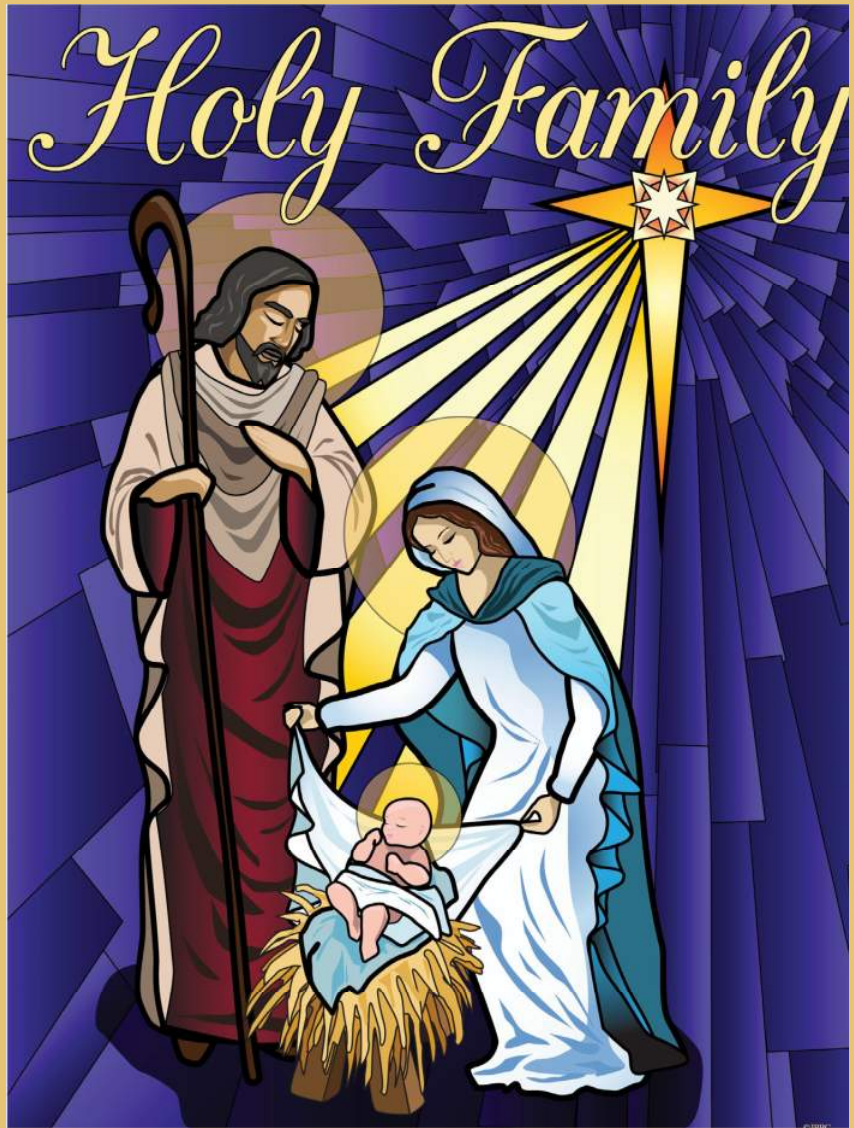




THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS  
 SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2024  
 The Most Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph



**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](http://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](https://youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ)

**St. Matthias School (SMS):**

170 JFK Blvd., Somerset, NJ 08873  
[www.stmatthias.info](http://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**

January 1st is the Solemnity of Mary Mother of God,  
 a Holy Day of Obligation.

