



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 7:45AM to 3:30PM

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

Anthony Baio, **Maintenance** **abaio**
Deacon Ron Caimi, **Senior Deacon**
Maria Cornier, **Parish Secretary** **mcornier**
Kelly Counts, **Receptionist,** **kcounts**
Deacon Russell Demkovitz, **rdemkovitz**
Nathalie Godet, **Website & Bulletin Editor,**
ngodet

Amy Hanna, **Accountant/Databases,** **ahanna**
Mike Lanyi, **Sacristan,** **mlanyi**
Sue Lenczewski, **Youth Coordinator,** **SMYLE**
Julio Montero, **Maintenance Supervisor**
Debra Schurko, **Director of Religious Education,**
dschurko

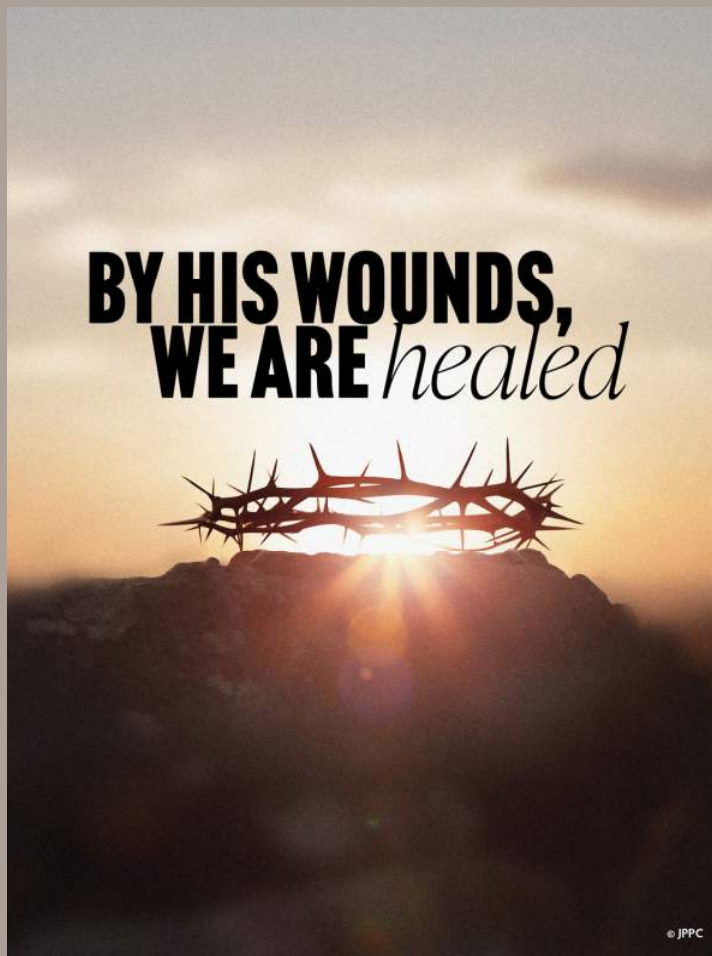
Vinnie Natale, **Bookkeeper,** **vnatale**
Silvia Nizama, **Housekeeper**
Deacon John Radvanski, **deaconjohn**
Joan Best Seamon, **Pastoral Associate for**
Music Ministry, **jseamon**

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

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS

SUNDAY, APRIL 13, 2025

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord



HOLY WEEK/EASTER 2025

Check www.stmatthias.net/holyweek2025 for any changes or updates

Saturday, April 12th

OCIA (RCIA) Day of Retreat: 8:30-3:30
Sacrament of Reconciliation
(Individual confessions)
3:30 – 4:30 PM
Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
Vigil Mass-5:00 PM

Sunday, April 13th

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, 12:00 Noon

Tuesday, April 15th

Chrism Mass at St. Francis Cathedral
4:00 PM

HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 17th

Solemn Mass of the Lord's Supper
7:30 PM

Combined Choir

Procession and Adoration of the Blessed
Sacrament (Cafeteria)
Night Prayer (Cafeteria) - 10:30 PM

GOOD FRIDAY, April 18th

Morning Prayer (Church) - 8:30 AM
Outdoor Stations (SMS parking lot)
2:00 PM

Children's Choir

Celebration of the Lord's Passion
7:30 PM

Combined Choir

HOLY SATURDAY, April 19th

Morning Prayer (Church) - 8:30 AM
Blessing of Food (Cafeteria) - 12:00 Noon
Great Easter Vigil - 8:00 PM

