



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,
7:45 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**, **lgullen**
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 CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2024

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time



Today is
World Marriage
Day



Today is
World Day
of the Sick

Be made
Clean.



Lent
begins
this week
with

Ash Wednesday.

The 2024
Lenten Obligations
are listed in detail
on page 5



Ash

Wednesday
Drive-Thru Ashes

Are you available to volunteer to
distribute ashes or direct traffic?

4:00-5:45 PM on February 14, 2024

To signup please visit:

www.stmatthias.net/ashwednesday



Take A Refreshing
Pause This Lent!
Get Ready for Our
Lenten Groups
2024

See page 7 for
more information

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

The Church is open for individual prayer

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

Sunday, Feb 11, 2024 Live Lent Groups Begin

8:00AM	Mass	Church
10:00AM	Mass- Sign Lang. Interpreter & Family Mass	Church
11:00AM	First Eucharist Prep #2Class	Church
11:00AM	Children's Liturgy of the Word K-5	Church
11:00AM	1st Eucharist Prep #1 Class	John XXIII Rm
12:00PM	Mass	Church

Monday, Feb 12, 2024 St. Eulalia, Martyr

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

Tuesday, Feb 13, 2024 St. Catherine de Ricci, Religious

8:00AM	Mass	Church
7:30PM	Handbell Choir Rehearsal	Church

Wednesday, Feb 14, 2024 Lenten Journey Begins Ashes will be given at all Masses & Sevices Drive-Thru Ashes 4:00PM-5:30PM

8:00AM	Ash Wednesday Mass, St. Joseph Novena	Church
9:00AM	SMS: Ash Wednesday Mass	Church
12:10PM	Ash Wednesday Mass	Church
4:00-5:30pm	Drive-Thru Ashes	Parking Lot
7:30PM	Prayer Service w/Ashes	Church

Thursday, Feb 15, 2024 St. Jovita & St. Faustinus, Martyrs

8:00AM	Mass	Church
10:00AM	Prayer Shawl Ministry	Ruiz Rm
3:30PM	Children's Choir Gr. 3 & 4	Church
4:00PM	Children's Choir Gr. 5-8	Church
7:30PM	Sunday 10AM Choir Rehearsal	Church

Friday, Feb 16, 2024 St. Onesimus, Martyr

8:00AM	Mass	Church
7:00PM	Stations of the Cross	Church

Saturday, Feb 17, 2024 Seven Founders of the Order of Servites

9:30AM	Secular Franciscans	de Porres Rm
3:30PM	Reconciliation	Church
5:00PM	Vigil Mass	Church
6:00PM	SMDP Movie Night	Zoom

Sunday, Feb 18, 2024 Catholic Press Month Collection

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

Dear Friends,

Today is World Marriage Day. This annual observance is to honor husband and wife as the foundation of the family, the basic unit of society. As I congratulate all the married men and women on this special day, I thank them sincerely for their faithfulness and sacrifice in living out their married life. Marriage is hard, and we live in a world that encourages comfort and happiness above pain and sacrifice. Yet, at the heart of the sacrament of Holy Matrimony there is a vocational call to a very different way of life. Our "yes" to the sacrament of marriage is not something that only happens on our wedding day. Ongoing marriage formation reminds us that our "yes" to this vocation is something that we give daily, and God will continue to give us what we need to grow closer to one another and to him. Therefore ongoing support and spiritual formation for married couples is a must. Last year, I had invited every husband and wife to spend a little dedicated time in prayer and reflection by participating in a seven-day virtual retreat focused on marriage at this link: <http://www.foryourmarriage.org/marriage-retreat>

This year I am suggesting that you read some good articles related to married life. There are many wonderful resources online, but I suggest one website in particular that has interesting reflections like: Then and now: What your vows really mean, How to unconditionally love your spouse, Understanding the inner lives of husbands, Is busyness affecting your marriage?, Redefining your marriage after the nest empties out. You can access these from

<https://www.focusonthefamily.ca/content/building-spiritual-intimacy-in-your-marriage>

LENT is upon us! Mardi Gras is this Monday, followed by Fat Tuesday leading to Ash Wednesday. This year Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day are both on February 14! Does that change the rules of fasting and abstinence? No. In fact, our Bishop Checchio has already informed the whole Diocese: "This year, be aware that Ash Wednesday falls on February 14 (also Valentine's Day). The obligation to fast does remain in effect, so it is suggested that those who are planning a special dinner make that their one main meal of the day."

