



**St. Matthias Parish Office: Eff. 6/10/24**

Monday - Thursday, 8:30 am - 4:00 pm,  
 Friday 8:30AM-1:00PM  
 168 JFK Boulevard, Somerset, NJ 08873  
 732-828-1400, fax: 732-828-0866  
[www.stmatthias.net](http://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](https://youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ)

**St. Matthias School (SMS):**

170 JFK Blvd., Somerset, NJ 08873  
[www.stmatthias.info](http://www.stmatthias.info) 732-828-1402  
 School Office Hours, Monday-Thursday 9AM-1PM, and Friday by appointment.

For all Parish emails, add @stmatthias.net

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

Deacon Ron Caimi, Senior Deacon  
 Kelly Counts, Receptionist, **kcounts**  
 Deacon Russell Demkovitz, **rdemkovitz**  
 Nathalie Godet, Website & Bulletin Editor,  
**ngodet**

Leslie Guillen, Bulletin Coordinator, **lg Guillen**  
 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**

**THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS**  
**SUNDAY, AUGUST 18, 2024**  
 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

*Whoever eats my  
 flesh and drinks my  
 blood remains in me  
 and I in him.*

JOHN 6:56



**The second collection TODAY**  
 is for the Mission Appeal.



*We are happy to welcome  
 Rev. Pauly Thekkan and Rev. Justin Akkara  
 to our parish today for the  
 Mission Appeal for the Carmelite missions.*



PLEASE COME JOIN THE MANY WHO SPEND SOME  
 QUIET TIME WITH THE EUCHARISTIC LORD.  
 OUR NEXT ADORATION WILL BE MONDAY EVENING,  
 AUGUST 19, 2024 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](https://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, August 18, 2024**

8:00AM Mass - Carmelites Mission Appeal Church  
 10:00AM Mass - Carmelites Mission Appeal Church  
 12:00PM Mass - Carmelites Mission Appeal Church

**Monday, August 19, 2024 St. John Eudes, Priest**

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

**Tuesday, August 20, 2024 St. Bernard de Clairvaux Abbott & Doctor**

8:00AM Mass Church

**Wednesday, August 21, 2024 St. Pius X, Pope**

8:00AM Mass St. Joseph Novena Church  
 9:30AM Holy Spirit Prayer Grp. de Porres Room

**Thursday, August 22, 2024 Queenship of Blessed Virgin Mary**

8:00AM Mass Church

**Friday, August 23, 2024 St. Rose of Lima**

8:00AM Mass Church

**Saturday, August 24, 2024 St. Bartholomew, Priest**

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

**Sunday, August 25, 2024**

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](mailto: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.



Dear Friends,

Have you ever been asked to bring up the gifts to the altar during Sunday Mass? Did you agree or disagree? I heard about an informal survey that asked: “Do you say ‘yes’ or ‘no’ when the usher asks you to bring up the gifts?” It seems the majority were nay-sayers! Some people feel embarrassed to bring up the gifts in front of the congregation, like this mother who told me that she was very upset when her husband readily said yes to the usher who asked “Would your family like to bring up the gifts?” She was a nervous wreck, worrying that she or the kids might spill the wine or drop the hosts. But nothing went wrong, and they were happy and the kids were excited from then on, to be chosen to bring up the gifts more often.

Inviting people to participate in the Offertory presentation is an ancient custom dating back to the early centuries of Christianity. In the 2nd Century, St. Justin Martyr wrote: “When our prayer is ended, bread and wine with water are brought forth, and the president offers prayers and thanksgivings, according to his ability.” In the 5th Century, St. Augustine, in reference to the offertory, spoke of the “admirable exchange” that takes place, where the faithful return their gifts they have been given back to God. The priest acting in “persona Christi” (in the person of Christ) receives from the faithful their contributions and sacrifices, offers them to God, who perfects them and transforms them into the Body and Blood of Christ.

