



St. Matthias Parish Office:

Monday - Friday, 8:30 am - 4:00 pm,
 Friday, 8:30 am - 1:00 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, 10 AM & 12 noon
 M/T/W/Th/F at 8:00AM
 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 - Thursday
 9AM-1PM Friday By Appointment

For all Parish emails, add @stmatthias.net

Pastor: Rev Abraham Orapankal, **abraham**
 Mary Pat Burke-Grospin, *Business Administrator*
mpburke-grospin

Deacon Ron Caimi, *Senior Deacon*
 Kelly Counts, *Receptionist*, **kcounts**
 Deacon Russell Demkovitz, **rdemkovitz**
 Nathalie Godet, *Website Coordinator*, **ngodet**
 Leslie Guillen, *Bulletin Editor*, **lguillen**
 Amy Hanna, *Accountant/Databases*, **ahanna**
 Mike Lanyi, *Sacristan*
 Sue Lenczewski, *Youth Coordinator*, **SMYLE**
 Mary Jo Loboda, *Parish Staff, Development*,
mjloboda

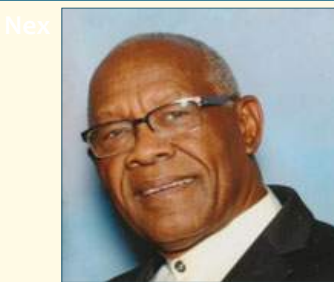
Julio Montero, *Maintenance Supervisor*
 Dolores R. Nann, *Pastoral Associate for Faith*
Formation, **dnann**

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

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

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

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS
SUNDAY, AUGUST 13, 2023-
19th Sunday in Ordinary Time



WELCOME
 to
Deacon Enock Berluche, Sr.
For Mission Appeal
for Haiti
TODAY
 Please see page 6
 for information.



Tuesday, August 15, 2023
 is

The Assumption of the
Blessed Virgin Mary,
A Holy Day of Obligation.

Masses are:

8:00AM, 12:10PM, & 7:30PM

Please come join for Adoration on
Monday evenings from 6 PM to 8 PM.



HELP SPREAD THE WORD!
SCHOOL YEAR 2023-2024

Saint Matthias School registration is open.

We are enrolling students in PreK 3, PreK 4,
Kindergarten and grades 1-8.

Please help us spread the word about our school filled
with faith, caring, and excellence to your relatives,
friends, and neighbors.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

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, Aug 13, 2023

Mission Appeal Weekend—Deacon Enock

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

Monday, Aug 14, 2023

St. Maximilian Kolbe, Priest & Martyr

8:00AM Mass / Miraculous Medal Novena Church
 6:00PM Eucharist Adoration Church

Tuesday, Aug 15, 2023

Solemnity— Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:00AM Mass Church
 12:10AM Mass Church
 7:30PM Mass Church

Wednesday, Aug 16, 2023

St. Stephen I, King of Hungary

8:00AM Mass—St. Joseph Novena Church

Thursday, Aug 17, 2023

St. Hyacinth, Priest

8:00AM Mass Church

Friday, Aug 18, 2023

St. Helena, Empress & Mother of Constantine the Great, 1st Christian Emperor

8:00AM Mass Church

Saturday, Aug 19, 2023

St. John Eudes, Priest & Founder

3:30PM Reconciliation Church
 5:00PM Vigil Mass Church

Sunday, Aug 20, 2023

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

Dear Friends,

Today we are very happy to welcome Deacon Enock Berluche Sr. to our parish for the Mission Appeal, as part of the Missionary Cooperation Plan assigned from the Mission Office of our Diocese. He is a permanent deacon serving at the Parish of Sts. Philip and James in Phillipsburg in various roles: spiritual director for the Legion of Mary, moderator for the charismatic prayer group, coordinator of the Eucharistic adoration, and other pastoral apostolates. He is co-coordinator of African-American, Black and Caribbean Apostolate. He preaches Mission Appeal for Franciscans in Action and Source de Vie organizations for Haiti Missions. We warmly welcome him to our community.