Please join us for Mass at 10:00 AM



Masses are also livestreamed on our YouTube channel: [youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ](https://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 29, 2024** **The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph**

8:00AM Mass Church  
 10:00AM Mass Church  
 11:00AM RCIA de Porres Room & Ruiz Room  
 12:00PM Mass Church

**Monday, Dec 30, 2024** **Anysia of Salonika, Martyr**

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

**Tuesday, Dec 31, 2024** **St. Sylvester I, Pope**  
**New Year's Eve**

**SMS Closed & Parish Office Closed**

8:00AM Mass Church

**Wednesday, Jan 1, 2025** **Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother**

**New Year's Day**

10:00AM Solemnity of Mary Mass Church

**Thursday, Jan 2, 2025** **St. Basil the Great & St. Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops & Doctors**

8:00AM Mass Church  
 7:00PM Knights of Columbus Meeting Cafeteria

**Friday, Jan 3, 2025** **The Most Holy Name of Jesus**  
**SMS Early Dismissal - 12:15PM**

8:00AM Mass Church  
 8:30AM 1st Friday Holy Hour/Benediction Church  
 6:45PM Boy Scout Trp. 154 Mtg. Cafeteria

**Saturday, Jan 4, 2025** **St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious**

**Together in Charity**

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

**Sunday, Jan 5, 2024** **Epiphany of the Lord**  
**Together in Charity**

8:00AM Mass Church  
 10:00AM Mass Church  
 11:00AM RCIA de Porres Rm & Ruiz Rm  
 11:00AM Rosary Altar Society Mtg. St. John XXIII Rm  
 12:00PM Mass Church  
 2:00PM GIFT Church, John XXIII, classrooms



Dear Friends,

Merry Christmas! In this Christmas week, are you having a breather after the hectic time leading to the Christmas Day? How do you feel after December 25th? A cartoon in the New Yorker magazine says it all. In the middle of the floor is a dried up, withered, Christmas tree. The calendar on the wall reads December 26. Dad is sitting in his chair with an ice pack on his head. Mom is in a bathrobe and her hair in rollers. The floor is a virtual mountain of torn wrappings, boxes, and bows. Junior is reaching in his stocking to be sure that there is no more candy. In the background we see a table with a thoroughly picked turkey still sitting there. The caption on the cartoon reads simply: *The morning after*. This is normal family life. It is precisely to highlight this normalcy that we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family today!

The Holy Family too was very normal with the ups and downs like in any ordinary family. How consoling it is to realize that the Holy Family was not exempted from difficulties, trials and suffering. Mary was pregnant out of wedlock. Jesus was born in the manger because there was no room in the inn. Joseph led his family to flee to Egypt because of the murderous plan of King Herod to kill the baby Jesus. Mary saw her Son crucified on the Cross. How did they survive? The Holy Family was God centered. That made all the difference.

Recent researches have reaffirmed the importance of family making a significant difference in nurturing the faith of children and adolescents with faith practices at home. John Roberto, a prominent youth minister who founded what is now known as *Center for Ministry Development*, has an article on the USCCB website titled "*Partnering with Parents to Nurture Family Faith – Insights from Research*." Here are some of the most important practices he lists:

- ◆ Reading the Bible as a family and encouraging young people to read the Bible regularly
- ◆ Praying together as a family and encouraging young people to pray personally
- ◆ Serving people in need as a family and supporting service activities by young people
- ◆ Eating together as a family
- ◆ Having family conversations about faith
- ◆ Talking about faith, religious issues, and questions and doubts
- ◆ Ritualizing important family moments and milestone experiences
- ◆ Celebrating holidays and church year seasons at home
- ◆ Providing moral instruction
- ◆ Being involved in a faith community and participating regularly in Sunday worship as a family

This is why the Church consistently reminds us that the family is the "domestic church." I wish to thank as well as support our parish families who make valiant efforts to live the gospel values despite huge challenges. This New Year gives us an opportunity to introduce some of these practices – if we are not already doing these - in our families. As a first step, why not begin this New Year, the Jubilee Year, by attending our 10 am Mass with family?

May the Christmas blessings stay with you and your family for the whole of 2025!

