



THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS
 SUNDAY, APRIL 6, 2025
 Fifth Sunday of Lent

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

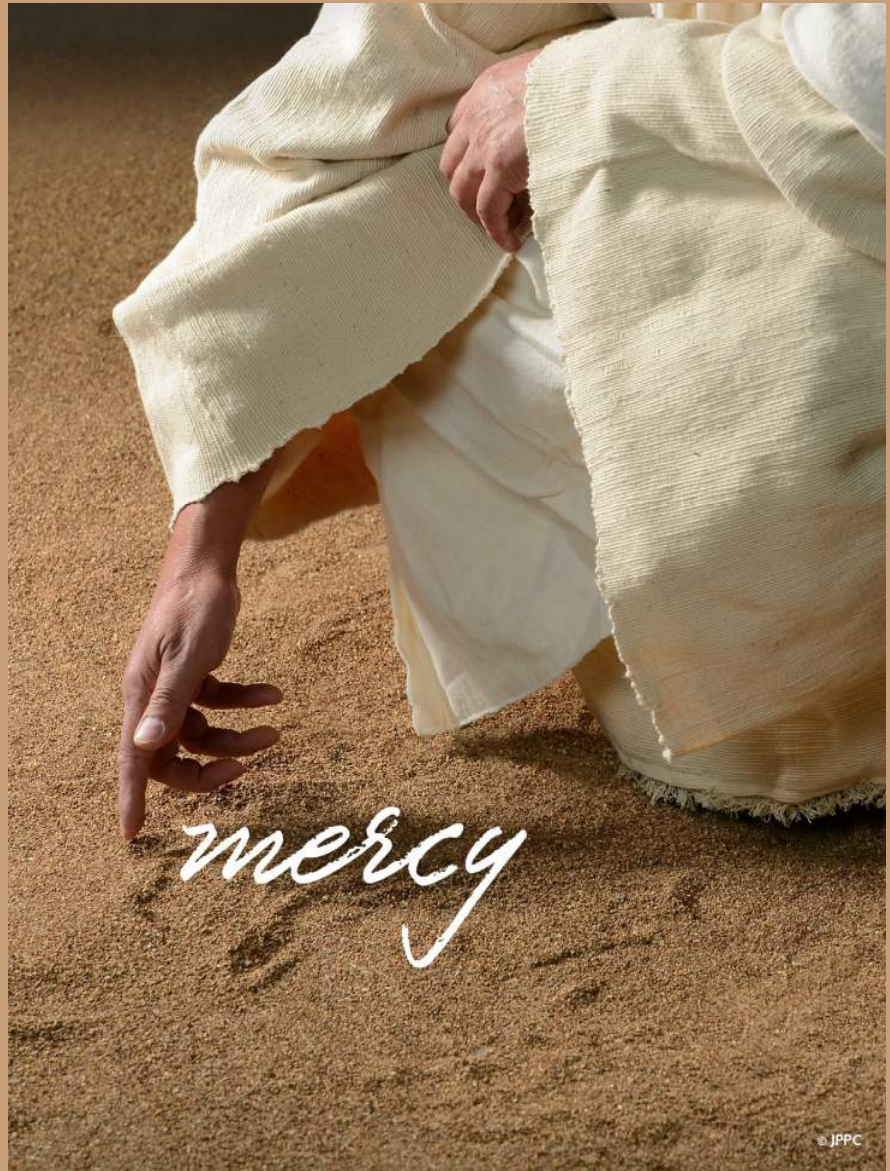
Pastor: Rev Abraham Orapankal, **Abraham**
 Fr. Lancelot McGrath, *Parochial Vicar* **lmcgrath**
 Mary Pat Burke-Grospin, *Business Administrator*
mpburke-grospin