This Tuesday is the Feast of the Assumption of Mary – a Holy Day of Obligation. Catholics are questioned probably more about our devotion to Mary than any other matter of our faith. Referring to the historical development of this dogma both in the East and the West, St. John Paul II has said: *“The first trace of belief in the Virgin’s Assumption can be found in the apocryphal accounts entitled Transitus Mariae [Latin, “The Crossing Over of Mary”], whose origin dates to the second and third centuries. There was a long period of growing reflection on Mary’s destiny in the next world. This gradually led the faithful to believe in the glorious raising of the Mother of Jesus, in body and soul, and to the institution in the East of the liturgical feasts of the Dormition [“falling asleep”—i.e., death] and Assumption of Mary. Although the New Testament does not explicitly affirm Mary’s Assumption, it offers a basis for it because it strongly emphasized the Blessed Virgin’s perfect union with Jesus’ destiny. There are, thus, passages in Scripture that resonate with the Assumption, even though they do not spell it out.”*

We need to be convinced of a couple of points about our relationship to Mary:

1. Devotion to Mary does not mean that we worship her as many non-Catholics mistakenly think. Anyone can be devoted to another person, a career, a job or place; but that doesn’t mean it becomes your god.
2. Devotion implies a loyalty and trust in a person. We respect Mary as our human model of faith and heroic living that can help us navigate our own life’s challenges.
3. Both in the gospel and in all the Marian apparitions throughout the ages, she always calls us to her son Jesus Christ. Her message essentially is: *“Do whatever He tells you”* (John 2:5)
4. Excessive devotional practices have led to some misperceptions about Mary and so the Church has given us guidelines for a balanced Marian devotion based on Scripture and Tradition.
5. Hence the question we can reflect on this feast of the Assumption is: *what is its relevance for us today?* One answer is that it gives us further validation to our hope in eternal life, a truth affirmed by the life and teachings of Jesus Christ who is the Risen Lord. Therefore doing *“whatever He tells us”* will lead us there!

Your brother in Christ,
 Fr. Abraham Orapankal

Readings for the Week

Monday: Dt 10:12-22; Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20; Mt 17:22-27

Tuesday: Vigil: 1 Chr 15:3-4, 15-16; 16:1-2; Ps 132:6-7, 9-10, 13-14; 1 Cor 15:54b-57; Lk 11:27-28 **Day,** Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Ps 45:10, 11, 12, 16; 1 Cor 15:20-27; Lk 1:39-56

Wednesday: Dt 34:1-12; Ps 66:1-3a, 5, 8, 16-17; Mt 18:15-20

Thursday: Jos 3:7-10a, 11, 13-17; Ps 114:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Mt 18:21 — 19:1

Friday: Jos 24:1-13; Ps 136:1-3, 16-18, 21-22, 24; Mt 19:3-12

Saturday: Jos 24:14-29; Ps 16:1-2a, 5, 7-8, 11; Mt 19:13-15

Sunday: Is 56:1, 6-7; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Rom 11:13-15, 29-32; Mt 15:21-28

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, Aug 12	5:00PM	Bill Murphy, by The Murphy Family
Sunday, Aug 13	8:00AM	Intention of Parishioners
	10:00AM	Health & Blessings for Chibuikem & Chibundu Nwanonyiri, by Kate Nwanonyiri
	12:00PM	Birthday Blessings for Paula Castro, by Angie Masalunga
Monday, Aug 14	8:00AM	Ricardo Sunga, by Flora Sumga
Tuesday, Aug 15	8:00AM	Leo Shanosky, by The Family
	12:10PM	John Tvarok, by Ron & Marge
	7:30PM	Megan Ossandon, by Linda & Al Misuraca
Wednesday, Aug 16	8:00AM	Augustin Vidal, by Kathleen Referente & Family
Thursday, Aug 17	8:00AM	Michael Nicholas Paredes, by Mom & Dad
Friday, Aug 18	8:00AM	Castaneda Family, by Violy Garcia
Saturday, Aug 19	5:00PM	Spiritual Intention of Joanna Ramos, By Rebecca Ramos
Sunday, Aug 20	8:00AM	Intention of Parishioners
	10:00AM	Frances Schmitt, by Al & Linda Misuraca
	12:00PM	Mary Murchland, by Julie & Mike Burke

Pray for those who are sick...

If you or a family member are sick, please call the Parish Office or **email Kelly Counts** at kcoun@stmatthias.net to add the name to this list. Names will be listed in the bulletin for **6 weeks**. Please let us know if this time period needs to be extended. We want to know how you are doing and want to offer you the support of our prayers.

New people on our prayer list are noted in blue.