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Orapankal

**BULLETIN ARTICLE REQUESTS:**

If you would like to send information to be included in our bulletin, please email it to [bulletin@stmatthias.net](mailto: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.**

## Readings for the Week

**Monday** 1 Jn 2:12-17 Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10  
Lk 2:36-40

**Tuesday** 1 Jn 2:18-21 Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13  
Jn 1:1-18

**Wednesday** Nm 6:22-27 Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8  
Gal 4:4-7 Lk 2:16-21

**Thursday** 1 Jn 2:22-28 Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4  
Jn 1:19-28

**Friday** 1 Jn 2:29-3:6 Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6  
Jn 1:29-34

**Saturday** 1 Jn 3:7-10 Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9 Jn 1:35-42

**Sunday** Is 60:1-6 Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13  
Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6 Mt 2:1-12



## Mass Intentions for the Week

<b>Sat., December 28</b>	5:00PM	Jose C. Domingo, Jr., by The Olegario Family
<b>Sun., December 29</b>	8:00AM	Intention of Parishioners
	10:00Am	Blessings of Healing , Luz De Guzman Menzel, by The De Guzman Family
	12:00PM	Alejandria, Leonora & Connie Valdez, by The Valdez Family
<b>Mon., December 30</b>	8:00AM	Julie Tatulli, by Mary Spozdzial
<b>Tues., December 31</b>	4:00PM	Norm & Michele Siebenlist, by Eileen Siebenlist
<b>Wed., January 1</b>	10:00AM	Elizabeth Finnegan, by Flora Sunga
<b>Thurs., January 2</b>	8:00AM	Marvin Ellis by May Lawas
<b>Fri., January 3</b>	8:00AM	Remia Alomia, by Capuno Family
<b>Sat., January 4</b>	5:00PM	Intention of Parishioners
<b>Sun., January 5</b>	8:00AM	Donald Armistead, by The Johnson Family
	10:00AM	John Pfeiffer, by Mary Petrine
	12:00PM	Jennie Vaccarella, by Jim & Mary Woods

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

## Pray for those who have died...

— “His mercy endures forever.” *Chronicles*

Stephen Vajtay Sr.

Patricia Ann Goehring

## Reflect



### Smile with Your Family



The Smiths were proud of their family tradition. Their ancestors had come to America on the Mayflower and their descendants included senators and Wall Street wizards. They decided to compile a family history, a legacy for their children and grandchildren. They hired a fine author. Only one problem arose, how to handle great-uncle George, the criminal, who was executed in the electric chair. The author said he could handle the story tactfully. The book appeared. It said, *"Great-uncle George occupied a chair of applied electronics at an important government institution, was attached to his position by the strongest of ties, and his death came as a great shock."* 😊

What three words can solve all of Dad's problems? "Ask your mother." 😊

Siblings are like built-in shoplifters, always taking stuff that doesn't belong to them. 😊

"Home is where you're forced to love everyone." 😊

Families are like fudge – mostly sweet with a few nuts. 😊

My old aunts would come and tease me at weddings, "Well, Sarah? Do you think you'll be next?" I got fed up and I decided to make them shut up. At funerals I started asking them, "Do you think you'll be next?" 😊

A pregnant woman falls into a coma and doesn't wake up until after delivery. The doctor told her: "You delivered twins and they are doing great! You had a boy and a girl. Your brother named them for you." Like any sister would be, she was quite displeased. "Oh, no. My brother is an idiot. What did he name them?" "Your daughter's name is Denise," the doctor began. Mom was pleased. "That wasn't so bad. And what did he name the boy?" "Denephew." 😊

"A family can be the most difficult people to love, and the easiest to take for granted." 😊

"Family – where life begins and the laundry never ends." 😊

"Nothing says 'family togetherness' quite like fighting over the TV remote." 😊

## STEWARDSHIP QUOTE FOR FAMILY LIFE

*"... as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must forgive." - COLOSSIANS 3:13.*

**Forgiveness – one of the hardest things for people to do. It's amazing how long we can hold a grudge or be angry with someone. As we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family, take this opportunity to give the gift of forgiveness to someone - maybe someone in your family, maybe a friend, maybe a co-worker or neighbor or, maybe yourself. Pick up the phone or text someone right now. (Archbishop Carlson)**

## INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES ABOUT FAMILY

"A happy family is but an earlier heaven." - **George Bernard Shaw**

"In family life, love is the oil that eases friction, the cement that binds closer together, and the music that brings harmony." – **Friedrich Nietzsche**

