



St. Matthias Parish Office:

Monday - Friday, 8:30 am - 4:00 pm,
 Friday, 8:30 am - 1:00 pm
 168 JFK Boulevard, Somerset, NJ 08873
 732-828-1400, fax: 732-828-0866
www.stmatthias.net

Mass Schedule (in person):

Sat - 5 PM, Sun - 8, 10 AM & 12 noon
 M/T/W/Th/F at 8:00AM
 also on our YouTube channel
youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ

St. Matthias School (SMS):

170 JFK Blvd., Somerset, NJ 08873
www.stmatthias.info 732-828-1402
School Office Hours, Monday - Thursday
 9AM-1PM Friday By Appointment

For all Parish emails, add @stmatthias.net

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

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

Julio Montero, *Maintenance Supervisor*
 Dolores R. Nann, *Pastoral Associate for Faith*
Formation, **dnann**
 Vinnie Natale, *Bookkeeper*, **vnatale**
 Silvia Nizama, *Housekeeper*
 Deacon John Radvanski, **deaconjohn**
 Joan Best Seamon, *Pastoral Associate for Music*
Ministry, **jseamon**
 Sr. Marie Therese Sherwood, *OSF, Pastoral*
Assoc. for Social Concerns, **msherwood**

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

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS
SUNDAY, AUGUST 6, 2023-
The Transfiguration of the Lord



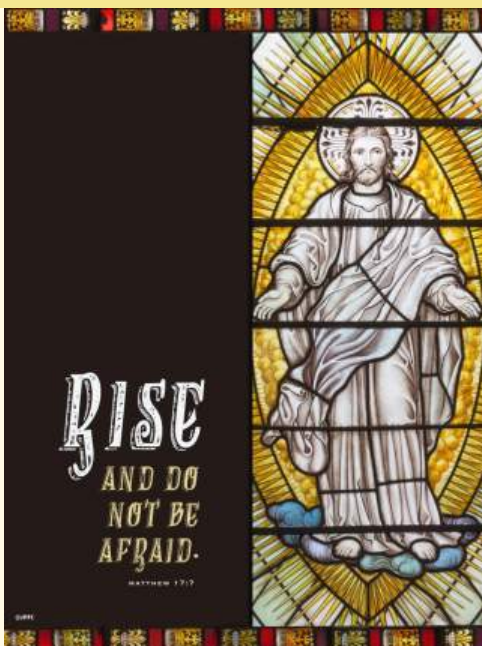
Franciscan
 Missions

**MISSION APPEAL FOR
 FRANCISCANS IN ACTION
 OF HAITI**

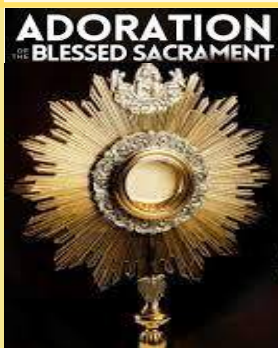
**&
 SOURCE DE VIE OF HAITI.**

AUGUST 12TH & 13TH, 2023

**PLEASE SEE PAGE 7
 FOR INFORMATION.**



WORLD YOUTH DAY BEGAN
TUESDAY, AUGUST 1ST IN LISBON, PORTUGAL.
FOLLOW ALL THE EXCITING EVENTS ON:
www.worldyouthday.com



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. 7**
 from **6 PM to 8 PM.**

Masses are also livestreamed on our YouTube channel: youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ

The Church is open for individual prayer

Mon-Fri: 7:30 am to dusk , Sat: 9 am to 6pm, and Sun: 7:30 am to 1 pm, unless another service is taking place.

Sunday, Aug 6, 2023

8:00AM Mass Church
 10:00AM Mass Church
 11:00AM Rosary Altar Society Mtg. John XXIII Rm
 12:00PM Mass Church

Monday, Aug 7, 2023 **St. Sixtus II, Pope & Martyr**

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

Tuesday, Aug 8, 2023 **St. Dominic, Founder of Dominican Order**

8:00AM Mass Church

Wednesday, Aug 9, 2023 **St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein) Religious & Martyr**

