



THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2023
 2nd Sunday of Advent

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, 10 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,
 7:45 AM - 3:30 PM

For all Parish emails, add @stmatthias.net

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

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

Leslie Guillen, *Bulletin Editor*, **lguillen**
 Amy Hanna, *Accountant/Databases*, **ahanna**
 Mike Lanyi, *Sacristan*

Sue Lenczewski, *Youth Coordinator*, **SMYLE**
 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 SECOND
 COLLECTION
 THIS
 WEEKEND
 IS FOR THE
 RELIGIOUS
 RETIREMENT
 FUND**



**The Giving Tree is
 at the front of the
 Church and will
 remain there until
 Sunday, December 17th**

PLEASE DONATE.

**Details can be found on page 8
 and on our website at:**

stmatthias.net/giving-tree



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

**OUR NEXT ADORATION WILL BE THIS
 MONDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 11, 2023
 FROM 6 PM TO 8 PM.**

Readings for the Week

Monday, December 11, 2023 Is 35:1-10
Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 Lk 5:17-26

Tuesday, December 12, 2023 Zec 2:14-17 or
Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab Jdt 13:18bcde, 19
Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

Wednesday, December 13, 2023 Is 40:25-31
Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10 Mt 11:28-30

Thursday, December 14, 2023 Is 41:13-20
Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab Mt 11:11-15

Friday, December 15, 2023 Is 48:17-19
Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 Mt 11:16-19

Saturday, December 16, 2023 Sir 48:1-4,
9-11 Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19 Mt 17:9a,
10-13

Sunday, December 17, 2023 Is 61:1-2A, 10-11
Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54 1 Thes 5:16-24 Jn
1:6-8, 19-28



Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, Dec 9	5:00PM	Paul & Maureen Doyle Endres, by Isabelle & John Baker
Sunday, Dec 10	8:00AM	Intention of Parishioners
	10:00AM	Brita Marrero & Hans Ammann, by Mike & Julie Burke
	12:00PM	Mary Gidaro, by Mary Pat Burke
Monday, Dec 11	8:00AM	Lillian Bartlett, by William Bartlett
Tuesday, Dec 12	8:00AM	Mary & James Brennan & Family, by Msgr. Brennan
Wednesday, Dec 13	8:00AM	John T. Monahan, by Betsy, Eric & Mackenzie Smith
Thursday, Dec 14	8:00AM	Lilly De Guzman, by Alma Valdez
Friday, Dec 15	8:00AM	In Thanksgiving of Jolisa Ramas, by Grandma
Saturday, Dec 16	5:00PM	Rest of the Soul of Marie DeFeo, by Daughter, Lisa
Sunday, Dec 17	8:00AM	Marleen LaBeste, by The Tibay Family
	10:00AM	Intention of Parishioners
	12:00PM	Herman Mens, by Joann & Robert

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.

Beth & Jay Adams	Shelly Greene	Al Maglio	Amy Shepp
Olga Marie Bando	Linda Hartong	Alexandra Marquez	Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF
Carolyn Banghart	Sloopy & JP Hoffman	Christine Matthews	Martin Slyman
Samantha Bellouny	Marilyn Horvath	Ann McElwee	Sr. Bernadine Marie
Tara Capatosto	Amanda Isele	Jessica Marie Merrick	Stemnock
Elizabeth Card	Baby Elaine Isele	Gail Miranda	Jacqueline Taylor
Kyle Davidson	Bill Johnson	Danny Ongchangco	Anita Vance
Lisa DeFeo	Renée Jolly	Robert Pellegrino	Eileen Weber
Zenon DeGuzman	Bill Kelleher	Robert Pietrowiak	Nancy Whelan
Marlene DiMaggio	Betsy Kondrat	Randolff Pinard	Ginette Zamor
Vivian Dong	Kathy Langenbacher	Valerie Polci	Anne Zando
Hattie Evans	Armando D. Liban	Kim Price	
Heinley Gaspard	Mary Lou Littrakis	Denise Pultrio	
Claudia Gemgnani	John Littrakis	Doris Regan	
Emma Gergely	Denis Loboda	Gabriel Rivera	
Gerry & Jack Gernert	Aries Magali	Arina Robinson	
Marie Godet	Kenneth & Kelly Magat	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