Carolyn Banghart	Marilyn Horvath	Joseph Nguyen	Sr. Bernadine Marie
Tammy Baskaran	Nancy Kane	Danny Ongchango	Stemnock
Regina Berlowitz	Robert Kashinsky	Robert Pellegrino	Jeff Sullivan
Bishop Paul Bootkowski	Kathleen Langenbacher	Jim Pettit	Tom Szabo
Barbara Butler	Rose Larangeira	Randolff Pinard	Mary Ann Vlad
Tara Capatosto	Mary Lou Litrakis	Valerie Polci	Nancy Whelan
Ellen Catalina	John Litrakis	Kim Price	Carl Wyopen
Kyle Davidson	Carol Ann Loftus	Denise Pultro	Angie Yetyet
Lisa DeFeo	Joseph Lubrano	Doris Regan	
Zenon DeGuzman	Aries Magali	Gabriel Rivera	And for all who are ill, homebound, elderly, in nursing care, or living with chronic illness, we pray.
Hattie Evans	Al Maglio	Arina Robinson	
Josephine Geenty	Anne McElwee	Arthur Robinson	
Claudia Gemgnani	Margaret Menendez	Maria Schwenzer	
Helen Geraghty	Carol Millemann	Amy Shepp	
Emma Gergely	Eleanor Nagy	Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF	

Pray for those who have died...

— “His mercy endures forever.” *Chronicles*

Doris Lubowicki

Reflect



Smile with Your Family



In one of his books, Mark Twain recalls a visit to the Holy Land and a stay in Capernaum. It was a moonlit night, so he decided to take his wife on a romantic boat ride on the Sea of Galilee. Twain asked a man in a rowboat how much he would charge to take them out on the water. The man saw Twain's white suit, white shoes and white hat and supposed he was a rich Texan. So he said the cost would be twenty-five dollars. Twain replied, "Twenty-five dollars?! Now I know why Jesus walked on water!" 😊

Joe heard a rumor that his father, grandfather and great-grandfather had all walked on water on their 21st birthdays. So, on his 21st birthday, Joe and his good friend Brian headed out to the lake. "If they did it, I can too!" he insisted. When Joe and Brian arrived at the lake, they rented a boat and began paddling. When they got to the middle of the lake, Joe stepped off of the side of the boat... and damn near drowned. Furious and somewhat shamed, he and Brian headed for home. When Joe arrived back at the family farm, he asked his grandmother for an

explanation. "Grandma, why can I not walk on water like my father, and his father, and his father before him?" The feeble old grandmother took Joe by the hands, looked into his eyes, and explained, "That's because your father, grandfather, and great-grandfather were born in snowy January... you were born in July, dear." 😊

An American couple are driving through Canada and stop at a gas station to fuel up. As the man goes into the station to pay, his wife calls out to him, "ask them where we are!" So the husband walks in, pays and asks, "by the way, where are we?" To which the attendant answers, "Saskatoon, Saskatchewan." The man goes back to his car and the wife asks, "where are we?" "He doesn't speak English" replies the husband. 😊

What did the ocean say to the beach? – Nothing, it just waved! 😊

My sister told me she won't scatter my ashes in the ocean. She said there was already too much trash in it. 😊

Parenting Tune-Up



What do you and your child think God looks like? - a grandfather, wind, an earthquake, fire, a cloud, a ghost... (1 Kings 19: 9-13)

Each of you draw your idea. Talk about the qualities of God that are beyond what you can draw.

Marriage Tune-Up



This Tuesday is the Feast of the Assumption of Mary: we honor her important role in Jesus' life from her initial "Yes" to her presence with the apostles after his death. Although we don't expect to be assumed into heaven, spouses sometimes get into trouble by assuming they know what the other thinks. Don't mind- read? Check it out with words.

Called or not, God is Present!

Above the office door of the Swiss psychiatrist, Carl Jung (1875-1961), hung a stone plaque inscribed with the words: Called or Not, God is Present. Jung's sign encapsulated in a few words what the joint testaments of Judaism and Christianity have put forth in hundreds of thousands of words for centuries, viz., that the transcendent almighty God chooses to be with humankind, to commune with us, to love and move among us, to be near, to abide, to be present whether called or not, in peace, as well as in panic. God's presence is a dynamic divine presence, ever communing, ever revealing, ever abiding, ever calling, and ever drawing near.

This Sunday's first reading relates the experience of the prophet Elijah who sought and realized the presence of God in the peaceful silence of Horeb (Sinai). Peter and the disciples (gospel) experienced the presence of God in the person of Jesus whose power over the sea calmed their panic and fostered their faith. Paul, in the second reading from Romans, lamented the fact that not all of his fellow Israelites had come to know the saving presence of God as he had, on the road to Damascus.

Are your thoughts on God or on your Problems?

