siebenlist, by Eileen Siebenlist
Monday, April 8	8:00AM	Patty Lara, by The Maglio Family
Tuesday, April 9	8:00AM	Hugh Brown, by Frank McCann
Wednesday, April 10	8:00AM	Kyle Bulkley, by The Novak Family
Thursday, April 11	8:00AM	Herman Rodriguez, by Mary & Fred Lam
Friday, April 12	8:00AM	Doris Regan, by Roseanne, Mabel, Mary Lou & Pat
Saturday, April 13	5:00PM	Mary Ann Vetter, by The Baptismal Bib Ministry
Sunday, April 14	8:00AM	Mary Ann Vetter, by The Sharing Group
	10:00AM	Angela Frigiola, by Irene Nowakowski
	12:00PM	Intention of Parishioners

Pray for those who are sick...

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

Pray for those who have died...

— "His mercy endures forever." *Chronicles*

Ruby de Leon

Reflect



Smile with Your Family



Real Faith! I needed some supplies from a Sunday School cupboard that was seldom used and was secured with a lock. I didn't know the combination, but our clergyman offered to give it a try. Father Jack placed his fingers on the lock's dial and raised his eyes heavenward for a moment. Then he confidently spun the dial and opened the lock. Seeing how impressed I was with this demonstration of faith, he smiled and confided, "The numbers are written on the ceiling." 😊

A small child with a bad cough was taken by her parents to a hospital emergency room. A nurse, examining the child's lungs with a stethoscope, playfully told the child, "I have to see if Barney is in there." "I have Jesus in my heart," the child replied. "Barney is on my underwear." 😊

The hospital nurse was filling out the paperwork to admit an 87-year-old churchgoer who had taken ill. "Has your diet changed?" she asked. "Yes," the woman said. "For Lent, I gave up whipped cream on my Jell-O, hard candy, and my two beers a night." She paused, then added with a sigh, "And look where it's gotten me!" 😊

"Dad, I want to ask you a question," said little Josh after his first day of Sunday School. "Of course," said his Dad. "The teacher was reading the Bible, about the Children of Israel building the Temple, the Children of Israel crossing the Red Sea, the Children of Israel making the sacrifices," said Josh. "So what's your question?" his Dad asked. "Well, didn't the grown-ups do anything?!" 😊



Parenting Tune-Up

"Whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven them." (John 20:23) Confession need not be limited to a priest in the confessional. Confess a mistake you've made to anyone, even to your child. Ask them if there is anyone they have hurt and can ask forgiveness from? Especially from siblings.

Marriage Tune-Up



Divine mercy and human mercy. Divine Mercy is unlimited and unconditional. How is human mercy? Is the mercy you show to your spouse limited and/or conditional? Discuss with your spouse the quality of your mercy vis a vis God's mercy.

ST. THOMAS WENT TO INDIA...?

Yes, the same "doubting Thomas" took the gospel of Christ to the subcontinent of India. Various historical records and traditions indicate that Thomas traveled by sea to India in AD 52. He was later martyred and buried there after witnessing to the Indian people. A poet, St. Ephrem, recorded in his hymns and poetry that Thomas worked miracles in the Malabar region of south India. Many other accounts and traditions mention Thomas in connection with India. The tomb of St. Thomas is in Mylapore, Chennai, India. The Syrian Christians of India, that I myself am born into, are proud to call ourselves as 'St. Thomas Christians.' It is interesting to note that there are only three Cathedrals in the world that are built over the tomb of an apostle: St. Peter's in Rome, St. James in Campostella, Spain, and St. Thomas in India!

MERCY TRIUMPHS OVER LAW!

"Law vs Mercy" In Reader's Digest, Jim Williams of Montana, writes: "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."

THEY WERE ABLE TO FORGIVE!

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. 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.

http://mercyimages.com/video_MaryDuray.php

"THAT'S WHAT I'M 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. Peter 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. I invite you to return on Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil. These are the great days of grace - of Divine Mercy.