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

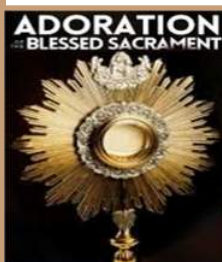
Amy Hanna, *Accountant/Databases*, **ahanna**
 Mike Lanyi, *Sacristan*
 Sue Lenczewski, *Youth Coordinator*, **SMYLE**
 Julio Montero, *Maintenance Supervisor*
 Debra Schurko, *Director of Religious Education*,
dschurko

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**



*Please note the Holy Week Schedule.
 Copies are available in the Church
 and the schedule is also on the website.*



**PLEASE COME JOIN THE MANY WHO SPEND
 SOME QUIET TIME WITH THE EUCHARISTIC LORD.**

**OUR NEXT ADORATION WILL BE
 APRIL 7, 2025 FROM 6 PM TO 8 PM.**

**WHEN THE DEACON IS AVAILABLE, WE CONCLUDE
 ADORATION WITH A BENEDICTION.**

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 6, 2025 **5th Sunday of Lent**
 8:00AM Mass Church
 10:00AM Mass Church
 11:00AM RCIA de Porres Rm
 11:00 AM First Sunday Rosary Church
 12:00PM Mass Church
 1:00PM GIFT Church/St. John XXIII/Classrooms

Monday, April 7, 2025 **St. Jean Baptiste De La Salle, Priest & Founder**
 8:00AM Mass Church
 5:30PM Cursillo Meeting de Porres Rm
 6:00PM Eucharistic Adoration Church
 6:30PM Parish Penance Service Church
 7:00PM Cub Scout Pack 195 Meeting Cafeteria

Tuesday, April 8, 2025 **St. Julie Billiart, Foundress**
 8:00AM Mass Church
 6:30PM SAC Meeting de Porres Rm
 7:30PM Handbell Rehearsal Church

Wednesday, April 9, 2025 **St. Waltrude, Patron Saint of Moms**
 8:00AM Mass St. Joseph Novena Church
 9:30 AM Holy Spirit Prayer Ministry de Porres Rm
 7:30PM Folk Group Rehearsal Church

Thursday, April 10, 2025 **St. Fulbert of Chartres, Bishop**
 8:00AM Mass Church
 3:30 PM Children's Choir Grades 3 & 4 Church
 4:00 PM Children's Choir Grades 5-8 Church
 7:30PM Adult Choir Rehearsal Church

Friday, April 11, 2025 **St. Stanislaus, Bishop & Martyr**
 8:00AM Mass Church
 4:00PM Cub Scout Blue & Gold Dinner Cafeteria
 6:45PM Boy Scout Troop 154 St. John XXIII
 7:00PM Stations of the Cross Church
 7:45PM Funeral Church

Saturday, April 12, 2025 **St. Zeno of Verona, Bishop & Martyr**
 8:30AM RCIA Retreat Cafeteria
 3:30PM Reconciliation Church
 5:00PM Palm Sunday Vigil Mass Church

Sunday, April 13, 2025 **Palm Sunday**
 8:00AM Mass Church
 10:00AM Mass Church
 11:00AM RCIA de Porres Rm
 12:00PM Mass Church



Dear Friends,

Last month we had a number of events that helped different segments of our parish experience God's grace and blessings. Let me make a comment on some of those:

Youth Lock-in/Retreat: Our Teen Leadership held an overnight Lock-in/Retreat on March 21-22. There were some 25 young people and adult supervisors. The theme for this lock-in/retreat was 'Food insecurity.' Local leaders from the Franklin Food Bank came and shared with them about food insecurity in our own area, and how so many generous people are giving their time, treasure and talent to remedy this situation. They had many spiritually enriching sessions and fun activities throughout the night, without much sleep. This lock-in/retreat would not have been possible without the dedication and hard work of our Deacon John Radvanski who is truly a tireless advocate for our youth. He, together with Sue Lenczewski, our Youth Coordinator, will give us all a fuller report of this event and acknowledge the many who deserve our gratitude.

