



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](mailto:abraham@stmatthias.net)
 Mary Pat Burke-Grospin, *Business Administrator*
[mpburke-grospin](mailto:mpburke-grospin@stmatthias.net)

Deacon Ron Caimi, *Senior Deacon*
 Kelly Counts, *Receptionist*, [kcounts](mailto:kcounts@stmatthias.net)
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 Sue Lenczewski, *Youth Coordinator*, [SMYLE](mailto:SMYLE@stmatthias.net)
 Mary Jo Loboda, *Parish Staff, Development*,
[mjloboda](mailto:mjloboda@stmatthias.net)

Julio Montero, *Maintenance Supervisor*
 Dolores R. Nann, *Pastoral Associate for Faith Formation*, [dnann](mailto:dnann@stmatthias.net)

Vinnie Natale, *Bookkeeper*, [vnatale](mailto:vnatale@stmatthias.net)
 Silvia Nizama, *Housekeeper*
 Deacon John Radvanski, [deaconjohn](mailto:deaconjohn@stmatthias.net)
 Joan Best Seamon, *Pastoral Associate for Music Ministry*, [jseamon](mailto:jseamon@stmatthias.net)

Sr. Marie Therese Sherwood, *OSF, Pastoral Assoc. for Social Concerns*, [msherwood](mailto:msherwood@stmatthias.net)

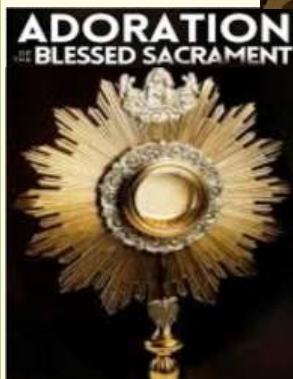
St. Matthias School (add @stmatthiasnj.org)
 Mary Lynch, *Principal*, [mlynch](mailto:mlynch@stmatthiasnj.org)

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS
SUNDAY, AUGUST 27, 2023-
21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Next Sa

*“You are
 the Christ,
 the Son of
 the living
 God.”*

*(Matthew
 16:16)*



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. 28** 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 27, 2023

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

Monday, Aug 28, 2023 **St. Augustine of Nippo, Bishop & Doctor**

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

Tuesday, Aug 29, 2023 **Martyrdom of St. John the Baptist**

8:00AM Mass Church
 9:00AM SMS- Staff & Faculty Mtg. John XXIII Rm
 10:00AM HB/NH Collating Ruiz Rm
 3:00PM SMS- back to School Social Cafeteria

Wednesday, Aug 30, 2023 **St. Euphasia Eluvathingal, Religious**

8:00AM Mass—St. Joseph Novena Church
 7:00PM General Altar Servers Mtg. Church

Thursday, Aug 31, 2023 **St. Raymond Nonnatus, Priest**

8:00AM Mass Church
 9:00AM SMS Faculty PD John XXIII Rm

Friday, Sep 1, 2023 **St. Gilles, Abbot**

8:00AM Mass Church
 8:30AM 1st Friday Holy Hour Church

Saturday, Sep 2, 2023 **The September Martyrs - 191 Faithful Martyred during French Revolution**

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

Sunday, Sep 3, 2023

8:00AM Mass Church
 10:00AM Mass Church
 11:00AM Meet & Greet Sr. Mary Vertucci - Continental Breakfast Cafeteria
 11:00AM Rosary Altar Society Mtg. John XXIII Rm
 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 I wish to share with you some miscellaneous items:

Outside the Church:

Sprucing up the front and sides of the church was done recently, and thank you to the many who appreciated the new look with assorted evergreen shrubs including goldthread cypress, green velvet boxwood, and blue junipers, besides assorted deer-resistant perennials including Russian sage, coreopsis, and ornamental grasses.

