



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*,
mjoboda

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**

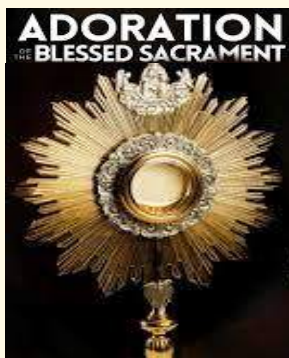
Sr. Marie Therese Sherwood, *OSF, Pastoral*
Assoc. for Social Concerns, **msherwood**

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

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS
SUNDAY, AUGUST 20, 2023-
20th Sunday in Ordinary Time



SAVE THE DATE!
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22nd, 12 PM Mass
 Inviting all Health and Mental Health Care
 Professionals to the Blessing of the Healing Hands.



Please come join the many who
 spend some quiet time with the
 Eucharistic Lord on
Monday evenings
 from **6 PM to 8 PM.**
 The next weekly
 Adoration will
 be on **Monday, Aug. 21**
 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](https://www.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 20, 2023

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

Monday, Aug 21, 2023

Pope Pius X

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

Tuesday, Aug 22, 2023

Queenship of Blessed Virgin Mary

8:00AM	Mass	Church
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Wednesday, Aug 23, 2023

St. Rose of Lima

8:00AM	Mass—St. Joseph Novena	Church
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Thursday, Aug 24, 2023

St. Bartholomew Apostle

8:00AM	Mass	Church
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Friday, Aug 25, 2023

St. Joseph Calasanz Priest and Founder

8:00AM	Mass	Church
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Saturday, Aug 26, 2023

Mary of Jesus Crucified

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

Sunday, Aug 27, 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,

Last Sunday you heard four members of our youth ministry SMYLE address us after Holy Communion. (You must know by now that SMYLE stands for St. Matthias Youth Living Evangelization.) Thank you to those who responded to their invitation to volunteer some time to help with our youth ministry. One thing that all of the four teens – Abigail Joseph, Emily Chavez, Isabel McGuire and James Nonallada – told us was very significant: *“Youth Ministry is a safe place to be ourselves. It is filled with real people from different backgrounds, ages, experiences, and issues. With the help of God, this diverse group thrives as a family, and every youth deserves to be a part of this family.”*

Yes, though diverse, we are one family. That is also the theme in the readings of this Sunday. The vision God has put forward in Isaiah was something unthinkable for the Jews of that time and may not be easily acceptable even for us: *that the foreigners or pagans are welcome and their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be acceptable on the altar of God because “my house shall be called a house of prayer for all people” (Isaiah 56:6-7).*

This was the experience of the incredible number of young people at the World Youth Day two weeks ago in Lisbon, Portugal. This largest Catholic event surpassed expectations with 1.5 million pilgrims joining Pope Francis for the closing Mass on August 6. *Can you imagine such a mammoth crowd of Catholics in one place - singing, praising, praying, dancing and celebrating with Pope Francis and other leaders? It was an electrifying experience for them, suffused with so much joy, excitement and spiritual fervor. Young adults from different parts of the US have shared their experience on various platforms. Here are just two:*

Stacy Escobar, 26, from Arlington, VA, said that one of her favorite moments from the trip was during an outdoor Eucharistic adoration event set up specifically for travelers from the United States: *“That was probably one of the most beautiful moments of Eucharistic adoration I have ever seen. The host was glowing in the monstrance. It was beautiful. The sunset was amazing. And just seeing everybody and all the international flags, the diversity was just beautiful.”*

Savannah Dudzik, 22, from Tampa, FL, said that one of the most memorable moments was seeing Pope Francis up close: *“We were within a few feet of him. Seeing Pope Francis was incredible because in what other situation do a million people get so excited to see a man who’s in his 80s? It’s because it has to be something more ... He’s witnessing to the word of God. That’s why we’re so excited.”* Then she added: *“World Youth Day showed the Catholic youth that the Catholic Church is truly universal.”*

I have asked our own parishioners who attended the WYD 2023 to share with us their insights or takeaways from this unforgettable event. May we become more of a welcoming community, respecting and celebrating our diversity.