Mass of Anointing: This annual Mass with Anointing of the Sick was held on March 22nd. Some 75 people attended and they had truly a positive experience of God's anointing and healing. This Sacrament is often misunderstood or undervalued by many. The Biblical basis for this sacrament is James 5: 14-15: *"Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven."* But this original practice of anointing the sick fell into disuse and was used only when a sick person was close to death. That's why we hear this sacrament misnamed as "Last Rite." But the Second Vatican Council restored it to its original intent. Hence, we can use this Sacrament any time we are sick, or before going for any procedure or surgery. Let us have a proper understanding of this Sacrament of Anointing for healing of the sick.

40 Hour Adoration: Our Parish just completed a 40-Hour Adoration during this final year of the Eucharistic Revival – thanks to a very dedicated group of men and women of our parish who organized this first ever event in our church so meticulously. The 40 Hour devotion has been observed in the Catholic Church for many years. The response to the sign up to adore for each of the 40 Hours was tremendous. One participant emailed me: *"It was my first time to experience serving as a guardian during the Eucharistic Adoration late last night. It was an experience like no other. Thank you for bringing it to St Matthias."* So many others joined to pray without signing up – a clear sign of the thirst many have to experience Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

The culmination of all such devotions and liturgical services is experiencing the Holy Week. Beginning with Palm Sunday, we will be entering into days of solemn celebration of the most significant events of our salvation. Our music ministry has been preparing for these annual celebrations, in particular for the Easter Vigil. The exceptional way we celebrate the Saturday night service is something that many of our parishioners look forward to. Though some may feel that the length of the Easter Vigil is challenging, the reality is what so many attendees have expressed: *"It flowed so beautifully that I didn't feel the length;" "It was not as long as I had thought;" "The music and the ceremonies were so heart-warming that the time just went by;"* I invite you to make a special effort to attend the Easter Vigil this year, especially if you have not experienced it. You are in for a treat for your soul– no doubt 😊

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 Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or
Dn 13:41c-62 Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 Jn 8:12-20

Tuesday Nm 21:4-9 Ps 102:2-3, 16-18, 19-21
Jn 8:21-30

Wednesday Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95 Dn 3:52,
53, 54, 55, 56 Jn 8:31-42

Thursday Gen 17:3-9 Ps 105:4-5, 6-7, 8-9
Jn 8:51-59

Friday Jer 20:10-13 Ps 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7
Jn 10:31-42

Saturday Ez 37:21-28 Jer 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13
Jn 11:45-56

Sunday Is 50:4-7 Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-
24 Phil 2:6-11 Lk 22:14-23:56 or Lk 23:1-49