There is a story about the famous statesman Bismarck who came into a friend's house and saw a portrait of himself on display in the friend's parlor. The picture portrayed Bismarck as a strong and forceful man. Bismarck shook his head and asked, "Is that supposed to be me? It can't be." Then he turned around to a picture his friend had of the fearful Simon Peter sinking beneath the waves and said, "That is!" That is how we feel when we take our eyes off of Christ. Dr. Norman Vincent Peale tells how he once developed laryngitis because he worried about a speaking engagement at which he would be speaking to over a thousand people. When he sought medical help, his doctor said, "I didn't think I would ever have to give this kind of

(Continued)

Reflect

Are your thoughts on God (continued)

advice to Norman Vincent Peale: Focus your thoughts on God, don't focus them on your problems...when you focus on your problems, your nervous system tightens up so your blood doesn't flow harmoniously. As a result, you experience sickness. Focus your thoughts on God instead of on your problems..."

Lessons from Working at a Mental Health Hotline

... When Peter saw how strong the wind was he became frightened; and, beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Immediately Jesus stretched out his hand and caught Peter, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" Matthew 14: 22-33

It was the hotline volunteer's first call. "Oh my, you picked up the phone." The caller sounded genuinely surprised and held her breath for a moment before telling her story. For more than a year, she and her husband had been trapped in their home by their 25-year-old son, who suffered from psychotic episodes. He refused any treatment, he had been making threats, and most nights he holed up in his room doing drugs while his parents tried to sleep behind their double-locked bedroom door.

"Is there someone who can come out to help us?" she said. "I mean, what do we do?" Taking that call was science writer Benedict Carey. For more than 20 years, Carey reported on mental health for **The New York Times** and **The Los Angeles Times**. Carey fielded queries from readers asking for guidance, advice, referrals — or who just wanted five minutes to talk. Carey discovered that thousands of families every year face mental health issues, with no one to talk to for help.

Carey took his experience to a new nonprofit mental organization in Asheville, North Carolina. The Mental Health GPS provides what it calls "navigation" services: trained call takers listen to the stories of those who call and then consult a bank of up-to-date databases of appropriate, vetted options — therapists, clinics, detox programs, peer support or whatever is needed. If those contacts don't pan out, the caller can call back and get more options. The service is confidential and independent. Writing in the **New York Times** [February 18, 2023], Benedict Carey recounts that first call:

"The call from the woman with a psychotic son . . . made me hold my breath, too. This was live, and I was no longer sitting on high, as the big-media expert. I was just the guy on the other end of the phone. I did some digging and found a local mobile crisis team trained in managing mental health emergencies. I also determined that the young man possibly

qualified for longer-term residential care, if he could be persuaded to go. Two options only but two more than she had before." "At the end of the day and the beginning of the next, this is human work," Carey notes. No one can replace "the experience of people who have been through the fire shower of a mental health or substance use problem. These people, known in mental health circles as peers, understand the system from the inside and the frustration of trying to find decent care. GPS call takers are mostly peers, people solidly in recovery who, in effect, are taking calls from versions of their former selves." Carey acknowledges that the American mental health system is in need of reform: more and better mental health care hospitals, improving youth services especially at schools and universities, expanded insurance reimbursement. All fine ideas, Benedict Carey says, "but for now, let's at least give people someone knowledgeable to talk to.

The work of crisis line volunteers and "peers" who give of their time and experience is the extended hand of Christ to the "Peters" among us foundering in pain and hurt. In the embrace of our spouses and families, in the concern and help of faithful friends, in the counsel of wise pastors and teachers, Jesus reaches out to save us in the darkest times; in the midst of the storms that batter our "boats" as we make our way across the stormy sea, Christ promises to be that calming presence, that steadying hand, if we keep faith in him who is both our guiding star and our destination. May we, in turn, be the outstretched hand of Christ for one another; may we not hesitate to take up the "human work" of creating in our homes and churches, our schools and businesses, safe harbors of understanding and support for everyone struggling to keep their heads above the waters of life's turbulent seas; may we put our own experiences and hard-won expertise at the service of those encountering the same challenges and crises we've confronted in our own sea crossings.

The Young Pastor who wanted to retire!