Inside the Church:

- 1) **Floor cleaning:** A thorough cleaning of the floor was done with the help of a new machine that we bought and so the floor looks as clean as it can be.
- 2) **Two adoring angels on either side of the Tabernacle.** These beautiful statues are cast in fiberglass and come from Italy. It is a very visible way to make the Tabernacle more noticeable as the presence of Jesus is what makes a Catholic church unique and different from other churches. Bible testifies to the role of angels in worshipping God: “Angels glorify God... Bless the Lord O you his angels...” (Psalm 103:20). The seraphim continually praise God for his holiness (Isaiah 6:2–3), and so do the four living creatures (Revelation 4:8). Also in Isaiah chapter six, we see that angels worship not only with a sense of humility but also with a deep sense of reverence. They chanted before God’s throne (in Isaiah 6 and later on in Revelation 4), “Holy, holy, holy”. Having two adoring angels is a visible sign to evoke a sense of reverence for the Lord in the Tabernacle. Let us give due reverence to Jesus in our midst by respecting that area around the Tabernacle as a sanctuary, by bowing or genuflecting to the Lord whenever we pass the Tabernacle, and by avoiding socializing there.

Feeding on God’s Word: *The Word Among Us* is a respectable Catholic publication promoting evangelization and faith formation. Their monthly publication features uplifting and thought-provoking meditations based on the daily Mass readings. The September issue is on seeking to do the Father’s will, and the title is “I Must Be in My Father’s House.” Next week please pick up a copy for your personal use to feed on God’s Word each day of the month.

The commissioning of our new Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) is today at the 10 a.m. Mass. The PPC has been meeting regularly to discuss and give recommendations to the pastor on matters concerning the well-being of the whole parish. PPC has a three-year rotation term of membership, with one-third retiring and one-third joining each year. Thus Anne Marie Francis, Rose Peng, and John Taylor are retiring while Sheila Tartaglia, Didi Molano, and Al Drabnis have joined as new members. Those who are continuing are Frank Rees, Marilyn Wegg, Stephan Busono, and William Isele. I am grateful to each of them for giving their time and talent to the good of our parish.

In today’s gospel, we see Peter confessing Jesus as the Messiah in response to that personal question Jesus asked: “Who do you say that I am?” Whatever we do here at St. Matthias is meant to be an expression of our faith in Jesus as our personal Lord and Savior.

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Orapankal

Readings for the Week

Monday: 1 Thes 1:1-5, 8b-10; Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b; Mt 23:13-22

Tuesday: 1 Thes 2:1-8; Ps 139:1-3, 4-6; Mk 6:17-29

Wednesday: 1 Thes 2:9-13; Ps 139:7-8, 9-10, 11-12ab; Mt 23:27-32

Thursday: 1 Thes 3:7-13; Ps 90:3-5a, 12-13, 14 and 17; Mt 24:42-51

Friday: 1 Thes 4:1-8; Ps 97:1 and 2b, 5-6, 10, 11-12; Mt 25:1-13

Saturday: 1 Thes 4:9-11; Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9; Mt 25:14-30

Sunday: Jer 20:7-9; Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9; Rom 12:1-2; Mt 16:21-27

Mass Intentions for the Week

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
Monday, Aug 28	8:00AM	Diana Joyner, by Karen Francis & Patrick Silva
Tuesday, Aug 29	8:00AM	Helen Vanni, by The Shafranaski Family
Wednesday, Aug 30	8:00AM	Spiritual Intention for Sr. Marie Therese, by STM Holy Spirit Prayer Group & Daily Mass Friends
Thursday, Aug 31	8:00AM	Spiritual Intention of Austin Ramos, by Rebecca Ramos
Friday, Sep 1	8:00AM	Santina C. Spinella, by The Family
Saturday, Sep 2	5:00PM	Craig Slyman, by Mom & Dad
Sunday, Sep 3	8:00AM	Kevin M. McLaughlin, by Jody Finnegan
	10:00AM	Maurice (Max) Regan, by His Family
	12:00PM	Intention of Parishioners