Combined Choir

EASTER SUNDAY, April 20th

Mass Schedule
8:00 AM, 10:00 AM and 12:00 Noon
Combined Choir at 10:00 AM
Handbell Choir at 12:00 PM

EASTER MONDAY, April 21st

No Mass

This Week @ St. Matthias

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, April 13, 2025 **PALM SUNDAY**

RETIREMENT COLLECTION FOR DIOCESAN CLERGY

8:00AM	Mass	Church
10:00AM	Mass	Church
11:00AM	RCIA	de Porres Rm
12:00PM	Mass	Church

Monday, April 14, 2025 **St. Lidwina of Schiedam**

8:00AM	Mass	Church
6:00PM	Eucharistic Adoration	Church
7:00PM	Cub Scout Pack 195 Meeting	Cafeteria

Tuesday, April 15, 2025 **St. Paternus, Bishop**

8:00AM	Mass	Church
4:00PM	Children's choir rehearsal	Church

Wednesday, April 16, 2025 **St. Bernadette Soubirous, Virgin**

8:00AM	Mass	St. Joseph Novena	Church
9:30 AM	Holy Spirit Prayer Ministry	de Porres Rm	
11:00AM	School Prayer Service	Church	
6:30PM	Girl Scout Troop 63202 Mtg	PreK Clsrm	
7:30PM	Folk Group Rehearsal	Church	

Thursday, April 17, 2025 **HOLY THURSDAY** **School and Parish Office Closed**

8:00AM	No Morning Mass	
7:30PM	Mass of the Lord's Supper	Church
10:30PM	Night Prayer	Cafeteria

Friday, April 18, 2025 **GOOD FRIDAY** **School and Parish Office Closed**

8:30AM	Morning Prayer	Church
2:00PM	Outdoor Stations of the Cross	
7:30PM	Passion of the Lord	Church

Saturday, April 19, 2025 **HOLY SATURDAY**

8:30AM	Morning Prayer	Church
12:00PM	Blessing of Food	Cafeteria
8:00PM	Easter Vigil Mass	Church

Sunday, April 20, 2025 **EASTER SUNDAY**

8:00AM	Mass	Church
10:00AM	Mass	Church
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 **9 AM, MONDAY, 5 business days before the needed bulletin date** (earlier for holiday weekends). Approved content is published on a space-available basis.

A Message From The Pastor

Dear Friends,

On the cover page of this bulletin, you can see that today is titled as: "Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord." So, is today "Palm Sunday" or "Passion Sunday?" The answer is: both. The first name comes from the fact that it commemorates Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, when the crowd had palm branches (John 12:13). The second name comes from the fact that the narrative of the Passion is read on this Sunday. Listening attentively to the passion narrative helps us to understand the meaning of the cross in our lives a bit more clearly. Many saints spoke about this and lived it in their own lives. St. Katherine Drexel wrote: "The patient and humble endurance of the Cross – whatever nature it may be – is the highest work we have to do."

We take for granted that we use palms today. But why? In biblical times, the palm tree was considered a "kingly" tree because of its lofty height and majestic appearance. The palm tree became a sign and symbol of royalty and victory. "The Jewish people carried palm branches in their processions on festive holy days. Roman soldiers carried palms in their victory parades in Rome. Holding palms in our hands, we too join the crowds who welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem as their King and Messiah. We have thus entered today into the Holy Week, the most important week of the Liturgical Year. Keep these palms in a prominent place in our home and thus we will be reminded of the significance of what we have begun on Palm Sunday or Passion Sunday.

The Lenten season of sacrifice and self-denial is about to come to an end, but this week is extremely important for all Christians. The greatest focus of the week is the Passion (suffering) and Resurrection of Jesus Christ and the events that led up to it. The "Chrism Mass" will be on Tuesday in the Cathedral where the Bishop, together with all the priests, will commemorate one important event of the Holy Thursday – the institution of the Priesthood. It is during this Mass that the sacred oils used for the Sacraments will be blessed by the Bishop. Our parish will be represented by Mike and Debbie Lanyi; they will bring some of these oils back to our parish.

"Easter Triduum" is another term we hear this week. It simply means "a three day festival" of prayer and worship, beginning on the evening of Holy Thursday and ending on Easter Sunday. A short note on each of these days is given elsewhere in this bulletin.