As we receive ashes on our forehead, let it be a visible symbol of our acknowledgement of our mortality and our dependence on a God who offers us His merciful love always. May the weeks following Ash Wednesday help us to learn how to live the way of Jesus. That's why I am inviting us all to consciously choose some of the opportunities that our parish is offering: Faith sharing in our LIVE LENT! small groups (the six sessions are on the Eucharistic themes), Stations of the Cross on Fridays of Lent at 7 pm in church, attending Monday evening adoration, etc. It is also very important that we decide on some spiritual practice on a personal level too.

Happy Lent!

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Orapankal



Readings for the Week

Monday Jas 1:1-11 Ps 119:67, 68, 71, 72, 75, 76 Mk 8:11-13

Tuesday Jas 1:12-18 Ps 94:12-13a, 14-15, 18-19 Mk 8:14-21

Wednesday Jl 2:12-18 Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14 and 17 2 Cor 5:20-6:2 Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday Dt 30:15-20 Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 Lk 9:22-25

Friday Is 58:1-9a Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 18-19 Mt 9:14-15

Saturday Is 58:9b-14 Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 Lk 5:27-32

Sunday Gn 9:8-15 Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9. 1 Pt 3:18-22 Mk 1:12-15



Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, Feb 10	5:00PM	Vera Kassabian, by Rooney Family
Sunday, Feb 11	8:00AM	Frank Durso, by Tom Gleason
	10:00AM	Bonnie Tobiasen, by Paul & Luann New
	12:00PM	Intention of Parishioners
Monday, Feb 12	8:00AM	Bernadette Bracken, by The Pastore's
Tuesday, Feb 13	8:00AM	Maria Domenico Nepote, by Mary Nepote
Wednesday, Feb 14	8:00AM	Health & Blessings for Gene Horan by Nathalie Godet
	12:10PM	Kevin Doyle, by Isabelle & John Baker
Thursday, Feb 15	8:00AM	Gregory Wilson, by Ann Devlin
Friday, Feb 16	8:00AM	Leticia Santos, by The Barber Family
Saturday, Feb 17	5:00PM	Intention of Parishioners
Sunday, Feb 18	8:00AM	John Natale, by Vinnie & Joanne
	10:00AM	Mary Ann Selenko, by Linda & Al Misuraca
	12:00PM	Health & Blessings for Christine L. Mathews, by Aunt Lisa

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	Hattie Evans	Donna Kahora	Gail Miranda	Sr. Bernadine Marie Stemnock
Kristin Baio	Heinley Gaspard	Bill Kelleher	Menchie Molano-Sotelo	Luzviminda Talag
Olga Marie Bando	Claudia Gemgnani	Betsy Kondrat	Danny Ongchango	Jacqueline Taylor
Carolyn Banghart	Emma Gergely	Kathy Langenbacher	Robert Pellegrino	Anita Vance
Ghislaine Baron	Claude Godet	Armando D. Liban	Robert Pietrowiak	Eileen Weber
Helen Bell	Marie Godet	Mary Lou Littrakis	Valerie Polci	Nancy Whelan
Samantha Bellouny	Shelly Greene	John Littrakis	Kim Price	Theresa Sau-Ling Yung
Carmen Bender	Linda Hartong	Denis Loboda	Denise Pultro	Ginette Zamor
Mary Bostrom	Jeff Hentz	Aries Magali	Doris Regan	Anne Zando
Tara Capatosto	Sloopy & PJ Hoffman	Kenneth & Kelly Magat	Gabriel Rivera	
Elizabeth Card	Gene Horan	Al Maglio	Arina Robinson	
Kyle Davidson	Marilyn Horvath	Susan, King & Tosh	Bob Rotz	And for all who are ill, homebound, elderly, in nursing care, or living with chronic illness, we pray.
Lisa DeFeo	Jerry & Donna Hucul	Manansala	Maria Schwenzer	
Zenon DeGuzman	Amanda Isele	Alexandra Marquez	Amy Shepp	
Vivian Dong	Baby Elaine Isele	Christine Matthews	Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF	
Andrea Dubuisson	Nick Isele	Ann McElwee		
Dennis Enright	Renée Jolly	Jessica Marie Merrick		

Pray for those who have died...