Your brother in Christ,
Fr. Abraham Orapankal

Readings for the Week

Monday: Jgs 2:11-19; Ps 106:34-35, 36-37, 39-40, 43ab and 44; Mt 19:16-22

Tuesday: Jgs 6:11-24a; Ps 85:9, 11-12, 13-14; Mt 19:23-30

Wednesday: Jgs 9:6-15; Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7; Mt 20:1-16a

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

Friday: Ru 1:1, 3-6, 14b-16, 22; Ps 146:5-6ab, 6c-7, 8-9a, 9bc-10; Mt. 22:34-40

Saturday: Ru 2:1-3, 8-11; 4:13-17; Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4, 5; Mt. 23:1-12

Sunday: Is 22:19-23; Ps 138:1-2a, 2bcd-3, 6 and 8bc; Rom 11:33-36; Mt 16:13-20

Mass Intentions for the Week

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
Monday, Aug 21	8:00AM	Mariana Reinhart, by Mary & Fred Lau
Tuesday, Aug 22	8:00AM	Choly Calimlim, by Violy Garcia
Wednesday, Aug 23	8:00AM	Perla Alojapan, Capuno Family
Thursday, Aug 24	8:00AM	Silvia Nocos, by The Tibay Family
Friday, Aug 25	8:00AM	Paul & Sally Hughes, by The Family
Saturday, Aug 26	5:00PM	William & Margaret Kelleher, By Son
Sunday, Aug 27	8:00AM	Frank Sciotto by Wife & Children
	10:00AM	Intention of Parishioners
	12:00PM	Brandlyn Alcindor, by The Francis Family

Pray for those who are sick...

If you or a family member are sick, please call the Parish Office or **email Kelly Counts** at kcunts@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*

William Venosa

Reflect



Smile with Your Family



Inscribed in stone over the great front doors of an old church that was being restored was: "This is the gate of heaven." Just below it someone had placed a small cardboard sign that read: "Use the other entrance." 😊

A priest in the mountains of Kentucky had gone home with a family of new converts for dinner. He was received cordially by all but the small daughter in the family, who stared at him unblinkingly throughout the meal. The priest, somewhat uncomfortable, tried to put the little girl at ease. "Is it my collar you are staring at?" he asked, taking it off and holding it up. When he did so he saw the cleaning instructions on the inside of the collar, and to make conversation, he asked, "Do you know what it says here?" "Yes," responded the little girl. "My cat has a small collar like that. It says, *Kills fleas for six months.*" 😊

HOW TRUE ARE THE FOLLOWING:

LAW OF BREAD: When the buttered slice of bread falls it always fall on the buttered side.

LAW OF THE QUEUE: If you change queues, the one you have left will start to move faster than the one you are in now.

LAW OF THE TELEPHONE: When you dial a wrong number, you never get an engaged one.

LAW OF MECHANICAL REPAIR: After your hands become coated with grease, your nose will begin to itch.

LAW OF THE WORKSHOP: Any tool, when dropped, will roll to the least accessible corner.

LAW OF COFFEE: As soon as you sit down for a cup of hot coffee, your boss will ask you to do something which will last until the coffee is cold. 😊



Parenting Tune-Up

Read a book to (or with) your child that was a favorite when you were their age. Already done that? Do another. Already done that too? How about writing or telling a short story together?

Marriage Tune-Up



Do you treat your boss or friend better than your spouse? Who gets your promptness? Who do you dress up for? Who do you clear your calendar for? Who gets your undivided attention and best effort?

RELIGIOUS FANATICISM

Fanatical attitudes and behavior are in every religion. Some Catholics did not accept the decision of Pope Benedict XVI to resign and continued to think of him as the real Pope as they did not like Pope Francis. So Benedict himself had to chide them: "*Some of my more fanatical friends have not accepted my choice; There is only one Pope and that is Pope Francis!*"

A Jewish professor of psychology said of his tradition, "If there are ten Jewish males in a city, we create a synagogue. If there are eleven Jewish males, we start thinking about creating a competing synagogue." A Baptist police officer had a similar tale. He said, "One Baptist family in a neighborhood witnesses until they bring another family to Christ. Then they form a Church, and start witnessing to the rest of the community. When another family joins, they have a schism and form a rival Church." According to a Presbyterian homemaker, her

communion was a little like vegetable soup. "We have," she said, "the OPs, RPs, BPs, and Split Peas!" And a Methodist businessman complemented these tales with an apocryphal tale of a man from his Faith community who had been shipwrecked for years on a small island. When found by a passing ship, rescuers asked him why he had constructed three huts, since he was there by himself. "Well," he replied, "that one is my home, that one is my Church, and that one is my former Church." ***Today's Gospel tells us how Jesus extended his healing mission to the Gentiles too. No one is excluded from the Kingdom of God.***

"YES, BUT NOT WITH THAT BUNCH!"

Billy Graham once told of an incident that happened a long time ago when teachers could talk about religion in the classroom. A teacher was talking to her class of young boys, and she asked, "How many of you would like to go to Heaven?" And all the hands instantly shot into the air at once, except one. She was astounded. She asked, "Charlie, you

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Reflect

mean you don't want to go to Heaven?" He said, "Sure, I want to go to Heaven, but not with that bunch!"