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	Emma Gergely	Carol Millemann	Amy Shepp
Tammy Baskaran	Gerry & Jack Gernert	Eleanor Nagy	Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF
Regina Berlowitz	Marilyn Horvath	Joseph Nguyen	Sr. Bernadine Marie Stemnock
Bishop Paul Bootkowski	Nancy Kane	Danny Ongchango	Jeff Sullivan
Barbara Butler	Robert Kashinsky	Robert Pellegrino	Tom Szabo
Tara Capatosto	Kathleen Langenbacher	Jim Pettit	Mary Ann Vlad
Elizabeth Card	Rose Larangeira	Randolff Pinard	Nancy Whelan
Ellen Catalina	Mary Lou Litrakis	Valerie Polci	Carl Wyopen
Kyle Davidson	John Litrakis	Kim Price	Angie Yetyet
Lisa DeFeo	Carol Ann Loftus	Denise Pultro	
Zenon DeGuzman	Joseph Lubrano	Doris Regan	
Hattie Evans	Aries Magali	Gabriel Rivera	
Josephine Geenty	Al Maglio	Arina Robinson	
Claudia Gemgnani	Anne McElwee	Arthur Robinson	
Helen Geraghty	Margaret Menendez	Maria Schwenzer	

And for all who are ill, homebound, elderly, in nursing care, or living with chronic illness, we pray.

Pray for those who have died...

— “His mercy endures forever.” Chronicles

Hollica Delice

Reflect



Smile with Your Family



"But how did the other ear get burned?" On Sunday morning a man showed up at church with both his ears terribly blistered, so his pastor asked, "WHAT happened to YOU?" "I was lying on the couch, having a couple of drinks and watching a ball game on TV while my wife was ironing nearby. I was totally engrossed in the game when she went out, leaving the iron near the phone. The phone rang, and keeping my eyes on the TV, I grabbed the hot iron and put it to my ear." "How dreadful," gasped the pastor. "But how did the other ear get burned?" "Well, you see, the guy called back!" 😊

I was asked at my last job interview if I was a natural born citizen? I had to tell the truth: "Nope. I was born Cesarean!" 😊

When Advertising Slogans are translated into foreign languages:

Beer company Coors put its slogan, "Turn it loose," into Spanish, where it was read as "Suffer from diarrhea." 😊

The Chevy Nova never sold well in Spanish speaking countries. "No va" in Spanish means "it doesn't go" 😊

When Pepsi started marketing its products in China a few years back, they translated their slogan, "Pepsi Brings You Back to Life" pretty literally. The slogan in Chinese really meant, "Pepsi Brings Your Ancestors Back from the Grave." 😊

A hair products company, Clairol, introduced the "Mist Stick", a curling iron, into Germany only to find out that mist is slang for manure. Not too many people had use for the manure stick. 😊

Parenting Tune-Up



but you can continue to witness to your faith.

Sometimes parents of young adults (15-30+) struggle with what appears to be a lack of faith in their offspring. Consider, "Sometimes you must lose faith to find it." Your child may have to let go of "inherited faith" and eventually reflect on what is missing in their life. You can support them by listening to their attitudes towards faith. Your arguments may not convince them

Marriage Tune-Up



How wise, knowledgeable and beyond human understanding are the ways of God. (Romans 11:33-36)

When in the throes of love one's spouse may seem to also have these qualities. What intellectual trait is your beloved strongest in? What about yourself?



"WHO IS JESUS?"

In his teens, C.S. Lewis was a professed agnostic. He was influenced in his conversion to Christianity by reading the book *The Everlasting Man* by G.K. Chesterton and through the influence of two of his Christian friends. After his conversion, he wrote a number of books defending Christianity. During the Second World War, in his famous BBC radio talk, "Mere Christianity," he said, "I am trying to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Jesus: 'I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept his claim to be God.' That is the one thing we must not say. A man who is merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic, on the level with a man who says he is a poached egg, or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse." If we accept Jesus as a moral teacher, then we must necessarily accept Him as God, for great moral teachers do not tell lies.