One upon a time a battered parish priest approached his bishop. "I want to retire," he said. "You're not old enough to retire." "Yeah, but I'm worn out. My laity are fighting one another, my young people don't come to Church. My parish Council has no guts. My teenagers drink too much. My staff members are in constant conflict. A couple of women are trying to take over the parish. Men can't stand the tension. My collections are down. Spies are reporting me to you every week. Grammar school kids are breaking windows and writing graffiti. I receive anonymous hate mail every day." The bishop sighed loudly, that West of Ireland sigh which suggests the advent of a serious asthma attack. "Let me tell you about my problems." The two men sat in silence for a few minutes after they had exchanged woes. Then the Bishop said:

(Continued)

Reflect

The Young Pastor who wanted to retire! (continued)

“Well, congratulations on having a lively parish. It’s still alive and kicking and Jesus is active in your parish boat calming the sea.” So, the pastor went back to his parish resolving to walk on the stormy parish sea with Jesus. He did not resign.

An old story about trustful faith

In the middle of a dark winter’s night in a small Midwest farming community, the two-story home of a young family caught fire. Quickly, parents and children followed their well-practiced emergency plan and made their way through the smoke-filled home out into the front yard. There the father quickly counted heads and realized that their 5 year-old son was not among them. Suddenly he heard a wail and looked up to see the boy at his bedroom window, crying and rubbing his eyes. Knowing the danger of reentering the house to rescue his son, the father called, “Jump, Son! I’ll catch you!” Between sobs, the boy responded to the voice he knew so well. “But, I can’t see you, Daddy!” The father answered with great assurance. “No, Son, you can’t see me, but I can see you! Jump!” At that, the boy jumped into the smoky darkness and found himself safely cradled in his father’s arms.

Our scripture today is about trusting – about having faith – about being able to discern the fact that our God is always with us, even in storms of life. The challenge of trusting faith is what Peter began with, but he looked at the raging waves and got scared. While we might emphasize Peter’s fear, his sinking and his “little” Faith, we need to look also at his leap of Faith. Peter represents all who dare to believe that Jesus is Savior, take their first steps in confidence that Jesus is able to sustain them, and then forget to keep their gaze fixed on him when they face storms of temptations. From the depth of crisis, however, they remember to call on the Savior, and they experience the total sufficiency of his grace to meet their needs. It is this type of “little Faith” of Peter which Jesus later identifies as the rock on which he will build his Church. The only Faith Jesus expects of his followers is a Faith which concentrates solely on him. In other words, when we simply heed Our Lord, we can do great things. So, with His grace, we have to raise our awareness of God’s presence in our lives. As we become more aware, we will step out and proclaim that presence, even in surprising places.

The First Female doctor in the US walked on water!

For Elizabeth Blackwell “walking on water” meant something entirely different. Elizabeth wanted to become a doctor in the 1840s. At the time, medical schools were only for men. Elizabeth Blackwell had to fight just to get in. Finally, at one school, Geneva College of Medicine in New York, the students voted to let her in as a joke. But the head of the school didn't know it was supposed to be a joke, and he let her in. Blackwell faced discrimination and obstacles in college: professors forced her to sit separately at lectures and often excluded her from labs; local townspeople shunned her as a “bad” woman for defying her gender role. Blackwell eventually earned the respect of professors and classmates, graduating first in her class in 1849. She continued her training at London and Paris hospitals, though doctors there relegated her to midwifery or nursing. She began to emphasize preventative care and personal hygiene, recognizing that male doctors often caused epidemics by failing to wash their hands between patients. In 1851, Dr. Blackwell returned to New York City, where discrimination against female physicians meant few patients and difficulty practicing in hospitals and clinics. With help from Quaker friends, Blackwell opened a small clinic to treat poor women; in 1857, she opened the New York Infirmary for Women and Children with her sister Dr. Emily Blackwell and colleague Dr. Marie Zakrzewska. Its mission included providing positions for women physicians. During the Civil War, the Blackwell sisters trained nurses for Union hospitals. In 1868, Blackwell opened a medical college in New York City. A year later, she placed her sister in charge and returned permanently to London, where in 1875, she became a professor of gynecology at the New London School of Medicine for Women. She also helped found the National Health Society and published several books, including an autobiography, *Pioneer Work in Opening the Medical Profession to Women* (1895).

We all experience storms of sorrow, storms of doubt, tension and uncertainty, storms of anxiety and worries, storms of anger and despair, storms of temptations. Storms reveal to us our inability to save ourselves and point us to the infinite ability of God to save us. When Jesus shows up in our life’s storms, we find that we gain strength to do the seemingly impossible.

MISSION APPEAL FOR FRANCISCANS IN ACTION OF HAITI & SOURCE DE VIE OF HAITI.

Deacon Enock Berluche Sr., a Representative of the Diocesan Sharing Program, will preach a Mission Appeal in our Parish for the Following Missions: Franciscans in Action of Haiti and Source de Vie of Haiti on **August 12/13 2023**. Mission activities in those places are touching the lives of the poorest of the poor. Your generous financial support can help continue to provide the basic necessities to those in need. There will be a 2nd collection .Thank you.