"The homemaker has the ultimate career. All other careers exist for one purpose only - and that is to support the ultimate career." - **C.S. Lewis**

"You don't choose your family. They are God's gift to you, as you are to them." - **Desmond Tutu**

"The family is the first essential cell of human society." - **Pope Saint John XXIII**

"What can you do to promote world peace? Go home and love your family." - **Mother Teresa**

## THE BANDAGE CHANGER

*And the Word became flesh and lived among us . . . John 1: 1-18*

A rabbi prayed to the great prophet Elijah. "Where," the rabbi asked, "shall I find the Messiah?" "At the gate of the city," the prophet replied. "But how shall I recognize him?" "He sits among the lepers." "Among the lepers!" the rabbi cried. "What is he doing there?"

"He changes their bandages," Elijah replied. "He changes their bandages, one by one."

**That is the true mystery of Christmas that we need to live out in our family: that God became one of us, lived among us and came to birth through our moments of joy, grief, despair, anger and fear. Here, in the Christ Child, the sacred is not some abstract concept of theological theory: the love of God takes on a human face, the Word of God becomes "enfleshed" in a child, born in a family, enabling us to transform our hearts in that love and re-create our world in that Word of justice and compassion. Our God knows that our family lives are filled with disappointment, pain and despair; he has lived through the storms and crises we all live through; he has given us hope in our world by promising us life in his world. The challenge of Christmas is to continue to make that love incarnate in our own personal lives and in the lives of those in our families.**

## EVOLUTION OF THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Two-thirds of United States families do not eat their meals together. Of the third who do, 50% are watching TV during the meal, and others are on their cell phones. The average child over 8 watches three and a half hours of TV daily, largely because the tired parents use the TV as a baby-sitter at the end of a long day. (Economic Policy Institute).

*"Things fall apart; the center cannot hold. Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world."* When the Anglo-Irish poet W B Yeats penned these lines in his 1921 poem, "The Second Coming," he might have been speaking of contemporary family life. The Feast of the Holy Family is not as old as one might think. Its origins are found only in the 17th century. In a Church whose bloodline runs back two thousand years, three or four centuries are not a long time. In the first sixteen centuries of our Church, solemn veneration of Mary, her husband, and her Son was a non-event. There was little need to offer the Holy Family as a model, for family life was largely in a healthy condition. But then came the Industrial Age and the birth of cities. Serious problems appeared on the family horizon. Strategist that she is, the Church looked for a counterforce. Cleverly she hit upon devotion to the Holy Family. Yet Mary, her husband, and her Son had to wait until 1921 before today's official feast was created. It was then the threesome of Nazareth officially became the First Family of Christendom west and east. (Fr. James Gilhooley)

## THE FRIENDLY BLUE WHALE LAMP!

*"Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted . . ." Luke 2: 22-40*

It's one of the great television ads of the year. Touching, but real. In the 30-second story created for Home Goods, a little boy is going through the "monsters under the bed" anxiety stage. Each night at bedtime, his understanding mom and dad patiently check for monsters behind the closet door and under his bed. And to further assure him that he has nothing to be afraid of, they place a special lamp, with a friendly whale at the base, to keep him company at night as he falls asleep. The whale lamp works like a charm.

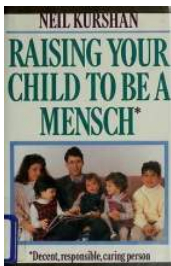
Well, the little boy soon becomes a big brother. And the first night his new baby sister comes home, he goes through all the doors of the nursery and searches under the baby's crib himself to make sure there are no monsters lurking. And then he gives his little sister his first big-brother gift: his friendly blue whale lamp to keep her company as she falls asleep.

