



St. Matthias Parish Office

Monday - Friday, 8:30 am - 4:00 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 - 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM & 12 noon
 M/T/W/Th/F at 8:00 AM
 also on our YouTube channel
youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ

St. Matthias School (SMS):

170 JFK Blvd., Somerset, NJ 08873
www.stmatthias.info 732-828-1402
School Office Hours,
 Monday-Friday 7:45AM to 3:30PM

For all Parish emails, add @stmatthias.net

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

Anthony Baio, *Maintenance*
 Deacon Ron Caimi, *Senior Deacon*
 Maria Cornier, *Parish Secretary* **mcornier**
 Kelly Counts, *Receptionist*, **kcounts**
 Deacon Russell Demkovitz, **rdemkovitz**
 Nathalie Godet, *Website & Bulletin Editor*,
ngodet

Leslie Guillen, *Bulletin Coordinator*, **lguillen**
 Amy Hanna, *Accountant/Databases*, **ahanna**
 Mike Lanyi, *Sacristan*
 Sue Lenczewski, *Youth Coordinator*, **SMYLE**
 Julio Montero, *Maintenance Supervisor*
 Debra Schurko, *Director of Religious Education*,
dschurko

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

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

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2024
 1st Sunday of Advent



There will
 be a
 second
 collection
 next
 weekend
 for the
 Retirement
 Fund for
 Religious



MEMBERS OF SMYLE YOUTH MINISTRY
ARE COLLECTING ITEMS IN SUPPORT OF
UNITY SQUARE
TODAY AFTER EVERY MASS

SEE PAGE 7 FOR MORE DETAILS



The Giving Tree is back for us to help those
in our community most in need.
Please consider taking a tag & donating a gift.

Please see page 9 for detailed information.



JOIN US FOR THE BLESSING &
LIGHTING OF THE TREES
NEXT SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7TH,
AFTER THE 5 PM MASS

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, Dec 1, 2024

1st Sunday of Advent

8:00AM	Mass	Church
10:00AM	Mass	Church
11:00AM	RCIA	de Porres Rm & Ruiz Rm
11:00AM	Rosary Altar Mtg.	St. John XXIII Rm
12:00PM	Mass	Church

Monday, Dec 2, 2024 **St. Bibiana, Virgin & Martyr**

8:00AM	Mass, Miraculous Medal Novena	Church
6:00PM	Eucharistic Adoration	Church

Tuesday, Dec 3, 2024 **St. Francis Xavier, Patron of India, Priest & co-Founder**

8:00AM	Mass	Church
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Wednesday, Dec 4, 2024 **St. John Demascene, Priest & Doctor**

8:00AM	Mass	St. Joseph Novena	Church
9:30AM	Holy Spirit Prayer Group	de Porres Rm	
7:30PM	Folk Group rehearsal		Church

Thursday, Dec 5, 2024 **St. Sabas, Abbot**

8:00AM	Mass	Church
3:30PM	Children's Choir, Grades 3 & 4	Church
4:00PM	Children's Choir Grades 5-8	Church
7:00PM	Knights of Columbus Meeting	Church
7:30PM	Adult Choir Rehearsal	Church

Friday, Dec 6, 2024 **St. Nicholas, Bishop of Myra**

8:00AM	Mass	Church
8:30AM	1st Friday Holy Hour	Church
6:00PM	School Winter Open House	School

Saturday, Dec 7, 2024 **St. Ambrose, Archbishop & Doctor**

1:00PM	Family Matters	de Porres Rm
3:30PM	Reconciliation	Church
5:00PM	Vigil Mass	Church
6:00PM	Christmas Trees Blessing	Church
6:00PM	Racial Justice Initiative Movie Night	St. John XXIII Rm

Sunday, Dec 8, 2024
2nd Sunday of Advent

8:00AM	Mass	Church
9:00AM	Craft Fair	Cafeteria
10:00AM	Mass	Church
11:00AM	RCIA	de Porres Rm & Ruiz Rm
11:00AM	Rosary Altar Mtg.	St. John XXIII Rm
12:00PM	Mass	Church
2:00PM	GIFT	Church, St. John XXIII Rm, Classrooms

BULLETIN ARTICLE REQUESTS:
 If you would like to send information to be included in our bulletin, please email it to bulletin@stmatthias.net by **9 AM, MONDAY, 5 business days before the needed bulletin date** (earlier for holiday weekends). Approved content is published on a space-available basis.
Bulletin deadlines for this holiday season up to mid-January are accelerated by the Publishers. Hence matters to be published must be submitted 10 days earlier than the usual time.