Unfortunately, that is how many religious groups feel about one another. Consider the Middle East: in parts of Lebanon, Christian militias fighting each other and in Syria and Iraq extremist Muslims driving all Christians from their territories on pain of death, unless they convert; and the never-ending conflict between Arabs and Jews.... All three great Faiths in that part of the world trace their origins through the patriarch Abraham. All three of them honor the Mosaic Law. All three are monotheistic. And yet as the political walls of this world come tumbling down, the religious walls seem to grow higher and higher. How tragic. Today's Gospel tells us how Jesus healed the daughter of a Gentile woman in spite of the religious prejudice of his fellow Jews towards the Gentiles.

"WHO IS YOUR MOST FAVORITE CHILD?"

A professor of mine once told me the following story: I'm one of thirteen children. One day when I was playing in the street of our hometown, I got thirsty and came into the house for a glass of water. My father had just come home from work for lunch. He was sitting at the kitchen table with a neighbor. A door separated the kitchen from the pantry and my father did not know I was there. The neighbor said to my father, "Joe, there's something I wanted to ask you for a long time. You have thirteen children. Out of all is there one that is your favorite, one that you love more than all the others?" I had pressed my ear against the door hoping against hope it would be me. My father said: "That's easy. That's Mary the twelve-year-old. She has got braces on her teeth and feels so awkward and embarrassed that she won't go out of the house any more. Oh, but you asked about my favorite. That's my twenty-three-year-old Peter. His fiancée just broke their engagement and he is desolate. But the one I really love most is little Michael. He's totally uncoordinated and terrible in any sport he tries to play. But of course, the apple of my eye is Susan. Only twenty-four, living in her own apartment, and developing a drinking problem, I cry for Susan. But I guess of all the kids.... and my father went on mentioning each of us thirteen children by name.

The professor ended his story saying: **"What I learned was that the one my father loved most was the one who needed him most at that time. And that's the way the Father of Jesus is: He loves those most who need Him most, who rely on Him, depend on Him, and trust Him in everything. All that matters is trust. God doesn't wait until we have our moral life straightened out before He starts loving us."** (Brennen Manning, taken from *Lion and Lamb*)

"Violins of Hope"

... a Canaanite woman of that district came and called out, "Have pity on me, Lord, Son of David! My daughter is tormented by a demon . . ." [Jesus] said in reply, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel . . . It is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Please, Lord, for even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table of their masters." Matthew 15: 21-28

Amnon Weinstein and his son Avshalom are master violin makers. Two decades ago, a man came to the Weinstains with an old violin that he wanted repaired for his grandchild. The man explained that he had played the violin when he was being held in a Nazi concentration camp during the Holocaust. When Amnon opened the violin, he found black powder inside — ash from the camp's crematorium. That violin was the beginning of "Violins of Hope," a collection of 70 restored string instruments that the Weinstains have lovingly repaired and restored that were played by Jewish musicians before and during the Holocaust. They've also been able to preserve many of the stories behind the instruments. Among them: A violin made by the famous Dutch Jewish violin maker Jacob Hakkert who died at Auschwitz in 1944. A violin owned by an Italian woman who was sent to Auschwitz. Her son managed to take the violin with him to a labor camp where he would play it at night with frozen fingers. After the war, he studied engineering and went on to build ships to transport and settle Jews in Palestine.

After his death in 2012, his widow and daughters gave the instrument to Violins for Hope. The violin owned by Erich Weinger, a butcher in Vienna as well as an amateur violinist. Though not allowed to play in the camps, he, too, managed to hold on to his instrument. Weinger survived imprisonment at Dachau and Buchenwald. After the war, he settled in Palestine where he played in a small orchestra with other deportees. Another instrument survived a heartbreaking journey. In 1942, a train transporting Jews from Paris to concentration camps in the East stopped along a road. A man heard workmen speaking French. The man cried out, "In the place I now go — I don't need a violin. Here, take my violin so it may live!" The man threw his violin out the railcar's narrow window and one of the workers picked it up. Years later the instrument was found in an attic and given to Violins for Hope.

The collection travels around the world where the instruments are played in concerts — many are played by the descendants of victims and survivors of the Holocaust. There are also exhibits and educational programs on the history of the Holocaust told through the

(Continued)

Reflect

stories of these instruments. A student in Chicago whose great grandparents were Holocaust survivors played one of the violins. "It was definitely an emotional experience," she said. "As I was playing, I thought of all the people who came before me."