Pope Francis wrote: "Holy Week is a privileged time when we are called to draw near to Jesus: friendship with him is shown in times of difficulty." My earnest request to you in this column, dear brothers and sisters, is that you make every effort this week to attend these sacred events. Can we consider this week as a time of grace for all of us as a family and so make sure that we participate in these worship services even by making some sacrifice this week, by rescheduling other activities, by rearranging other plans and thus giving priority to this week? You will see the grace of God flowing into your lives and into your homes. Wishing you all a grace-filled Holy Week, leading to the joys of Easter,

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Orapankal



Readings for the Week

Monday Is 42:1-7 Ps 27:1, 2, 3, 13-14 Jn 12:1-11

Tuesday Is 49:1-6 Ps 71:1-2, 3-4a, 5ab-6ab, 15 and 17 Jn 13:21-33, 36-38

Wednesday Is 50:4-9a Ps 69:8-10, 21-22, 31 and 33-34 Mt 26:14-25

Thursday Chrism Is 61:1-3a, 6a, 8b-9 Ps 89:21-22, 25 and 27 Rv 1:5-8 Lk 4:16-21

Thursday Night Ex 12:1-8, 11-14 Ps 116:12-13, 15-16bc, 17-18 1 Cor 11:23-26 Jn 13:1-15

Friday Is 52:13—53:12 Ps 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-16, 17, 25 Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9 Jn 18:1—19:42

Saturday Gen 1:1—2:2 or Gen 1:1, 26-31a Ps 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 13-14, 24, 35 or Ps 33:4-5, 6-7, 12-13, 20 and 22 Gen 22:1-18 or Gen 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18 Lk 24:1-12

Sunday Acts 10:34a, 37-43 Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23 Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8 Jn 20:1-9



Mass Intentions for the Week

Sat., April 12	5:00 PM	Kevin Doyle by Isabelle and John Baker
Sun., April 13	8:00 AM	James Quinlan by Joe and Sharon
	10:00 AM	In Loving Memory of Caleb Nervez by The Moreno Family
	12:00 PM	Intention of Parishioners
Mon., April 14	8:00 AM	Adoration Lawas by Agnes
Tues., April 15	8:00 AM	Gertrude Quinn by Maureen Quinn Mount
Wed., April 16	8:00 AM	Andrius Liaukus by Nijole Klimik
Thurs., April 17	8:00 AM	No Morning Mass
	7:30 PM	Mass of the Lord's Supper
	10:30 PM	Night Prayer (Cafeteria)
Fri., April 18	8:30 AM	Morning Prayer (Cafeteria) No Morning Mass
	7:30 PM	Passion of the Lord
Sat., April 19	8:30 AM	Morning Prayer (Cafeteria)
	12:00 PM	Blessing of the Food (Cafeteria)
	8:00 PM	Deceased Members of the Music Ministry
Sun., April 20	8:00 AM	Julian and Felisa DeGuzman by Alma Valdez
	10:00 AM	Rita D'Alessio by the Enad Family
	12:00 PM	Intention of Parishioners

Pray for those who are sick...

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

Connie Adams	Vivian Dong	Rafael Jara	Christine Matthews	Felix Sebastian
Beth, Jim & Jay Adams	Sanora Doyen	Marilyn Jensen	Joan Mazzacco	Patricia Shea
Suzanne Adams	Andrea Dubuisson	Jean Alix Jolly	Frank McCann	Amy Shepp
Sue Alese	Derowitsch Family	Marie Claude Jolly	Ann McElwee	Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF
Marie Arroyo	Hattie Evans	Donna Kahora	Jessica Marie Merrick	Catherine Steele
Robert Baker	Adam Figueriedo	Patty Kerekes	Gail Miranda	Richard Sury
Edgar Banaag	Margaret Ann Cichon	Betsy Kondrat	Catalina Moran	Jacqueline Taylor
Carolyn Banghart	Ford	Kim Krikorian	Sarah Braun Morini	Anita Vance
Ghislaine Baron	Sharon Gadomski	Kathy Langenbacher	Celia Palacio	Minda Villarica
Samantha Bellouny	Gerard Giordano	Rose Larangeira	Dr. Jean Patrick	Eileen Weber
Carmen Bender	Claude Godet	Linda Leone	Robert Pellegrino	Nancy Whelan
Mary Bostrom	Marie Godet	Henrietta Lesiak	Robert Pierro	Richard Zagurek
Robert Brisson	Fr. Ben Gomez OMI	John Litrakis	Robert Pietrowiak	Mike Zambri
Patricia Burke	Shelly Greene	Mary Lou Litrakis	Valerie Polci	GINETTE Zamor
Karin Cabezas	Joan Harris	Aries Magali	Kim Price	Anne Zando
Ben Campbell	Linda Hartong	Cynthia Magat	Frank Rispoli	Celia M. Zelinski
Tara Capatosto	Jeff Hentz	Kenneth & Kelly Magat	Gabriel Rivera	
Rustico Castellano	Sloopy & JP Hoffman	Bobby Manansala	Don Roeske	And for all who are ill,
Marty Collins	Marilyn Horvath	Susan, King & Tosh	Bob Rotz	homebound, elderly,
Pierre Celestin	Jerry & Donna Hucul	Manansala	Marisa Ruppel	in nursing care, or
Lisa DeFeo	Nicole Cherill Hynes	Colleen Maniscalco	Gloria Santos	living with chronic
Patrick Dolphin	Nick Isele	Alexandra Marquez	Maria Schwenzer	illness, we pray.