Dear Friends,

This year Advent begins on December first, giving us a full four weeks to prepare for Christmas. Contrary to what we hear and see in the commercialized culture around us, Advent is a season of spiritual preparation – not of external decoration/shopping - for Christmas as the Jews longed for the Messiah. So the first question we need to ask ourselves is: how can we use these four weeks to prepare for a frenzy-free Christmas? Remember the visit of Jesus to the house of Martha and Mary in the gospel of Luke? Seeing the restlessness of Martha, Jesus told her: **"You are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen the better part and it will not be taken away from her"** (10:41-42). Try repeating this Bible verse as if Jesus is addressing you, and it will truly help you focus on what is important during this busy season. One way to focus on the meaning of this holy season is to choose some Advent spiritual practices. Some examples:

Family Bible Quiz: It will be an excellent Advent practice to do a Bible Quiz or Bible Trivia with your family. Here are five simple Biblical questions connected with Advent/Christmas:

- 1.) **What does Jesus's other name, "Emmanuel" mean?**
- 2.) **What was Joseph's first reaction when he discovered that Mary was pregnant?**
- 3.) **Why did Joseph and Mary go to the city of David?**
- 4.) **How much older was John the Baptist than Jesus?**
- 5.) **Which angel appeared to Mary?**

Making such questions part of your family dinner table conversation will certainly have a very meaningful impact at your home.

Family Advent Wreath: It is a common practice for families to light Advent wreath candles at home. During each Sunday of the Advent season, we focus on one of the four virtues Jesus brings us: Hope, Love, Joy and Peace. Others consider the lighting of the first candle to symbolize expectation, while the second symbolizes hope, the third joy and the fourth purity. Elsewhere in today's bulletin there is a simple prayer that the family can do together while lighting the first candle on your Advent Family Wreath.

Follow the daily readings for Mass: Even though it is not possible for most people to attend the weekday Mass, everyone can read the daily scriptures and have a daily connection with the Word of God. You can easily access the daily readings from <https://bible.usccb.org/>

Follow our daily Mass from YouTube at night! It was very heartening for me to hear some parishioners tell me how they attend our daily Mass at night! Since they have to go to work in the morning, they access our live-streamed daily Mass at night from our St. Matthias Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/c/stmatthiassomersetnj>. Jeff Beck who monitors the viewership of our live-streamed Masses, told me that there is a very significant increase in attendance after the updated media project with the new exceptionally clear screen.

Thus, let us enter into the spirit of Advent taking some concrete action plan for ourselves and for our family, so that we can experience a meaningful Christmas of the Lord touching us!

Your brother in Christ,
 Fr. Abraham Orapankal

Readings for the Week

Monday Is 2:1-5 Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9 Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday Is 11:1-10 Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday Is 25:6-10a Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 Mt 15:29-37

Thursday Is 26:1-6 Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday Is 29:17-24 Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 Mt 9:27-31

Saturday Is 30:19-21, 23-26 Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8

Sunday Bar 5:1-9 Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 Phil 1:4-6, 8-11 Lk 3:1-6