**This charming little commercial tells us a lot about what it means to be family: patience to help one another through life's scary passages, selflessness to walk together in hard times, generosity to give from our own need for the good of the family. On this Sunday after Christmas, the Feast of the Holy Family, we celebrate what it means to be a family. Within our families we experience the heights of joy and the depths of pain. The memories we treasure and the values we embrace within our families are the most important and lasting lessons we will ever learn. Our belonging to a family means that each one of us - parent and child - reflects for one another the selfless, limitless and unconditional love of Christ the light (a light that can shine even from a friendly blue whale), both in good times and (more importantly) in bad times, in the joy of the birth of new brothers and sisters and the fear of monsters under the bed. "**

## FAMILY IS THE "DOMESTIC CHURCH"

The Feast of the Holy Family is not just about the Holy Family, but about our own families too. The main purpose of the Feast is to present the Holy Family as the model for all Christian families, and for domestic life in general. Our family life becomes sanctified when we live the life of the Church within our homes. This is called the "domestic church" or the "church in miniature." **St. John Chrysostom urged all Christians to make each home a "family church," and in doing so, we sanctify the family unit. It is wonderful to see many of our families already living out this ideal of being the Church in the family by making Christ the center of family and individual life. We all can do more to live this model with these suggestions: reading scripture regularly, praying daily, attending Mass at least on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation, imitating the actions of the Holy Family, and so forth, all done together as a family unit.**

## “AM I NOT VALUABLE IN MY FAMILY?”



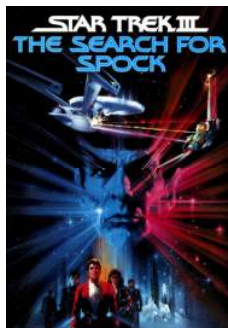
Rabbi Neil Kurshan in his book *Raising Your Child to be a Mensch* (a Yiddish word for a person having admirable characteristics such as fortitude and firmness of purpose), tells this real story: A young woman about to be married had come to the Rabbi for counseling. When she told the Rabbi that she hoped she would not make the same mistakes her parents had made, he pressed her to elaborate. The woman explained that each summer her wealthy parents traveled to Europe while she remained behind with a nanny. One year, when the girl was 11, the housekeeper suddenly quit just shortly before her parents' annual trip to Europe. Upset that their vacation might be jeopardized, the parents quickly found a replacement. A few days before their departure, the girl noticed that her mother had wrapped the family jewels and silverware and placed them in the safe. Since this had never been done before, the girl asked why. Her mother explained that she could not trust the new housekeeper with the family valuables. Though certainly not intended, that insensitive remark so shocked and hurt the little girl that she never forgot it. Wasn't she a family valuable? Didn't she have more value than silver knives and silver forks?

*That is a question all of us could ask about our attitudes toward dependent family members, young, old or in-between, this Holy Family Day. Let us seek God's help to transform dysfunctional families into functional families: God has a plan for our lives, and this plan usually includes a compatible mate and a successful marriage leading to having loving children. The perception of love is essential to a successful family life. If a woman feels loved she will do almost anything for her husband. If a man feels appreciated and loved by his wife, he will do anything for his wife. The good will of the spouses to listen to one another, to acknowledge their faults and to seek pardon and grant pardon are the secrets of a functional family. The children will automatically imbibe these traits. These require daily strengthening of God obtained by the spouses by seeking the anointing and guidance of the Holy Spirit who will touch also each member of the family.*

### CANCER, HEART DISEASE, AND FAMILY RELATIONSHIP

A few years ago, a study was undertaken to find the U.S. city with the lowest incidence of cancer and heart disease. The winner was Rosetto, Pennsylvania. Soon experts descended upon the city expecting to see a town populated by non-smokers, people who ate the correct food, took regular exercise and kept close track of their cholesterol. To their great surprise, however, the researchers discovered that none of the above was true. They found instead that the city's good health was tied to the close family bonds that prevailed within the community. This suggests that there is much to be said for a close and loving family relationship.

## STAR TREK AND FAMILY



When the movie *Star Trek III* was introduced it became an instant success. Much of its popularity flowed from its science fiction format and its space age technology. But there were other reasons for its success. One of these reasons was the film's human appeal to our deep instincts for family, not only for the natural family as we know it, but also for other family

groups – like parishes, civic organizations and work communities. The crew of the starship *Enterprise* in the *Star Trek* movies forms a family. Capt. Kirk is a father-figure who tries to keep the family clan together. Mr. Spock, Dr. McCoy, Scotty the engineer, and all the crew members belong to the *Enterprise* family. They are bonded together by more than their common work. They share with one another deep feelings of friendship, commitment and loyalty.

