



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

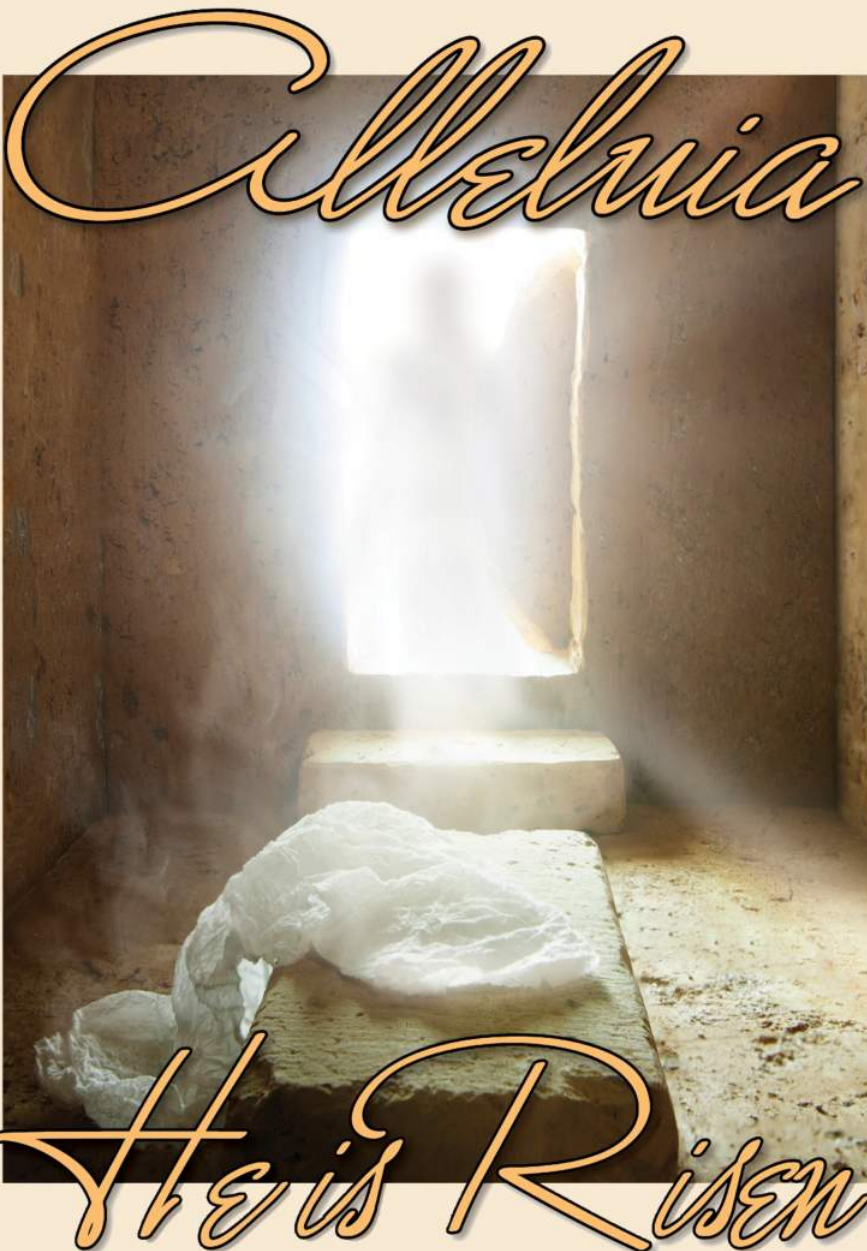
Vinnie Natale, **Bookkeeper**, **vnatale**
Silvia Nizama, **Housekeeper**
Deacon John Radvanski, **deaconjohn**
Joan Best Seamon, **Pastoral Associate for**
Music Ministry, **jseamon**

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

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS

SUNDAY, APRIL 20, 2025

Easter Sunday



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 20, 2025 **EASTER SUNDAY**
 8:00AM Easter Sunday Mass Church
 10:00AM Easter Sunday Mass Church
 If overflow, Mass will be Live Streamed in Cafeteria
 12:00PM Easter Sunday Mass Church

Monday, April 21, 2025 **St. Anselm, Archbishop & Doctor**
EASTER MONDAY No Mass
PARISH OFFICE/SCHOOL CLOSED
NO EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Tuesday, April 22, 2025 **St. Soter, Pope,**
 8:00AM Mass Church