"The straightest answer"



[Jesus] said to them, "But who do you say I am?" Simon Peter said in reply, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God . . ." "I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." Matthew 16: 13-20

WHERE DO WE FIND JESUS?

In his book, *Pray from Where You Are*, James Carroll recalls something many of us remember from our childhood. Every Sunday, the comic page of our newspapers used to carry a series of printed games. One of everybody's favorites was a picture showing some scene, like a family enjoying a picnic in a park. Printed beneath the picture were the words, "Can you find the man hidden in the picture?" You'd look and look, and at first wouldn't see anything that looked like a man. Then you'd turn the paper this way and that to get a different view of it. Suddenly, from the edge of a fluffy white cloud you'd see an ear. Then, from the green leaves of a tree you'd see a mouth, and so on, until you'd see an entire man's face smiling out at you from the picnic scene. Once you saw the man, that picnic scene was never the same again. For you had found the hidden man. You yourself had seen the smiling face. It's the same way in our own lives. We Christians know by Faith that there is a man hidden away in every scene of daily life. And that man's name is Jesus. Once we find Jesus, up close and personal, no scene in our lives is ever the same. That is part of the message of today's Gospel.

"What is your personal opinion? For the first time in their relationship Peter, speaking for the other disciples, declared publicly: "You are the Christ (Messiah), the Son of the living God." Peter was the first apostle to recognize Jesus publicly as the Anointed One (also translated Messiah or Christ.) Christ is the Greek word for the Hebrew word Messiah). Peter was saying that Jesus is the Christ, the anointed one of God, Immanuel, the Salvation of God -- God who became Man to save sinners! It is evident that Jesus was well pleased with Peter's answer. Jesus first pronounced a blessing upon Peter, the only disciple in the Gospels to receive a personal blessing. "Blessed are you, Simon son of John!" Next, Jesus confirmed Peter's insight as a special revelation from God. "No mere man has revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father." However, Jesus was quick to explain to the disciples that he was not a political Messiah. Instead, He was a Messiah who must suffer, die and be raised to life again. What is our personal answer to that question that is put to us individually?

Oh, for a straight answer . . . !

Your car's engine has been making a strange noise. You bring it to your mechanic. So, *what's wrong?* you ask. "Well, that's a complicated question," the mechanic begins.

The kitchen remodeling is already several weeks behind and living in your mother-in-law's basement has stretched everyone's patience. *How long?* you ask. "You see, so much depends on other people," the contractor replies — as he replies to all of his clients.

Your elderly parent has been moved to hospice. *How long does Dad have?* you ask. "There's no good answer to that question," the physician says quietly.

Oh, for a straight answer . . . ! We have mastered the "non-answer." We've learned to sidestep the question that challenges us to take a stand, that compels us to commit, that forces us in a direction we'd rather not go. "Alternative" facts? Certainly. Extenuating circumstances? Absolutely. We always leave ourselves an "out" — we always provide ourselves with an "escape hatch" in our explanations. We are committed to being noncommittal. *Let's see how it goes. It'll all work out in the end. Don't worry — that will never happen.*

If our Baptisms have any meaning, if we seek to make the love of God a reality in our lives, we can't dodge or qualify our answer to the question Jesus poses to Peter and the company of disciples. Who is this Christ to us - the Christ who preached reconciliation and forgiveness, the Christ who revealed a God of compassion and mercy, the Christ who called us to realize the "Kingdom of God" here and now, the Christ who washed the feet of his followers the night before he took up the cross, the Christ whose life God vindicated by raising him from the dead? It's a question that we must often confront when we are least prepared to answer it: when we debating whether to respond to a situation with vengeance or mercy, when someone in desperate straits asks us for help that is sure to cost us dearly, when we have to decide to act for the good of the community or in our own interests or profits. Our answer must be the "straightest" answer we've ever given to any question.