HOPE FOR THE FLOWERS

A man found a cocoon of a butterfly. One day a small opening appeared. He sat and watched the butterfly for several hours as it struggled to force its body through that little hole. Then, it seemed to stop making any progress. It appeared as if it had gotten as far as it could. So the man decided to help, he took a pair of scissors and snipped off the remaining bit of the cocoon. The butterfly then emerged easily. But it had a swollen body and small, shriveled wings. The man continued to watch the butterfly because he expected that, at any moment, the wings would enlarge and expand to be able to support the body, which would contract in time. Neither happened! In fact, the butterfly spent the rest of its life crawling around with a swollen body and shriveled wings. It never was able to fly.

What the man, in his kindness and haste, did not understand was that the restricting cocoon and the struggle required for the butterfly to get through the tiny opening were God's way of forcing fluid from the body of the butterfly into its wings so that it would be ready for flight once it achieved its freedom from the cocoon.

Sometimes struggles are exactly what we need in our lives. If God allowed us to go through our lives without any obstacles, it would cripple us. We would not be as strong as what we could have been. We could never fly! So God in His mercy, challenges us giving obstacles in life.

"ENEMY LITE"

"Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe." John 20: 19-31

Anne Lamott writes with wit and salt about finding God in her struggles with addiction, pain and single-parenthood. In her book "Tender Mercies," she recounts her struggle with forgiveness. The target of her animosity was the mother of one of her son Sam's classmates. She was too perfect, too sweet, too pretty, too together. She was everything that Anne wanted to be as a mom and woman - but wasn't. In addition, her son eclipsed Sam in every subject in second grade. Anne's interactions with this woman were strained at best. Anne saw every offer of help from her as patronizing and subtle criticism. The two women were on opposite ends of everything, from politics to housekeeping. In her book, Anne dubs the woman "Enemy Lite." Then one day, Sam is invited to play at Enemy Lite's house after school. When Anne goes to pick him up, Enemy Lite invites her inside and offers a cup of tea. At first, Anne refuses, wanting to get out of this House-and-Garden perfect home as quickly as she can. Anne writes about what happens next:

"Our boys appeared, and I got up to go. Sam's shoes were on the mat by the door, next to his friend's, and I went over to help him put them on. And as I loosened the laces on one shoe, without realizing what I was doing, I sneaked a look into the other boy's sneaker - to see what size shoe he wore. To see how my kid lined up in shoe size.

"And I finally got it. The veil dropped. I got that I was as mad as a hatter. I saw that I was the one worried that my child wasn't doing well enough in school. That I was the one who thought I was out of shape. Moreover, that I was trying to get her to carry all this for me because it hurt too much to carry it myself. I wanted to kiss her on both cheeks, apologize for all the self-contempt I'd been spewing out into the world, all the bad juju I'd been putting on her by thinking she was the one doing harm . . . "This was me," Anne realized. "Not her."

In the light of Jesus' resurrection, we're able to see ourselves as we really are and confront our failings to be compassionate and our inability to forgive with hope and understanding. Anne Lamott came to realize that in her relationship with Enemy Lite; Thomas saw reason to let go of his doubt and skepticism in the person of the Risen Jesus. This Easter season, may we see our lives - both our gifts and failings, our certainties and doubts - in the light of Easter hope and grace, to embrace Christ's gift of peace enabling us to forgive and "let go" of our resentments and anger and disappointments in order to re-create our hearts and spirits in the living presence of the Risen One.



DIVINE MERCY EXPERIENCE OF FR. JAMES ALBERIONE

The founder of the Pauline religious congregation is Rev. Fr. James Alberione. A holy man with a prophetic vision, he harnessed the pastoral potentiality of the modern means of communication at the service of evangelization. The Holy Father, Pope St. John Paul II, beatified him in 2003. Fr. Alberione founded five religious congregations, four aggregated Institutes, and the Association of Pauline Cooperators, all of which comprise the “Pauline Family”. In 1923, he was struck down with a serious illness that led him into a kind of crisis about the future of the religious family launched just a few years earlier. He needed some kind of assurance in the midst of uncertainties. He looked for confirmation in the most difficult moment of his life. The Divine Master kindly obliged by appearing to him in a dream, assuring him of His Divine assistance and presence.