*In their own way, today's readings from Scripture also focus on family values. Let us extend the boundaries of our family: The homeless man or woman today in the streets of big cities, fighting the cold and the snow, is part of our family. The drug addict in a den, or living in fear and aloneness this day, is member of our family. The sick person, dying, alone, dirty and maybe even obnoxious, is a member of our family. The person sitting in a prison cell for whatever reason is also a child of God, and as such, according to St. John, is a member of our family. All these, as well as the cherished intimate members of our family, are "family valuables," and, as such, are worthy of safekeeping and reverence.*

### ADVICE FROM THE SUPREME COURT TO FAMILIES



“Make the family a confessional rather than a court room.”

A senior Judge of the Supreme Court recently congratulated the bride and groom in a marriage with a pertinent piece of advice: “See that you never convert your family into a court room; instead let it be a confessional. If the husband and wife start arguing like attorneys, in an attempt to justify their behavior, their family becomes a court of law and nobody wins. On the other hand, if the husband and the wife – as in a confessional – are ready to admit their faults and try to correct them, the family becomes a heavenly one.” Thus we can avoid the dangers we watch in dysfunctional families as presented in TV in the shows like *Married with Children*, *The Simpson's*, *Everyone Loves Raymond* and *Malcolm in the Middle*.

## 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 30, 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)**

### Come Join us for a Bible Study on The Eucharist!

For this upcoming and final year of Eucharistic Revival, Saint Matthias will be offering a Bible Study focused on The Eucharist. Jesus says: *"I am the living bread come down from heaven; whoever eats of this bread will live forever; this bread is my flesh which I give for the life of the world."* (John 6:51). Jesus left us a great gift in the Eucharist, a gift that allows us to encounter him in a most profound way, a gift that gives us life and draws us into communion with God and each other. So, it is fitting that we do what we can to grow in our knowledge of, and love for, the Eucharist. This bible study is offered with this in mind.

The Bible Study will be in person in the Parish Office Building (Ruiz room) on Saturday mornings from 10:30am to Noon. It is offered over 7 consecutive Saturdays (seven sessions in all) beginning on **Saturday January 18** and ending on **Saturday March 1st**. If you'd like to sign up and take part in this Bible Study simply email:

Joe Percoco at [percoco@rutgers.edu](mailto:percoco@rutgers.edu) or Ivette Michel at [ladyi63@aol.com](mailto:ladyi63@aol.com).

Pope Francis tells us: *"The Eucharist brings us Jesus' love, which can transform our lives"*. Please come join us for this special offering that provides us with one more way to encounter Jesus and experience his love!



### COME PRAY THE ROSARY WITH US

The Rosary Altar Society meets every first Sunday of each month after the 10 am Mass to pray the rosary. Their next meeting will be on **Sunday, January 5th** after the **10 AM Mass**. All are welcome to join.

## Connect

### COME CELEBRATE THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY WITH THE FRANKLIN HIGH SCHOOL MADRIGALS!



On **Sunday, January 5, 2025**, the Franklin High School Madrigals will sing a short concert of Christmas music in the Church immediately after the noon Mass (at which our Children's Choir is singing)

The Madrigals, under the direction of Ms. Kiera Radvanski (Deacon John's daughter), have sung during the Christmas season throughout central NJ. We are delighted that they are returning to St. Matthias for their 20th Epiphany performance. Keira is even a former member of our St Matthias Children's Choir!

Come support this talented group of young musicians and enjoy their beautiful Christmas selections.

Our St. Matthias January GIFT session will take place right after the Madrigals concert.

## Learn

### 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](mailto:mlynch@stmatthiasnj.org) &

**Tesh Barr**, [tbarr@stmatthiasnj.org](mailto:tbarr@stmatthiasnj.org)

or call **732-828-1402** for more information.