Wednesday, April 23, 2025 **St. George of Lydda, Martyr**
 8:00AM Mass St. Joseph Novena Church
 9:30 AM Holy Spirit Prayer Ministry de Porres Rm

Thursday, April 24, 2025 **St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen, Priest & Martyr**
 8:00AM Mass Church
 5:00PM Communion Pictures Church

Friday, April 25, 2025 **St. Mark, Evangelist & Martyr**
 8:00AM Morning Prayer Church
 6:45PM Boy Scout Troop 154 Mtg. Cafeteria

Saturday, April 26, 2025 **St. Anacletus, Pope**
 12:00PM Private Baptism Church
 3:30PM Reconciliation Church
 5:00PM Sunday Vigil Mass Church

Sunday, April 27, 2025 **2nd Sunday of Easter**
SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY
 8:00AM Sunday Mass Church
 9:00AM Mental Health Self Care Fair Cafeteria & other Rms
 10:00AM Sunday Mass Interpreter Church
 11:00AM OCIA (RCIA) de Porres Rm
 12:00Pm Sunday Mass Church
 1:30PM Baptisms 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, Happy Easter!

This year's Easter is very special for the whole of the Christendom. This year (2025), we have a remarkable coincidence: Both the Eastern and Western Christians are holding Easter on the same day today, April 20, a joint celebration that doesn't happen often. Last year (2024), you may remember that Catholics and much of the rest of the world celebrated Easter on March 31, while the Orthodox Christians celebrated Easter on May 5. The difference is due to the fact that most Orthodox churches use the Julian calendar introduced by Julius Caesar in 45 B.C. and the Catholic Church and pretty much the rest of the world follow the Gregorian calendar introduced by Pope Gregory XIII's 1582. This will avoid the confusion that happens every time when we hear about the Orthodox churches celebrating Easter much later than our date of Easter.

This convergence has reopened discussions that all the Christian denominations must agree on a common date for Easter and Christmas. Earlier this year, Pope Francis used this year's coincidence to bring the topic up in remarks at an ecumenical prayer service marking the end of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: *"I renew my appeal that this coincidence may serve as an appeal to all Christians to take a decisive step forward towards unity around a common date for Easter. The Catholic Church is open to accepting the date that everyone wants: a date of unity."* This hope and wish have been expressed also by the spiritual leader of the Eastern Orthodox Church, the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew who is the archbishop of Constantinople and 270th successor of St. Andrew the Apostle. But will it happen, since it is beset with so many procedural hurdles? Time will tell.

But let us rejoice and celebrate this Easter as one people of God: "This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad!" (Psalm 118:24). Today we celebrate the completion of the sacred Triduum in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. These "Great Three Days" form the centerpiece of God's salvific work in Christ. While it still remains a mystery, the grief and agony of the cross from Good Friday and Holy Saturday is now tempered and balanced with the joy of Easter Sunday.

Haven't you wondered why the Church insists that Easter is the most important feast of the year while the secular world gives so much importance to Christmas? The Resurrection of Christ is the basis of our Christian faith and foundation of church. St. Paul writes: "If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain; and your faith is in vain." (I Corinthians 15: 14). We are in the Holy Year 2025 with its theme "Pilgrims of Hope." Easter is the guarantee of our hope for our own resurrection. Jesus assured Martha at the tomb of Lazarus: "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me will live even though he dies" (John 11: 25-26).

We have every reason to be an "Easter People" and to sing Halleluiah loud and clear.

Easter Blessings!

Fr. Abraham Orapankal
 Pastor



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 19	8:30 AM	Morning Prayer (Cafeteria)
	12:00 PM	Blessing of the Food (Cafeteria)
Sun., April 20	8:00 AM	Deceased Members of the Music Ministry
	10:00 AM	Julian and Felisa DeGuzman by Alma Valdez
Mon., April 21	12:00 AM	Rita D'Alessio by the Enad Family
	12:00 PM	Intention of Parishioners
Mon., April 21	NO MASS	
Tues., April 22	8:00 AM	Nicholas Hughes by Daddy, Michael, Patrick & Brittany
Wed., April 23	8:00 AM	Jerry Edwin by Mercy Gabriel
Thurs., April 24	8:00 AM	Milagros Alcantara by Agnes
Fri., April 25	8:00 AM	Regina Vidal by Kathleen Referente
Sat., April 26	5:00 PM	Intention for Parishioners
Sun., April 27	8:00 AM	George Barker by Joe and Sharon
	10:00 AM	Anne & Michael Kovuda by The Aiello Family
	12:00 PM	Rosario V. Anglo by Victoria V. Anglo

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

Pray for those who have died...