8:00AM Mass—St. Joseph Novena Church

Thursday, Aug 10, 2023 **Feast— St. Lawrence, Deacon & Martyr**

8:00AM Mass Church

Friday, Aug 11, 2023 **St. Clare of Assisi, Founder of Order of Poor Clares**

8:00AM Mass Church

Saturday, Aug 12, 2023 **St. Jane Frances de Chantal, Founder of the Visitation Nuns**

Mission Appeal Weekend—Deacon Enock
 3:30PM Reconciliation Church
 5:00PM Vigil Mass Church

Sunday, Aug 13, 2023

Mission Appeal Weekend—Deacon Enock
 8:00AM Mass Church
 10:00AM Mass -Sign Language Interpreter 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,

The World Youth Day celebrations (August 1-6, 2023) are concluding today. More than 28,600 young adults from 1,300 U.S. groups travelled to Lisbon, Portugal, to participate in this global event for young people that takes place about every three years, offering a deeper encounter with Jesus Christ through liturgical celebrations, networking, faith sharing, catechetical sessions, and prayer with the Holy Father. We are happy that our parishioners Emily Chavez, Mary-Frances Chavez and Jasmine DeLeon are there attending this spectacular event. I hope you have been watching some of the exciting and inspiring WYD programs.

"Mary arose and went with haste" (Luke 1:39) is the theme chosen by Pope Francis for the World Youth Day. This quote from the Gospel of St. Luke opens the account of the Visitation (Mary's visit to her cousin Elizabeth), a biblical episode following the Annunciation (the angel's announcement to Mary that she would be the mother of the Son of God). During their conversation of the Annunciation, the angel also tells Mary that her older cousin, thought to be sterile, is pregnant. It is then that Mary sets out for Ain Karim, a village near Jerusalem, where Elizabeth lived and was awaiting the birth of John, who would become St John the Baptist.

This week we keep the feast of St. Lawrence (August 10th). The esteem in which the Church holds Lawrence is seen in the fact that his memorial day ranks as a feast. He is one of those whose martyrdom made a deep and lasting impression on the early Church. Celebration of his feast day spread rapidly. He was a Roman deacon under Pope Saint Sixtus II. Four days after this pope was put to death, Deacon Lawrence and four clerics suffered martyrdom, probably during the persecution of the Emperor Valerian. The church built over his tomb became one of the seven principal churches in Rome and a favorite place for Roman pilgrimages.

The feast of Deacon Lawrence naturally reminds us of our own wonderful deacons – John Radvanski, Russ Demkovitz and Ron Caimi – who have been ministering us for years.

The word deacon derives from the Greek diakonia, meaning "service," thereby indicating that a deacon is called like Christ to be a servant. The Church teaching clearly states that the Order of Deacon has three essential functions: the proclamation of the Gospel, the service of the liturgy, and the administration of charitable works. Deacons may baptize, witness the exchange of vows and bless marriages, distribute Holy Communion, impart benediction with the Blessed Sacrament, bring Viaticum to the dying, read Sacred Scripture to the faithful and especially proclaim the Gospel, preach, officiate at funerals and burials, and administer the sacramentals. Besides, they should dedicate themselves to other charitable works, particularly within the parish community. (Confer the Catechism, No. 1569-70, and the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, No 29).

This feast is a wonderful opportunity for our community to thank our beloved deacons for their selfless ministry to us all. **Their life should be an inspiration for the men of our parish to consider taking their place as deacons. I invite our men to pray about it and speak with one of our deacons.**

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Orapankal

Readings for the Week

Monday: Nm 11:4b-15; Ps 81:12-13, 14-15, 16-17; Mt 14:13-21

Tuesday: Nm 12:1-13; Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 6cd-7, 12-13; Mt 14:22-36 or Mt 15:1-2, 10-14

Wednesday: Nm 13:1-2, 25 — 14:1, 26a-29a, 34-35; Ps 106:6-7ab, 13-14, 21-22, 23; Mt 15:21-28

Thursday: 2 Cor 9:6-10; Ps 112:1-2, 5-6, 7-8, 9; Jn 12:24-26

Friday: Dt 4:32-40; Ps 77:12-13, 14-15, 16, 21; Mt 16:24-28

Saturday: Dt 6:4-13; Ps 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 47, 51; Mt 17:14-20