In a subsequent dream, Jesus, the Master, said to him: “Fear not. I am with you. From here I will enlighten. Have a contrite heart.” The “from here” came forth from the tabernacle; and with power, such as to make one understand that from Him, the Master, must one receive all enlightenment. He spoke of this with his spiritual director, noting in what light the figure of the Master has been enveloped: “His reply to me was: “Be at peace; what was said is holy; make it a practical program of life and of light for yourself and for all members.” From that point on he became more and more oriented to and received all from the tabernacle. Indeed, the experience of Blessed James Alberione, a “true missionary of the Church” and a modern apostle for our times, is similar to that of the apostle Thomas, who experienced the compassion of the saving and merciful Lord as predilection.

THE STORY OF OSHEA AND MARY

One of the stories of the “Forgiveness Project” that caught my attention was the story of Oshea Israel and Mary Johnson. Oshea had shot and killed Mary’s son - a boy Oshea didn’t even know. There was no way Oshea could pay Mary back for what he had taken from her. And Mary owed him nothing. It’s not an easy story. As Mary said, “I hated everyone for a while.” However, over time Mary came to forgive Oshea. She visited him in prison. She helped him when he was released. In the process, they both changed.

Mary gave Oshea the one gift he needed to begin his healing: total forgiveness. Mercy doesn’t undercut justice but surprises it! The linchpin supports forgiveness and compassion. Mercy is the force that reawakens us to new life and instills in us the courage to look to the future with hope. We might think of mercy as the grace for conversion. 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.

UPLIFTING ONE ANOTHER



Have you ever watched geese fly in V-formation? While a thing of beauty to watch, the formation is essential to the geese for survival. If you listen, you can hear the beat of their wings whistling through the air in unison. And that is the secret of their strength: the lead goose cuts a swath through the air resistance, which creates a helping uplift for the birds behind it. In turn their flapping makes it easier for the birds behind them, and so on. Each bird takes its turn at being leader. The tired ones fan out to the edges of the V for a breather, and the rested ones surge towards the point of the V to drive the flock onward. If a goose becomes too exhausted or ill and has to drop out of the flock, it is never abandoned. A stronger member of the flock will follow the failing, weak one to its resting place and wait till the bird is well enough to fly again. Together, cooperating as a flock, geese can fly at 71% longer range, with up to 60% less work.

Thomas was away from the group and so he missed the first appearance of the Risen Christ. Maybe the disappointment and sadness he felt at the crucifixion of his beloved leader and lord was too much for him that he chose to seclude himself from his group. But see what that cost him: the very good news of the resurrection that brought such joy to the rest of the group. Being with the group can be a great support. Mutual encouragement is possible when group members uplift one another.

Pray

FR. ABRAHAM IS CALLING ALL MEN OF OUR PARISH!

"In today's world, Catholic men are attacked from all sides. The world entices them to live only for themselves. It tells them to abdicate their God-given call to be leaders of the Church and their families. Too many Catholic men have given in and become caught up in vice and addiction. They feel empty, alone, unworthy and even unlovable. They're hungering for more, but don't know where to turn."

Hello gentlemen, do you find any truth in the above statement? If so, here's some good news: our Diocesan Office of Evangelization is organizing a "Leadership Summit for Men." **It will be held in our neighborhood: at Mary, Mother of God parish in Hillsborough on Friday evening and Saturday morning, April 26-27.** I wish to invite all the men of our parish to consider attending this event so you will be empowered to focus on the things that matter to you.

For more details, please email me at abraham@stmatthias.net

Pray for those getting married...

Amanda Rosa & Gaetano Fattorusso April 28, 2024

Connect

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

DIOCESAN YOUTH DAY

St. Thomas Aquinas High School, Edison

April 20th, 2024 Check-In Begins at 10:30am. The day will run from 11am-5pm.