Mass Intentions for the Week

Sat., November 30	5:00PM	Intention of Parishioners
Sun., December 1	8:00AM	Thomas G. Riley, by The Varona Family
	10:00AM	Christine Retz, by The Cesario Family
	12:00PM	In Loving Memory of Hector Concha Moreno, by The Moreno Family
Mon., December 2	8:00AM	Craig Slyman by Mom & Family
	8:00AM	Rosa Triunfo by The Goettsch Family
Tues., December 3	8:00AM	Al Maglio by Vinnie & Ethel
Wed., December 4	8:00AM	Jack Shafranski by Florence McAuliffe
Thurs., December 5	8:00AM	Al Maglio by Scott & Barbara Loeffler
	8:00AM	Marjory Dolan by Helen Pallay
Fri., December 6	8:00AM	Jack Sullivan by Mary
	5:00PM	Bill Murphy
Sat., December 7	5:00PM	Bill Murphy
	8:00AM	Adoracion & Esther DeGuzman by The DeGuzman Family
	10:00AM	Intention of Parishioners
	12:00PM	Eddie Wyckoff by The Dupras Family
Sun., December 8	12:00PM	Myrna H. Ignacio by Susan Tiongson
	12:00PM	Myrna H. Ignacio by Susan Tiongson

Pray for those who are sick...

If you or a family member are sick, please call the Parish Office or [email prayer@stmatthias.net](mailto:prayer@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.

Sue Alese	Heinley Gaspard	Kathy Langenbacher	Sotelo	Sr. Bernadine Marie
Edgar Banaag	Emma Gergely	Rose Larangeira	Sarah Braun Morini	Stemnock
Carolyn Banghart	Claude Godet	Linda Leone	Robert Pellegrino	Richard Sury
Ghislaine Baron	Marie Godet	Henrietta Lesiak	Robert Pierro	Jacqueline Taylor
Samantha Bellouny	Fr. Ben Gomez OMI	John Litrakis	Robert Pietrowiak	Anita Vance
Carmen Bender	Shelly Greene	Mary Lou Litrakis	Randolff Pinard	Minda Villarica
Mary Bostrom	Linda Hartong	Aries Magali	Valerie Polci	Eileen Weber
Tara Capatosto	Jeff Hentz	Kenneth & Kelly Magat	Kim Price	Nancy Whelan
Rustico Castellano	Marilyn Horvath	Susan, King & Tosh	Frank Rispoli	Ginette Zamor
Lisa DeFeo	Jerry & Donna Hucul	Manansala	Gabriel Rivera	Celia M. Zelinski
Sanora Doyen	Nicole Cherill Hynes	Colleen Maniscalco	Bob Rotz	Anne Zando
Andrea Dubuisson	Marilyn Jensen	Alexandra Marquez	Marisa Ruppel	And for all who are ill, homebound, elderly, in nursing care, or living with chronic illness, we pray.
Derowitsch Family	Jean Alix Jolly	Christine Matthews	Maria Schwenzer	
Hattie Evans	Marie Claude Jolly	Ann McElwee	Amy Shepp	
Margaret Ann Cichon	Donna Kahora	Jessica Marie Merrick	Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF	
Ford	Betsy Kondrat	Gail Miranda	Timothy Siclari	
Sharon Gadomski	Kim Krikorian	Menchie Molano-	Catherine Steele	

Pray for those who have died...

— “His mercy endures forever.” Chronicles

Reflect



Smile with Your Family



Going the wrong way in the "Advent Rush": While a man had gone out driving to do some Christmas shopping, his wife had been watching TV when she heard the announcer say, "be very careful and watch driving on I5 today, there is a motorist driving the wrong way"! His wife got hold of him on the cell phone to warn him, and his reply was: "You tell me, there are hundreds of them here". 😊

One Sunday after church, a mother was talking to her young daughter. She told her daughter that, according to the Bible, Jesus will return to earth some day. "When is he coming back?" the daughter asked. "I don't know," replied the mother. Then the little girl said: "Don't worry mom, I will google it and let you know!" 😊

Patience is the quality you admire in the driver behind you, but can't stand in the driver who's in front of you. 😊
(Anonymous)

Four weeks before Christmas, the pastor was leading a children's service featuring an Advent wreath. He had told them what the three purple candles represented. Then he asked: "Does anyone know what the pink one means?" No one answered. Finally little Sara's hand went up. "Are they expecting a girl?" 😊

Last year I joined a support group for procrastinators. We haven't met yet. 😊

I am extraordinarily patient, provided I get my own way in the end. 😊 (Margaret Thatcher)

You can learn many things from children... how much patience you have for instance. 😊 (Franklin Jones)



Parenting Tune-Up

Advent starts today! Although too often considered as the Christmas shopping season, our Church reminds us that it is a time to "Be watchful yourselves!" (Luke 21:34) During this Advent, ask your child to practice each day at least one kind, joyful, or positive act. Speak about it at the end of the day and give encouragement.