Audrey C. Hunt

Reflect



Smile with Your Family



A man who thought he was John the Baptist was disturbing the neighborhood. So, for public safety, he was forcefully taken to the psychiatric ward of a hospital. He was put in a room with another crazy patient. He immediately began his routine, "I am John the Baptist! The Lord has sent me as the forerunner of Christ the Messiah!" The other guy looked at him and declared, "I am the Lord your God. I did not send you!" 😊

A woman approached the minister after the sermon, and thanked him for his discourse. "I found it so helpful," she said. The minister replied: "I hope it will not prove as helpful as the last sermon you heard me preach." "Why, what do you mean?" asked the astonished woman. "Well," said the minister, "that sermon lasted you three months."..... 😊

Why do humans have different blood groups?
So that mosquitoes can enjoy different flavors ! 😊

It was a baby mosquito's first day to fly out from home. When the mosquito came back home later that day, the father mosquito asked, "How was your journey?" The baby mosquito replied, "It went great. Everyone was clapping for me!" 😊

A man was fishing in a lake in the jungle. After a while, another angler came to join him. "Have you had any bites?" asked the second man. "Yes, lots," replied the first one. "But they were all mosquitoes." 😊

I recently found out my blood type is A+ However, in my tests I only get B or less. Doesn't success run in my blood? 😊

The only thing inspiring in my life is my blood type: I'm a B-positive . 😊

The clinic asked me why I had written an incorrect blood type on my form. I told them, oh sorry, it was Type-o. 😊



Parenting Tune-Up

What does it mean to conceive a child? Whether you are the mother or father, it means your life is forever changed. It is the start of enduring love and sacrifice for another being put in your care. Pause today and ponder your creative role.



Marriage Tune-Up

Are you ready? It's a common question as Christmas approaches, but these are sobering times with natural disasters multiplying and the threat of nuclear war present. Being ready depends on how you live today. Make today a day worthy of your life. Talk this over with your beloved.

From the Pastoral Council

AN INVITATION FROM THE PASTORAL COUNCIL



Dear Parishioners,

This year is the 40th anniversary of the ordination of Fr. Abraham. Many of you may already know this from the July issue of the Catholic Spirit that covered this year's significant anniversaries of the priests of our diocese. Father is not interested in any extravagant celebration. So the plan is to have a simple and modest celebration on **Sunday, December 17, 2023** (the actual date of his ordination). We, the Parish Pastoral Council members, cordially invite you to attend the Jubilee Mass on that Sunday at 12 noon and afterward join a fellowship meal in the cafeteria.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Wegg and Frank Rees

For the Parish Pastoral Council

Young prophets

A voice of one crying out in the desert: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. Mark 1: 1-8

On a downtown sidewalk in Dover, N.H., Megan Merrigan and Eleanor Gorman set up their display of alcoholic beverage cans. One beer can has a fish-covered design suggests the 2003 animated feature film **Finding Nemo**. Another can, with its sugar-high red and blue hues, looks like it contains a frozen "Slushie" drink rather than hard cider. Other cans advertise fruity flavors in the hard seltzers that have recently boomed in popularity.

Megan and Eleanor, both 12, explain to passers-by their concern that this colorful packaging makes alcohol attractive to unknowing kids. About 40 other middle and high school students join them on the sidewalk in an event organized by "Dover Youth 2 Youth," an after-school drug prevention program with ties to the city's police department. They wave signs, chant about "Big Alcohol," and even hold a press conference in which kids field questions. The Dover group is concerned that kids are more likely to try alcohol products that are marketed as "sugary and fun." The kids themselves are the ones scanning store shelves and identifying which drinks jump out to them, explains Vicki Harris, the "Youth 2 Youth" coalition coordinator. The students plan to share their concerns with the New Hampshire Liquor State Commission. They will ask the commission to keep at least one product, Hard Mountain Dew, away from store shelves in New Hampshire because it's too similar to what they view as a soft drink for teens.

Makers of these drinks insist their labeling meets government standards and are clearly marketed to adults 21 and old. "Our intention is to have fun labels that adults can relate to and not market to underage persons," one craft brewer says. However, Megan, Eleanor, and friends say that's the problem: the "fun labels" are attracting kids. So they will continue to raise concerns about the marketing of these drinks to their peers. It's an issue we may well be hearing more about in coming months. [The Boston Globe, July 14, 2023.]