— "His mercy endures forever." Chronicles

Joan Ellen Coogan,

Reflect



Smile with Your Family



A Woman Shoots Her Husband For Stepping On The Clean Floor... A police officer jumps into his squad car and calls the station. "I have an interesting case here," he says. "A woman shot her husband for stepping on the floor she just mopped." "Have you arrested her?" asks the sergeant. "No, not yet. The floor's still wet." ☺

A woman noticed her husband standing on the bathroom scale, sucking in his stomach. "Ha! That's not going to help," she said. "Sure, it does," he said. "It's the only way I can see the numbers." ☺

Wife: "Our new neighbor always kisses his wife when he leaves for work. Why don't you do that?"

Husband: "How can I? I don't even know her." ☺

I asked my wife, "Where do you want to go for our anniversary?" She said, "Somewhere I have never been!" I told her, "How about the kitchen?" ☺

Studying our wedding photos, my six-year-old asked, "Mom, did you marry Dad because he was good-looking?" "Not really," I replied. "Did you marry him for his money?" "Definitely not," I laughed. "He didn't have any." "So," he said, "you just felt sorry for him." ☺



Parenting Tune-Up

February is Black History month. Sensitivity to people of a race different from your own is bigger than just one color. Enrich your child's life by mixing with people of different races.

Marriage Tune-Up



This year Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day are both on February 14. How might we reconcile these two seemingly opposite themes? The Ash Wednesday reading beckons you to "Return to me with your whole heart. (Joel 2:12) The "me" can be God or the spirit of God within your beloved.



Today is World Marriage Day

This week's observances of **National Marriage Week (Feb. 7-14)** and **World Marriage Day (Sunday, Feb. 11)** are an opportunity to focus on building a

culture of life and love that begins with supporting and promoting marriage and the family. This annual event invites us all to join with other churches and organizations to bring attention to the value of marriage and to the many resources available to help couples succeed in developing healthy, enduring relationships. As members of the human family, let us continually pray for all of our married couples and for the strengthening and protection of marriage.

Honor your marriage by following these simple tips to celebrate Marriage!

1. Hug you spouse often...it helps relieve stress.
2. During the week call your spouse and say "I love you".
3. Take out your wedding pictures and share a memory with family and friends
4. Bring a gift to your spouse for no reason.
5. Fix his or her favorite meal this week.
6. Share your love for each other with your children one evening.
7. Ask your spouse for a date this week.
8. Tell each other how much your marriage means to you.
9. Share the joys and sacrifices that have made your marriage lasting with engaged couples!
10. Visit our website at <https://www.nationalmarriageweekusa.org/> for more information!

Prayer for World Marriage Day

(Rev. William Dilgen, SSM)

Father, as we celebrate World Marriage Day, we thank you for your tremendous gift of the Sacrament of Marriage. Help us to witness to its glory by a life of growing intimacy. Teach us the beauty of forgiveness so we may become more and more One in Heart, Mind, and Body. Strengthen our dialogue and help us become living signs of your love. Make us grow more in love with the Church so we may renew the Body of Christ. Make us a sign of unity in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Brother. Amen.

God Heals and the Doctor takes the Fees!

Professor Henry Mitchell wrote about a time when his wife was recovering from a critical illness. He approached the doctor to thank him for his attentiveness and care for his wife Ella. The doctor's response amazed him. The doctor said, "First of all, give God the praise. Then thank the people for their fervent prayers. Then maybe I come in somewhere on down the line." Henry Mitchell thought this was unusual modesty, and maybe even undue modesty, to which the doctor replied that he was just being honest. "You see," he said, "we doctors don't ever heal anybody. We may be effective in removing obstacles to healing, such as infections, but the actual healing process is not ours to control." And that is true. healed and others are not? We don't know. Truly, only God knows. Today's Gospel describes how Jesus heals a leper.

continued

Reflect

God Heals and the Doctor takes the Fees! (continued)

As Mark Twain once said, "God heals; the doctor collects the fee." We do not understand the ways of God. Why are some people healed and others are not? We don't know. Truly, only God knows. Today's Gospel describes how Jesus heals a leper.