Sunday: 1 Kgs 19:9a, 11-13a; Ps 85:9, 10, 11-12, 13-14; Rom 9:1-5; Mt 14:22-33

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, Aug 5	5:00PM	Mary Ellen Delaney, by Mom & Dad
Sunday, Aug 6	8:00AM	John Morrow, by John & Barbara Cooney
	10:00AM	Brian Schaar, by The Family
	12:00PM	Intention of Parishioners
Monday, Aug 7	8:00AM	Darrie Christmas, by wife, Dolores
Tuesday, Aug 8	8:00AM	Spiritual Intention of Josephine Ramos, By Rebecca Ramos
Wednesday, Aug 9	8:00AM	Angela Frigiola, by Loving Family & Friends
Thursday, Aug 10	8:00AM	Rudy Schaar, by The Family
Friday, Aug 11	8:00AM	Frank Lawyer, by Pat
Saturday, Aug 12	5:00PM	Bill Murphy, by The Murphy Family
Sunday, Aug 13	8:00AM	Intention of Parishioners
	10:00AM	Health & Blessings for Chibuikem & Chibundu Nwanonyiri, by Kate Nwanonyiri
	12:00PM	Birthday Blessings for Paula Castro, by Angie Masalunga

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*

Maisie E. Daley-Appleton, Giuseppe Anselmo

Reflect



Smile with Your Family



Transformation in old age: Two old men are chatting. One man says, "My friend, you must try this memory pill I'm taking. I remember everything. It's an amazing memory booster." The other man says, "Sounds wonderful. What is the name of the pill?" The first man says, "Hmm! The name of the pill ... Let's see ... Hmmm, what is the name of the flower produced on a garden plant with thorns? It's red ... You give it on Valentine's Day." The other man says, "A rose?" The first man says, "Yes, that's right!" Then, calling for his wife, he says, "Rose, what is the name of that pill which I take to boost my memory?" 😊

How to start a prayer! At an inter-religious meeting, where no one agreed on how to name or call God, the opening

prayer began in this way: "To Whom It May Concern" 😊

Puzzle explained: A woman who lived next door to a preacher was puzzled by his personality change. At home he was shy, quiet and retiring, but in the church he was a real fire orator, rousing the masses in the name of God. It was as if he were two different people. One day she asked him about the dramatic transformation that came over him when he preached. "Ah," he said, "That's my altar ego." 😊

I know they say that money talks, but all mine says is "Goodbye." 😊

Why are chemists great at solving problems? Because they have all the solutions! 😊



Parenting Tune-Up

Has your family ever calculated your carbon footprint? August 2nd was "Earth Overshoot Day 2023." (<http://www.footprintnetwork.org/>)

It's late, but not too late. Talk with your child about one thing your family can do to lower your carbon footprint.

Marriage Tune-Up



"And [Jesus] was transfigured before them, his face shone like the sun." (Mt 17:2)

What is the most endearing physical feature of your beloved? Has it changed over the years?

How have you reacted to the change?

"Lord, give me the Grace for Transformation"

The word transfiguration means a change in form or appearance. Biologists call it metamorphosis (derived from the Greek word *metamorphoomai* used in Matthew's Gospel), to describe the change that occurs when a caterpillar becomes a butterfly. As children, we might have curiously watched the process of the caterpillar turning into a chrysalis and then bursting into a beautiful Monarch butterfly.

Fr. Anthony De Mello tells the story of such a metamorphosis in the prayer life of an old man. "I was a revolutionary when I was young, and all my prayer to God was: 'Lord, give me the grace to change the world.' As I approached middle age and realized that half of my life was gone without changing a single soul, I changed my prayer to: 'Lord, give me the grace to change all those who come in contact with me; just my family and friends and I shall be satisfied.' Now that I am old and my days are numbered, I have begun to see how foolish I have been. My one prayer now is: 'Lord, give me the grace to change myself.' If I had prayed for this right from the start, I should not have wasted my life."

The Church of the Transfiguration

The traditional site for the Transfiguration is Mount Tabor, a high mountain in the north country of Israel. Over the years, the Church has gone where Peter could not go, and we have built what he could not build. Helena, mother of Constantine, built a sanctuary in the top of Mount Tabor in 326 A.D. By the end of the sixth century, three churches stood on the mountaintop, one each for Jesus, Moses, and Elijah. More shrines were built there over the next 400 years, and Saladin destroyed them all in 1187. A fortress built in 1212 was destroyed by the end of the thirteenth century. The summit was abandoned for another six hundred years, until a Greek Orthodox community built a monastery there. Sometime later, the Franciscans built a Latin basilica on the highest point of the summit, where they now maintain worship services.