Pray for those who have died...

— "His mercy endures forever." Chronicles

John C. Szucs

Margaret Menendez, daughter of Audrey Menendez

Reflect



Smile with Your Family

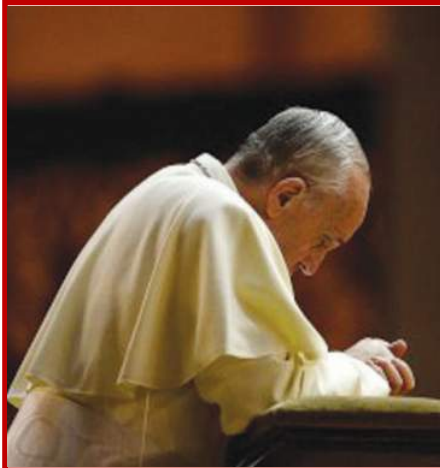


The six-year-old came home from Palm Sunday services proudly carrying his palm. Mom and Dad quizzed him on his Sunday school lesson for the day. He responded enthusiastically, "Jesus came to Jerusalem on a donkey. And the happy people waved their palm branches and sang, "O Susanna..." 😊

Little Johnny was sick on Palm Sunday and stayed home from Church with his mother. His father returned from church holding a palm branch. The little boy was curious and asked why. His father explained, "You see, when Jesus came into town, everyone waved palm branches to honor him; so we got palm branches today." "Aw, shucks," grumbled Little Johnny. "The one Sunday I can't go to Church, and Jesus shows up!" 😊

Why are some churches round in shape?
So no one can hide in the corner. 😊

A new priest who was hearing the confessions of children heard six boys in succession say, "Bless me, Father, I have sinned - I threw peanuts in the lake." He naturally was puzzled, wondering why that would be considered a sin by the children. Another boy entered the confessional next, and Father wearily said to him, "I suppose you are going to tell me you threw peanuts in the lake as well!" "No, Father," came the response, "I'm Peanuts." 😊



PONTIFICAL GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION

Pope Francis has asked our parish to support the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, which helps Christians in the Holy Land, where they are now less than 2% of the population. Your support is essential to help the Church minister in parishes, provide Catholic schools, and offer religious education. The Pontifical Good Friday Collection also helps to preserve the sacred shrines of Christianity, including in Jerusalem, Nazareth, and Bethlehem, to name a few.

When you contribute to the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, you will join with Catholics around the world in solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land. PLEASE BE GENEROUS!



ST. MATTHIAS HOMEBOUND MINISTRY

Sharing # 3: Jo-Ann Piagentini



For many years, I have taken Holy Communion to our homebound parishioners. Some have been very elderly, 102 and 101 years old, and some very young, in their 30's. For all of these dear people, I have witnessed a dedication to the Lord that has enriched my soul and strengthened my Faith. I have gotten to know them and their stories, and they mine. We have been joined in a love of Jesus and a belief that by receiving Jesus in the Eucharist, we are enriched and blessed to move on in faith for whatever the Lord has in store for us.

I serve in a few ministries here in the parish and can honestly tell you that this experience has given me much more than I could ever give back. One very elderly client that I visited a few years ago would cry and wish for death each week I visited. I spoke to Sister Marie Therese about her, asking what I could possibly do to ease her sorrow. Sister told me to ask her what she was looking forward to when she finally got to Heaven, and who she would be happy to see again. When I did this on my next visit, the tone of our visit changed as she spoke about her love of God and her happiness to see her husband and son again. What a moving experience I had that Sunday morning! This ministry is a true blessing for all who participate, I can promise you that!

If you are moved to join this ministry of bringing Jesus to the Homebound parishioners, please contact:

Doreen Panick, our Coordinator, at dsp999@aol.com.