The Diocese of Metuchen's Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry will run our Diocesan Youth Day at St. Thomas Aquinas High School in Edison, NJ on Saturday, April 20th, 2024. Throughout the course of this day, 8th-12th grade teens will come together to enter into the sacrament of the Mass, have fun with one another, hear talks from Chika Anyanwu, have the opportunity for Adoration and Confession, enjoy live music, good food, and more!

To register please visit: <https://www.diometuchen.org/diocesan-youth-day>



FAMILY MATTERS

JOIN US AS WE EMPOWER CATHOLIC PARENTS TO LIVE OUT THE MISSION

Family Matters is a new initiative of the Center for FaithJustice in partnership with RENEW International. It is a process for nurturing discipleship among parents and caregivers as they enrich their own faith lives to more vibrantly pass on Catholic social tradition to their children.

St. Matthias will be piloting this program for families/children this year! Join us!



Parents and families will have access to:

- Online resources
- In-person gatherings at their parish
- Home based activities
- Mentorship from other Catholic parents in your parish
- Access to Spiritual Direction
- Retreats and Service opportunities with other families

Interested in joining? We will begin by hosting listening sessions for interested parents and families this spring!

Sign up for the listening session.

Email Dee Nann: dnann@stmatthias.net

With you on the journey!

Center for FaithJustice, RENEW International

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!

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



Camp Invention®

Don't miss out—register students going into grades Kindergarten - 6th grade at invent.org/mylocalcamp until camp starts. Register by **March 27th** using **FUN25** to **save \$25** or by **May 16th** 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 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



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>.

Dear St. Matthias Roman Catholic Church,

On behalf of the clients we serve, our staff, volunteers, and Board of Trustees, thank you so much for your contribution of \$1,000 made on 2/29/2024 for your Empty Bowls Sponsorship 2024!

2023 was a year where we broadened our reach. While again experiencing historic growth (17,000+ visits to our food pantry, 12,000+ visits to our drive thru distribution and over 40 partner agencies served throughout the year) we also made a significant effort in educating, advocating, and developing our organization and stakeholders. The Franklin Food Bank leaders sit on municipal, regional, county, and statewide coalitions discussing best practices on solving hunger. We developed strong and strategic partnerships with local organizations in an effort to launch wraparound services, such as cancer screenings. Nutrition education and benefits enrollment, all which help address root causes of poverty that causes food insecurity. In a very short time we have experienced remarkable things and continue to strive towards going from good to great - to remarkable.

It does not go unnoticed that the primary reason we have had so many remarkable things happen is due in large part because of your support. Because of YOU.

We are here for the residents of Franklin Township and beyond. The need is there and we know how we are going to meet it in this next year. Thank you for believing in us, for supporting our efforts and for giving us the chance to help so many. We promise to work to make you proud and will keep you updated on our successes and challenges.

To an exciting year ahead – and to you for being with us through it all – thank you!

With Gratitude,

Allie O'Brien

Development Director



Give (and Receive!)

Stewardship Totals for Fiscal Year July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024				Last Year's Total
Current Month	In-Pew/Mail	Parish Giving	Weekly Total	Weekly Total
Week 36 - March 3, 2024	\$13,968.00	\$14,230.50	\$28,198.50	\$36,094.75
Week 37 - March 10, 2024	\$9,463.20	\$24,878.00	\$34,341.20	\$30,521.25
Week 38 - March 17, 2024	\$10,126.00	\$11,864.52	\$21,990.52	\$24,352.25
Week 39 - March 24, 2024	\$12,344.50	\$11,558.50	\$23,903.00	\$20,592.25
Week 40 - March 31, 2024	\$30,092.50	\$10,962.50	\$41,055.00	
			Month-to-date Total	Mar Total Last Yr
Holy Thursday In-Pew/Mail: \$3,707.00			\$108,433.22	\$111,560.50
Holy Land In-Pew/Mail: \$4,489.00			Current Year-to-date	Year-to-date as of March 31, 2023
Easter Flower In-Pew/Mail: \$1,532.22			\$2,379,318.43	\$1,052,103.02