The work of Violins of Hope preserves the memory and dignity of those who endured the horror of the Holocaust. The instruments preserved by the Weinstains should inspire our world with hope that the "music" of God's Spirit of peace and justice will not be silenced by the merchants of hate and violence. Jesus' encounter with the Canaanite woman is a sign of that same hope, challenging us to transform our own perspective of those we dismiss as less than we are because of their culture, language, gender or faith. May our eyes and spirits be open to see every man, woman and child as God sees them: as God's beloved children, brothers and sisters to one another, all made in the image of God, all embraced within the heart of God.

"Never give up!"

Many years ago in Illinois, a young man with six months schooling to his credit ran for an office in the legislature. As might have been expected, he was beaten. Next he entered business but failed in that too, and spent the next seventeen years paying the debts of his worthless partner. He fell in love with a charming lady, they became engaged – and she died. He had a nervous breakdown. He ran for Congress and was defeated. He then tried to obtain an appointment to the U.S. Land Office but didn't succeed. He became a candidate for the Vice-Presidency and lost. Two years later he was defeated in a race for the Senate. He ran for President and finally was elected. That man was Abraham Lincoln. It took Winston Churchill three years to get through the eighth grade, because he couldn't pass English! Ironically, he was asked many years later to give the commencement address at Oxford University. His now famous speech consisted of only three words: "Never give up!"

Today's Gospel episode of healing gives us the same message in a more powerful way. We need to persist in prayer with trustful confidence. Although the essential parts of prayer are adoration and thanksgiving, the prayer of petition plays a big part in most people's daily life. We cannot provide, by our unaided selves, for our spiritual and temporal needs. Christ himself has told us to ask him for these needs: "Ask and you shall receive." Asking with fervor and perseverance proves that we have the "great faith" we need to receive all that Christ wants to grant us in response to our requests. We must realize and remember that we do not always get exactly what we ask for, but rather what God knows we need, what He wants for us and what is really best for us. What we need most are the peace and security that come from being in harmony with God's will for us. As Christians, we also know that our particular request may not always be for our good, or for the final good of

the person for whom we are praying. In that case, the good God will not grant what would be to our, or their, eternal harm. But if the prayer is sincere and persevering, we will always get an answer – one which is better than what we asked for.

"Are you waiting to speak to one of us?"

Here are a couple of stories about Dorothy Day, the founder of the Catholic Worker Movement, demonstrating how she valued each human being as a child of God and hence as important. A reporter came to interview her at her office on 4th Street in Manhattan. He could see her talking to a man who was either drunk or mentally ill. Time passed and the reporter grew impatient. Dorothy finally appeared and said, "Are you waiting to speak to one of us?" Obviously, Dorothy did not think that she was more important than the person she was talking with. On another occasion a woman came in and donated a diamond ring to the Catholic Worker. Her co-workers wondered what Dorothy would do with it. If she asked one of them to take it to a diamond merchant and sell it, it would buy a month's worth of rice and other food items for a poor family. That afternoon, however, Dorothy gave the diamond ring to an old woman who lived alone and often came to Dorothy for meals. "That ring would have paid her rent for the better part of a year," someone protested. Dorothy replied that the woman had her dignity. So she could sell it if she liked and spend the money for rent, a trip to the Bahamas, or keep the ring to admire. "Do you suppose," Dorothy asked, "God created diamonds only for the rich?"

Dorothy Day was one of the prophets of her day. Her vision allowed her to see all human beings as equal – no one distinguishable from another. She recognized, as Mother Teresa did, the mark of the children of God in everyone, in the same way Jesus recognized God's child in the Canaanite woman who belonged to a race inimical to the Jews. We need to pull down our walls of separation and share in the universality of God's love: Very often we set up walls which separate us from God and from one another. Today's Gospel reminds us that God's love and mercy are extended to all who call on him in faith and trust, no matter who they are. In other words, God's care extends beyond the boundaries of race and nation to the hearts of all who live, and God's house should become a house of prayer for all peoples. It is therefore fitting that we should pray that the walls which our pride, intolerance and prejudice have raised, may crumble. Next, we have to be grateful to God for all the blessings we enjoy. As baptized members of the Christian community, we have been given special privileges and easy access to God's love. But we also have serious responsibilities arising from these gifts. One of these responsibilities is to make clear to others, with true humility and compassion, that God's love, mercy and healing are for them also because they too are the children of God.