PALM SUNDAY AND PASSION SUNDAY

The Church celebrates today as both Palm Sunday and Passion Sunday. It is on Palm Sunday that we enter Holy Week and welcome Jesus into our lives, asking him to allow us a share in his suffering, death and Resurrection. This is also the time we remember and relive the events which brought about our redemption and salvation. That is why the Holy Week liturgy presents us with the actual events of the dying and rising of Jesus. The liturgy also enables us to experience in our lives, here and now, what Jesus went through then. In other words, we commemorate and relive during this week our own dying and rising in Jesus, which result in our healing, reconciliation, and redemption. No wonder Greek Orthodox Christians greet each other with the words, "Kali Anastasi" ("Good Resurrection"), not on Easter Sunday but on Good Friday. They anticipate the Resurrection. Just as Jesus did, we, too, must lay down our lives freely by active participation in the Holy Week liturgies. In so doing, we are allowing Jesus to forgive us our sins, to heal the wounds in us caused by our sins and the sins of others and to transform us more completely into the image and likeness of God. Thus, we shall be able to live more fully the Divine life we received at Baptism.

Proper participation in the Holy Week liturgy will also deepen our relationship with God, increase our Faith and strengthen our lives as disciples of Jesus. But let us remember that Holy Week can become "holy" for us only if we actively and consciously take part in the liturgies of this week. This is also the week when we should lighten the burden of Christ's passion as daily experienced by the hungry, the poor, the sick, the homeless, the lonely and the outcast through our corporal and spiritual works of mercy. The Passion Sunday liturgy combines contrasting moments, one of glory, the other of suffering: the welcome of Jesus into Jerusalem and the drama of his unjust trial and suffering, culminating in his crucifixion and death.



SKIP THE HOLY WEEK TO EASTER?!

Philip Yancey, an editor at Christianity Today magazine, grew up in a fundamentalist church which didn't observe the major events of Holy Week. He never attended a Good Friday service and shied away from crucifixes because they were "too Catholic." He writes, "The church I grew up in skipped past the events of Holy Week in a rush to hear the cymbal sounds of Easter." (Christianity Today, September 9, 1996). We can understand this desire to skip through Holy Week. Jesus on the cross is death; Jesus risen is life! A sanctuary stripped bare for Good Friday is depressing; a lily-bedecked sanctuary is glorious! Who doesn't want to skip through Holy Week? Yet, the adult Philip Yancey has learned that the Bible "slows down rather than speeds up when it gets to Holy Week." What people want to get through quickly, the Bible takes slowly. One early Christian commentator went so far as to say that the Gospels are actually the record of Jesus' final week . . . with extended introductions.

Here's the challenge for Holy Week. We have but this Sunday to cover everything from Jesus entering Jerusalem to "Hosannas," through the moment when Jesus was laid in a borrowed tomb. Even the name for this Sunday reveals our challenge. Today is "Palm/Passion Sunday." It's not "Palm or Passion Sunday," not even "Palm and Passion Sunday." It's Palm/Passion Sunday, two different subjects jammed up against each other.

HOSANNA LEADING TO THE CROSS

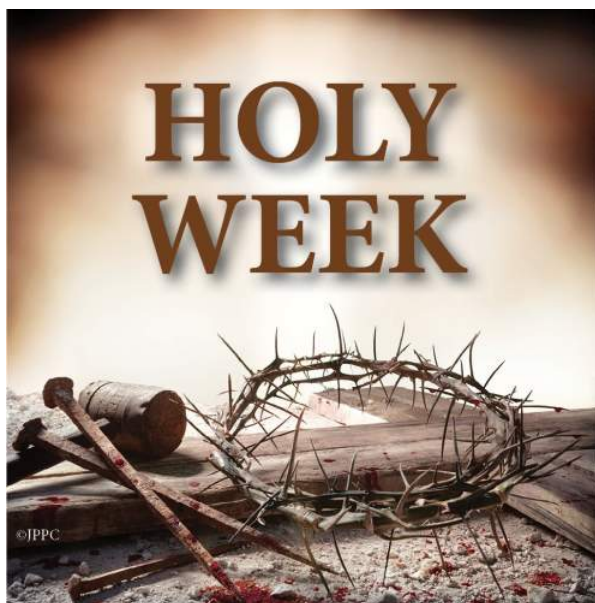
Some years ago a book, entitled When the Cheering Stopped, was written by Gene Smith, a noted American biographer of world leaders. It was the story of the last years of President Woodrow Wilson and the events leading up to and following World War I. When that war was over, Wilson, the 28th president of the United States, was an international hero. There was a great spirit of optimism abroad, and people actually believed that the last war had been fought, and that the world had been made safe for democracy. On his first visit to Paris after the war, Wilson was greeted by cheering mobs. He was actually more popular than France's own heroes. The same thing was true in England and Italy. The cheering lasted about a year. Then it gradually began to stop. At home, Woodrow Wilson ran into opposition in the United States Senate, and his League of Nations was not ratified. Under the strain of it all, the President's health began to break. In the next election his party was defeated. So it was that Woodrow Wilson, a man who barely a year or two earlier had been heralded as the new world Messiah, came to the end of his days a broken and defeated man.