From the Pastoral Staff

What is your “Faith Forecast”, and How can you make a positive impact with our Youth?

As I write this article today’s weather forecast is predicting heavy rains, thunderstorms, and possibly two tornadoes! I’m thinking I better write this article fast before I lose power or the internet! I’m also thinking that regardless of the weather outcome, God will see us through any storm, and someone reading this article will be an answer to my prayer for help– which is my faith forecast!

What about you? When you encounter a storm in life – maybe caused by weather, health, relationships, or self-doubt, what do you predict your faith forecast will be? Do you believe that whatever boat you’re in, that Jesus will help you even when you have “little faith”?

Regardless of our age or circumstances, we either have already weathered many storms, are now caught in a bad storm, or fearing there’ll be some in

a future forecast. When our life becomes “stormy” it can affect us spiritually and mentally.

Springtide Research Institute has performed extensive research and provides forecasting regarding the inner and outer lives of young people ages 13 to 25. They provide great resources to help turn the tide when it comes to mental health, Gen Z, and religious/spiritual life. I would like to share two insights as a means to motivate you to consider how you might support our youth in terms of Connection and Participation which are core objectives in our SMYLE Ministry – St. Matthias Youth Living Evangelization.

“Connection is not just about whom a young person has contact with and how often. Although seeing friends, family, and neighbors regularly is important, what equally impacts a young person’s mental health is the quality of those connections. Young people who report having meaningful relationships are less likely to suffer from mental

illness, and they report higher rates of mental and emotional wellness. Faith communities can play a significant role in ensuring that young people have opportunities to build deep relationships.”

“Participation is the second of two key tools for encouraging young people’s faith exploration. For participation to be genuine and helpful, young people must feel guided (not forced) and challenged (not defeated) ... This means providing ways for young people to serve and lead, and helping them navigate questions of faith and how those interact with the things they care about.”

Our youth desire to be noticed, named, known, and non-judgmentally accepted as they navigate the many storms of their life. Currently at St. Matthias we need more adults to get onboard our Youth Ministry boat – named SMYLE! This weekend, we have our junior-high and high school youth speaking at all the Masses. If something they say touches your heart, or sparks an interest for you

to help build strong and healthy connections through meaningful participation, we’d be grateful to hear from you. Please complete this survey (<https://stmatthias.net/supportsmyle/>) or email smyle@stmatthias.net to arrange a time to chat. Your age is not an excuse to not connect or participate in Youth Ministry. I firmly believe this invitation is for anyone over 21. I can tell you powerful stories about individuals in their 90s who have been awesome mentors or advisors! All volunteers will be presented with meaningful opportunities to minister with our youth. You will be eligible to receive valuable training, resources, and experiences which can positively enrich your life. So, my faith-forecast is filled with optimism and hope that you’ll step up to glorify the Lord by your life - with faith filled prayers – Welcome aboard SMYLE!

Deacon John



Pray



The Catholic Community of St. Matthias welcomes the following children who were baptized in July. We support them with prayers and ask their parents to nurture them so they can grow to be faith-filled people of God and our parish community.

Mason Dain Gundayao

James Patrick Hille

Elías Antonio Lavergne

SAINT MATTHIAS SCHOOL IS LOOKING FOR A PART-TIME BOOKKEEPER



Responsibilities include processing invoices, purchasing, recording payments, and performing clerical duties. Previous experience using the FACTS Tuition Mgt. system is a plus. Please send your resume to mpburke-grospin@stmattias.net.

BEFORE and AFTER SCHOOL DIRECTOR POSITION AVAILABLE

Saint Matthias School is looking for a director for our before and after school program for the 2023-2024 school year. This is a part-time position for an individual who enjoys working with children and who has some managerial experience. The hours are 2:00-6:00, Monday to Friday. If you are interested, please phone the school at 732-828-1402, extension 144 or send an email to mlynch@stmattiasnj.org.



2023-2024 GIFT for K-8 Religious Formation

www.stmatthias.net/faith-formation/

We are happy to invite all parents/families with children in K-8, who are **not** attending a Catholic school, to register their children for our religious education/formation program (GIFT) for 2023-2024. **Grade One participation in GIFT is required prior to the typical 2nd Grade participation in First Communion preparation for non-Catholic school students.**



The 2023-2024 registration form for our K-8 family-based parish program of religious formation, G.I.F.T. [Growing In Faith Together], is currently available to complete online.