### CATHOLIC SCHOOL 2025-2026 TUITION ASSISTANCE ONLINE APPLICATION PROCESS OPENS January 1<sup>st</sup>



Families interested in applying for tuition assistance to attend an eligible Diocese of Metuchen elementary or high school may apply online now through FACTS Grant & Aid Assessment at <https://online.factsmgt.com/aid>. Online applications must be completed (including all required documentation) by no later than March 31, 2025. A signed Parish Verification Form is also required by the Diocese, and should be signed by your Pastor, and submitted to the school or schools your children attend. Eligibility requirements, instructions and forms can be found at <https://diometuchen.org/tuition-assistance>. Applications are available in English and Spanish.

Families that need assistance completing the online application or need access to a computer to apply should contact their school.

### ASISTENCIA PARA LA MATRÍCULA EN LAS ESCUELAS CATÓLICAS 2025-2026 EL PROCESO DE SOLICITUD EN LÍNEA ESTÁ ABIERTO 1 DE ENERO

Las familias interesadas en solicitar ayuda en la matrícula para asistir a una escuela primaria o secundaria elegible de la Diócesis de Metuchen pueden presentar su solicitud en línea ahora, a través de la Evaluación de subvenciones y ayuda de FACTS en <https://online.factsmgt.com/aid>. Las solicitudes en línea deben completarse (incluida toda la documentación requerida) a más tardar el 31 de marzo de 2025. La Diócesis también exige un Formulario de Verificación parroquial, que debe estar firmado por su Párroco y presentarse en la escuela o escuelas a las que asisten sus hijos. Los requisitos de elegibilidad, las instrucciones y los formularios se pueden encontrar en <https://diometuchen.org/tuition-assistance>. Las solicitudes están disponibles en inglés y español.

Las familias que necesiten ayuda para completar la solicitud en línea o que necesiten acceso a una computadora para presentar la solicitud deben comunicarse con su escuela.

## Serve

### ACCOMPANIMENT PROJECT

The Accompaniment Project is a grant-funded initiative of the National Federation of Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM).

This survey is for people of ALL ages - feel free to share with anyone!

Your responses will help us create and sustain engaging ways to encounter Christ and develop real relationships with anyone who wants to be accompanied on their journey searching for meaning, joy, and purpose in their life. Thanks for taking time to tell us what you think. YOU MATTER !!



### ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP MEETS ON ZOOM, ON JANUARY 8TH 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, January 8th**, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Zoom. 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 during the journey. To register, call 800-272-3900 and mention the St. Matthias group. For more information, visit [alz.org/NJ](http://alz.org/NJ).



## 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 22 - Dec. 1, 2024	\$12,927.55	\$9,940.50	<b>\$22,868.05</b>	\$27,688.50
Week 23 - Dec. 8, 2024	\$15,032.00	\$25,027.00	<b>\$40,059.00</b>	\$33,617.75
Week 24 - Dec. 15, 2024	\$11,475.00	\$16,031.50	<b>\$27,506.50</b>	\$22,252.35
Week 25 - Dec. 22, 2024				\$17,325.05
Week 26 - Dec. 29, 2024				\$27,574.25
<b>Retirement Fund for Religious: \$4,467.00</b>			<b>Month-to-date Total</b>	<b>December Total Last Year</b>
<b>** This bulletin was printed on an accelerated schedule at the publishers request.</b>			<b>\$90,433.55</b>	\$128,457.90
<b>The final December totals will be in a future bulletin.</b>			<b>Current Year-to-date Total</b>	<b>Year-to-date as of December 31, 2023</b>
			<b>\$603,112.51</b>	\$579,954.57

### 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 29, 2024 Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

*“See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.” (1 JOHN 3:1)*

During this season of giving, let us remember a beautiful gift that we have received – being children of God! As God’s children, it’s in our DNA that we share and express our love for others as well. Tell your spouse, children, other family members and friends that you love them, every day! Also, pray for those people that are different than you, those that you may not like or those that go out of their way to annoy you. Your prayers may be the start of a new friendship.