Prophets in the spirit of John the Baptizer exist along our own Jordan Rivers. Megan and Eleanor and their friends are true "prophets" in their calling beverage makers accountable for the effects their advertising and packaging has on kids. To be a prophet of God's justice begins with embracing God's vision of what the world can and should become and then giving oneself totally and unreservedly to realizing that vision. In Baptism, each one of us has been called by God to the work of the "prophet," using whatever talents and skills we possess to transform the wastelands around us into harvests of justice and forgiveness, to create highways for God to enter and re-create our world in his compassion and peace.

Homecoming in Roots

Homecoming is featured in Alex Haley's epic saga of an American family, *Roots*. His master had sold "Chicken George", son of Kizzy and grandson of the family's African patriarch, Kunta Kinte, to a member of the English gentry who used the man's skills at training cocks to fight. George had been promised that, after a few years in Europe, he would be able to return home to his family, as a free man. But, as with many such promises, years passed before it was fulfilled. When at last George did return, his coming home had significance for all his family. This would indeed be a new beginning. Now a free man, George had the capability of buying the freedom of his aged wife, grown sons, their wives and his grandchildren. Though their aged and furrowed faces bore a visible record of years of want and struggle, their eyes burned with an unmistakable determination to keep their family together and to keep alive the traditions of their ancestral African people. Those same eyes brimmed with tears of joy at the thought of leaving their slave quarters and of finally *coming home*, to a plot of land bought by Chicken George in Tennessee. On this second Sunday of Advent, each of the selections from Scripture would also have us consider the notion of coming home – Babylonian exiles coming home, *shalom* or perfect peace coming home and Jesus the Savior "coming home" into our lives.

250 Years of waiting for the New Class!!

At the 250th anniversary of the founding of Harvard University, the students marched in a torchlight procession. The most memorable group was the Freshman Class, one month old, which emerged with a gigantic banner reading, "The University Has Been Waiting 250 Years for Us."

The New Testament presents Jesus Christ and exclaims that all the ages have been waiting for His arrival, that all history has been preparing for His coming. We are invited by the Church to prepare for Christmas. Christmas is the time for reflection and personal renewal in preparation for the coming of Jesus into our lives. Through the section of his letter which we read today, St. Peter reminds us, on the one hand, of God's great desire to come into our lives and, on the other, of our need to be prepared for that event when it happens. We want God's help and comfort, but we are not always prepared to change our ways to enhance genuine conversion. For God to come to us, we also need to go to Him. We need to let every day become Christmas and the "Day of the Lord" for each one of us.

“Come Home for your Daddy’s Sake!”

Ian Maclaren once told a delightful story of Lackland Campbell and his daughter Dora. Dora left home and fell into the wrong kind of relationships. She began to misuse the gifts of life. Soon she did not respond to her father's letters because she found it difficult to relate to him. Maggie, Dora's aunt, wrote her a letter that finally melted her heart. At the end of the letter Maggie writes: "Dora, your Daddy is a grievin' ye. Come home for your own sake. Come home for your dear Daddy's sake. But, Dora, come home most of all for the dear Lord's sake!"

Christmas is a time of coming home. John the Baptist's message was simple: "Repent," turn your life around, change your mind, examine your motives, because the Messiah will be here soon. This brings us to the final theme of today's text. The first reading, taken from the prophet Isaiah, tells us about the Babylonian exiles coming home to their native country, Judah, and their holy city, Jerusalem. Isaiah assures his people that the Lord will lead them in a grand procession to their homeland and take care of them as a shepherd cares for his sheep. The Responsorial Psalm (Ps 85) describes how shalom or perfect peace is coming home with the Lord's coming. The second reading, taken from the second letter of Peter, invites us to get ready to go home to Heaven with Jesus at his second coming.



Advent Wreath: Lighting the 2nd Candle

(Assign readings among family members)

Reader #1: Today is the second Sunday of Advent. Advent is a time of waiting. We wait for God to send divine love and light into our dark world.

Reader #2: How does this happen?

Reader #1: 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.