Please visit www.stmatthias.net/faith-formation/ for more information and to register for G.I.F.T.



Communion

Attention 2nd Graders:

First Eucharist Preparation 2023-2024

www.stmatthias.net/first-eucharist-first-reconciliation/

For all families in GIFT and for **those who are students at St. Matthias School who have (baptized) children who are in 2nd grade [Fall 2023] or older** who desire to receive the Sacraments of First Reconciliation/First Eucharist in 2024, sacramental preparation is required through the parish-you must register online. The 2023-2024 Registration for First Eucharist/First Reconciliation is available online at www.stmatthias.net/first-eucharist-first-reconciliation/ Questions? Please email Dee Nann at dnann@stmattias.net or call the Parish Office, 732-828-1400.



Confirmation

Attention 7th & 8th Graders or older students who have not prepared for Confirmation

Confirmation Preparation 2023-2024

www.stmatthias.net/confirmation/

Register for Confirmation Preparation as soon as possible!

Families who have a **7th or 8th** grader in either St. Matthias School or the GIFT program and desire to have their child prepare for the **Sacrament of Confirmation** need to complete the **2023-2024 Confirmation registration form online**, available at www.stmatthias.net/confirmation/. A parent meeting for 7th grade (or year one) parents will be held in November for all registered 7th graders- or those in Year 1 of Confirmation Preparation who may be a bit older. Questions? Please email Dee Nann at dnann@stmattias.net



SAVE THE DATE!

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22nd, 12 PM Mass

Inviting all Health and Mental Health Care Professionals to the Blessing of the Healing Hands.



ARE YOU DONE WITH THE HEAT?
THINK COOL! THINK SNOW! THINK CHRISTMAS!
SPREAD THE LIGHT IS COMING!
Think Christmas in July!!!

**It is not too soon to begin to think about our
“Spread the Light” campaign in December.**

This is a wonderful opportunity to honor your loved ones,
your business, a family milestone or any other
celebration or occasion.

Last year we lit in excess of 270 trees which brightened our
church and spread good will to all our neighbors in
Somerset and beyond. This is the largest fund raiser for
the parish. We thank all our past participants and we
encourage all parishioners to join in this inspirational, and
what is becoming, an honored tradition in our parish
and community.

Help us “Spread the Light”!

(Sign up forms are available at exit doors of the church and on the
website)

Online payments via ParishGiving are now available.

www.stmatthias.net/tree

**Top 10 Reasons for your child or grandchild to
join the St. Matthias Children’s Choir 🎵**

- 10. Children’s voices bring beauty to the world
- 9. Children’s Choir is FREE music training
- 8. Choir members learn basic vocal technique
- 7. Choir members learn music reading skills
- 6. Choir members learn concepts of music- melody,
rhythm, form, dynamics, harmony, etc.
- 5. Choir is a positive experience that nurtures Self-
confidence.
- 4. Our Children’s Choir moms and assistants are
passionate, full of joy and treat our children with
care and respect.
- 3. Children’s Choir brings families to church regularly
and gives them a sense of belonging to something
really important.
- 2. Children’s Choir gives song to the next generation.
- 1. **IT’S FUN!!**

Our St. Matthias Children’s Choir rehearses on
Thursday afternoons.

▶ Grades 3 and 4 sing from 3:30-4:15.

▶ Grades 5-8 sing from 4:00-4:45.

We welcome children from GIFT- our Religious
Education Program , St. Matthias School, and our
home- school community.

To register , go to stmatthias.net/music/.

The sign-up link is under the Children’s Choir heading.

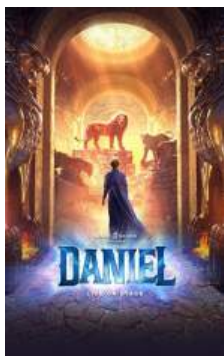
Questions? Call or e-mail Music Director

Joan Best Seamon - jseamon@stmatthias.net,
732-828-1400, ext.107.



SAVE THE DATE

EMUSOI Revisited
--Sunday, September 3
--10:00 Mass
Welcoming
Sr. MARY VERTUCCI
Followed by
refreshments in the
St. John XXIII Rm.
ALL ARE WELCOME!



“SAVE THE DATE”!