"Listen to him!"

During the Transfiguration, God the Father spoke: "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." (Matthew 17:5)

This charge - to listen to Jesus - was meant not just for the three apostles present, but for all of us. We shouldn't simply **hear** Jesus' words but **listen**, as in let Jesus' message sink in deeply and move us to action. To listen to Jesus means to heed him. As Jesus was transfigured, giving us a preview of sorts of the glorified life with God that awaits us all, we are transformed by our encounter with him. That transformation is meant to make us closer to Jesus not just in our relationship with him, but in who we are: Christ-like in our interactions with others; loving one another in the same selfless, self-sacrificing way that God loves us.

“Horse”

His face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light.

Matthew 17: 1-9

As the title suggests, Geraldine Brooks’ best-selling novel **Horse** is about horse racing in 19th century America. In the Civil War era, the careers of great horses were followed with the same passion that we follow pro football and major league baseball teams today.

But the “horse” in the title of Brooks’ novel does not refer to just animals but to human beings — men and women who are valued only for the work that can be exploited from them. They, too, are “horses.”

Driving the novel’s plot is the story of Jarret, a gifted and reserved young Black horse trainer in the 1850s. Though illiterate, Jarret possesses a wisdom and perception of animal — and human — behavior that he keeps hidden behind a wall of humble deference to his White owners. Jarret develops an almost spiritual connection with a newborn foal named Darcy. Boy and foal become best friends and deeply bonded partners. Darcy is nurtured and trained from birth by Jarret — only a boy himself. Together horse and groom negotiate the treacherous political and racial landscape of Kentucky before and during the Civil War. Under Jarret’s care, Darcy grows famous for his speed and endurance, becoming the legendary racehorse Lexington.

Jarret’s father, also a horse trainer, has bought his freedom; Jarret remains enslaved. Despite his obvious skill in training Lexington, Jarret is not in command of his destiny. Jarret and Darcy are sold together from one wealthy landowner to another. At any moment, Jarret can be ripped from his family; he can be ripped from the horse that he loves and has raised; and he can be ripped even from the skill set from which he draws the small amount of agency he has within this brutalizing system. With each new owner, both horse and trainer have their names changed to suit the owners’ preferences. In the eyes of their White owners, both are commodities — “horses.”

But as the tale continues, the perseverance, dignity and compassion of Jarret emerges. He quietly betters himself by teaching himself to read. His innate goodness and sense of justice shatters the ingrained stereotypes of Black slaves held by White masters — stereotypes that linger into our own time. Jarret’s wisdom and courage will lead, one day, to his own emancipation. Though considered a “horse” by the standards of his time, Jarret determines for himself the kind of human being he will be, whether he is enslaved or emancipated. In that sense, true “freedom” has been Jarret’s from the beginning.

The real measure of who we are and what we will become is found in the values we hold in the depths of our hearts — values which give expression to the way we live our lives. That is what Peter, James and John see in Jesus in the Gospel story of the transfiguration: the very life and love of God that dwells within their beloved rabbi. It’s that “light” within Jesus that leads him on to Jerusalem and the work of redemption. In Horse, Jarret possesses that same inner “light” of compassion and dignity that will lead him to a life of freedom and self-determination. That “light” of the sacred, that love of God, dwells within each one of us, as well, calling us beyond our own needs, wants and interests to “transfigure” our lives and our world in that love. In the transforming love of Christ the Messiah-Servant, we can “transfigure” despair into hope, sadness into joy, and anguish into healing, estrangement into community.

Transformation of a Samurai warrior

One day, a Samurai warrior went to a Zen master for instruction. "Please," the huge man asked in a thundering voice that was used to instant obedience, "teach me about heaven and hell."

The master scowled at the swordsman, then broke into mocking laughter. "Me, teach you about heaven and hell? I wouldn't waste a moment trying to instruct the brain of an overweight ignoramus like you! How dare you ask me for such a lofty insight?"

Well, upon hearing these words, the Samurai grew furious. No one could insult him like this and get away with it. Enraged, his face flushed and he drew his sword to chop off the teacher's head. Just as he was about to strike, the master raised his hand and calmly said "That, sir, is hell."