Accepting those who are Different!

A leper came to Jesus and kneeling down begged him and said, "If you wish, you can make me clean." Mark 1: 40-45

All three readings today contain the Christian teaching on the need for social acceptance even when people are different from us. They also tell us that it is purity or holiness of soul coming from God that cleanses our lives. Today's Gospel describes how Jesus heals a leper, liberating him both from the disease of leprosy and from the unjust and inhuman social isolation and ostracism to which the lepers were subjected.

In India, high caste Hindus treated the low caste people as untouchables whose touch brought defilement and contamination to the person touched. Different castes drink from different wells. Some temples have two doors. One is for people from lower castes. In the USA, until the Civil Rights Movement, African-American heritage was such a social disability that white shopkeepers would slap a black customer's change on the counter to keep from touching his/her hands. In some restaurants, dishes or glasses used by blacks would be broken immediately after they had finished eating. If a black swam in a public pool, it would immediately be closed, drained, and disinfected. Even in some of our Catholic parishes, black parishioners had to wait until all the white parishioners had received the Eucharist before presenting themselves at the altar for Communion.

The issue, however, is not only a matter of race. It's a question of all people in our society who are "different" from us. Our modern society ostracizes the gays, the lesbians, the AIDS victims, the alcoholics, the drug addicts. We tend to marginalize the divorced, the cohabiting, the unemployed single mothers, Gypsies, the homeless, migrant workers and asylum seekers. People with AIDS also report that they don't get touched as much as they used to before they became HIV positive. Church workers and volunteers tend to steer clear of teenagers. It's hard to get people to work among them. Their awkward stage of development makes a lot of us uncomfortable. Their music, their dress, their attitudes and thoughts are viewed as alien. But such attitudes are unchristian. They have no place among Jesus' disciples, as He teaches us today by touching a leper with affection and healing him with compassion. We must open our hearts and minds to those outside the pale of society if we are going to truly follow Jesus.

Accepting those who are Different! (continued)

"If you wish, you can make me clean," the leper says to Jesus. The leper's request is a challenge to each one of us, as well. We can transform our lives and world in the goodness of God - if we "wish." We can perform our own miracles of healing and reconciliation, we can restore to health and community those society considers "lepers," we can be vehicles of God's grace to the broken-hearted, the lost, the despairing. If we choose to embrace the compassion of Jesus Christ the Healer and Reconciler who promises us the grace to be imitators of his compassion and forgiveness whenever we are ready to take the first step in healing the wounds and cleaning the "leprosy" that isolate us from others.

2024 Lenten Obligations

- * The days of both fast and abstinence are Ash Wednesday (February 14) and Good Friday (March 29).
- * The other Fridays of Lent (Feb. 16 and 23, Mar. 1, 8, 15, and 22) are days of abstinence.
- * Fasting in the Roman Catholic tradition means to limit oneself to one full meal with two smaller meals which together do not equal the size of your full meal.
- * The obligation of fasting applies only to Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59.
- * Abstinence in the Roman Catholic tradition means to abstain from eating meat (beef, chicken, pork, turkey, etc.). The obligation of abstinence applies to all Catholics who have reached the age of 14.

Note: This year, be aware that **Ash Wednesday** falls on **February 14th** (also Valentine's Day). The obligation to fast does remain in effect, so it is suggested that those who are planning a special dinner make that their one main meal of the day.

Lenten Practices

During Lent, we are asked to devote ourselves to seeking the Lord in prayer and reading Scripture, to service by giving alms, and to sacrifice self-control through fasting. Many know of the tradition of abstaining from meat on Fridays during Lent, but we are also called to practice self-discipline and fast in other ways throughout the season. Contemplate the meaning and origins of the Lenten fasting tradition in this reflection. In addition, the giving of alms is one way to share God's gifts—not only through the distribution of money, but through the sharing of our time and talents. As St. John Chrysostom reminds us: "Not to enable the poor to share in our goods is to steal from them and deprive them of life. The goods we possess are not ours, but theirs." (Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 2446).





Don't know what to do for Lent?