Pope Benedict drew attention to the presentation of the Gifts when he said: “This humble and simple gesture is actually very significant: in the bread and wine that we bring to the altar, all creation is taken up by Christ the Redeemer to be transformed and presented to the Father. In this way, we also bring to the altar all the pain and suffering of the world, in the certainty that everything has value in God’s eyes. The authentic meaning of this gesture enables us to appreciate how God invites man to participate in bringing to fulfillment his handiwork, and in so doing, gives human labor its authentic meaning since, through the celebration of the Eucharist, it is united to the redemptive sacrifice of Christ”.

After receiving the gifts, the priest prays over them: “Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through Your goodness we have this bread to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the bread of life. Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through Your goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become our spiritual drink.”

The Church invites us all to have the full, conscious and active participation in the Eucharist. Bringing up the gifts is just one expression of that. The family that is chosen to bring up the gifts represents the entire congregation. Thank you to our wonderful ushers who do an excellent ministry. It’s understandable to be a little nervous when you are asked to bring up the gifts. Don’t be afraid! Consider it as an honor. In presenting the gifts, you are carrying the very bread and wine that will be changed substantially (the theological term is ‘transubstantiation’) into the Body and Blood of Christ.

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Orapankal

## Readings for the Week

**Monday** Ez 24:15-23 De 32:18-19, 20, 21 Mt 19:16-22

**Tuesday** Ez 28:1-10 De 32:26-27AB, 27CD-28, 30, 35CD-36AB Mt 19:23-30

**Wednesday** Ez 34:1-11 Ps 23:1-3A, 3B-4, 5, 6 Mt 20:1-16

**Thursday** Ez 36:23-28 Ps 51:12-13, 14-15, 18-19 Mt 22:1-14

**Friday** Ez 37:1-14 Ps 107:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 Mt 22:34-40

**Saturday** Rv 21:9b-14 Ps 145:10-11, 12-13, 17-18 Jn 1:45-51

**Sunday** Jos 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b Ps 34:2-3, 16-17, 18-19, 20-21 Eph 5:21-32 or 5:2a, 25-32 Jn 6:60-69

## Mass Intentions for the Week

<b>Saturday, August 17</b>	5:00PM	Lou Carcich, by The Carcich Family
<b>Sunday, August 18</b>	8:00AM	Teofilo S. Bathan, by The Bathan Family
	10:00AM	Intention of Parishioners James Ronan by Dannette Terhune
	12:00PM	Cristina Balingit, by The Nonailada Family
<b>Monday, August 19</b>	8:00AM	Birthday Blessings for Joanna A. Ramos by Grandma
<b>Tuesday, August 20</b>	8:00AM	Benjamin Guzman by Alma Valdez
<b>Wednesday, August 21</b>	8:00AM	Health & Blessings of Connor & Brice Valdez by Alma Valdez
<b>Thursday, August 22</b>	8:00AM	Andrew Mutchler by Helen Mutchler
	8:00AM	Perlo Alojegan by the Capuno Family Meg Ossandon by Mom, Ellin
<b>Friday, August 23</b>	8:00AM	Debra Martell Rothstein by St. Matthias Folk Group
<b>Saturday, August 24</b>	5:00PM	Helen & Al Jago by The Finan Family
	8:00AM	Dorothy Gonzalez by Karen Francis
	12:00PM	Intention of Parishioners Marguerite Carlin by Toni Micko