Upon hearing this, the samurai suddenly realized the profound lesson the master had just taught him – that we make our own hell by indulging in anger and resentment. The warrior was so grateful for this teaching that he dropped his sword and fell to his knees in front of the Master, bowing in humility and gratitude. When he looked up, the old man was smiling. "And that, sir," the teacher noted, "is Heaven. "You risked your very life to teach me in this way?", the Samurai couldn't help asking the master. "I figured that there was no other way you would have learned!", the master calmly explained.



Do you know Edith Stein?



On August 9 the Catholic Church remembers St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, also known as St. Edith Stein. She was born on October 12, 1891 – a date that coincided with her family's celebration of Yom Kippur, the Jewish “day of atonement.” Edith's father died when she was just two years old, and she gave up the practice of her Jewish faith as an adolescent. As a

young woman with profound intellectual gifts, Edith gravitated toward the study of philosophy and became a pupil of the renowned professor Edmund Husserl in 1913. Through her studies, the non-religious Edith met several Christians whose intellectual and spiritual lives she admired. In 1916, she earned her doctorate after writing a highly-regarded thesis on the phenomenon of empathy. In 1921, while visiting friends, Edith spent an entire night reading the autobiography of the 16th century Carmelite nun St. Teresa of Avila. “When I had finished the book,” she later recalled, “I said to myself: This is the truth.” She was baptized into the Catholic Church on the first day of January, 1922.

Edith taught at a Dominican school, and gave numerous public lectures on women's issues. She spent 1931 writing a study of St. Thomas Aquinas, and took a university teaching position in 1932. In 1933, the rise of Nazism, combined with Edith's Jewish ethnicity, put an end to her teaching career. After a painful parting with her mother, who did not understand her Christian conversion, she entered a Carmelite convent in 1934, taking the name “Teresa Benedicta of the Cross” as a symbol of her acceptance of suffering. “I felt,” she wrote, “that those who understood the Cross of Christ should take upon themselves on everybody's behalf.” She saw it as her vocation “to intercede with God for everyone,” but she prayed especially for the Jews of Germany whose tragic fate was becoming clear. After completing her final work, a study of St. John of the Cross entitled “The Science of the Cross,” Teresa Benedicta was arrested along with her sister Rosa (who had also become a Catholic), and the members of her religious community, on August 7, 1942. The arrests came in retaliation against a protest letter by the Dutch Bishops, decrying the Nazi treatment of Jews. St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross died in the concentration camp at Auschwitz on August 9, 1942. Blessed John Paul II canonized her in 1998, and proclaimed her a co-patroness of Europe the next year.

There is more to the world than what we see

For the 12 disciples, Jesus lived and behaved like a very ordinary human being, except when he performed miracles. But the Transfiguration pulled that human veil aside for Peter, James, and John. They got to see and understand the world of Jesus in a way the other disciples didn't yet. They witnessed that life was made up of more than what their eyes could see and their ears could hear. In fact, they likely walked away from this experience with more questions than answers.



Luke tells us that the disciples kept this to themselves and didn't tell anyone what they had seen. We might assume that they were expected to keep this a secret. But it wouldn't be surprising to know that they didn't talk about it because they weren't entirely sure how to talk about it. How would they explain to the others what happened in a way that did the experience any justice? How would they even answer the other disciples' inevitable questions?

This gospel challenges all the easy reductions that we make about Jesus: Jesus the inspiring teacher, Jesus the compassionate preacher, Jesus the friend of the poor. He is all these, but he is also the One who comes from the Father, the One who, we believe, was prepared for by the prophets, the One who stands at the center of history. The transfiguration calls us to expand our religious horizons.

We inhabit a world of textures, tastes, sounds and appearances. And our faith may be built upon the belief that there's more to the world, but we still fall back on what we can see, feel, and smell as our sole reality. So it can be hard to accept (or even imagine) things beyond our experience.

The disciples were constantly being stretched in this way. Every day with Jesus revealed that their world was much more than they understood it to be. The Transfiguration really changed everything. It was such an overwhelming experience that Peter didn't even know how to respond. Instead of simply letting the moment play out, he attempted to craft a real-world scenario that would make more sense to him, suggesting that they build shelters for Jesus, Moses, and Elijah.