— “His mercy endures forever.” *Chronicles*

Andrew P. Burian

Joan McDaniels



Smile with Your Family



A Sunday school teacher had just finished telling her third graders about how Jesus was crucified and placed in a tomb with a great stone sealing the opening. Then, wanting to share the excitement of the Resurrection, she asked: "And what do you think were Jesus' first words when He came bursting out of that tomb alive?" A hand shot up into the air from the rear of the classroom. Attached to it was the arm of a little girl. Leaping out of her chair she shouted out excitedly "I know, I know!" "Good" said the teacher, "Tell us, what were Jesus first words?" And extending her arms high into the air she said: "TA-DA!" 😊

Former Presidential candidate Mike Huckabee was once asked if he believed in resurrection. "Of course I do," said Huckabee. "Dead people vote in every election we have in Arkansas. Resurrection is very real to us." 😊

Q: How do bunnies stay healthy? A: Eggercise

Q: Why is Easter like whipped cream and a cherry?

A: Because it's always on a sundae!

Q: Why did the Easter Bunny have to fire the duck?

A: Because he kept quacking all the eggs!

Q: What would you get if you crossed the Easter Bunny with an over-stressed person? A: An Easter basket case!

Q: What is the Easter Bunny's favorite state capital?

A: Albunny, New York!

Q: How many chocolate bunnies can you put into an empty Easter basket?

A: One. After that the basket won't be empty.

Q: How can you tell which rabbits are the oldest in a group? A: Just look for the grey hares

Q: Where do Easter Bunnies go for new tails?

A: To the re-tail store 😊



ST. MATTHIAS HOMEBOUND MINISTRY

Sharing # 4: Loraine Soltis



I joined the Homebound ministry when I retired from work. I no longer had to go to work and my daughters moved both married and moved out about the same time. I literally had nothing to occupy my time. Then I met Marion, who was a Eucharistic minister, and she prompted me to join. I was intrigued and decided to join her for one time only.

I was aware that we were doing something special when the recipients were really grateful for our visit. I also felt that I was accomplishing a need. Then my younger sister got sick, and before she died she was grateful that someone brought her Holy Communion.

I decided that I should be that someone for someone else to ease their passing.

If you are inspired by this sharing, you are welcome to join this wonderful ministry, please contact:

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

EASTER REFLECTION: "THE LIBERATORS"

[The women] found the stone rolled away from the tomb; but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus . . . "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but he has been raised." Luke 24: 1-12

In his book *The Liberators*, author Michael Hirsch details the stories, impressions and reactions of American soldiers who liberated the Nazi concentration camps as they chased the last remnants of the Nazi army in the final days of World War II. Hirsch also includes in his book the recollection of one of those liberated. Coenraad Rood was a 24-year-old Dutch Jew who worked as a tailor. He was arrested in 1942 and spent three years imprisoned at a number of camps. In January 1945, he lay dying in a covered ditch in the camp at Ampfing when the 14th Armored Division liberated the camp. Rood remembers:

"Suddenly, I heard my friend Maupy. I heard him speaking English, saying [to someone] 'go in there. My friend is dying. He should know that he is free before he dies.' The trapdoor to the ditch] opened up and there was an American soldier there . . . I was laying in the dark, in the dirt, and he told me, 'come, comrade, you are free now.' And then I started crying. I try to get to him, but I was, like paralyzed . . . I was crawling on the ground, trying to get to the door. And then he picked me up by the collar of my little jacket [and] he was holding me. I remember I thought, 'Man, is the man strong!' . . . And he told me, 'You're free now. You understand? It's over.'" "As dirty and sick as I was, that soldier, that American soldier, kissed me. And I kissed him back, and he was holding me and took me [outside to ditch, into the light] and said, 'See? You are free now.' And he cried to." After the liberation, Coenraad Rood was reunited with his wife Bep, who survived the war in hiding. And they made a new life for themselves in the United States.