### Reflexiónese – 29 de diciembre de 2024 Festividad de la Sagrada Familia de Jesús, María y José

*“Miren cuánto nos ama el Padre que somos llamados hijos de Dios. ¡Y de veras lo somos!” (1 JUAN 3:1)*

Durante esta temporada de regalos, recordemos el bello don que hemos recibido - ;ser hijos de Dios! Como hijos de Dios, también está en nuestro ADN compartir y expresar nuestro amor por los demás. ;Cada día dígame a su cónyuge, hijos, otros miembros de la familia y amigos que los ama! Además, ore por aquellas personas que son diferentes a usted, aquellas que no le agradan o aquellas que hacen todo lo posible para molestarlo. Sus oraciones pueden ser el comienzo de una nueva amistad.

## GIVING TUESDAY IS BACK!

GivingTuesday is an opportunity for people to give back in many different ways: through acts of kindness, gifts of voice, time, talent, or treasure. Our parish of St. Matthias has been blessed with generous parishioners who always responded joyfully to every need of our community. Please consider donating to St. Matthias Church as one of your GivingTuesday contributions. Every contribution no matter how small goes towards making improvements to our church. Thank you for your goodness.



Scan the QR code or visit: [www.stmatthias.net/givingtuesday/](http://www.stmatthias.net/givingtuesday/)

# Connecting to Our Local Community

## THE BODY OF CHRIST CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

St. Francis Cathedral 32 Elm St., Metuchen, NJ 08840

Thursdays at 8:00PM on Zoom & in person, located in the building where Eucharist Adoration is held.

**Includes:** Talks, Bible Readings, Music & Fellowship.

Contact Pamela Gendlek at 732-548-0100 or email her at [info@stfranciscathedral.org](mailto:info@stfranciscathedral.org), before going in case its been cancelled for any reason.



### YEAR END DAY OF PRAYER

**Tuesday, December 31 from 9:30am-3pm**

Spend this last day of the year reflecting on the many gifts God has bestowed on you. Day begins and ends with communal prayer. Bring a bag lunch. In Person Program.

**\$20-\$30 as you are able**

Registration for all offerings is **required 10 days in advance** to avoid the program being cancelled. You can register and pay for any program at [www.msmhope.org](http://www.msmhope.org).

### HEARING ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE IN OUR CHURCH

Did you know that we have a hearing assistance listening system in our Church? Part of the system includes portable receivers which are available to be borrowed and returned following Mass. They are located in the vesting sacristy in our church. If you are interested in testing the system, please speak to any of our priests or deacons to pick the receiver up before Mass and to return it after Mass.



## ROSARY for LIFE

Come Pray a Rosary for Life (in solidarity with those at the March for Life in Washington, DC and across the country). Bishop Checchio is scheduled to attend!

**Friday, January 24, 2025 at 1:00 pm** on Main Street in Woodbridge.

Park and meet in the St. James Parish parking lot at 12:45 pm  
(369 Amboy Ave, Woodbridge, NJ)

There is a 12:10 pm daily Mass at St. James for those who wish to attend.

For more information, contact [amarshall@diometuchen.org](mailto:amarshall@diometuchen.org) or call 732-562-1543.

## Parish Leadership

<b>Parish Pastoral Council:</b>  <b>Co-Chairs:</b> Stephen Busono <a href="mailto:sbusono@gmail.com">sbusono@gmail.com</a>  Bill Isele <a href="mailto:t33sm@aol.com">t33sm@aol.com</a>	<b>Co-Secretaries:</b> Sheila Tartaglia Teresa Yannotta Joe Percoco Miles London Fr. Lancelot McGrath, Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio	<b>Trustees:</b> Pearl Scott  Marge Richards	<b>Parish Finance Council:</b> Kester Hector, Chair <b>Finance Council</b> <a href="mailto:@stmatthias.net">@stmatthias.net</a> Carmen Driz-Melilli Barry Dusault Joan Pritchard	Mary Pat Burke-Grospin, Ex-Officio  Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio
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## About St. Matthias (please contact the staff members on the cover for up-to-date information)

**Parish Registration** — Welcome to St. Matthias! Please register on our website. [www.stmatthias.net/join-us](http://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 8<sup>th</sup> 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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