It's pretty humorous that Luke adds his own commentary here, “He did not know what he was saying.” Following Jesus means accepting that the universe is a lot different than our senses may tell us. We don't have to have an answer to every question or understand every experience. On some level, faith is about leaning into Jesus rather than relying on our understanding because what we experience is likely only a fraction of what's actually happening.

From the Pastoral Staff

I love when the Feast of the Transfiguration falls on a Sunday. Although we read this gospel every year on the second Sunday of Lent, we only get to enjoy the fullness of the other scriptures on a Sunday every few years- the last time was pre-pandemic in 2017.

I never have a problem envisioning this gospel passage from Matthew 17. To me, it is like a movie- I see it so clearly. Jesus ascends Mt. Tabor to pray with only three of his beloved disciples- Peter, James and John. There, at the mountain peak, he is transformed. His face shines like the sun and his clothes become white as light. And if that was not spectacular enough, 2 powerhouses of the Old Testament- Moses and Elijah- appear beside him and he is actually conversing with them! And then- the climax! God speaks to all - "This is my beloved Son- listen to him!" The disciples drop to the ground in wonder and awe.

In our lives we have all had "peak" experiences- I wonder if this peak experience of the Transfiguration is where that

expression originated. To see their friend Jesus in all his glory when previously he was speaking to them about going to Jerusalem, suffering and dying- what joy and what hope must have filled their hearts.



But then, as all good things must, it ends. When Peter, James and John rise from the ground, there is Jesus all by himself saying the phrase which appears 365 times in the Bible- "Do not be afraid."

When we waver in our faith, we need only remember this scene when Jesus' true glory shone bright and clear. He is our way, our truth and our life. As we wander in our human condition, we can be nourished by the glory of the Transfiguration. The joy and the light of Christ can truly change our lives.

"Christ in me arise!"Joan Best Seamon,
Pastoral Associate for Liturgical Music, St. Matthias Church.

Joy and light can truly change our lives.

Pray

MISSION APPEAL FOR FRANCISCANS IN ACTION OF HAITI & SOURCE DE VIE OF HAITI. AUGUST 12/13, 2023

Deacon Enock Berluche Sr., a Representative of the Diocesan Sharing Program, will preach a Mission Appeal in our Parish for the Following Missions: Franciscans in Action of Haiti and Source de Vie of Haiti on **August 12/13 2023**. Mission activities in those places are touching the lives of the poorest of the poor. You may not be able to go there to reach out or to help those in need but your generous financial support can help continue to provide the basic necessities to those in need. There will be a 2nd collection. Your help will be greatly appreciated. Thank you.



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.

Please contact Anne Marie Francis at alfrancis.30@gmail.com OR Mary Frances Reavey at mfreavey@gmail.com



Silver & Gold Wedding Anniversary Celebration



You are cordially invited to celebrate your 25th or 50th Wedding Anniversary with the Church of Metuchen and renew your marriage vows with Bishop James F. Checchio at a special Evening Prayer Service at the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi in Metuchen on **Sunday, October 22, 2023 at 3:00 PM**. Registration is required. Please register online at: <https://www.diometuchen.org/silver-and-gold-anniversary-celebration>.

If you are unable to access, please contact the Family Life Office at 732-562-1543 or amarshall@diometuchen.org. Registration will close on **October 6, 2023**. Although no fee is required, in the past many Jubilarian couples have given a donation of gratitude to the Church in memory of this special occasion. Donations of Gratitude may be made online at <https://www.diometuchen.org/silver-and-gold-anniversary-celebration> or calling 732-562-1543.

SAINT MATTHIAS SCHOOL IS LOOKING FOR A PART-TIME BOOKKEEPER



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

BEFORE and AFTER SCHOOL DIRECTOR POSITION AVAILABLE

Saint Matthias School is looking for a director for our before and after school program for the 2022-2023 school year. This is a part-time position for an individual who enjoys working with children and who has some managerial experience. The hours are 2:00-6:00, Monday to Friday. If you are interested, please phone the school at 732-828-1402, extension 144 or send an email to mlynch@stmattiasnj.org.