All: *“Merciful God, give us grace to heed the warnings of the prophets and forsake our sins, so that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer.”*

Reader #3: A reading from the prophet Malachi: “I the LORD All-Powerful, will send my messenger to prepare the way for me. Then suddenly the Lord you are looking for will appear in his temple. The messenger you desire is coming with my promise, and he is on his way. (Malachi 3:1)

Reader #1: We continue to wait for the coming of Jesus. Last Sunday, we began in the dark, then lit one candle. Today, on the second Sunday of Advent, we light two candles.

First and second candles are lit. While this is being done, the following is read:

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

All: *The Way of the Lord is being prepared in our hearts. May every valley be filled and every mountain and hill be made low. May the crooked paths be made straight and the rough ways smooth. When our Lord comes, may all of us then see the salvation of God. Amen.*

John the Baptist the Pony Express of the past

William H. Russell, William B. Waddell, and Alexander Majors founded the Pony Express. Plans for the Pony Express were spurred by the threat of the Civil War and the need for faster communication with the West. The Pony Express consisted of relays of men riding horses carrying saddlebags of mail across a 2000-mile trail. The service opened officially on April 3, 1860, when riders left simultaneously from St. Joseph, Missouri, and Sacramento, California through Nebraska, Wyoming, Utah and Nevada. The first westbound trip was made in 9 days and 23 hours and the eastbound journey in 11 days and 12 hours. They covered 250 miles in a 24-hour day. Their salary was \$ 100 to 150 a month, high wages in those days. Eventually, the Pony Express had more than 100 stations, 80 riders, and between 400 and 500 horses. The express route was extremely hazardous, because the riders had to fight off Indians and bandits using their two revolvers and knife. But only one mail delivery was ever lost. The service lasted only 19 months until October 24, 1861, when the completion of the Pacific Telegraph line ended the need for its existence. Although California relied upon news from the Pony Express during the early days of the Civil War. However, the romantic drama surrounding the Pony Express has made it a part of the legend of the American West.

Today's gospel reminds us of those brave, fearless and young horse riders with the Lord's words. “I am sending my messenger... to prepare the way of the Lord.” While Matthew and Luke start their Gospels by giving us a brief account of the conception, birth, and early boyhood of Christ and John begins his Gospel by pointing to the eternal life of Christ as the Word of the Father. Mark opens his Gospel with the preparation for Christ's public life, in which the chief actor is John the Baptist. This wilderness prophet proclaims the "here-ness" of an event and person every Jew was anticipating. | **One more powerful than I,** John announces, **"is to come after me....I have baptized you in water; He will baptize you in the Holy Spirit."** The essence of the Baptizer's message is “repent and return to the ways of the Lord.” He preaches that the appropriate behavior for those preparing “the way of the Lord” is to be baptized “as they confess their sins.”

Reflection

A TALE OF REPENTANCE.

Not too many years ago, newspapers carried the story of Al Johnson, a Kansas man who repented of his sins and chose Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior. What made his story so remarkable was the fact that, as a result of his newfound faith in Christ, he confessed to a bank robbery he had participated in when he was nineteen years old. Because of the statute of limitations, Johnson could not be prosecuted for the offense. But because of his complete and total change of heart, he not only confessed his crime but voluntarily repaid his share of the stolen money! That's repentance – *metanoia* -- the radical change of heart demanded by John the Baptist in today's Gospel.

John recommended a baptism of repentance in the river Jordan to the Jews who were familiar with ritual and symbolic washings (Lev.11-15). The Jews insisted that when a male Gentile became a Jew, he had to do three things: i) accept circumcision as the mark of the covenant people; ii) offer sacrifice because he stood in need of atonement, and iii) undergo baptism by immersion in water, which symbolized his cleansing from all pollution. The most amazing thing about John's baptism was that he, a Jew, was asking fellow-Jews to submit to that which only a Gentile was supposed to need. John was convinced of the truth that even the chosen people needed true repentance and renewal of life to receive their long-awaited Messiah. The baptism of a Gentile was accompanied by a confession made to three different recipients as a sign of repentance for sin. (i) A person must make confession to oneself because the first step in repentance is to admit one's sin to oneself. (ii) He/she must make confession to those whom he/she has wronged. This involves humiliation and is a test of real repentance since there can be no forgiveness without humiliation. (iii) The person must make confession to God because it is when a person says, "I have sinned," that God gets the chance to say, "I forgive." This is the kind of repentance that we all need to practice.