Are you wondering what you should do different for this Lent? Joining the small groups is the answer. But some may wonder, what's the point of joining a small group? In fact a pastor was asked this question. He gave many reasons, but at the end he said:

"But what I feel is one of the most important reasons to join a small group is time. Time is a limited commodity and, frankly, most of us use it badly. We commit to things that are temporal and will pass away, and waste so much of our precious energy growing in everything except love and knowledge of Christ. We unintentionally teach our kids that Church comes after sports and social obligations, and then we are surprised when they grow up and live the lesson we taught. By committing to a small group and being faithful to that obligation, you are declaring to yourself, your schedule and all who know you that you have faith as a priority in your life. A declaration like that will always bear good fruit."

So, what do you think? We already have about 15 groups beginning this week. Is it too late for you to join? NO! You are most welcome to join, or at least to give a try. Just contact Dee Nann at the Parish Office or email her at: dnann@stmatthias.net



Prayer for World Day of the Sick

Merciful God, you care for your people with the strength of a father and the tenderness of a mother; and you desire to give us

new life in the Holy Spirit. You sent Jesus your Son as Savior of all people; he proclaimed the gospel of the Kingdom and healed those who suffered from illness and disease. We ask you to send the grace of your Son to us now, that he may bring healing and hope to all who suffer with infirmity and sickness. Send the Holy Spirit to impart that new life which comes from Jesus your Son, through the power of his death and resurrection. May the same life-giving Spirit sustain and enlighten all who care for the sick and infirm, and all who seek cures for the diseases that afflict our human condition. Through Christ, our Healer and Lord. Amen.

Mary, Health of the Infirm, Pray for us.



Pope Francis on the World Day of the Sick

The Pope's message is titled "It is not good that man should be alone: Healing the Sick by Healing Relationships." He includes

these in his message: *"I share too in the pain, suffering and isolation felt by those who, because of war and its tragic consequences, are left without support and assistance. War is the most terrible of social diseases, and it takes its greatest toll on those who are most vulnerable."*

At the same time, it needs to be said that even in countries that enjoy peace and greater resources, old age and sickness are frequently experienced in solitude and, at times, even in abandonment. This grim reality is mainly a consequence of the culture of individualism that exalts productivity at all costs, cultivates the myth of efficiency, and proves indifferent, even callous, when individuals no longer have the strength needed to keep pace. It then becomes a throwaway culture, in which "persons are no longer seen as a paramount value to be cared for and respected, especially when they are poor or disabled, 'not yet useful' – like the unborn, or 'no longer needed' – like the elderly" (*Eratelli Tutti*, 18). Sadly, this way of thinking also guides certain political decisions that are not focused on the dignity of the human person and his or her needs, and do not always promote the strategies and resources needed to ensure that every human being enjoys the fundamental right to health and access to healthcare. The abandonment of the vulnerable and their isolation is favoured also by the reduction of healthcare merely to a provision of services, without these being accompanied by a "therapeutic covenant" between physicians, patients and family members."

His message is short and meaningful. You can read it by googling or using this link: <https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/sick/documents/20240110-giornata-malato.html>



Today is World Day of the Sick

February 11 is World Day of the Sick, an observation started by St. John Paul II as a way for believers to offer prayers for those suffering from illnesses. The Pope initiated the day in 1992 to encourage people to pray not only for those who suffer from illness but also for their caregivers. The day coincides with the commemoration of Our Lady of Lourdes. People around the world take the time to pray for the sick and for those who work very hard to alleviate the sufferings of the sick on this day in a very special way. Offer special prayers for a sick person you know personally. And why not consider a visit to that person?

Pray



Take A Refreshing Pause This Lent! Get Ready for Our Lenten Groups 2024

Start for the first time or continue with a St. Matthias Small Faith Sharing Group. We have about 15 groups that meet on various days/times of the week.

If you are new to this experience, please sign up online: www.stmatthias.net/livelent/

Facilitators will be contacting group members who have been part of their group. Each group likely will be meeting on Zoom usually on the same date/time. **Groups will begin this week! New members, please sign-up ASAP!**

MASS OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK



Our annual Mass of Anointing will take place on **Saturday, March 9, at 11:00 am**. All parishioners desiring healing of body, mind, or spirit, are invited to attend.