Marriage Tune-Up

"Be watchful yourselves!" (Luke 21:34) Advent has begun. Each day try to notice one act of helpfulness or kindness that your beloved does. Don't take each other for granted.



ADVENT GROWS IN POPULARITY!

Advent practice is not restricted to the mainline Churches (Catholic, Orthodox, Anglican/Episcopalian, Lutheran, Methodist and Presbyterian). Today, however, more and more Protestant and Evangelical Christians are recognizing the spiritual significance of Advent, and have begun to revive the spirit of the season through serious reflection, joyful expectation, and even through the observance of some of the traditional Advent customs. In our current culture of overwhelming holiday stress and consumerism, many smaller denominations are adopting Advent as an intentional way to slow down the train and put Jesus back into the season.

SPREAD THE LIGHT!

Please joins us on **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2024**, following the **5:00 PM Mass** when we will bless and light the trees. We celebrate the Christmas Season by illuminating our church and school property with these beautiful, personalized, freshly-cut Christmas trees, decorated with white lights.

The trees will remain lit every night from **4:30 PM until 11:00 PM**, through the Feast of the Epiphany on **January 5, 2025**.

People are welcome to come to visit the trees and read the plaques throughout this time.

Everyone driving by on JFK Boulevard will be reminded of the hope and peace that breaks into our darkness at Christmas time.

www.stmatthias.net/trees



First Sunday of Advent: The Martian

"But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand."

Luke 21: 25-28, 34-36

The film **The Martian** was one of the very compelling movies a few years ago. Mark Watney is part of a six-person mission to Mars. During a raging windstorm, the astronauts have to evacuate the planet. In the chaos to get to the launcher, Watney is struck by a piece of debris and blown away. The crew can't find him and are forced to leave him behind. But Watney survives. And so begins an intense scramble on both Mars and Earth to bring Mark Watney home. As the story unfolds, we become caught up, first, with the preciousness - and limits - of time. Every single item Mark has on Mars is carefully measured: every drop of water, every potato he is able to grow, every bit of power - and every minute. Mark meticulously rations every necessity in terms of days and weeks and months in order to survive on the Martian surface.

On Earth, meanwhile, NASA engineers and scientists go to work to bring Mark home, constantly aware of time. Every moment of the 400 days needed to get a rescue mission together is critical - and there are only certain windows of time when such a rescue can be launched. Every day and every detail of preparation take on an urgency.

And we also become aware of the power of hope. Mark is utterly alone on this cold, lifeless, red rock. But Mark never loses hope. He approaches every new crisis as an exercise in problem-solving. His challenge is to get his fear and despair under control long enough to think through each situation. Back on Mother Earth, NASA scientists and engineers work long hours and concoct crazily innovative solutions, taking huge risks in the process. And Mark's crew mates selflessly commit to another 533 days in space in order to "slingshot" their spacecraft around Earth to return to Mars and rescue Mark.

Everyone in the film is convinced that humankind survives because we possess the ability to work together to solve problems. As the director of NASA flight operations reminds the team cobbling the rescue mission together, one human life is priceless, well worth moving heaven and earth for.

The preciousness of time and of hope that never wavers is the call of this Advent season. These first four weeks of the liturgical year point to the reality that our lives, measured in a finite period of days, find their meaning and purpose in seeking the things of God: compassion, peace, reconciliation and justice. And Advent also calls us to embrace a spirit of hope: that, in imitating the selflessness of the Christ who comes at Christmas, we can realize the Kingdom of God in our own time and on our own "planet"; that the light of God's Messiah illuminates our vision enabling us to see our world and ourselves as God sees us: as a people formed and bound by the unimaginable and unconditional - but very real - love of God.