## 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](mailto: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	Heinley Gaspard	Mary Lou Litrakis	Robert Pellegrino	Anita Vance
Brandon Barbarite	Claudia Gemgnani	John Litrakis	Robert Pietrowiak	Leticia Veridiano
Ghislaine Baron	Emma Gergely	Denis Loboda	Randolff Pinard	Eileen Weber
Helen Bell	Claude Godet	Aries Magali	Valerie Polci	Nancy Whelan
Samantha Bellouny	Marie Godet	Kenneth & Kelly	Kim Price	Michael Zambri
Mary Bostrom	Shelly Greene	Magat	Frank Rispoli	Ginette Zamor
Tara Capatosto	Linda Hartong	Susan, King & Tosh	Gabriel Rivera	Anne Zando
Elizabeth Card	Jeff Hentz	Manansala	Bob Rotz	
Lisa DeFeo	Marilyn Horvath	Alexandra Marquez	Marisa Ruppel	<b>And for all who are ill, homebound, elderly, in nursing care, or living with chronic illness, we pray.</b>
Zenon DeGuzman	Jerry & Donna Hucul	Christine Matthews	Maria Schwenzer	
Vivian Dong	Jean Alix Jolly	Ann McElwee	Amy Shepp	
Sanora Doyen	Renée Jolly	Jessica Marie Merrick	Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF	
Andrea Dubuisson	Donna Kahora	Gail Miranda	Timothy Siclari	
Hattie Evans	Betsy Kondrat	Menchie Molano-	Catherine Steele	
Margaret Ann Cichon	Kathy Langenbacher	Sotelo	Sr. Bernadine Marie	
Ford	Rose Larangeira	Sarah Braun Morini	Stemnock	
Sharon Gadomski	Armando D. Liban	Danny Ongchango	Richard Sury	

## Pray for those who have died...

— “His mercy endures forever.” Chronicles



# Reflect



## Smile with Your Family



**We all know that laws are needed. However, there are some laws that make no sense and so are funny. Here's a collection to enjoy:**

San Francisco prohibits elephants from strolling down Market Street unless they are on a leash 😊

Also in San Francisco, there are rules against piling horse manure higher than 6 feet on any street corner 😊

In Australia, changing a light bulb without a valid license was against the law until 1988, with a fine of 10 Australian dollars 😊

In Milan, Italy, it's a legal requirement to smile at all times except at funerals or hospitals 😊

Dog owners in Turin, Italy will be fined up to €500 if they don't walk their pets at least three times a day, under a new law from the city's council 😊

In Indiana, it is illegal to take a bath from October to March 😊

Idaho state law makes it illegal for a man to give his sweetheart a box of candy weighing less than fifty pounds. 😊

In France, it is illegal to name a pig Napoleon 😊

In Hartford, CT: You are not allowed to cross a street while walking on your hands 😊

In Samoa, it's illegal to forget your wife's birthday 😊



### Parenting Tune-Up

"Wisdom has built her house." (Proverbs 9:1) May your home be smarter than your phone. Sometimes children can teach us deep truths. What deeper truth have you learned from your child this week?

### Marriage Tune-Up



Two questions to consider when you disagree with your beloved:

1. Tell me about what you are seeing that you think I might be missing.
2. What are you most concerned about or worried might happen?

### TOUCHING THE BODY OF CHRIST



St. Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa), had a rule that when a newcomer arrived to join her Order, the Missionaries of Charity, the very next day the newcomer had to go to the Home of the Dying. One day a girl came from outside India to join the Order. Mother Teresa said to her: "You saw with what love and care the priest touched Jesus in the Host during Mass. Now go to the Home for the Dying and do the same, because it is the same Jesus you will find there in the broken bodies of our poor." Three hours later the newcomer came back and, with a big smile, said to her, "Mother, I have been touching the body of Christ for three hours." "How? What did you do?" Mother Teresa asked her. "When I arrived there," she replied, "they brought in a man who had fallen into a drain and been there for some time. He was covered with dirt and had several wounds. I washed him and cleaned his wounds. As I did so I knew I was touching the body of Christ." To be able to make this kind of connection we need the help of the Lord himself. It is above all in the Eucharist that he gives us this help.

### FOOD PYRAMIDS



New standards for diet were proposed recently. A new food pyramid was developed as a guide for healthy eating. It includes a base of bread, cereals, rice and pasta. The next level up the pyramid is vegetables and fruit. A still smaller next level is milk, yogurt, cheese, meat, poultry, fish, eggs, and nuts. The smallest group at the top is fats, oils and sweets. We can propose a food pyramid for those who want a healthy spiritual life. You may want to develop your own, but it might include a base of feeding on the Word of God in the Eucharist and by study and meditation on the Scriptures. Upon that base one is nourished by Christian fellowship. The pyramid should include servings of regular worship. To that a daily use of prayer and devotions could be added. On top of those elements should be time for Christian service to meet the needs of others.