PLEASE COME JOIN THE MANY WHO SPEND SOME QUIET TIME WITH THE EUCHARISTIC LORD. OUR NEXT ADORATION WILL BE MONDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 12, 2024 FROM 6 PM TO 8 PM.

Drive-Thru Ash Wednesday Ministry



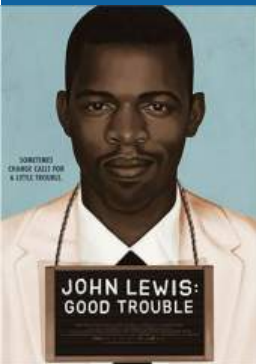
Once again, St. Matthias will offer Drive-Through Ashes come rain or shine (or snow), in addition to 3 Masses and 1 prayer service.

For the past several years, we have found that for health reasons, family commitments, work schedules, and other conflicts, some people are unable to come to one of the 4 Services in the church on Ash Wednesday. However, we have made it possible for many of these individuals to join us for the distribution of ashes through our Drive-Through Ashes ministry. **Please know that all are welcome!**

Please enter ONLY from JFK Boulevard & then follow directions. Thank you.

We would greatly appreciate your assistance if you are able to help distribute ashes on **Wednesday, February 14th** between the hours of **4:00 PM and 5:45 PM**. Please visit www.stmatthias.net/ashwednesday to sign up for one or both of our time slots.

Connect



ZOOM MOVIE NIGHT

DATE: Saturday, February 17th
TIME: 6:30 pm via Zoom (link will be provided)

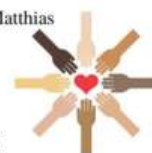
We never know what weather February will bring us, so please join us for a special at-home Black History Month Zoom movie night! We will be watching the documentary film John Lewis: Good Trouble, followed by some reflection questions.

RSVP to matthiasracialjustice@gmail.com by Friday, February 16th to receive the Zoom link. Please put on your pj's, pop some popcorn, and join us from the comfort of your own home!

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Catholic Community of St. Matthias

**RACIAL
JUSTICE
INITIATIVE**



ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP MEETS VIRTUALLY ON 2/14 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, February 14th, from 2:00 PM -3:00 PM on Zoom**. Registration is required in order to get the Zoom link. 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.

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.



CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2024 AT ST. MATTHIAS

For this second weekend in Black History Month, the SMDP Society features two of the SMS contest winners – the 2nd Place winner and one of three honorable mentions. Both winners were paintings. (The theme of the contest was “African American and the Arts”). Congratulations to 7th grader Isabela Matusalem (2nd Place) for her painting, “Damnant Quod Non Intelligunt”, and 8th grader Yuna Augatis (Honorable Mention), for her painting, Harriet Tubman, Martin Luther King, Jr, Frederick Douglass and Rosa Parks in Stained Glass”.



2nd Place – Isabela Matusalem

From the Artist: I my painting, Saint Martin de Porres in his youth is seen holding the Veil of Veronica, the veil Veronica wiped on Jesus’ face before this death. As shown on the Veil of Veronica, Jesus’ face is shown to be an African American male. Near all four corners of the painting, the words “Damnant Quod Non Intelligunt”, a phrase first used by

Quintilian, is shown; the phrase translates to “They condemn what they do not understand”. Damnant Quod Non Intelligunt symbolizes to all of the Christian black African Americans who were condemned unfairly. The phrase can also connect to Jesus, who was wrongfully condemned.

(Acrylic, charcoal and alcohol markers on canvas).



Honorable Mention – Yuna Augatis

Harriet Tubman, Martin Luther King, Jr. Frederick Douglass and Rosa Parks in Stained Glass on canvas.

ATTENTION SENIORS ~ SAVE THE DATE

All Seniors are invited to attend a Yoga Presentation and Demonstration by Yoga Teacher Chanchal Arora:

Saturday - March 23, 1:30 - 2:30 pm in the School Cafeteria

Chair Yoga
Positions



Respect for Life Committee

Congratulations to **Eileen King** on receiving a Pro Vita award from Bishop Checchio on Sunday, January 21 at the Annual Pro Life Mass. The award was given to those who exemplified true pro-life spirit in their work as volunteers in the Diocese. For many years Eileen has witnessed by praying at abortion clinics, working with disabled adults, and participating in all the annual conferences, and workshops. Eileen also works for the Pregnancy Aid Center - visiting thrift shops to find needed clothes. **Thank you from babies and moms alike.**

Give (and Receive!)