The most disputed text, "Upon this rock I will build my Church"

Origen interpreted the text to mean that Peter is the type of every true, spiritual Christian on whom the Church is built. The "Eastern" Church interpreted the rock as the faith of Peter, so that the Church is built on the faith of believing Christians. The Roman or pontifical interpretation which dates from the fourth century is that rock is Peter, and the promises made to Peter apply also to Peter's successors in the Petrine ministry. Since Vatican I, this has been the normative interpretation for Roman Catholics. The Middle Ages gave the Christological interpretation, according to which Christ is the rock (see 1 Cor. 3:11, 10:4). Non-Catholics argue that there is no evidence that Peter's ministry would be successive. However, the whole context and meaning of the imagery from the beginning to the end show it to be a ministry that must be successive. First of all, the image of the rock is, by its very nature, a timeless and everlasting image. That's why the image of the rock was

(Continued)

Reflect

The most disputed text, (continued)

chosen. That's how rocks are. They're there to stay. Then, in Matthew 16, Jesus himself says that the steward's ministry will have an eternal dimension. He holds the keys to the Kingdom of God and the gates of hell will never prevail against it. Finally, the image of the shepherd, as we have seen, is an eternal one because God himself is the ultimate Good Shepherd. If the rock, the steward, and the shepherd are eternal ministries, then for it to last that long, the ministry must be successive. How could this eternal ministry have died out with Peter himself and still have been eternal?

Mount Rushmore National Memorial



When one thinks of South Dakota, one thinks of Mount Rushmore. Carved into the mountainside by Gutzon Borglum are the heads of four of the great leaders of the United States. It's ironic that this monument is in the heart of an area sacred to the Lakota and Dakota people whose ancestors possessed the land centuries before George Washington's family came to America. Thousands of Americans visit Mount Rushmore each year. Many come away with flags, patriotic symbols and T-shirts reading, "God Bless America." Perhaps they feel a rush of pride and make resolutions to be better Americans in the future. Let us remember that Christians are part of the rock. Jesus built his Church on the rock of Peter as a reward for his great confession of faith in the divinity of Christ. The members of the Church are given a new face on the same rock, the face of Jesus, as they proclaim his love, mercy, forgiveness in their daily lives.

We need to experience Jesus as our Lord and Savior and surrender our lives to him. The knowledge of Jesus as Lord and personal Savior should become a living, personal experience for each Christian. This is made possible by listening to him through the daily, meditative reading of the Bible, by talking to him through daily, personal and communal prayers, by offering to him our lives on the altar whenever we attend

Holy Mass and by leading a sacramental life. The next step is the surrender of our lives to Jesus by rendering humble and loving service to others with the strong conviction that Jesus is present in every person. The step after that is to praise and thank God in all the events of our lives, both good and bad, realizing that God's loving hands are behind every event of our lives.

Confusion most confounded!

Just take the world of medicine. Anyone confused the way I am? Does it seem to you that one study is always negating the finds of the previous study? Hormone replacement therapy is great. No. Hormone replacement therapy causes cancer. Saccharine causes cancer; NutraSweet is good. No. NutraSweet causes cancer and Saccharine is good. LowCarb/HighFat is the best diet. Whoops, no, we meant to say NoFat/LowCarb is the best diet. Being slightly underweight is best. No. Being slightly overweight is best. Stock market recommendations and economist's predictions are equally confusing. Watch Fox's Saturday morning stock market analysis. The experts end up calling each other's advice ridiculous, completely wrong, amazingly erroneous, downright stupid. Same thing happened at Caesarea Philippi where Peter declared Jesus as the Messiah and the Son of the living God. Jesus congratulated him as the spokesman of God the Father's revelation. At the same time Jesus warned his disciples not to tell this truth to anyone.