It's a sad story, but one that is not altogether unfamiliar. The ultimate reward for someone who tries to translate ideals into reality is apt to be frustration and defeat. It happened that way to Jesus. When he emerged on the public scene, he was an overnight sensation. On Palm Sunday, leafy palm branches were spread before him and there were shouts of "Hosanna." But before it was all over, a tidal wave of manipulated opposition welled up that brought Jesus to the cross.

"DADDY, DADDY, PLEASE DADDY"

A father, Tim Miller, writes about a time when he experienced what God surely experienced that day on Calvary. Miller's nine-year-old daughter Jennifer was looking forward to their family's vacation. But she became ill, and a long anticipated day at Sea World was replaced by an all-night series of CT scans, X-rays, and blood work at the hospital. As morning approached, the doctors told this exhausted little girl that she would need to have one more test, a spinal tap. The procedure would be painful, they said. The doctor then asked Tim Miller if he planned to stay in the room. He nodded, knowing he couldn't leave Jennifer alone during the ordeal. The doctors gently asked Jennifer to remove all her clothing. Then they curled her into a tiny ball. Tim says he buried his face in hers and hugged her. When the needle went in, Jennifer cried. As the searing pain increased, she sobbingly repeated, "Daddy, Daddy, Daddy," her voice becoming more earnest with each word. It was as if she were saying, "Oh Daddy, please, can't you do something?"

Tim's tears mingled with hers. His heart was broken. He felt nauseated. Because he loved her, he was allowing her to go through the most agonizing experience of her life, and he could hardly stand it. In the middle of that spinal tap, his thoughts went to the cross of Christ. What unspeakable pain both the Son and the Father went through, says Tim Miller. [Edward K. Rowell, *1001 Quotes, Illustrations, and Humorous Stories* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2008), p. 180.] And it's true. We see Christ's courage. And we see the Father's amazing love poured out. And here is the most astounding thing of all: it was all for us. We didn't deserve it, but Christ died for us.



WHAT IS EASTER TRIDUUM?

"Triduum" is a Latin word referring to a three-day period of prayer, usually in preparation for an important feast or in celebration of that feast. Easter Triduum is the liturgical name for the last three days of Holy Week: Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday with Easter Vigil whereby we enter the joy of Easter Sunday. Here's a preview of how it is celebrated here at St. Matthias.



Holy Thursday: If you have not attended a Holy Thursday Mass, you should try to be there. It is the time when the Oils of Chrism are presented to the Priest and the Congregation after our Parish representatives – Mike and Debbie Lanyi – would attend the Chrism Mass at the Cathedral in Metuchen and bring them to St. Matthias. During this Mass the priest performs the washing of the feet, a very humbling experience. At the conclusion of the Mass, the Blessed Sacrament is taken to the beautifully decorated Cafeteria where parishioners come in turns to "watch and pray" with Our Lord.

Good Friday: In the afternoon, at 2 PM, we have our traditional Stations of the Cross outside – in our parking lot – with very reflections that are relevant to our times. This presentation is quite moving as parishioners representing different ministries, lead us in the path of Jesus on the road to His death on the cross.

At night, there is a solemn service in the church. The atmosphere is somber with low lighting and music. We hear readings from the Old Testament and the Gospel (the Passion Narrative), and there is time for reflection during the intercessions. After the intercessions, we each venerate the cross with a sign of respect or reverence. This service is not a Mass because there is no consecration of hosts, but communion is received with the extra Eucharist from the Mass on Holy Thursday. At the end of the service, we depart the church in prayerful silence.