Mass Intentions for the Week

Sat., April 5	5:00 PM	Ruby DeLeon by Meya Corral
Sun., April 6	8:00 AM	Intention for the Parishioners
	10:00 AM	Albert Larangeira by Linda Piscadlo & Family
	12:00 PM	Gary Johnson by Dorothy Zelus
Mon., April 7	8:00 AM	Michele Siebenlist by Eileen Siebenlist
Tues., April 8	8:00 AM	Patty Lara by The Maglio Family
Wed., April 9	8:00 AM	Nancy Moley by The Family
Thurs., April 10	8:00 AM	John Martinez by Pat and Frank Sellinger
Fri., April 11	8:00 AM	Vincent Scioscia by The Dusault Family
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 for the 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	Sanora Doyen	Rafael Jara	Christine Matthews	Maria Schwenzer
Beth, Jim & Jay Adams	Andrea Dubuisson	Marilyn Jensen	Joan Mazzacco	Felix Sebastian
Suzanne Adams	Derowitsch Family	Jean Alix Jolly	Frank McCann	Patricia Shea
Sue Alese	Hattie Evans	Marie Claude Jolly	Ann McElwee	Amy Shepp
Marie Arroyo	Adam Figueriedo	Donna Kahora	Jessica Marie Merrick	Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF
Robert Baker	Margaret Ann Cichon	Patty Kerekes	Gail Miranda	Catherine Steele
Edgar Banaag	Ford	Betsy Kondrat	Catalina Moran	Richard Sury
Carolyn Banghart	Sharon Gadomski	Kim Krikorian	Sarah Braun Morini	Jacqueline Taylor
Ghislaine Baron	Heinley Gaspard	Kathy Langenbacher	Celia Palacio	Anita Vance
Samantha Bellouny	Gerard Giordano	Rose Larangeira	Dr. Jean Patrick	Minda Villarica
Carmen Bender	Claude Godet	Linda Leone	Robert Pellegrino	Eileen Weber
Mary Bostrom	Marie Godet	Henrietta Lesiak	Robert Pierro	Nancy Whelan
Robert Brisson	Fr. Ben Gomez OMI	John Litrakis	Robert Pietrowiak	Richard Zagurek
Patricia Burke	Shelly Greene	Mary Lou Litrakis	Randolff Pinard	Mike Zambri
Karin Cabezas	Joan Harris	Aries Magali	Valerie Polci	Ginette Zamor
Ben Campbell	Linda Hartong	Cynthia Magat	Kim Price	Anne Zando
Tara Capatosto	Jeff Hentz	Kenneth & Kelly Magat	Frank Rispoli	Celia M. Zelinski
Rustico Castellano	Sloopy & JP Hoffman	Bobby Manansala	Gabriel Rivera	And for all who are ill, homebound, elderly, in nursing care, or living with chronic illness, we pray.
Pierre Celestin	Marilyn Horvath	Susan, King & Tosh Manansala	Don Roeske	
Lisa DeFeo	Jerry & Donna Hucul	Colleen Maniscalco	Bob Rotz	
Patrick Dolphin	Nicole Cherill Hynes	Alexandra Marquez	Marisa Ruppel	
Vivian Dong	Nick Isele		Gloria Santos	

Pray for those who have died...

— “His mercy endures forever.” Chronicles

Ndubuisi Valentine Okigbo

Margaret Menendez

Reflect



Smile with Your Family



I had to go to court today, I didn't like it Everyone was so judgmental. 😊

Husband: "I feel I am not smart, and I am stupid and a failure.... My life is not worth anything."

Wife: "Don't wallow in despair; at least you have sound judgement." 😊

An old lady gets caught shoplifting. On court day the lady and her husband who goes with her stands before the judge and he says to her, "Why did you shoplift?" And she says "I was hungry." The judge says "What did you take?" She replies, "A can of peaches." So the judge trying to figure out how to punish her says, "How many peaches where in the can?" The lady says "6" so the judge says ok then 1 day per peach in jail that will be 6 days time served. The judge says would anyone like to say anything, and her husband says: "Your honor, she stole a can of peas too" 😊

A Jehovah's Witness knocked at my door this morning. "Could you spare a few moments to talk about Judgement Day?" he asked. "Well," I replied, "I'm not a big fan of the Terminator series." 😊

Family Law Judge to Mother: Do you understand that you have sworn to tell the truth? Mother: I do. Judge: Do you understand what will happen if you are not truthful? Mother: Sure. I get everything I want. 😊

The divorce court judge said: "Mr. Quinn, I have reviewed this case very carefully, and I've decided to give your wife \$775 a week." "That's very generous of you, your honor," the husband said. "And every now and then I too will try to send her a few bucks." 😊

I wish I had a delete button in my life. To delete some people 😊

I don't hate you. I'm just not that excited about your existence. 😊

MERCY QUOTE FROM POPE FRANCIS:

I am always struck when I reread the parable of the merciful Father. ... The Father, with patience, love, hope and mercy, had never for a second stopped thinking about [his wayward son], and as soon as he sees him still far off, he runs out to meet him and embraces him with tenderness, the tenderness of God, without a word of reproach. ... God is always waiting for us, He never grows tired. Jesus shows us this merciful patience of God so that we can regain confidence and hope — always!