THE ADVENT WREATH IN YOUR FAMILY - 1

The Advent wreath, four candles on a wreath of evergreen, is shaped in a perfect circle to symbolize the eternity of God. In our church, three of the candles are purple and one candle is rose or pink, to represent joy. During each Sunday of the Advent season, we focus on one of the four virtues Jesus brings us: Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace. Others consider the lighting of the first candle to symbolize expectation, while the second symbolizes hope, the third joy, and the fourth purity. It is a common practice for families to light Advent wreath candles at home. **Here is a suggestion to have a little family prayer for lighting the first candle this Sunday:**

The family gathers around the Advent wreath. Begin with the sign of the cross.

Father:: Today is the first Sunday of Advent. Advent is a time of waiting. We wait for God to send divine love and light into our dark world.

Child #1: How does this happen?

Father: God's light comes through Jesus, who became a human being just like you and me, so that he could show us the way back to God's divine love and light.

Family: "Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and put on the armor of light."

Mother: A reading from the prophet Jeremiah: "The Lord said, 'I made a wonderful promise to Israel and Judah, and the days are coming when I will keep it. I promised that the time will come when I will appoint a king from the family of David, a king who will be honest and rule with justice. In those days, Judah will be safe; Jerusalem will have peace and will be named 'The LORD Gives Justice.'" (Jer 33:14-16)

Father: Today, we wait for the coming of Jesus. We begin in the dark, and on this first Sunday of Advent, we light the first candle. (First candle is lit by one of the children.)

Child #2 : Every week in Advent, we will light another candle. Each candle that we light will remind us that the Light of the World will soon come to us in the human form of the baby Jesus.

Family: Lord our God, we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ: he is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples, he is the wisdom that teaches and guides us, he is the Savior of every nation. Lord God, let your blessing come upon us as we light the candles of this wreath. May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation. May he come quickly and not delay. We ask this through Christ our Lord. R/. Amen.

An Advent Project

Every morning when we get up, let us pray, "Lord, show me someone today with whom I may share your love, mercy and forgiveness." Mother Teresa of Calcutta once said, "Whatever you do in your family, for your children, for your husband, for your wife, you do for Jesus." Every night when we go to bed, let us ask ourselves, "Where have I found Christ today?" The answer will be God's Advent gift to us that day.

By being alert and watchful we will receive an extra gift: Christ himself. Let us remember the saying of St. Thomas Aquinas: "Without God, I can't. Without me, He won't." Let us also remember the words of Alexander Pope: "What does it profit me if Jesus is reborn in thousands of cribs all over the world and not reborn in my heart?" Jesus must be reborn in our hearts and lives, during this season of Advent and every day of our lives, in our love, kindness, mercy and forgiveness. Then only will we be able to give people his hope by caring for those in need, give them his peace by turning the other cheek when we are provoked, give them his love by encouraging those who are feeling sad or tired, and give them his joy by encouraging and helping those who feel at the end of their strength, showing them that we care and that God cares as well.

Advent! Wake Up! But to What?

Do you remember the movie *Awakening*? Robert De Niro plays the part of a patient who, for thirty years, does not move or speak. A particularly, sensitive and enterprising doctor tries out some new theories and lo and behold, the patient begins to move around, talk and feel. For a brief period he returns to this world and announces to those amazed folks around him that he is back: "I have been away for quite some time.... now I am back." He becomes gradually aware of the love and concern that surrounds him and what is really alive inside of his heart and soul.

It is never too late to wake up. Morning is when you wake up. Advent is a nice time to wake up. Wake up to give an account of your stewardship. Wake up into a time for giving and sharing, a time that we are called to be thankful and prepare our hearts for the Christ child. Wake up and open your eyes in Faith to see God present and active in your life and in your world.