## A SHOCKING STATEMENT!

“Unless you eat the Flesh of the Son of Man and drink his Blood, you do not have life within you,” Jesus insists. That we cannot have everlasting life unless we eat Jesus' Body and drink his Blood was a shocking message to the listeners. Indeed, Jewish law prohibited the eating of human flesh, and blood of any kind was considered to be the actual life of a living being. Drinking of blood, consequently, was prohibited in Judaism and in early Christianity (Gen 9:4; Lev 17:10, 12, 14; cf. Acts 15:29).

In spite of the Jewish antipathy to eating human flesh and blood, “eating Jesus' Flesh and drinking his Blood” became a common liturgical activity for Christians around the time of John's Gospel. The second century martyr, St. Ignatius of Antioch, said, “For food I want the Bread of God, which is the Flesh of Jesus Christ and for drink I want His Blood, which is incorruptible love.” It was at the Last Supper that Jesus linked his Flesh with the bread he blessed, broke and shared with his disciples. Likewise, he linked his Blood with the cup of wine he blessed, offered, and passed around, Blood that was the pledge of an unbreakable bond between Jesus and his people. † *This is my Body (my Flesh)... This is My Blood... which will be poured out for you.*” The Bread that we eat in the Eucharist is the Body of the Risen Lord; the Wine that we drink in the Eucharist is the Blood of the Risen Lord.

**When Jesus spoke of his Flesh and Blood as the Food and Drink of eternal life, he was offering himself to the multitude (and so to us), as the real Source of Life. To eat the Flesh of Jesus and to drink his Blood is to become totally identified with Christ's very Person, with his deepest thoughts, with his vision of life, with his values, and with his mission to build the Kingdom of God. In other words, Jesus is here calling us to follow him, to be with him, and to share totally and unconditionally his mission and destiny. Thus, the Eucharist is more than a memorial of Jesus' death (see 1 Cor 11:23-25). Rather, it is the continuation of Jesus' life after his Resurrection (Luke 24:13-35).**

## WHY PROTESTANTS THINK OF EUCHARIST DIFFERENTLY?

This is one of the main distinctions between the different branches of Christianity. Catholic Christians and Eastern Orthodox Christians have maintained the ancient Faith in the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist. But during the Protestant Reformation, which took place in northern Europe in the fifteen and sixteen hundred, the different Protestant groups stopped believing in the Real Presence. Martin Luther, John Calvin, Thomas Cranmer, John Knox and some other reformers started their own churches, breaking away from the Catholic Church. It was during this period that the many different Protestant denominations began to appear: Lutherans, Presbyterians, Baptists... The Puritans who arrived on the shores of Massachusetts in the 1600s, better known as “the pilgrims,” were a spinoff of these reformed churches. All of these new Christian groups continued to celebrate some kind of communion service in their Sunday worship, at least once or twice a year. But none of them believed firmly and clearly that Jesus was truly present in the Eucharist. They all taught that Jesus was only speaking symbolically when he said, as we heard in today's Gospel, “Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life.”

**But if Jesus had been speaking of a mere symbol, and not a real sacrament, would he have referred to eating and drinking his flesh and blood seven times? Would he have made such an effort to explain that his flesh is “real food” and his blood “real drink” (verse 55)? Would he have used two different verbs to make sure he was understood: “phago” (verses 50 and 51), which means to consume a meal, and then, after his listeners expressed shock and doubt, “trago” (verses 53-58), which means to gnaw, crunch, or chew, as when we eat raw vegetables, or when cattle graze on grass?**