We need to accept Jesus as our Lord and personal savior: Jesus is not merely the founder of a new religion, or a revolutionary Jewish reformer, or one of the great teachers. For Christians, he is the Son of God and our personal Savior. This means that we have to see Jesus as the Good Shepherd, the Savior, and the Redeemer. He is our beloved friend, closer to us than our dear ones and a living experience, who walks with us, loves us, forges us, helps us and transforms our lives and outlook. We have to give all areas of our lives to him. He must have a say in our daily lives and we must radiate all around us his sacrificial agápe love, unconditional forgiveness, overflowing mercy and committed service. The joy, the love, the peace that we find in Jesus should be reflected in the way we live our lives.

From the Pastoral Staff

All month long I have been writing in the bulletin about our different choirs and why you music lovers who are reading this should consider joining our St. Matthias Music Ministry this year.

So here are 5 more reasons for you, your children or grandchildren to consider becoming a member of one of our

most unique choirs- our **Handbell Choir**. **Why join our St. Matthias Handbell Choir?**

1. Handbell Choir is one of the easiest ways for you to join St. Matthias Music Ministry. Handbells require minimal training to play at first, so it's easy for ringers to join if you do not have prior

music experience. The longer you play, the better you get, just like our more experienced ringers, who all started out as beginners, too.

2. Handbells have a unique sound that can't be replaced by other instruments. They create atmosphere- celebratory, joyful, somber and everything in be-

From the Pastoral Staff *(continued)*

tween. Especially on Christmas and Easter- no other instruments represent the glory of the Angels or the majesty of the Resurrection like handbells.

3. Playing handbells is a good way to decompress, but also to stay sharp and alert.

4. Handbell Choir reflects 1 Corinthians 12:12- *“For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.”* Each member of the handbell ensemble contributes specific notes to the musical line. A hand-

bell choir is a great way to help members see the value of their contributions to our faith community.

5. Playing in Handbell Choir builds community, which is an important part of living a happy life. And it’s so much fun!

Our St. Matthias Handbell Choir, under the direction of **Dr. Sandra Hayes-Licitra**, rehearses in church 2 Tuesday evenings a month from 7:30-8:30PM. We welcome parishioners from Grade 6 on through high school and beyond. The St. Matthias Handbell Choir

rings at special liturgies throughout the year.

Our first rehearsal is on Tuesday Sept.19, 2023 at 7:30PM

Would you like to hear more about this unique way of making music and whether it will be a good fit for you, your child or grandchild?

Contact Director Sandra Hayes-Licitra- SHayes@its.jnj.com, or contact Pastoral Associate for Liturgical Music Joan Best Seamon at 732-828-1400 or jseamon@stmatthias.net

Parish News/Updates



“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 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.

Message from the retiring Co-Chair of the Pastoral Council

It has been a pleasure serving on the St. Matthias Pastoral Council for the last three years. Although we had challenges for much of that time with the Covid-19 pandemic, we were still able to have active and engaging meetings through Zoom until this past year when we could finally meet again in person. My participation in the council was a blessing to me in many ways. One blessing was getting to know and become friends with other St. Mathias parishioners I didn’t know before I joined. Another blessing was being able to share the concerns of other parishioners as well as my own concerns in open and respectful dialog. A third blessing was becoming confident that our pastor, Fr. Abraham, truly seeks to bring the wisdom and love of the Holy Spirit to our parish members and school community. I hope that my own life experiences, both within the Catholic Church as well as being a person who grew up in a different community and work in a medical field, were meaningful to our parish through my Pastoral Council term. I know that I will continue to be active in this wonderful parish and will continue to share my thoughts and values to make our parish as welcoming and loving as Jesus would have us be. I wish the very best for the new Parish Pastoral Council. God bless our parish,

Rose Peng

Pray



Special Altar Servers Meeting

Attention all returning Altar Servers, those who would like to be servers and their Parents. A meeting will be held on **August 30th at 7PM in the church**. For new servers we are looking for children in grades 4-8. We will be discussing some changes to scheduling and training. The Altar Server Ministry will be moderated by our Sacristan, Michael Lanyi .