"You may Judge my Ability as a Salesman"

Years ago, when 20th Century Fox advertised in the New York papers to fill a vacancy in its sales force, one applicant replied: "I am at present selling furniture at the address below. You may judge my ability as a salesman if you will stop in to see me at any time, pretending that you are interested in buying furniture. When you come in, you can identify me by my red hair. And I should have no way of identifying you. Such salesmanship as I exhibit during your visit, therefore, will be no more than my usual workday approach and not a special effort to impress a prospective employer." From among more than 1500 applicants, this guy got the job.

Jesus wants us to be ready like that man. We don't know when He's coming back, so we should be prepared all the time, one day at a time. We need to focus on our present duties. But we are so future-oriented that we often forget the present entirely. We spend too much time trying to protect ourselves against future misfortunes. We save for a rainy day, to get married, to buy a home, to send the children to college, to retire in comfort and to protect ourselves against future misfortunes. But we need to be more spiritually wakeful and prepare for our eternal life because we can die any day, and that is the end of the world for us. Let this Advent season be the time of such a preparation for us.

Wesley & Luther

Once John Wesley (founder of the Methodist Church) was asked what he would do if he knew this was his last day on earth. He replied, "At 4 o'clock I would have some tea. At 6 I would visit Mrs. Brown in the hospital. Then at 7:30 I would conduct a mid-week prayer service. At 10 I would go to bed and would wake up in glory." When Martin Luther (founder of the Lutheran Church) was asked what he would do on the day of Jesus' return, he said he would go out and plant a tree.

Our text tells us that Christ expects each of us to be about our work so that when he comes, he will find us in gainful and constructive employment, taking care of the world as his trustees. There is work to be completed. Like the parents who trust their teenagers to look after the house while they are away, or like the teacher who leaves the classroom after giving her students plenty of work to do, Jesus trusts us to carry out his work until he returns. There is the work of witnessing to Jesus in our daily lives. There is the work to be done in our families, our schools, our local churches and our community. There is the work of caring for those who are hurting and have needs. There is the work of guiding and leading others, pointing people to the comforting message of the Gospel. There is the work of living "lives holy and dedicated to God," "doing our best to be pure and faultless in God's sight and to be at peace with him." .



SHOPPING ♦ FOOD ♦ BAKE SALE

ST. MATTHIAS SCHOOL CAFETERIA
 170 JFK BLVD
 SOMERSET, NJ 08873



ST. MATTHIAS AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM WORKERS NEEDED

St. Matthias School is in need of workers for our After School Program.

The hours are 2:30PM-6:00PM.

Please email

Mary Lynch,

mlynch@stmatthiasnj.org

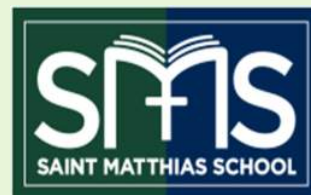
&

Tesh Barr,

tbarr@stmatthiasnj.org or

call 732-828-1402

for more information.



Serve

SMYLE will be collecting the following items for Unity Square after all Masses from now until **December 15th**. The items needed are for men and women.



- Hats
- Scarves
- Gloves
- toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- Small deodorants



All items should be marked "SMYLE" and left in the cry room.

The team will pick them up each weekend after Mass. **SMYLE meetings will be from 1:30-3:30.**

We will meet **Next Sunday, December 15th** in the cafeteria to sort and bag the items.

Pray

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT



PLEASE COME JOIN THE MANY WHO SPEND SOME QUIET TIME WITH THE EUCHARISTIC LORD.

**OUR NEXT ADORATION WILL BE MONDAY EVENING,
DECEMBER 3, 2024 FROM 6 PM TO 8 PM.**

WHEN THE DEACON IS AVAILABLE, WE CONCLUDE ADORATION WITH A BENEDICTION.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU GO FOR ADORATION? YOU FALL IN LOVE! ULTIMATELY, YOU CAN'T HELP THIS ONE! WHEN YOU SPEND MORE TIME WITH AN OPEN HEART IN ADORATION AND JUST LET CHRIST LOVE YOU, THEN YOU'LL FALL IN LOVE TOO. THAT LOVE WILL DEFINE YOU AND ALLOW YOU TO BE YOURSELF.