## “JESUS LOVES ME”



In one of the Chicken Soup for the Soul books there is a story told by a doctor. It is about a five-year-old girl named Mary who had suffered a stroke that left half of her body paralyzed. Even more tragically, she had been hospitalized for treatment of a brain tumor, and had recently lost her father and mother. She was being examined in an MRI machine. The imaging sequence at that time required the patient to remain perfectly still for about five minutes—a demanding task for a five-year-old. About two minutes into the first sequence, the doctor and the technician noticed on the video monitor that Mary's mouth was moving. They even heard a muted voice over the intercom. They halted the exam and gently reminded Mary not to talk. She smiled and promised not to talk. They repeated the sequence with the same result. Her lips were still moving. The technologist, a bit gruffly, said, “Mary, you were talking again, and that causes blurry pictures.” Mary's smile remained as she replied, “I wasn't talking. I was singing. You said no talking.” “What were you singing?” someone asked. “Jesus Loves Me,” came the barely audible reply. “I always sing 'Jesus Loves Me' when I'm happy.” Everyone in the room was speechless. “Happy? How could this little girl be happy?” The technologist and the doctor had to leave the room to regain their composure as tears began to fall. Mary was happy because she knew Jesus loved her. [James C Brown, M.D. A Fifth Portion of Chicken Soup for the Soul (pp 46-47),

## SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT ...

*"Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him." John 6: 51-58*

**As two people newly in love, they talked and talked.** They talked about their childhoods, about school, about their jobs. They talked about their favorite foods, their favorite movies, their favorite songs. Before long, they were talking about their dreams, their fears, their happiest times, their most embarrassing moments. They talked about the places they would like to visit and the goals they would like to realize. And they talked about one another: what they admired about each other, what made the other such a joy to be with, how they were falling in love. Then they talked about their wedding. They talked about their new house. They talked about furnishings and landscaping and cars. They talked about money. And they talked about kids.

**Seven years into their marriage, they stopped talking.** After a day of work, of getting the kids to school and the doctor's and their games, of putting dinner on the table, of the machinations of getting to sleep and ready for the next day, they would sit side by side in bed with their laptops. They were not sleeping, they were not talking. They were so close physically and yet so far apart. They still talked, but a different kind of talk. They talked about their children: what they wanted for lunch, who would pick them up, the plans for the weekend. They talked about bills and laundry and meals.

**They realized that they were too tired to really "talk."** So they decided to ship the kids to the grandparents for a weekend, lock their phones in the glove compartment, and return to the kind of place where they first really talked: on a mountain in the woods. They hiked and breathed. They listened to the beautiful silence of nature. They stopped to watch the birds glide through the sunset. **And before long they were talking again.** They told each other stories they had forgotten to tell each other, funny exchanges at work. They bantered and flirted. And they reminisced, too, about their early days, an entirely new kind of talking that comes from having known someone for a long time. Now several times a year they leave the children for a day or weekend and go off and hike. And talk. And fall in love again.

**This couple, like so many married couples, get so caught up with demands of parenthood and career that even simple conversation becomes a rarity. But, when the "bread" that is Jesus' compassion and the "wine" that is his generosity sustains us, we constantly rediscover the presence of God in our midst in the love of family and friends - love that keeps us "talking," often in ways more powerful and affecting than mere words. Jesus' words about his "flesh" and blood as "real food" challenge us to consider what sustains us as human beings, as loving parents and sons and daughters and brothers and sisters, as children of God, as brothers and sisters of all with whom we share this good earth. To possess the life of God is to be open to and make possible moments of grace: moments when we become especially aware of the great love of God in our lives. God's grace is manifested in so many ways: in prayer and sacrament, especially the Eucharist; in the many gifts of creation, from the food that sustains us to the light of the sun that warms us; in the kindness and love of those who are the very love of God in our lives; in acts of generosity and forgiveness, though small and unheralded, that embrace us in God's peace.**



## Reflections on the National Eucharistic Congress - 2

*(Here's part 2 of Bill Grippo's reflections on his experience at the National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis)*

I was spellbound with the passion and zeal of each speaker who were witnesses to the true presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. I learned even deeper that the Eucharist is simply God's gift in the body and blood of His Son to us as our redemption. Because of His gift to us we should spend much more quality time in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in our parishes. For me, to witness the faith of thousands of Catholics in their belief of the Real Presence, Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity was my most significant moment. People of all ages kneeling in total silence and reverence as the Blessed Sacrament circled the arena each evening on the same stadium floor where professional athletes play their sport!