You are free; it's over - the words of American soldiers to the victims of the Holocaust. Why do you seek the living among the dead? - the angels ask of the women who come to the tomb on Easter morning. Easter is God's never-ending invitation to freedom, his raising us up from "tombs" of selfishness and fear and anger and hatred. In the many manifestations of his compassion and mercy around us, God picks us up and carries us out of our prisons and ditches. And, in turn, we become "liberators" ourselves, picking up others from among the "dead" and restoring them to life and hope. In raising his son from the dead, God vindicates the Gospel of his Christ. In the light of Easter's empty tomb, every moment of forgiveness, every triumph of justice over persecution, every insistence of goodness in the face of horrendous evil, every act of compassion (no matter how simple or small) proclaims the good news that Christ is risen.

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE "PASCHAL OR EASTER CANDLE"?

Paschales Solemnitatis explains: 99. The paschal candle has its proper place either by the ambo or by the altar and should be lit at least in all the more solemn liturgical celebrations of the season until Pentecost Sunday, whether at Mass, or at Morning and Evening Prayer.

After the Easter season the candle should be kept with honor in the baptistry, so that in the celebration of Baptism the candles of the baptized may be lit from them.

In the celebration of funerals, the paschal candle should be placed near the coffin to indicate that the death of a Christian is his own Passover. The paschal candle should not otherwise be lit nor placed in the sanctuary outside the Easter season.



IS EASTER A PAGAN HOLIDAY?

Absolutely not! No, because whatever it meant for ancient pagans, for Christians Easter is the celebration of Christ's Resurrection. The fact that when it was first celebrated the feast of the Resurrection coincided with pagan celebrations doesn't mean it was derived from them. The Jewish Passover (on which Christ was crucified) also coincided with such celebrations, yet this didn't mean it was pagan.

As for Easter eggs, there's nothing wrong with painting or hunting them on Easter--provided the real meaning of the day isn't lost. As with the days of the week (the names of which are of pagan origin), any peculiarly pagan significance attached to Easter eggs was forgotten centuries ago.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE, BUT WHY?

You may remember a geography lesson from elementary school in which you learned that the southernmost point of Africa is a point that for centuries has experienced tremendous storms. For many years, no one knew what lay beyond that cape, for no ship attempting to round that point had ever returned to tell the tale. Among the ancients, it was known as the "Cape of Storms," and for good reason. But then a Portuguese explorer in the sixteenth century, Vasco De Gama, successfully sailed around that very point and found, beyond the wild raging storms, a great calm sea, and beyond that, the shores of India. The name of that cape was changed from the Cape of Storms to the Cape of Good Hope. Until Jesus Christ rose from the dead, death had been the "cape of storms" on which all hopes of life beyond had been wrecked. No one knew what lay beyond that point until, on Easter morning, Jesus arose. The ancient visions of Isaiah became the victory of Jesus over our last great enemy.

Like those sixteenth-century explorers, we can see beyond human death to the hope of heaven and eternal life with the Father. More than that, we dare to believe that we shall experience in our own human lives exactly what the Son of God experienced in His, for the risen Christ says to us, "Because I live, you shall live also." This is the heart of our faith. We need to seek our peace and joy in the Risen Jesus: The living presence of the resurrected Lord gives us lasting peace and celestial joy in the face of the boredom, suffering, pain, and tensions of our day-to-day life. "Peace be with you" was his salutation to his disciples at all post-resurrection appearances. For the true Christian, every day must be an Easter Day lived joyfully in the close company of the Risen Lord.

REASONS WHY WE BELIEVE IN THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS

One lady wrote in to a question-and-answer forum. "Dear Sirs, Our preacher said on Easter, that Jesus just swooned on the cross and that the disciples nursed Him back to health. What do you think?" Sincerely, Bewildered. She got this reply: "Dear Bewildered, Beat your preacher with a cat-of-nine-tails, nail him to a cross; hang him in the sun for 6 hours; run a spear through his side...put him in an airless tomb for 36 hours and see what happens." Sincerely, Charles. ☺

But seriously, why do we believe in the Resurrection of Jesus? Here are some reasons we all should be familiar with:

- (1) Jesus himself testified to his Resurrection from the dead (*Mark 8:31; Matthew 17:22; Luke 9:22*).
- (2) The tomb was empty on Easter Sunday (*Luke 24:3*). Although the guards claimed (*Matthew 28:13*), that the disciples of Jesus had stolen the body, every sensible Jew knew that it was impossible for the terrified disciples of Jesus to steal the body of Jesus from a tomb guarded by an armed, 16-member Temple Guard detachment.
- (3) The initial disbelief of Jesus' own disciples in His Resurrection, in spite of His repeated apparitions, serves as a strong proof of His Resurrection. Their initial disbelief explains why the Apostles started preaching the Risen Christ only after receiving the anointing of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost.
- (4) The transformation of Jesus' disciples transformed men who were hopeless and fearful after the crucifixion (*Luke 24:21, John 20:19*), into men who now were confident and bold witnesses to the Resurrection (*Acts 2:24, 3:15, 4:2*).
- (5) Neither the Jews and the Romans could disprove Jesus' Resurrection by presenting the dead body of Jesus.
- (6) The Apostles and early Christians would not have faced martyrdom if they were not absolutely sure of Jesus' Resurrection.
- (7) The Apostle Paul's conversion from a persecutor of Christians to a zealous preacher of Jesus supports the truth of Jesus' Resurrection (*Galatians 1:11-17, Acts 9:1, Acts 9:24-25, Acts 26:15-18*).
- (8) The sheer existence of a thriving, empire-conquering early Christian Church, bravely facing and surviving three centuries of persecution, supports the truth of the Resurrection claim.
- (9) The New Testament witnesses do not bear the stamp of dupes or deceivers. The Apostles and the early Christians were absolutely sure about the Resurrection of Jesus. Anglican bishop and New Testament scholar N.T. Wright has commented incisively that if Jesus had not been raised bodily from the dead, Christianity would never have survived as a Messianic movement. Wright says that the clearest indication to a first-century Jew that someone was not the Messiah would be his death at the hands of the enemies of Israel. That the Church of Christ endured as a Messianic religion is possible only on the assumption that the Crucified One was, nevertheless, objectively alive.



Pray



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,
- 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

JOIN OUR DIOCESAN JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE

The Diocese of Metuchen Jubilee Pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington D.C. – with our Bishop James Checchio, will be on **September 20**. As of now, the arrival time for buses at the Basilica is 11:00 AM to 12:00 Noon and the bus departure time from there is 4:30 PM. Parishes will be organizing their own charter buses. St. Matthias is considering the possibility of chartering a bus. *Be on the lookout for a signup genius in the coming weeks so those who are interested can sign up.*



1700TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COUNCIL OF NICEA



The year 2025 marks the 1700th anniversary of the First Ecumenical Council of 325, and the Nicene Creed. The Roman Catholic Dioceses of the state of New Jersey, the Episcopal Dioceses of Newark and New Jersey, the Lutheran (ELCA), Presbyterian, and Reformed churches, as well as the Ukrainian Orthodox and Greek Orthodox Churches are joining together in celebration of this historic moment. There will be a service of thanksgiving for both clergy and laity at the Co-Cathedral of St. Robert Bellarmine in Freehold, New Jersey on **Saturday, May 3rd at 11am**, with a reception following. His Eminence, Cardinal Tobin, Archbishop of Newark, will be in attendance, and will be joined by other Christian leaders.

St. Robert Bellarmine Co-Cathedral is located at 61 Georgia Road, Freehold, NJ 07728.

All are most welcome to attend.

Serve



MORNING OF SERVICE

The next Morning of Service will be held on **Saturday, May 10th**. If you are interested in volunteering that morning, please email: **John and Coleen Zdziarski** at jzdzarski@comcast.net. Please note that those under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult. **The sites are:**

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

Limited to eight people (9:30 AM- 12:00 noon).

Learn

SEARCH COMMITTEE IS FORMED

The resignation of Mary Lynch, our School Principal, has necessitated the need for a new Principal for the next school year. Following the Diocesan guidelines, a Search Committee has been formed with these members:

Patricia Chorazak, Sr. Maria Derecola, Peter Kostik, Fr. Lancelot McGrath, Santina Spinella, Sheila Tartaglia and Aureen Williamson. Three of the members have children in our school.

This Committee will interview the prospective candidates and present their recommendations to the Pastor who in consultation with the Diocesan Office of Schools will make the final decision.

Please pray for God's will to be done in this important process.



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!



GIFT REGISTRATION OPEN FOR 2025-2026

Religious Education includes the **G.I.F.T. (Growing in Faith Together)** program, which is for families with children in grades K-Grade 8 or for anyone who wishes to grow in faith. GIFT is an intergenerational faith formation process that recognizes that faith formation is life-long. All public school children in grades K-8 must be registered in this program to be eligible to enter immediate sacramental preparation programs.