"I CAME THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE, LIFE IN ALL ITS FULLNESS." (JOHN 10:10)



SIMBANG GABI 2024



This annual devotional 9 day novena will be celebrated in various parishes in the Diocese of Metuchen from December 15-23.

St Matthias Parish will host the 3rd night novena Mass on December 17 at 6:30 pm

For complete Simbang Gabi schedule and updates, please visit the Filipino Apostolate Facebook page:

<http://www.facebook.diometuchenFA>

All are welcome to join this Simbang Gabi journey and experience the beautiful tradition in staying alert and focused on what Christmas is all about.

Connect



ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP MEETS ON ZOOM, ON NOVEMBER 13TH AT 2 PM

The Alzheimer's Association and Saint Matthias Catholic Church are co-hosting a monthly Support Group for individuals living with Alzheimer's or Dementia, their care partners, and others dealing with the disease. Our next meeting will be **Wednesday, November 13th**, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Zoom.

To register, call 800-272-3900 and mention the St. Matthias group.

For more information, visit alz.org/NJ.

THE RACIAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE HOSTS ADVENT MOVIE NIGHT

Catholic Community of St. Matthias

RACIAL
JUSTICE
INITIATIVE



DATE: Saturday, December 7th

TIME: 6:00 pm Dinner / 6:30 pm Movie

WHERE: St. John XXIII Room

Please join us for a special Advent movie night! We will be watching Black Nativity, a musical based on the Langston Hughes play. There will be refreshments and lots of fellowship. We will have a free will offering for dinner and ALL are encouraged to attend!

RSVP to matthiasracialjustice@gmail.com by **Thursday, December 5th** so we can be prepared.

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!



Give (and Receive!)

Stewardship Totals for Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025				Last Year's Total
Current Month	In-Pew/Mail	Parish Giving	Weekly Total	Weekly Total
Week 18 - November 3, 2024	\$112,037.75	\$13,838.50	\$125,876.25	\$29,108.25
Week 19 - November 10, 2024	\$13,807.75	\$25,640.00	\$39,447.75	\$37,628.89
Week 20 - November 17, 2024	\$9,135.00	\$12,370.50	\$21,505.50	\$21,887.75
Week 21 - November 24, 2024			\$0.00	\$18,307.25
All Saints Collection: \$2,037.00			Month-to-date Total	November Total Last Year
** This bulletin was printed on an accelerated schedule at the publishers request. The final November totals will be in next week's bulletin.			\$186,829.50	\$106,932.14
			Current Year-to-date	Year-to-date as of November 30, 2023
			\$592,734.96	\$451,496.67

REMINDER!

When we contribute via check, the Chase Bank requires that the checks must be made out to **“Church of St. Matthias.”**
No other variation of this designation will be acceptable due to greater security controls.

Stewardship Reflection December 1, 2024 1st Sunday of Advent

“But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand.”
(LUKE 21:28)

We celebrate Advent each year in preparation for the birth of Jesus, His first coming, as we await His second coming. What will you do differently this Advent season to grow in friendship and love with Jesus? How will you inspire others to do the same? Start by sharing your God story with others, especially those that are closest to you. Invite and accompany them on their faith journey this Advent.

Reflexiónese – 1 de diciembre de 2024 1^{er} Domingo de Adviento

“Cuando todo esto comience a suceder, enderécense y levanten la cabeza, porque ya saben que está muy cerca la hora en que Dios los liberará.” (LUCAS 21:28)

Cada año celebramos el Adviento en preparación para el nacimiento de Jesús, Su primera venida, mientras esperamos Su segunda venida. ¿Qué haría usted en forma diferente esta temporada de Adviento para hacer crecer su amistad y amor a Jesús? ¿Como inspirará a los demás a hacer lo mismo? Comience por compartir su historia con Dios con otros, especialmente con aquellos más cercanos a usted. En este Adviento, invítelos y acompañelos en su viaje de fe.