Holy Saturday/Easter Vigil: This is the day of prayer and waiting. The Easter Vigil begins at 8 pm when it is still dark. The congregation moves outside to begin the Service of the Easter Fire. We then process into the Church with the Paschal Candle lit. We use candles lit from the Paschal Candle and as the vigil progresses, the Church is flooded with light representing new life. It is at the Easter Vigil that the Catechumen and the Elect receive the sacraments of initiation as full members of the Catholic Church. It is a spiritually uplifting experience. Consider being a part of this most holy and inspirational time at St. Matthias. The music is spectacular and the effort that our Music Ministers put into the whole of the Holy Week service is very special, culminating in the Easter Vigil Service. Do not miss this annual experience which is worth every moment of this sacred night.



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

DIOCESE OF METUCHEN

St John Neumann Pastoral Center • P.O. Box 191, Metuchen, New Jersey 08840-0191
P: 732.562.2458 • F: 732.562.1427 • E: office.of.the.bishop@diometuchen.org

April 6, 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

What a blessing that we have so many good, holy priests faithfully serving in the Diocese of Metuchen in our parishes, hospitals and other important ministries! I write to remind you that we also have **forty retired priests** of our diocese who have dedicated many years of devotion to God and our parish communities.

While all of our retired diocesan priests receive a monthly stipend to assist them with expenses, some go to live with relatives, while twelve live at our *Maria Regina Residence for Retired Priests*. Here our retired priests live each day with dignity while being able to live in community with brother priests. Those who are physically able continue to generously help in so many ways-offering Mass at local parishes, hearing confessions and sharing their spiritual and administrative wisdom with their brother priests. They also spend time in prayer in their chapel praying for the needs of everyone in our diocese, including you.

Our retired priests have served so many people over the course of their ministry, nourishing our Catholic faith, educating our youth and serving the poor and vulnerable. *Next weekend, April 12 and 13, as we celebrate Palm Sunday*, the faithful of the diocese will have the opportunity to gratefully acknowledge the life-long dedication of these priests by contributing to the *Annual Collection for our Retired Diocesan Priests*. All funds raised through this collection will be used exclusively to assist our retired priests.

Thank you for your generosity. Please keep all of our priests in your daily prayers. Please also continue to pray for vocations from our local Church to the holy priesthood for service in our diocese.

With renewed best wishes, I remain

Yours in Christ,


Most Reverend James F. Checchio, JCD, MBA
Bishop of Metuchen



DIVINE MERCY NOVENA AND CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY

You are invited to join us as we pray the **Divine Mercy Novena and Chaplet** beginning **April 18, 2025, Good Friday**, in the Church. These are the 9 days before the feast of Divine Mercy on April 27th.

Day 1... after the outdoor Stations of the Cross, Day 2... after the Saturday morning prayer service
Day 3... Easter Sunday... pray on your own, Day 4-8... after daily Mass, and Day 9... pray on your own
The novena will culminate after the **10am Mass on Divine Mercy Sunday, April 27th**, followed by the recitation of the Rosary in the Church. Remember to bring your rosary beads.

Come and learn this special prayer that Jesus gave to St. Faustina, and also to us! We hope to see you.

If you are unfamiliar with the novena and chaplet, please visit the links below to learn more:

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

Learn



ST. MATTHIAS SCHOOL DRAMA CLUB PRESENTS...

Help support the St. Matthias School Drama Students by purchasing items for the show, then come see them on stage!



BUY TICKETS FOR THE SHOW!

April 10th, 11th, and 12th
at 7:00 PM
at Immaculata High School,



For detailed information visit:
www.stmatthias.net/marypoppinsjr



ST. MATTHIAS GOLF OUTING

Friday, May 2nd Rutgers Golf Course

Scan code to register or

www.https://events.golfstatus.com/event/SMS2025



Email
smsgolfclub@gmail.com
with any questions

- Lunch & After Party at Stage House, Somerset
- Foursome \$950 Golf & After Party
- Foursome Golf Only \$550
- Single Golfer \$250 Golf & After Party
- Single Golfer \$150 Golf Only
- After Party Only \$100



CAMP INVENTION AT ST. MATTHIAS SCHOOL!

JUNE 23-27, 2025

8:30 AM - 3:00 PM



Camp Invention®

Thanks to rave reviews from campers, parents, and teachers, we're bringing **Camp Invention** back for its 8th year at St. Matthias School!

Even better, our 2025 program is full of all-new, hands-on STEM fun! Don't miss out — register students going into grades Kindergarten through 6th grade at invent.org/camp until camp starts.

Register by May 15th 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.

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!

Connect

A note of thanks from our parishioners who organized the 40 Hour Adoration.