2023-2024 GIFT for K-8 Religious Formation

www.stmatthias.net/faith-formation/

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



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

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



Communion

Attention 2nd Graders:

First Eucharist Preparation 2023-2024

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

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



Confirmation

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

Confirmation Preparation 2023-2024

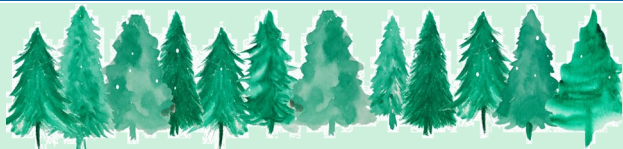
www.stmatthias.net/confirmation/

Register for Confirmation Preparation as soon as possible!

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



Connect



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

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

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

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

Help us “Spread the Light”!

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

Online payments via ParishGiving are now available.

www.stmatthias.net/tree



CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP LUNCHEON

Photo: Left to Right:

Gail Miranda, Lorraine Walkiewicz, Georgeann Crowell,
Donna Kahora (co-chair), Sr. Marie Therese (co-chair),
Elaine Grykien, Louise Karakowski

On Saturday, July 15, members of our Caregivers/Care
Support Group gathered for lunch and camaraderie at
Stagehouse Tavern. During this time, members shared
what was happening in their lives and the lives of their
loved ones, and experiences they have had since our last
meeting. This time together renewed us in spirit and
strengthened our bondedness. Our next meeting will be
on **Saturday, Sept. 16**, from 10:00-11:30 am in the Parish
Office Ruiz Room. (Parking behind Office). If anyone is
interested in joining our Caregivers/Care Support Group,
please contact **Sister Marie Therese:**
msherwood@stmatthias.net or 732-828-1400 ext. 114.

Connect



RETROUVAILLE

RETROUVAILLE is a Lifeline to Help Couples Heal and Renew their Marriages
sponsored by the Office of Family Life, Diocese of Metuchen, NJ. RETROUVAILLE
consists of a weekend experience for married couples (no group discussions) with
six follow-up sessions. The upcoming weekend is **August 18-20, 2023.**

All inquiries are confidential. For further information, please contact Rich Colasuonno 732-236-0671 or
Annette Colasuonno 732-672-0748 or email 3024@helpourmarriage.org.



“SAVE THE DATE”!

**The Senior Ministry & St. Martin DePorres 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



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 1 - July 2, 2023	\$11,660.00	\$9,623.25	\$21,283.25	\$22,576.25
Week 2 - July 9, 2023	\$10,009.00	\$24,934.75	\$34,943.75	\$33,857.28
Week 3 - July 16, 2023	\$9,256.00	\$13,763.25	\$23,019.25	\$22,864.25
Week 4 - July 23, 2023	\$9,921.60	\$12,113.25	\$22,034.85	\$21,278.66
Week 5- July 30, 2023	\$9,570.50	\$9,258.25		\$21,517.25
			Month-to-date Total	July Total Last Yr
			\$101,281.10	\$122,093.69
			Current Year-to-date	Year-to-date as of
			\$100,655.50	\$122,093.69

Stewardship Reflection August 6, 2023 The Transfiguration of the Lord

"... then from the cloud came a voice that said, 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.'" -Matthew 17:5

When Peter, James and John heard this they immediately fell prostrate to the ground and they "were very much afraid." We, too, may respond the same way when we hear God's voice. How many times do you become fearful when invited to participate more fully in the life of the Church? Or, when someone says something negative about the Church, are you afraid to respond? Remember, we too, are beloved sons and daughters of God; Jesus is there to help us, but we need to listen.

Reflexiónese 6 de agosto de 2023 La Transfiguración del Señor

"Una voz salió de la nube, diciendo: "Este es Mi Hijo amado en quien Yo estoy complacido; escúchenlo a Él." - Mateo 17:5

Cuando Pedro, Santiago y Juan oyeron esto inmediatamente se postraron en el piso ante Él y tenían "mucho miedo". Nosotros también debemos responder de la misma manera cuando oímos la voz de Dios. ¿Cuántas veces nos sentimos temerosos cuando nos invitan a participar más completamente en la vida de la Iglesia? ¿O, cuando alguien dice algo negativo acerca de la Iglesia, y tenemos miedo de responder? Recuerde, nosotros también somos los hijos amados de Dios; Jesús está allí para ayudarnos, pero necesitamos escuchar.

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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