ST. MATTHIAS HOMEBOUND MINISTRY Sharing # 2: Jeff Hentz



A little over ten years ago, as I sat in a pew at St. Matthias prior to Mass, I came upon an entry in the bulletin seeking new Eucharistic Ministers to serve our parishioners and our fellow Catholic brothers and sisters who found themselves either homebound or residing in one of the Assisted Living facilities in our area. We serve those in Somerset (Regency, Spring Hills or Stein). Around that same time, my mother in law had moved in with us and since her parish was some distance away, I discerned that this ministry might allow me to not only answer the call to our community but also fulfill my mother-in-law's desire to receive communion as she had so faithfully done for close to 90 years.

Fast forward to today and our ministry is desperately in need of additional Eucharistic Ministers. When we are fully staffed, the commitment is for one Sunday morning per month for approximately 60-90 minutes.

I've had the honor and privilege to be a part of a number of the ministries at St. Matthias but I can honestly and respectfully say that this for me, has been most rewarding ministry of all. These words of Sister Marie Therese echo in my ears each Sunday that I serve, "we are the Body of Christ, bringing the Body of Christ, to the Body of Christ". I ask that you prayerfully consider joining us in this wonderful ministry.

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.

Reflect

"HOW TO CLEAN PRACTICALLY ANYTHING?"

Consumers Report put out a little book entitled, *How to Clean Practically Anything*. The book tells you what solvent to use for nearly every kind of stain. Here are a few. Glycerin will remove the stain from a ball point pen. Boiling water will remove berry stains. Vinegar will remove crayon stains. To remove a rust stain from your cotton work clothes, moisten the spot with some full-strength vinegar and then rub in a bit of salt. Ammonia will remove blood stains. Alcohol will remove grass stains. Hydrogen peroxide is good for magic marker stains. Mix a teaspoon of 3% hydrogen peroxide with a little cream of tartar or a dab of non-gel toothpaste. Rub the paste on the stain with a soft cloth. Rinse. The stain, whatever it was, should be gone. Try a little meat tenderizer to remove protein-based stains like milk, chocolate, and blood from clothes. Use bleach on mildew stains. Lemon juice works well on rust stains.

But you know what? The book lists absolutely nothing for the stain of sin. And the reason it doesn't is because there is only One Person Who can do that. Only Jesus Christ, the incarnation of Divine mercy, as described in today's gospel, forgives us our sins when we confess our sins and ask God's pardon and forgiveness.

AN EXTRA EFFORT FOR THE REMAINING DAYS OF LENT

Give up *complaining*.....focus on gratitude.
Give up *pessimism*...become an optimist.
Give up *harsh judgments*...think kind thoughts.
Give up *worry*.....trust Divine Providence.
Give up *discouragement*.....be full of hope.
Give up *bitterness*.....turn to forgiveness.
Give up *hatred*.....return good for evil.
Give up *negativism*.....be positive.
Give up *anger*.....be more patient.
Give up *pettiness*.....become more mature.
Give up *gloom*.....enjoy the beauty that is all around you.
Give up *jealousy*....pray for trust.
Give up *gossiping*.....control your tongue.
Give up *sin*.....turn to virtue.
Give up *giving up*....hang in there!!!!

"JESUS AND THE FALLEN WOMAN"

The woman caught in adultery described in today's Gospel has inspired a wide variety of Christian art. The most striking is "*Jesus and the Fallen Woman*," by Lucas Cranach, the Younger (c. 1570), now exhibited, as is Rembrandt's "*Return of the Prodigal Son*," in The Hermitage at St. Petersburg. At the front center of the painting are Jesus and the woman. Cranach captures that moment when Jesus turns toward the accusers and challenges those without sin to cast a stone. His expression is stern but troubled, and his right hand reaches out toward the woman. Most remarkable, the woman is not bowed to the ground in front of Jesus as in much art work, but is standing at his left. She is very young, with eyes closed, looking forlorn and resigned to her fate. Her head is inclined toward Jesus' shoulder, and her hand rests on his arm. Most striking, as one follows the lines of the painting, is that her right hand is entwined with the left hand of Jesus in a gesture of exquisite tenderness. The hands of mercy are joined to the hands of a suffering person facing execution.