GIVING TREE 2024

The Giving Tree will be at the front of the Church beginning **Tuesday, November 26th**, and remain there until **Sunday, December 15th**. During this time you will have the opportunity to take ornaments (gift tags) off the tree and purchase some or all of the items listed.

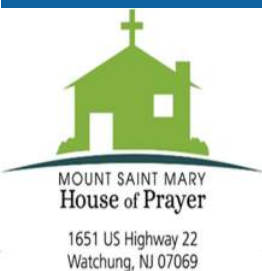
Gifts/gift cards should be dropped off to the Church the weekends of **December 7th/8th** and **December 14th/15th**. **PLEASE if you take a gift tag, please return the gift.**
ALL GIFTS ARE DUE BACK DECEMBER 15th.

St. Matthias parishioners and friends have been very generous in the past. Your kindness is truly appreciated by the recipients at YES Early Learning Centers, Great Expectations, Ozanam Family and Men’s Shelter, Naomi’s Way, Pregnancy Aid, Elijah’s Promise and other local families. Thank you in advance for your continued support.

As always, we can use more elves before and after Sunday Masses and **need drivers for deliveries the mornings of December 9th and 16th, after the 8:00 AM Mass.** If you can volunteer a bit of time, please contact:

Joanne Diana at (732)322-6270 or j-diana@comcast.net. Thank you.

Connecting to Our Local Community



CALENDAR RAFFLE

Tickets for a Calendar Raffle to benefit Mount St. Mary House of Prayer, Watchung, are on sale now by calling 908-753-2091. Tickets are \$20 for 13 chances to win from **December, 2024 through February, 2025**. Prizes range from \$300 to \$400. The last day to purchase tickets is **November 29**. Proceeds benefit the ministry of the House of Prayer, which depends on the generosity of its benefactors. The Sisters are most grateful for your support.

Friday, December 6-7

WOMEN ENCOUNTERING JESUS: AN ADVENT RETREAT FOR WOMEN presented by Melanie Rigney

The woman at the well. The woman healed by a touch. The widow at Nain. We know them and other unnamed women who encountered Jesus only by where they were or what they did. But Jesus knew all about them—just as he knows all about us. What can we learn from them today... and how can we embrace and grow through our own encounters with the Lord's grace? This retreat will feature talks and group discussions as well as time for prayer, journaling, and walks. Begins with dinner Fri at 5:30; ends by 4 on Saturday.

Overnight, Commuter and Virtual Options.

Melanie loves almost nothing better than talking and writing about faith and grace. Her latest book, *Unforgettable Women of the Gospels*, was the July 2024 selection for the Association of Catholic Publishers' CatholicsRead book club. Among her other books are *Woman of Worth: Prayers and Reflections for Women Inspired by the Book of Proverbs* and *Sisterhood of Saints: Daily Guidance and Inspiration*. Melanie is a regular contributor to *Living Faith* and lives in Arlington, Virginia.

Overnight \$140; Commuter \$100; Virtual \$80

Holiday Support Group for Adult Children of Divorce

The Life-Giving Wounds Ministry for adult children of divorce is sponsoring a hybrid support group consisting of a series of virtual meetings and 2 in-person sessions. The first session will be held at St. Francis Cathedral in Metuchen following the 8:00 a.m. Mass on **December 7th**. Subsequent meetings will take place each Thursday evening on Zoom from 8 to 9:30 p.m. The final session will take place on **February 8th**. Cost is \$45 per person for materials.

To register, please visit:

www.diometuchen.org/adult-children-of-divorce

For questions, please contact Molly at:

molly.moltane@gmail.com

Parish Leadership

Parish Pastoral Council:

Co-Chairs:

Stephen Busono

sbusono@gmail.com

Bill Isele

t33sm@aol.com

Co-Secretaries:

Didi Molano

Sheila Tartaglia

Teresa Yannotta

Joe Percoco

Miles London

Fr. Lancelot McGrath,
Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio

Trustees:

Pearl Scott
Marge Richards

Parish Finance Council:

Kester Hector, Chair

Finance Council

@stmatthias.net

Carmen Driz-Melilli

Barry Dusault

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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