To register for 2025-2026 please visit: www.stmatthias.net/faith-formation

Connect

SELF CARE FAIR

SUNDAY, APRIL 27, 2025

9 AM - 2 PM

ST. MATTHIAS SCHOOL CAFETERIA

* GUEST SPEAKERS * GIVEAWAYS * REFRESHMENTS *

LEARN TECHNIQUES TO IMPROVE YOUR MENTAL HEALTH, PHYSICAL HEALTH, AND OVERALL WELLBEING

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH, BOUND BROOK

ST. AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH, KENDALL PARK

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH, NEW BRUNSWICK

FOR QUESTIONS, EMAIL SMYLE@STMATTHIAS.NET OR CALL THE ST. MATTHIAS PARISH OFFICE 732-828-1400



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 - Apr 6, 2025	\$10,660.00	\$18,522.00	\$29,182.00	\$31,080.50
Week 41 - Apr. 13, 2025	\$15,327.00	\$21,300.50	\$36,627.50	\$29,383.50
Week 42 - Apr. 20, 2025				\$21,477.40
Week 43 - Apr. 27, 2025				\$19,573.20
			Month-to-date Total	April Total Last Year
Retirement Collection for Diocesan Clergy:			\$65,809.50	\$101,514.60
	\$3,835.00		Current Year-to-date Total	Year-to-date as of April 30, 2024
			\$1,066,784.05	\$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 20, 2025 Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

“... He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.” Acts 10:38

We can't give what we don't have. Open your heart to receive God's love, mercy, and forgiveness. Then, show the same to others. As God's adopted sons and daughters, we are made in His image and likeness. As Pope Benedict XVI says, “we are made for greatness.” Let our lives reflect His light to others. Pray to live a grateful and generous life. Strive for greatness! We are made for more! We are made for God!

Reflexiónese – 20 de Abril de 2025 Domingo de Pascua de Resurrección del Señor

“...Él anduvo haciendo el bien y sanando a todos los oprimidos por el diablo, porque Dios estaba con Él.” Hechos 10:38

Nosotros no podemos dar lo que no tenemos. Abran su corazón para recibir el amor, la misericordia y perdón de Dios. Entonces, muestre lo mismo a los demás. Como hijos adoptivos de Dios, somos hechos a Su imagen y semejanza. Como dijo el Papa Benedicto XVI, “fuimos hechos para la grandeza”. Que nuestras vidas reflejen Su luz a los demás. Ore para vivir una vida agradecida y generosa. ¡Esfuérzate para la grandeza! ¡Fuimos hechos para más! ¡Fuimos hechos por Dios!



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 \$149, 922.43 (85.67%) 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.

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HOUSE OF PRAYER STITCHERS OF HOPE
Wednesday, May 7 from 2-3pm

 Join us as we stitch for hope and create blankets, hats, and more for our partners helping cancer patients, veterans, and young mothers with babies: Carol G. Simon Cancer Center, Lyons VA, and The Center for Great Expectation. This is a great way to use your creativity to help others in need and where our stitches are filled with hope and prayer. Starter kits will be provided. Hybrid. Freewill offering


Join us to Celebrate our 40th Anniversary Mass
June 12th, 2025
 5 pm Mass at Saint Francis Cathedral
 6 pm Reception to follow (Free will offering)

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





Get ready to tee off at the 15th Annual **STA Golf Classic** on **Monday, May 5th!** Join us for a day of golf, great company, and delicious food as we celebrate our Aquinas community. Participants will enjoy a complimentary breakfast and a Cinco de Mayo-themed lunch. Don't miss this opportunity to connect with alumni and friends while supporting **St. Thomas Aquinas High School.**

Interested in showcasing your business as a sponsor? For more information, contact:

dchippendale@stahs.net

Date: Monday, May 5th

Registration: 8 a.m. (shotgun start at 10 a.m.)

Enjoy Complimentary Breakfast and Lunch!

Parish Leadership

Parish Pastoral Council:	Secretary:	Fr. Lancelot McGrath	Parish Finance Council:	Mary Pat Burke-Grospin, Ex-Officio
Co-Chairs:	Sheila Tartaglia	Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio	Kester Hector, Chair	
Stephen Busono			Finance Council	
sbusono@gmail.com	Members:	Trustees:	@stmatthias.net	Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio
Bill Isele	Teresa Yannotta	Pearl Scott	Carmen Driz-Melilli	
t33sm@aol.com	Joe Percoco	Marge Richards	Barry Dusault	
	Miles London		Joan Pritchard	

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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