Pray

DIOCESE OF METUCHEN
FILIPINO APOSTOLATE

Simbang Gabi 2023

A devotional 9-day series of Masses honoring the Blessed Mother Mary in preparation for the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ. All are welcome!!!

MARY, OUR GUIDE ON THE JOURNEY TO SYNODALITY AND EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL

(Masses start at 7PM, unless otherwise noted)

CATHEDRAL OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI
32 Elm Avenue, Metuchen
Celebrant: Most Rev. James F. Checchio, JCD, MBA
BISHOP OF METUCHEN

15 December (Fri)

The **Simbang Gabi** Masses begin at the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi on **Friday, December 15th** at **7:00PM**

The Mass at St. Matthias will be on **December 19th** at **6:00PM.**

ALL ARE WELCOME !



The Giving Tree

Our Giving Tree is at the front of the Church and will remain there until **Sunday, December 17th**. We invite you to take an ornament and purchase some/all of the suggested items. If you prefer to directly ship your gift, please visit www.stmatthias.net/giving-tree, to access the Amazon link to the Great Expectations Wish List.

We will be collecting gifts the weekends of December 9th/10th and December 16th/17th ONLY. All gifts are due back no later than December 17th.

Please be sure to **SECURE THE ORNAMENTS TO THE PACKAGES**. Without the tags we have no way of knowing where the gifts are to be delivered.

We can always use more elves after Mass and drivers for deliveries on **Monday, December 11th and Monday, December 18th**, after the 8:00 AM Mass.

If you'd like to volunteer, please contact **Joanne Diana** at (732)322-6270 or j-diana@comcast.net.

Once again in conjunction with Catholic Charities we will distribute gifts to Elijah's Promise, Great Expectations, Naomi's Way, Ozanam Family Shelter, Ozanam Men's Shelter, PACT, YES Early Learning Centers (Sacred Heart & St. Ladislaus), as well as Pregnancy Aid and Local Families.

St. Matthias parishioners and friends have always been generous.

Please keep up our tradition, it means a lot to so many people in need. Thank you!



SMYLE YOUTH GROUP PROJECT

On Saturday, **December 9th** and **Sunday, December 10th** all SMYLE members are asked to volunteer to help with the collection of the following items for Unity Square after all the Masses:
Men's-hats, scarves, gloves, toiletry items such as small deodorant, soap, and washcloths.
Thank you!!!

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP MEETS IN PERSON ON DECEMBER 13th AT 2 PM



The Alzheimer's Association and St. 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, December 13th, from 2:00 PM -3:00 PM** in the Parish Office at St. Matthias. **Registration is required.**

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

The Group provides a safe and supportive environment and offers dementia-related education, emotional support, and connections with resources so that the group members may enhance their lives in the midst of the journey.

For more information, visit alz.org/NJ.

Thank You

A Huge Thank You to all of our parishioners who volunteered to set up the 300 trees for our Spread the Light Campaign. Almost 40 people, adults, teens and kids came out to help. With three men starting at 8 AM, including Fr. Lancelot, lashing trees to poles, joined by many more at 9am testing lights and lighting the trees, the work was completed by noon! The old saying, many hands make light work, is certainly true!

So, from all of us on the planning committee to all who came out to help, THANK YOU AND MERRY CHRISTMAS,

Pat and Jo-Ann



Learn



St. Matthias School is looking for help in the following areas:

- After School Program (Paid Position)
- Substitute Teachers (\$95 a day)
- School Advisory Council (Finance Volunteer)
- Athletic Association (Directors/Board Member Volunteers)
- School Finance Members (Volunteers)
- Marketing (Stipend)

Please email **Mrs. Mary Lynch**, Principal at mlynch@stmatthiasnj.org for more information.



Connecting to Our Local Community



Pregnancy Aid Center Needs Your Help

Pregnancy Aid Center (59 Thompson Street, Raritan; 908 526-8121) is in serious need of toddler coats and winter clothing, diapers, wipes, shampoo, toys and baby equipment to help local needy moms and children. It is a great way to give new life to your children's outgrown items. **Drop off is Wednesdays from 12 pm to 2 pm:** the center is open from 11am to 2 pm on Mondays; 10am to 12:30 pm on Tuesdays, and 10am to 12 pm and 4 pm to 5:30pm on Thursdays.