A very special event happened on Saturday of the Congress. At 3pm, Jesus went out and figuratively met the world in the streets of Indianapolis in a procession through the city with over 50,000 pilgrims lining the city roads. This ended with solemn Benediction in a city monument park. Each day was significant displaying the gifts of the Holy Spirit that filled us with His love. The last Mass on Sunday was celebrated by Cardinal Tagle, and the Pope's special envoy to the Eucharistic Congress read comments from the Holy Father. I was convinced that this is the Catholic Church of the future, this was the defining moment for American Catholics to go forth and build the Kingdom of God and be a gift to the world!! The 10th Eucharistic Congress is the most profound moment for United States Catholicism for close to 100 years. I am so happy I was part of every moment of this wonderful gift of Our Lord's Eucharistic Presence.



## Pray



### RCIA

If you came for the Easter Vigil, you saw some of our adult parishioners receiving the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Communion. They had undertaken a process known as the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) for about 10 months. Our next process will begin in September. There are weekly gatherings where people come together to share, grow, and understand the Catholic faith. These are not classes but a faith-sharing group. If you know anyone who has not received these Sacraments of Initiation, kindly invite him/her to try this process. Please contact Parish Office at: 732-828-1400.

## Connect



### Save the Date!

### NOAH LIVE ON STAGE

The Senior Ministry and St. Martin DePorres Society will once again host a trip to Lancaster, PA to see Sight & Sound "NOAH LIVE ON STAGE" **Saturday, May 17, 2025.**  
More details to follow...

### WE ARE SO PROUD OF OUR ST. MATTHIAS CHILDREN'S CHOIR!

Joan Best Seamon- Director, [jseamon™](http://jseamon.com) [stmatthias.net](http://stmatthias.net)

The St. Matthias Children's Choir introduces the children of our faith community to the rich treasury of Catholic music, traditional and contemporary. The Children's Choir



welcomes young parishioners, grades 3-8, who are registered in our GIFT Religious Ed Program, St. Matthias School, or who are home-schooled.



Thursday afternoons in church starting on **September 19, 2024**

- ✝ 3rd and 4th graders rehearse from 3:30- 4:15 PM
- ✝ 5th – 8th graders rehearse from 4:00 to 5:00 PM

To register for the Children's Choir please go to <https://stmatthias.net/music/> and click on the link under Children's Choir by **September 1, 2024.**

*"You have a place where you belong. You have a song to sing. Sing, sing, let music ring, YOU are part of the song!"*

### BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY

The Bereavement ministry of St. Matthias will be offering a 7 week session beginning on **Wednesday, October 2** to help anyone with support navigating the difficult time following the loss of a loved one. Many of us have, at one time or another, experienced the difficult transition to life after a person dear to us has died. The road ahead often feels unsafe and almost unmanageable. This program is designed to help participants navigate this uncertainty in a safe, non judgmental environment with others who share many of the same feelings. The program uses a guide to help foster discussion among the small group of participants.

Each session lasts about one hour. Meetings will be on Wednesdays gathering either in the afternoon or early evening depending on the schedule needed by those participating. If you or someone you know would like to join our group, please contact **Jo-Ann Piagentini** at [mrspiag@aol.com](mailto:mrspiag@aol.com) or 908-256-5173 or **Linda Madison** at [drlindamadison@gmail.com](mailto:drlindamadison@gmail.com) or 732-841-5402, to register or to get more information. All inquiries are welcome.



### 2024-2025 Registration

PREK3- OPEN SPOTS ✝ PREK4- LIMITED AVAILABILITY

PLEASE CALL FOR AVAILABILITY IN GRADES K-8

St. Matthias School 170 John F. Kennedy Blvd., Somerset, NJ 732-828-1402

### MAKE A DONATION FROM THE HEART. ♥

Consider helping families in need by providing tuition help. Need information on how to contribute to our Tuition Angels Fund?