Jesus and the young woman in Cranach's painting can be our guides through Lent and Paschaltide. With heads inclined toward Christ and hands intertwined with his, we can go forward as forgiven sinners yet called to be companions of Jesus. We have no right to judge others: We have no right to judge others because we often commit the very faults we condemn, we are often partial and prejudiced in our judgment and we do not know the circumstances which have led someone to sin. Hence, let us leave the judgment to our just and merciful God who reads people's hearts. We should show mercy and compassion to those who sin because we ourselves are sinners in need of God's forgiveness. The apostle Paul reminds us: "But if we judged ourselves, we would not come under judgment." (1 Cor 11:31).



DIVINE MERCY ON CHUCK COLSON

Probably, Chuck Colson (Charles Chuck Wendell Colson, 1931-2012) got inspiration from John Profumao to make a similar restitution for his sin and restoration of his life when he was imprisoned for seven months in the federal Maxwell Prison in Alabama for acting as President Nixon's "hatchet man" in the Water Gate Scandal. After his prison period, he became an Evangelical Christian leader who founded Prison Fellowship and Breakpoint. He was the founder and chairman of The Chuck Colson Center for Christian Worldview, which is "a research, study, and networking center for growing in a Christian worldview", and while he was alive included Colson's daily radio commentary, Break Point, which was heard in its original format on more than 1,400 outlets across the United States. Colson was a principal signer of the 1994 *Evangelicals and Catholics Together* ecumenical document signed by leading Evangelical Protestants and Roman Catholic leaders in the United States.

Today's gospel describes how Jesus restored a sinner woman by lavishing his Divine mercy and forgiveness. She should have become Christ's follower bearing witness to his mercy till her death. We need to become forgiving people, ready for reconciliation: Jesus has shown inexhaustible mercy and compassion to sinners by dying for our sins. But we are often self-righteous like the Pharisees, and ready to spread scandal about others with a bit of spicy gossip. We are judgmental about the unmarried mother, the alcoholic, the drug addict and the shop-lifter, ignoring Jesus' command: "Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." Let us learn to acknowledge our sins, ask God's forgiveness every day and extend the same forgiveness to our erring brothers and sisters. We too should learn to hate the sin and love the sinners showing them mercy, compassion, sympathy and acceptance, leading them to noble ways by our own exemplary lives

CAN YOU GIVE A SECOND CHANCE?

Dr. A.J. Cronin was a great Christian physician in England. One night he assigned a young nurse to a little boy who had been brought to the hospital suffering from diphtheria, and given only a slight chance to live. A tube was inserted into the boy's throat to help him breathe. It was the nurse's job periodically to clean out the tube. As the nurse sat beside the boy's bed, she accidentally dozed off. She awakened to find that the tube had become blocked. Instead of following instructions, she was immobilized by panic. Hysterically she called the doctor from his home. By the time he got to the boy, he was dead. Dr. Cronin was angry beyond expression. That night Dr. Cronin went to his office and wrote his recommendation to the board demanding the immediate expulsion of the nurse. He called her in and read it, his voice trembling with anger. She stood there in pitiful silence, a tall, thin, gawky Welsh girl. She nearly fainted with shame and remorse. "Well," asked Dr. Cronin in a harsh voice, "have you nothing to say for yourself?" There was more silence. Then she uttered this pitiful plea, "...please give me another chance." Dr. Cronin sent her away. But he could not sleep that night. He kept hearing some words from the dark distance: "Forgive us our trespasses." The next morning Dr. Cronin went to his desk and tore up the report. In the years that followed he watched as this slim, nervous girl became the head of a large hospital and one of the more honored nurses in England.