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: 3:00 PM-4:00 PM

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



A LIVE PRESENTATION from the National Blue Army Shrine

MARY--THON EVENT

Come celebrate the 106th anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima's fifth apparition at the National Blue Army Shrine with a very special guest – Sr. Angela de Fatima Coelho, the vice postulator of Sts. Francisico & Jacinta's causes and now also Sr. Lucia's cause! This will take place at the **National Blue Army Shrine on 9/13/2023, 10:30 AM.**

SCHEDULE:

10:30am Confessions

12pm NOON Rosary Procession with the Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima

12:30pm Speaker – Sr. Angela de Fatima Coelho

1:15pm – Holy Mass; Celebrant: Most Rev. Frank J. Caggiagno

Holy Mass is followed by Exposition, Eucharistic Procession, Benediction, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, Blessing of Religious Articles, Fatima Farewell and Enrollment in the Brown Scapular.

For more information, please visit: <https://bluearmyshrine.com/event/september-13-mary-thon-event/>.

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Communion



Confirmation



Registration for all Faith Formation is now OPEN!

2023-2024 **GIFT** for K-8 Religious Formation

www.stmatthias.net/faith-formation/

First Eucharist Preparation 2023-2024

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

Confirmation Preparation 2023-2024

www.stmatthias.net/confirmation/

Connect



ARE YOU DONE WITH THE HEAT? It's The Most Wonderful Time of the Year!

Our annual Christmas Tree "Spread the Light" campaign is upon us! By donating \$200 you can sponsor a tree to honor a loved one, celebrate a special event, or perhaps, express thanks for God's many gifts, all while helping to light up our church grounds to bring holiday joy to our congregation and our neighbors. Flyers will be available in church and forms can also be found on our website. The Deadline to Order Your Tree is **October 13th**. Join in this wonderfully moving tradition that helps support our church and brings joy to so many.

Thanks,
Mary Jo Loboda

www.stmatthias.net/tree

All Health and Mental Health Care Professionals

Save The Date

You are invited to the BLESSING of the HEALING HANDS in celebration of the feast of St. Luke, author of the gospel and "Beloved Physician"



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22ND

12PM MASS

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there lies your vocation"*

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.



"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	\$15,468.50	\$13,664.25	\$29,132.75	\$25,348.80
Week 9 - August 27, 2023			\$0.00	\$16,281.75
			Month-to-date Total	Aug Total Last Yr
			\$86,458.25	\$100,487.19
Assumption Collection: \$1,929.00			Current Year-to-date	Year-to-date as of
			\$100,655.50	\$222,580.88

Stewardship Reflection August 27, 2023 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Or who has given the Lord anything that he may be repaid?”-Romans 11:35

St. Paul reminds us of a central fact of stewardship. We cannot give God anything - He already owns it all. God made everything, including us. Since we are made in His image, we too, are called to be generous. How we use our God-given gifts becomes our gift back to Him. Gratitude for all we have been given opens our hearts to joyful generosity! And, through our generosity, we just may be the answer to someone else's prayer.

Reflexiónese 27 de agosto de 2023 Domingo 21º del Tiempo Ordinario

“¿Quién le ha dado primero a Dios, para que luego Dios le pague?”- Romanos 11:35

San Pablo nos recuerda un hecho central de la corresponsabilidad. No podemos darle a Dios nada. Él es realmente el dueño de todo. Dios lo hizo todo, inclusive a nosotros. Ya que fuimos hechos a Su imagen y semejanza, nosotros también somos llamados a ser generosos. La manera en la que usamos los dones que Dios nos ha dado se transforma en nuestra manera de retribuirle a Dios. ¡La gratitud por todo lo que hemos recibido abre nuestros corazones a una alegre generosidad! Y, a través de nuestra generosidad, somos la

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	Joan Pritchard Mary Pat Burke-Grospin, Ex-Officio Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio
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About St. Matthias (please contact the staff members on the cover for up-to-date information)

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

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

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

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



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



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event dates

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Tuesday, 10/11

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