Please contact:

Mrs. Jo-Ann Piagentini [mrspiag@aol.com](mailto:mrspiag@aol.com) or Dr. Judy Marino [jdmarino4@gmail.com](mailto:jdmarino4@gmail.com)



### FAITH FORMATION REGISTRATIONS ARE OPEN!

2024-2025 GIFT for K-8 Religious Formation

<https://stmatthias.net/faith-formation/>

Attention 2nd Graders:

First Eucharist Preparation 2024-2025

<https://stmatthias.net/first-eucharist-first-reconciliation/>



Communion



Confirmation

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

Confirmation Preparation 2024-2025

<https://stmatthias.net/confirmation/>

Questions? Please call the Parish Office, 732-828-1400 or email Debbie Schurko, [dschurko@stmatthias.net](mailto:dschurko@stmatthias.net)

### UPDATE ABOUT OUR CHURCH MEDIA PROJECT

Many of you have probably noticed some changes on the wall behind the choir. We are making preparations for installation of our new projection and live stream system this summer. This plan was begun when Fr. Joe (Msgr. Curry) was with us. You may remember that we had focused on the Giving Tuesday contributions two years in a row for this media update. And we're very excited to finally be completing this important project!

Though details of this project were published in the bulletin a few times, it is good to refresh our memory. The new livestream system includes two high definition remote-controlled cameras and a video and sound mixing system that will greatly improve the video and sound quality of our livestream. The projection system includes a 150" diagonal 16:9 screen and a 4K capable 8500 lumen laser projector. This will vastly improve image brightness and contrast, so the system will be useful not only for live-streaming our liturgy but also for faith formation, GIFT sessions, and other parish events. Mr. Jeff Beck and Mr. Joe Mancuso have been working tirelessly on this project. We hope to see a very much improved experience of the media use in our church.

We are grateful to the parishioners who have been volunteering to help with the tech part of projecting the slides for our Sunday Masses. We wish to invite more such tech-savvy parishioners to consider volunteering to help with the live-streaming once the media update is complete.



# 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 5 - August 4, 2024	\$8,816.00	\$13,160.50	\$21,976.50	\$28,579.75
Week 6 - August 11, 2024	\$9,162.00	\$25,127.00	\$34,289.00	\$28,745.75
Week 7 - August 18, 2024				\$29,132.75
Week 8 - August 25, 2024				\$19,508.25
<b>2024 Bishop's Annual Appeal</b>			<b>Month-to-date Total</b>	<b>August Total Last Year</b>
<b>Goal: \$175,000.00</b>			<b>\$56,265.50</b>	<b>\$105,966.50</b>
<b>Total Pledged &amp; Received: \$184,873.85</b>			<b>Current Year-to-date</b>	<b>Year-to-date as of August 31, 2023</b>
			<b>\$155,060.00</b>	<b>\$226,076.35</b>

## Stewardship Reflection August 18, 2024 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

## Reflexiónese - 18 de agosto de 2024 20º Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario

“Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him.” John 6:56

“Cualquiera que come mi carne y bebe mi sangre permanece en mí y yo en él.” Juan 6:56

This line from Scripture is what ultimately separates Catholics from our Protestant brothers and sisters. Jesus is really present in the bread and wine that are consecrated at Holy Mass. It is His actual body and blood that we consume. This is the greatest gift that we can receive. The Eucharist shows us how great of love that Jesus has for each of us.

Esta línea de la Sagrada Escritura es la que al final separa a los Católicos de nuestros hermanos Protestantes. Jesús está realmente presente en el pan y el vino que se consagran en la Santa Misa. Consumimos realmente su cuerpo y su sangre. Ese es el don más grande que podemos recibir. La Eucaristía nos muestra cuan grande es el amor de Jesús por nosotros.



Parish Giving offers secure flexible online giving for our parishioners who would like to make their donations online using a credit card or bank transfer. You never have to bring cash or checks to church. If you want to simplify your life, go to our website, [www.stmatthias.net](http://www.stmatthias.net) and click on the Parish Giving Link under 'Give'.

We thank you for your support which enables St. Matthias to minister to the community.



**ARE YOU DONE WITH THE HEAT? THINK COOL!  
THINK SNOW! THINK CHRISTMAS!  
SPREAD THE LIGHT IS COMING!**



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 our website.