The Senior Ministry & St. Martin de Porres Society
will be hosting a trip to Lancaster, PA to see:

SIGHT & SOUND

“DANIEL LIVE ON STAGE”

Saturday, April 20, 2024

For more details, visit:

www.stmatthias.net/sightandsound

Adults (age 13+) -\$170 and Children (under 13) -\$100. Deposit required is \$70.00 by Nov. 1



TO SECURE TICKETS:

Final payment due by Feb
16th . (Note: After March 1st,
Tickets are Non-Refundable)
Make checks payable to: “St.
Martin de Porres Society”,
with “Sight and Sound” in
the memo and mail to the
Parish Office.

Serve



Caregivers/Care Support Group Meeting

All who are caring for sick and elderly loved ones or are experiencing ongoing health issues, are invited to join us for prayer, sharing, and supportive listening.

SATURDAY-SEPTEMBER 16--10:00-11:30 AM--PARISH OFFICE--RUIZ ROOM**

****PLEASE PARK BEHIND THE PARISH OFFICE TO ENTER THE RUIZ ROOM DOOR**

For more information, please contact: Sister Marie Therese, msherwood@stmatthias.net

Give (and Receive!)

Stewardship Totals for Fiscal Year July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024				Last Year's Total
Current Month	In-Pew/Mail	Parish Giving	Weekly Total	Weekly Total
Week 6 - August 6, 2023	\$9,838.00	\$18,741.75	\$28,579.75	\$32,929.65
Week 7 - August 13, 2023			\$0.00	\$25,926.99
Week 8 - August 20, 2023			\$0.00	\$25,348.80
Week 9 - August 27, 2023			\$0.00	\$16,281.75
			Month-to-date Total	Aug Total Last Yr
			\$28,579.75	\$100,487.19
			Current Year-to-date	Year-to-date as of Au-
			\$100,655.50	\$222,580.88

Stewardship Reflection August 13, 2023 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“He said, ‘Come.’ Peter got out of the boat and began to walk on the water toward Jesus.” -Matthew 14:29

When you hear Jesus calling, do you responded immediately and trust that He knows what He’s doing? If so, you are walking on water! When we say “yes” to Jesus, we feel the power of his presence in our lives. We can feel the freedom it gives us! Listen how Jesus is calling you to live the extraordinary life He has intended

Reflexiónese 13 de agosto de 2023 Domingo 19º del Tiempo Ordinario

“Él dijo, ‘Ven’, Pedro salió del bote y comenzó a caminar sobre el agua hacia Jesús.” - Mateo 14:29

¿Cuándo oye que Jesús lo llama, responde inmediatamente y confía que Él sabe lo que está haciendo?; Si es así, usted está caminando sobre el agua! Cuando le decimos “sí” a Jesús, sentimos el poder de su presencia en nuestras vidas. ;Podemos sentir la libertad que Él nos da !Escuche como Jesús lo llama a vivir la vida extraordinaria que Él ha destinado para usted.

Parish Leadership

Parish Pastoral Council:

Co-Chairs:

Rose Peng, rosepeng@optonline.net
John Taylor, jptaylor1068@yahoo.com

Co-Secretaries:

Frank Rees
Marilyn Wegg
Stephan Busono
Anne Marie Francis
Bill Isele

Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio

Trustees:

Pearl Scott
Marge Richards
Parish Finance Council:
Kester Hector, Chair

Finance Council

@stmatthias.net
Carmen Driz-Melilli
Barry Dusault
Gwen Orłowski
Audrey Francis
Joe Porter

Joan Pritchard
Mary Pat Burke-Grospin,
Ex-Officio
Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio

About St. Matthias (please contact the staff members on the cover for up-to-date information)

Parish Registration — Welcome to St. Matthias! Please register on our website. www.stmatthias.net/join-us, or visit the Parish Office.

Marriage — Registered parishioners should contact the parish office a year before the desired wedding date.

Baptism — Baptismal Preparation Sessions are held four times a year for registered parishioners. Please contact the parish office before the baby is born. The sacrament of Baptism is celebrated on the second and fourth Sunday of each month, except during Lent.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) - If you are interested in becoming a Catholic or completing the Sacraments of Initiation--Baptism/Confirmation/Eucharist, please call the Parish Office.



St. Matthias School is a PreK3 through 8th grade school rooted in faith, inspired by love, and dedicated to academic excellence. Before and After School Care Programs are available. Come visit! Contact 732-828-1402 to schedule a tour.



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event dates

Apply online prior to an event for on-the-spot interviews!

October 2022

Tuesday, 10/04

Tuesday, 10/11

Tuesday, 10/18

Tuesday, 10/25

November 2022

Tuesday, 11/01

Tuesday, 11/08

Tuesday, 11/15

Tuesday, 11/29

go.rutgers.edu/rudining

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