Dear Fellow St. Matthias Parishioners,

All glory to God!!

We would like to thank all of you for joining our first-ever 40 hour EUCHARISTIC ADORATION.

We hope that you had a blessed and meaningful time with the Lord.

Please pray that we as a parish community will be able to have more of this devotion going forward.

May God continue to bless us individually and as a parish community!



Give (and Receive!)

Stewardship Totals for Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025				Last Year's Total
Current Month	In-Pew/Mail	Parish Giving	Weekly Total	Weekly Total
Week 40 - April 6, 2025	\$10,620.00	\$18,522.00	\$29,142.00	\$31,080.50
Week 41 - April 13, 2025				\$29,383.50
Week 42 - April 20, 2025				\$21,477.40
Week 43 - April 27, 2025				\$19,573.20
			Month-to-date Total	April Total Last Year
			\$29,142.00	\$101,514.60
			Current Year-to-date Total	Year-to-date as of April 30, 2024
			\$1,030,116.55	\$1,058,947.95

REMINDER!

When we contribute via check, the Chase Bank requires that the checks must be made out to **“Church of St. Matthias.”**

No other variation of this designation will be acceptable due to greater security controls.

Stewardship Reflection April 13, 2025 Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

“...I tell you, Peter, before the cock crows this day, you will deny three times that you know me.” - Luke 22:34

How many times have you heard someone make a disparaging comment about God or our Catholic faith? How did you react? Do you remain quiet so not to cause a disturbance? Or, because you don't want people to think negatively about you? Or, because you don't think you know enough about the Catholic faith? Pray for the courage to speak up and enter into a respectful conversation when the opportunity to talk about our faith arises. Joyfully share your faith with others.

Reflexiónese – 13 de Abril de 2025 Domingo de Ramos de la Pasión del Señor

“Pedro, te digo que hoy mismo, antes de que cante el gallo, tres veces negarás que me conoces.” - Lucas 22:34

¿Cuántas veces ha escuchado a alguien hacer un comentario despectivo acerca de Dios o de nuestra fe Católica? ¿Como reacción? ¿Permaneció callado para no causar molestias? ¿O, porque no quería que los demás pensarán negativamente de usted? ¿O, porque pensó que no sabía lo suficiente acerca de la fe Católica? Ore para tener la valentía de hablar y entablar una conversación respetuosa cuando se presente la oportunidad de hablar acerca de nuestra fe. Comparta con alegría su fe con los demás. .



DIOCESE OF
METUCHEN

2025 BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

Theme: PILGRIMS OF HOPE: JOURNEYING TOGETHER IN FAITH, HOPE AND CHARITY

All our parishioners must have received a letter about the Annual Bishop's Annual Appeal. Parishes throughout the Diocese of Metuchen are given a specific amount to raise. The 2025 BAA goal for St. Matthias is \$175,000. Our parish has already pledged \$112, 127.36 (64.07 %) of this goal - thanks to the good will and generosity of our parishioners. The goal is for every family to participate. Every gift, no matter the size, is important and greatly appreciated. Together, we are keeping Christ's presence alive in the world today. Thank you for actively participating in this mission by your financial support.

Connecting to Our Local Community

CHRISM MASS 2025

TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 2025 AT 4:00PM



All are encouraged to join in-person or via Livestream in the ancient, grace-filled Chrism Mass at the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi in Metuchen at 4:00 PM as Bishop Checchio will bless and consecrate the Holy Oils. Furthermore, the priests make a Renewal of Commitment to Priestly Service to the Bishop at this Mass.



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June 12th, 2025

5 pm Mass at Saint Francis Cathedral
6 pm Reception to follow
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ALL ARE WELCOME!

(call 732.516.0911 to RSVP!)

June 26th, 2025

3rd Annual
Somerset Patriots Game!
Gates open at 5:30
Game starts at 6:35
Fireworks to follow
Our goal is
250 Life Choices Fans!

Tickets are \$15 per person!
Choose Life shirts will be sold
at the gate prior to the game!
\$12 for 1 / \$20 for 2



Diocesan Jubilee Pilgrimage to the

Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception

Washington, D.C.

with Most Rev. James F. Checchio, JCD, MBA,
Bishop of Metuchen

September 20, 2025



Parish Leadership

Parish Pastoral Council:

Co-Chairs:

Stephen Busono
sbusono@gmail.com

Bill Isele
t33sm@aol.com

Secretary:

Sheila Tartaglia

Members:

Teresa Yannotta
Joe Percoco
Miles London

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

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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