[www.stmatthias.net/trees](http://www.stmatthias.net/trees)

# Connecting to Our Local Community

## RETREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR WOMEN OF OUR PARISH

Are you seeking some time away from the stress and anxiety of daily life? Do you wish to improve your spiritual life? Can you use some holy rest with Our Lord? Why not consider a Catholic retreat!!! A Catholic retreat is a journey of faith, a time for renewal and spiritual growth. It is a time to leave worldly things behind and be filled by the grace of the Holy Spirit as you renew your bonds with Jesus and the Eucharist.

St. Matthias parish invites women to attend a Catholic women’s retreat at San Alfonso Retreat House (732-222-2731), on the ocean in Long Branch, New Jersey.


The Date is **November 8-10, 2024**, and the theme is The Eucharist and the Hungers of the Human Heart. The Redemptorist retreat team “will offer an opportunity to get in touch with the hunger within our own heart and an encounter with the living Christ through prayer, scripture, community and most importantly, the Eucharist which satisfies that hunger.”

The Fee is \$300. It includes comfortable lodging with shared toilet and shower (the sinks are in the rooms), 6 home-cooked meals at a beautiful ocean-side facility on a vast setting with two chapels, cozy private meditation rooms, a library with beautiful views of the Atlantic Ocean, and beach for peaceful walks and private time with the Lord. Space limited: For reservations contact **Rita Dinicola: rdinicola26@gmail.com** or **Mary Guardino: maryfff@aol.com**



### Metuchen Cursillo Movement

The Cursillo experience is one that will enhance your spiritual life and growth for a lifetime.  
 Next Men's Weekend: **October 17-20, 2024** at the Loyola Retreat House, 161 James St, Morristown, NJ.  
**For more information visit: <http://www.metcursillo.org/>**



### Tuesday, August 27 MAN TO MAN


Men have unique roles in life... husbands, fathers, grandfathers, the single life and religious life... We’re pushed and pulled in a thousand directions by responsibilities, stress, loss and by joys. Where can we find time to reflect on the loss and gain of our lives? For all men—young, old and in between. Join our group over coffee or tea for life affirming discussions and prayer to find God in our lives and to make a difference in our own worlds.

4th Tuesday of the Month 7-8:30 both at the House of Prayer and on Zoom Freewill offering

## Parish Leadership

<b>Parish Pastoral Council:</b> <b>Co-Chairs:</b> Frank Rees <a href="mailto:Frees814@gmail.com">Frees814@gmail.com</a> Marilyn Wegg <a href="mailto:mcw-wam@comcast.net">mcw-wam@comcast.net</a>	<b>Co-Secretaries:</b> Stephen Busono <a href="mailto:sbusono@gmail.com">sbusono@gmail.com</a> Bill Isele <a href="mailto:t33sm@aol.com">t33sm@aol.com</a> Al Drabnis Didi Molano	Sheila Tartaglia Fr. Lancelot McGrath, Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio <b>Trustees:</b> Pearl Scott Marge Richards	<b>Parish Finance Council:</b> Kester Hector, Chair <b>Finance Council</b> <a href="mailto:@stmatthias.net">@stmatthias.net</a> Carmen Driz-Melilli Barry Dusault Joan Pritchard	Cory Panlilio Mary Pat Burke-Grospin, Ex-Officio Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio
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## About St. Matthias (please contact the staff members on the cover for up-to-date information)

<p><b>Parish Registration</b> — Welcome to St. Matthias! Please register on our website. <a href="http://www.stmatthias.net/join-us">www.stmatthias.net/join-us</a>, or visit the Parish Office.</p> <p><b>Marriage</b> — Registered parishioners should contact the parish office a year before the desired wedding date.</p>	<p><b>Baptism</b> — 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.</p>	<p><b>Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)</b> - If you are interested in becoming a Catholic or completing the Sacraments of Initiation--Baptism/Confirmation/Eucharist, please call the Parish Office.</p>	 <p><b>St. Matthias School</b> is a PreK3 through 8<sup>th</sup> 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.</p>
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