Stewardship Totals for Fiscal Year July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024				Last Year's Total
	In-Pew/Mail	Parish Giving	Weekly Total	Weekly Total
Week 32 - Feb. 4,	\$9,212.00	\$14,321.25	\$23,533.25	\$27,203.19
Week 33 - Feb. 11,			\$0.00	\$34,482.25
Week 34 - Feb. 18,			\$0.00	\$21,453.11
Week 35 - Feb. 25,			\$0.00	\$21,303.25
			Month-to-date Total	Month-to-date Total
			\$23,533.25	\$104,441.80
			Current Year-to-date Total	Current Year-to-date Total
			\$2,174,708.30	\$940,542.52



IF YOU HAVE NOT SIGNED UP WITH PARISH GIVING...

Most of our contributing parishioners have signed up with our online Parish Giving Program. That has been a big help to the parish in so many ways. If you are one of the few who have not, here's why it is helpful to you and important for St. Matthias:

Parish Giving offers secure flexible online giving for our parishioners who would like to make their donations online using a credit card or bank transfer. You never have to bring cash or checks to church. Giving electronically also helps the church save money and plan the budget. If you want to simplify your life, scan the QR code or go to our website www.stmatthias.net and click on the Parish Giving Link under 'Give'. Parish Giving offers you complete control over your account to change your giving as needed. You have the benefit to generate a giving report and easily choose the specific collections you wish to support. We thank you for your support which enables St. Matthias to minister to the community.

Stewardship Reflection February 11, 2024 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Brothers and sisters, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God."

- 1 Corinthians 10:31

Do a quick check of your priorities. Where does God rank in that list? If He's not first, you have some work to do. Putting God first in everything helps us from putting other "gods" (like our pride, ego, money and possessions) before God. Before making a decision, ask yourself, "I'm I going this for the glory of God or for the glory of me?"

Reflexiónese 11 de febrero de 2024 6º Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario

"Hermanos, ya sea que coman, que beban, o que hagan cualquier otra cosa, háganlo todo para la gloria de Dios". -1 Corintios 10:31

Haga una revisión rápida de sus prioridades. ¿Dónde está Dios en esa lista? Si Él no está de primero, entonces tiene algo que hacer. Poner a Dios de primero en todo nos ayuda para no poner otros "dioses" (como nuestro orgullo, ego, dinero y posesiones) antes de Dios. Antes de tomar una decisión, pregúntese, "¿Estoy haciendo esto para la gloria de Dios o para mi gloria?"



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.

Connecting to Our Local Community



SPRING CAMPAIGN KICK OFF RALLY

Friday, February 16th

Spring Campaign starts on February 14th but the kick off rally is on February 16th.

Free signs and merchandise will be available until 10:30am on that day

Address: 1323 Route 27 Franklin Township, New Jersey 08873

Time: 8:30 AM

Come out and make a difference so that abortion becomes unthinkable in New Jersey!



Living the Lent We Get

March 2, 2024 • 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Presenter: Christine Eberle



What if we approached Lent as an invitation, rather than a challenge?

In the first part of this retreat, we will explore how to let life become its own Lenten discipline, calling us to prayer, sacrifice, and generosity through the ordinary experiences of each day. In the afternoon, in the company of the Samaritan Woman at the Well, we will listen for Jesus' invitation to allow ourselves to be seen, known, and cherished by God—just as we are.

Christine Marie Eberle passionately connects scripture, spirituality, and everyday life. She is the author of two books of daily meditations—Finding God in Ordinary Time and Finding God Abiding—and is known for her interpretations of Biblical women.

Ways to Register and Participate:

- **In-person for the day - Donation: \$30 (includes lunch)**
- Overnight Friday and attending the Retreat Saturday
- Donation: \$85
- **Virtual Participation - Donation: \$20**
- To register for the Living the Lent We Get Retreat please email:
S. Joannie Cassidy at jlc.cassidy@gmail.com or call (732) 898-9981.

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-Melilli
Barry Dusault
Joan Pritchard

Cory Panlilio

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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