From the Pastoral Staff



“We’re Here to Make God’s Love Known to the World”
—Sr. Mary Vertucci

Sr. Mary Vertucci and her family have been an integral part of St. Matthias since her birth. Her family was among those who started the parish. She knows us well and we, her, as we have been supporting her Maryknoll mission, the Emusoi Centre in Arusha, Tanzania, whose motto is *“When you educate a girl, you change a community’s future.”*

Sr. Mary said, “At Emusoi, we give the students the background to enter the world and help their country.” According to the Emusoi website, “The Center provides a transitional space for young women coming from traditional lifestyles. Most of the girls belong to the pastoralist/hunter-gatherers’ communities, including the Maasai. They are prepared academically, socially, and psychologically to join the multicultural/multi-tribal environment of secondary school. The Center supports and assists them as they progress from secondary school, vocational training, and diploma/certificate courses to university education.

Sr. Mary will speak at the 10 a.m. Mass on September 3, followed by a reception in the cafeteria sponsored by the Rosary Altar Society.

To donate to Emusoi by check or money order send your donations to:

Maryknoll Sisters
Box 317
Maryknoll, NY 10545-0311

Please make checks payable to **Maryknoll Sisters**, New York with “Emusoi Center” on the memo line or include a note designating the donation for Emusoi Center, c/o Sr. Mary Vertucci. Unless otherwise noted on your check, contributions will be used where most needed.

JUSTICE ADVOCACY MINISTRY

Faith and Racial Equity: Exploring Power and Privilege

8 session program that examines race, power and privilege **through a faith and spiritual lens.**

Sessions are **Thursday evenings, Via Zoom**
6-8 p.m. on the following dates:

September 28

October 12 and 26

November 9, 16 and 30

December 7

An in-person, pre-program preparation retreat will be held on **Saturday, September 23**
from 9 to 11 a.m. at St. Charles

Registration Deadline: July 31

Cost for the program is \$35 plus materials

Explore the economic systems, public policies, cultural norms and hidden biases that empower some and oppress others.

Learn a framework for recognizing racial disparities in power and privilege and dive into specific issues related to these dynamics, including affirmative action, the school-to-prison pipeline, the criminal justice system, and biases in media representation.

For more information and to register contact
Colleen Lang at 908-334-1911
or johncollang@gmail.com

Check out an informational 2 minute video by scanning the QR code



Pray



July Baptisms

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

CHUCK E. CHEESE FUNdraising

Turning Fun into Funds™



Chuck E. Cheese donates up to 20% of the sales generated from this event to your child's school.

Friends and family members are encouraged to help support this event.

EVENT INFORMATION

LOCATION: **CHUCK E. CHEESE.**

TIME: 3:00PM-9:00PM

SCHOOL: St. Matthias School

EVENT DATE: Friday, September 15th

EVENT ADDRESS: 600 Promenade Blvd. Bridgewater, New Jersey 08807

To find out more, check out chuckecheese.com



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@stmatthias.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@stmatthias.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.

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

ATTENTION – All High School SMYLE members!

In 3 months the *National Catholic Youth Conference* will be held in **Indianapolis, Indiana from November 16-19th**, (students will miss 2 days of school). The estimated cost is \$1,100 which includes airfare, event fee, hotel (4 teens/room), meals, transportation, T-shirts.

If you're interested in learning more about this exciting trip, please send an email to SMYLE@stmatthias.net by **August 27th**. If we have enough replies, we'll let you know next steps – including fundraising possibilities, payment deadline (September 15th), and required pre-travel meeting for teens and parents.

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"!

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	\$8,532.50	\$20,213.25	\$28,745.75	\$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
			\$57,325.50	\$100,487.19
			Current Year-to-date	Year-to-date as of 8/31/2022
			\$177,435.35	\$222,580.88

Stewardship Reflection August 20, 2023 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

*“For the gifts and the call of God are irrevocable.”
-Romans 11:29*

God has a special mission in mind for each of us. He has given us the gifts we need to accomplish that mission. We are called to be good stewards by using those gifts to do the work that He has planned for each of us. If we deny our gifts or fail to use them as God calls us to use them, then some part of His work will be left undone. Each of us has a part in God’s salvation plan.

Reflexiónese 20 de agosto de 2023 Domingo 20º del Tiempo Ordinario

“Los dones y el llamado de Dios son irrevocables.” - Romanos 11:29

Dios tiene una misión en mente para cada uno de nosotros. Él nos da los dones que necesitamos para cumplir esa misión. Somos llamados a ser buenos administradores de esos dones para hacer el trabajo que Él ha planificado para cada uno de nosotros. Si negamos nuestros dones o no los utilizamos como Dios nos lo pide, entonces parte de Su obra queda sin terminar. Cada uno de nosotros tiene un papel en el plan de salvación de Dios.

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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