Thank God for a second chance, and a third chance, and fourth chance! We need to become forgiving people, ready to trust them to do better if given another chance. Jesus has shown inexhaustible mercy and compassion to sinners by dying for our sins. But we are often self-righteous like the Pharisees, and ready to spread scandal about others with a bit of spicy gossip. We are judgmental about the unmarried mother, the alcoholic, the drug addict and the shop-lifter, ignoring Jesus' command: "Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." Let us learn to acknowledge our sins, ask God's forgiveness every day and extend the same forgiveness to our erring brothers and sisters. We too should learn to hate the sin and love the sinners showing them mercy, compassion, sympathy and acceptance, leading them to noble ways by our own exemplary lives.

"WHERE WAS THE GARDEN OF EDEN?"

Dr. Carlyle Marney was asked a question by one of his freshman students one day. The student asked, "Where was Eden?" Dr. Marney put down his pen, turned to the college freshman, and replied, "I can tell you exactly, in Tennessee." "What?" gasped the student. "Knoxville, Tennessee, 215 South Elm Street," Marney insisted. "It was there on Elm Street, when I was a boy, that I stole a quarter out of Mama's purse and ran to the store and bought a bag of peanut clusters and ate it as fast as I could. Afterward, I was so ashamed that I came back home to 215 Elm Street and hid in the closet. Mom found me and asked, 'Why are you hiding? What have you done?'" ["Geography Lesson," Herald of Holiness, February 1996, p. 2].

I personally don't think anybody needs help locating their own Eden, do you? That's the place where we first knowingly betrayed and disobeyed God. Our Eden is that situation or that place where we first discovered that we suffer from the same disease as Adam and Eve and every other human being in existence. We suffer from the debilitating symptoms of sin. Now, pick up a stone. Hold the stone in your hand and think about your Eden. Hold the stone in your hand and wrap that thought, that memory, that time of Eden in your life around the stone. Those moments stick with us and weigh us down and drag us down and slow us down and bring us down. But here's the Good News. We don't have to be weighed down by the weight of sin, God wants to lift us up. The God Jesus revealed to us is a God who patiently waits for His wayward children to come back home.



COME PRAY THE ROSARY WITH US

The Rosary Altar Society meets every **first Sunday** of each month after the 10 am Mass to pray the rosary.

ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN.



A Special Shout Out for Our First Communion and Confirmation Retreats

A special thank you to all who participated in our Sacrament Retreats on March 23rd. There is only one word that expresses and sums up all the wonderful feedback received and that is JOY! We prayed, we learned, we laughed, we shared, but most importantly we felt Joy in our Lord and each other.

WHY CHURCH PROMOTES “CONFESSION” Part 2

Last week we saw the first two of the 10 Benefits of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Here are the rest (compiled by Sr. Mary Ann Walsh, former Director of Media Relations at the USCCB):

3. A balm for the desire for revenge. When you have been forgiven you can forgive others. If the perfect Jesus forgives me, who am I to want to avenge the slights in my life. Think: “Why did they promote him over me?” or “Mom played favorites!”
4. Low cost therapy. It’s free, which makes it cheaper than a psychiatrist for dealing with guilt.
5. Forced time to think. Socrates said that the unexamined life is not worth living. To examine our lives and acknowledge failings marks the first step of making things right with God, others and ourselves. Life can be more worth living when you ponder the meaning of your own life.
6. Contribution toward world peace. Gaudium et Spes, the Second Vatican Council’s Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World, said that the imbalances in the world that lead to war and tensions “are linked with that more basic imbalance which is rooted in the heart of man.” Peace of soul leads to peace of heart leads to peace beyond oneself.
7. A better neighborhood. Confession leaves you feeling good about yourself, thereby cutting back the inclination to road rage and aggressive shopping cart driving. With the grace of the sacrament you’re energized to, as Jesus said to the woman caught in adultery, “go and sin no more.”
8. Realistic self-perception. Confession helps overcome arrogance when you have to admit you’re as much of a sinner as anyone else. It helps build tolerance for others’ perceived shortcomings.
9. One more benefit of being Catholic. There are lots of benefits, including a sense of community, liturgical rites to help us encounter God in prayer, and the wonderful sense of humanity exemplified in the saints, from Mary, the loving Mother of God, to Augustine, the exasperating son of Monica. The sacrament that leads us to inner peace is among the greatest boons.
10. Closeness to God. Confession helps you realize that you have a close connection to God and receive his grace through the sacraments. What can be better than knowing God’s on your team, or, to be less arrogant about it, that you are on God’s.