Stewardship Reflection April 7 2024 Divine Mercy Sunday

“The community of believers was of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own...” - Acts 4:32

All that we are and all that we have is a gift from God! Think of your family, your friends, your life, your talents and your money – these are all gifts from God! We are not really owners of anything; we are merely “stewards” of the gifts with which God has blessed us. We are called to be grateful and generous with all of our gifts for the

Reflexiónese - 7 de abril de 2024 Domingo de la Divina Misericordia

“La comunidad de los creyentes tenía un solo corazón y una sola alma. Nadie consideraba sus bienes como propios, sino que todo era común entre ellos...” - Hechos 4:32

¡Todo lo que somos y lo que tenemos es un don de Dios! Piense sobre su familia, sus amigos, su vida, sus talentos y su dinero - ¡todos son dones de Dios! Realmente no somos dueños de nada, somos simplemente “administradores” de los dones con los que Dios nos ha bendecido. Somos llamados a ser agradecidos y generosos con todos nuestros dones para beneficio de los demás.



2024 Bishop’s Annual Appeal

STAY WITH US, LORD: Renew our Hearts and Send Us on Mission

By now you have received a letter from Bishop Checchio inviting your participation in the 2024 Bishop’s Annual Appeal. The diocesan ministries supported by the Appeal directly impact many of the parishioners here in [insert name of parish]. Your gift provides formation opportunities for our catechists, youth and young adults. In the coming days, you will be receiving a letter from our pastor, [insert pastor’s name], encouraging your participation. If you have yet to make your gift, please prayerfully consider doing so today by either returning your pledge card in the mail or going to the secure website: <https://diometuchen.org>.



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 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.

Connecting to Our Local Community



Free Tax Preparation Offered through United Way of Northern New Jersey

The United Way of Northern NJ & its partners are offering FREE tax preparation services for low and moderate income households. **At no cost to you**, IRS tax-law certified preparers will help you claim all the credits you are eligible for and get what you are owed. Tax Filing began on 2/1/2024.

Visit uwnnj.org/freetaxprep

For information about scheduling appointments, access free self-filing software, and get answers to question.

For additional information, call 973-993-1160, ext. 5. Email– UnitedWayTaxPrep@UnitedWayNNJ.org



SAVE-THE-DATE

MULTICULTURAL MASS & FAIR

April 20, 2024

St. Francis of Assisi Cathedral, Metuchen

Details to follow

To contact the Office of Multicultural Ministries:

Sr. Miriam Perez, Coordinator for Multicultural Ministries

732-529-7933 or mperez@diometuchen.org



SACRED TIME, SACRED SPACE

Wednesday, April 17th

A personal, quiet day to enjoy God's presence. Day begins with communal prayer.

Bring a bag lunch.

Wednesday, 9:30am-3pm at the House of Prayer

\$20-\$30 as you are able.

VIRTUAL COMFORTABLE CUP OF TEA

Thursday, April 18th

Join us on Zoom for an hour of lectio divina, prayer, conversation and small group sharing.

First and Third Thursdays of each month from 3-4pm on Zoom Freewill offering Apr. 18, May 2, 16, June 6, 20

Information and Registration for all Mount Saint Mary House of Prayer offerings can be found on our website:

www.msmhope.org. Call us at 908-753-2091 or email us at msmhope@msmhope.org.

Parish Leadership

Parish Pastoral Council: Co-Chairs: Frank Rees Frees814@gmail.com Marilyn Wegg mcw-wam@comcast.net	Co-Secretaries: Stephen Busono sbusono@gmail.com Bill Isele t33sm@aol.com Al Drabnis Didi Molano	Sheila Tartaglia Fr. Lancelot McGrath, Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio Trustees: Pearl Scott Marge Richards	Parish Finance Council: Kester Hector, Chair Finance Council @stmatthias.net Carmen Driz-Melilli Barry Dusault Joan Pritchard	Cory Panlilio Mary Pat Burke-Grospin, Ex-Officio Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio
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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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