NATIONAL

Eucharistic Pilgrimage

NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC PILGRIMAGE

The National Eucharistic Pilgrimage (NEP) has publicly launched! The NEP (<https://www.eucharisticpilgrimage.org/>) will consist of four cross-country Eucharistic processions, collectively traversing the entire continental United States over a two-month period, beginning during the feast of Pentecost, **May 17-19, 2024.**

The pilgrimage is being organized by the National Eucharistic Revival campaign in conjunction with Modern Catholic Pilgrim, a Catholic nonprofit dedicated to deepening the faith across the country through pilgrimages. Along the way, the pilgrims will make stops in major U.S. cities, churches, Catholic colleges, and holy sites. Parishes along the routes will host Mass, adoration, devotions, praise and worship, lectures on the Eucharist, and more.

The Seton Route, which will begin in New Haven, Connecticut, will be passing through the Diocese of Metuchen on May 27-28, 2024. The four pilgrimage processions will ultimately converge in Indianapolis on July 16, 2024, to participate in the National Eucharistic Congress. Adam Carlisle, Secretary for Evangelization and Communication, will be helping to organize our diocese's involvement. If anyone is interested in assisting with this important event, please feel free to contact him at acarlisle@diometuchen.org.

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 10 - November 5, 2023	\$11,350.50	\$17,757.75	\$29,108.25	\$28,125.75
Week 11 - November 12, 2023	\$14,173.50	\$23,455.39	\$37,628.89	\$29,089.50
Week 12 - November 19, 2023	\$8,747.50	\$13,140.25	\$21,887.75	\$21,264.25
Week 13 - November 26, 2023	\$9,358.00	\$8,949.25	\$18,307.25	\$19,212.25
			Month-to-date Total	November Total
			\$106,932.14	\$97,691.75
			Current Year-to-date Total	Year-to-date as of
			\$1,914,436.75	\$1,871,586.06

Stewardship Reflection December 10, 2023 Second Sunday of Advent

“Prepare the way of the Lord...” - MARK 1:3

We are all called to live a holy life. We are all called to invite others to live holy lives. Living a stewardship lifestyle, being grateful and generous with our gifts, puts us on the path to holiness and is an example for others to be holy, too. We are responsible not only for our own lives, but for the lives of others as

Reflexiónese 10 de diciembre 2023 2º Domingo de Adviento

“Prepare el camino del Señor...” - MARCOS 1:3

Todos somos llamados a vivir una vida santa. Todos somos llamados a invitar a los demás a vivir una vida santa. Vivir un estilo de vida de corresponsabilidad, ser agradecido y generoso con nuestros dones, nos pone en el camino de la santidad y es también un ejemplo para los demás. Somos responsables no solamente de nuestras propias vidas, sino también de las vidas de los demás. ¿Cómo está ayudando a otras personas a llegar al Cielo?

NJRTL RAFFLE WINNERS

Volvo - Theresa Petrucci - Ticket - 179466 - Bergen
\$750 Shop Rite - Curt Muklevicz - Ticket - 180746

\$1,000 Shop Rite - Lois Jarmicki - Ticket - 056476 - Hunterdon
\$500 Shop Rite - Theresa Celli - Ticket - 23535 Burlington



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The parish office is in need of volunteers Monday - Friday mornings.
If you have some free time, please contact Mary Pat in the parish office, (732) 828-1400.
Thank you for all you do for St. Matthias.

Parish Leadership

Parish Pastoral Council:
Co-Chairs:
Frank Rees
Frees814@gmail.com
Marilyn Wegg
mcw-wam@comcast.net

Co-Secretaries:
Stephen Busono
sbusono@gmail.com
Bill Isele
t33sm@aol.com
Al Drabnis
Didi Molano

Sheila Tartaglia
Fr. Lancelot McGrath,
Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio
Trustees:
Pearl Scott
Marge Richards

Parish Finance Council:
Kester Hector, Chair
Finance Council
@stmatthias.net
Carmen Driz-Mellini
Barry Dusault
Gwen Orlowski

Audrey Francis
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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