A Letter From The Bishop

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.

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
smgolfclub@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



Thanks to rave reviews from campers, parents, and teachers, **Camp Invention**[®] 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

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP MEETS ON ZOOM, ON APRIL 9TH AT 2 PM

The Alzheimer's Association and Saint Matthias Catholic Church are co-hosting a monthly Support Group for individuals living with Alzheimer's or Dementia, their care partners, and others dealing with the disease. Our next meeting will be **Wednesday, April 9th**, from **2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Zoom**.

To register and receive the link, call 800-272-3900 and mention the St. Matthias group. For more information, visit alz.org/NJ.



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 35 - March 2, 2025	\$15,309.14	\$9,175.50	\$24,484.64	\$28,198.50
Week 36 - March 9, 2025	\$8,613.00	\$27,829.00	\$36,442.00	\$34,341.20
Week 37 - March 16, 2025	\$8,166.00	\$14,742.50	\$22,908.50	\$21,990.52
Week 38 - March 23, 2025	\$7,801.50	\$12,266.50	\$209,068.00	\$23,903.00
Week 39 - March 30, 2025	\$7,320.00	\$9,790.50	\$17,110.50	\$41,055.00
Ash Wednesday - \$3,835.00			Month-to-date Total	March Total Last Year
* The In-Pew amount for March 23rd has been updated to reflect the Mail-In contributions.			\$121,013.64	\$149,488.22
			Current Year-to-date Total	Year-to-date as of March 31, 2024
			\$1,000,974.55	\$957,433.35

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 6, 2025 5th Sunday of Lent

*“... For his sake I have accepted the loss of all things and I consider them so much rubbish, that I may gain Christ...”
- Philippians 3:8*

The first commandment says that we should not put other gods before the Lord. Sharing all of our gifts - our time in prayer, our talent in charitable works, and our treasure to support the Church helps us keep God first in everything. It helps us from putting other gods before God. It helps us from becoming a slave to our possessions. It helps us to use our gifts for the glory of God and not for the glory of ourselves.

Reflexiónese – 6 de Abril de 2025 Domingo 5° de Cuaresma

“...Por Él lo he perdido todo, y lo considero como basura con tal de ganar a Cristo...” - Filipenses 3:8

El primer mandamiento dice que no debemos poner otros dioses delante del Señor. Compartir todos nuestros dones, nuestro tiempo en oración, nuestro talento en obras de caridad, y nuestros tesoros para apoyar a la Iglesia, nos ayuda a mantener a Dios primero en todo. Nos ayuda a no poner otros dioses delante de Dios. Nos ayuda a no ser esclavos de nuestras posesiones. Nos ayuda a utilizar nuestros dones para la gloria de Dios y no para nuestra propia gloria.

2025 BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

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



DIocese of
METUCHEN

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 \$106,742 (61%) 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



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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



Diocesan Jubilee Pilgrimage to the

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

September 20, 2025

For parish bus trips,
 please email Angela Marshall at
 amarshall@diometuchen.org
 or call 732-562-1543.

Faithful Pilgrims of Hope
 can obtain a plenary
 indulgence.
 Visit diometuchen.org/jubilee-2025
 for more information.

CHRISM MASS 2025
TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 2025
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.

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 FinanceCouncil @stmatthias.net Carmen Driz-Melilli Barry Dusault Joan Pritchard	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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