



St. Matthias Parish Office

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

Mass Schedule (in person):

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

St. Matthias School (SMS):

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

For all Parish emails, add @stmatthias.net

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

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

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

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

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

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS
 SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2025
 Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time



SAVE THE DATES

March 15th for Parish Retreat

March 22nd for Anointing of the Sick



**THERE WILL BE NO ADORATION ON
 FEBRUARY 17, 2025**

**OUR NEXT ADORATION WILL BE
 FEBRUARY 24, 2025 FROM 6 PM TO 8 PM.**

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

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

Sunday, Feb 16, 2024

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

Monday, Feb 17, 2025 **Seven Founders of the Order of Servites**
President's Day

Parish Office & School Closed

8:00AM No Mass, No Evening Adoration

Tuesday, Feb 18, 2025 **St. Kuriakose Elias Chavara, Priest & Founder**

8:00AM	Mass	Church
6:00PM	PPC Meeting	de Porres Rm

Wednesday, Feb 19, 2025 **St. Conrad of Piacenza, Franciscan Tertiary & Hermit**

8:00AM	Mass	St. Joseph Novena	Church
9:30AM	Holy Spirit Prayer Group	de Porres Room	
6:30 PM	Confirmation 8 #2	St. John XXIII Rm	
7:30 PM	Folk Group Rehearsal		Church

Thursday, Feb 20, 2025 **St. Francisco & St. Jacinta, Visionaries of the Apparition of Our Lady of Fatima**

8:00AM	Mass	Church
1:00 PM	Prayer Shawl Meeting	Ruiz Rm
3:30 PM	Children's Choir, Grades 3 & 4	Church
4:00 PM	Children's Choir Grades 5-8	Church
7:30 PM	Adult Choir Rehearsal	Church

Friday, Feb 21, 2025 **St. Peter Damian, Bishop & Doctor**

8:00AM	Mass	Church
6:00PM	Father Daughter Dance	Cafeteria
6:45PM	Boy Scout Trp. 154 Meeting	Cafeteria

Saturday, Feb 22, 2025 **Chair of St. Peter, Feast**

10:30AM	Bible Study	Ruiz Rm
3:00PM	St. Martin de Porres Society Reception	Cafeteria
3:30 PM	Reconciliation	Church
5:00 PM	Vigil / Black History Month Mass	Church

Sunday, Feb 23, 2024

8:00AM	Mass	Church
10:00AM	Mass	Church
11:00AM	RCIA	de Porres Rm & Ruiz Rm
12:00PM	Mass	Church
1:30PM	Baptisms	Church



Dear Friends,

My home visit was very refreshing. My time with my family, especially with my 91-year old mom, was very uplifting. I thank God that she is amazingly healthy for her age as she can move about in the house and attend Mass online regularly. I'm very grateful to the prayerful support of so many of you before, during and after my trip. In particular, I'm very grateful to Fr. Lancelot McGrath for taking care of the parish with the help of our Office staff.

On my way to India, I had a two day break in Dubai/Sharjah to be with my sister Dolly and family. The next day of my arrival was a Sunday and so we went to Church for Mass. The Islamic/Arab government has given a church for Catholic Mass. Even though that church has a seating capacity for 800, they have 10 Masses on Sundays as the immigrant Catholic population is so huge. We went early and stood outside with a sizable crowd waiting for the previous Mass to be over so we could get a seat. By the time our Mass began, all seats were taken and over hundred people were standing on the sides and back of the church. It was a sight to see when the Eucharistic Ministers came in from the Sacristy in their white uniform. I counted 23 of them. As we came out of the Mass, the next crowd was already waiting to get in for a seat! I was so touched to see the sincere devotion, prayerful silence and the total participation of the entire congregation in the liturgy. What an inspiration for me!

As we came out of the Church, there were volunteers distributing a booklet, containing prayers and devotions to help the parishioners celebrate the Jubilee Year 2025 well. It was prepared by the Diocese or Apostolic Vicariate of Southern Arabia. I thought of the Jubilee Year inauguration we had last month – on January 12. At that time, I had mentioned two easily accessible resources that we all could use: *Catholic Brain* (with lots of informative and fun stuff for growing in our faith) and *Rosary Podcasts* (for practicing one of the timeless devotional prayers of our church). These can be used at our own convenience. As part of our efforts to deepen our spirituality, we are offering:

- 1) **A Retreat for the whole parish on Saturday, March 15.** Do you know Lent begins in a couple of weeks? Ash Wednesday is on March 5. The theme, "*Pilgrims of Hope Renewed ...a Lenten Path to New Life*" is very appropriate for this Jubilee Year. So I invite all of us to keep that Saturday morning free for this Spiritually enriching time.
- 2) **Anointing Mass on March 22:** Our Mass with Anointing of the sick will be on Saturday 11 AM, March 22. Kindly note the date so that families can plan to bring to church those in need of prayers for healing and the Sacrament of Anointing.

I wish to conclude by repeating part of the Jubilee Prayer that Pope Francis has penned: "*May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever, Amen.*"

Let us joyfully and prayerfully make this Jubilee Year 2025 a time of grace and an opportunity to grow in holiness.

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 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.

Readings for the Week

Monday Gen 4:1-15, 25 Ps 50:1+8, 16bc-17, 20-21 Mk 8:11-13

Tuesday Gen 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10 Ps 29:1a+2, 3ac-4, 3b+9c-10 Mk 8:14-21

Wednesday Gen 8:6-13, 20-22 Ps 116:12-13, 14-15, 18-19 Mk 8:22-26

Thursday Gen 9:1-13 Ps 102:16-18, 19-21, 29+22-23 Mk 8:27-33

Friday Gen 11:1-9 Ps 33:10-11, 12-13, 14-15 Mk 8:34 – 9:1

Saturday 1 Pt 5:1-4 Ps 23:1-3a, 4, 5, 6 Mt 16:13-19

Sunday 1 Sam 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23 Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8, 10, 12-13 1 Cor 15:45-49 Lk 6:27-38

Mass Intentions for the Week

Sat., February 15	5:00 PM	Florencia Abante by The Tibay Family
Sun., February 16	8:00 AM	Anne & Francis Musage & the Deceased Clergy of Consolata Missionaries by Anne Marie Francis
	10:00 AM	Intention of Parishioners
	12:00 PM	Louis Gaston Peters Achacon & Caasi Family
Mon., February 17	8:00 AM	No Mass
Tues., February 18	8:00 AM	John Natale by Vinnie & Joanne
Wed., February 19	8:00 AM	Holy Spirit Prayer Group by Fran Johnson
Thurs., February 20	8:00 AM	Rev. Leo Garlazzo by The Madison Family
Fri., February 21	8:00 AM	Jack Dolan by Jeff Hentz
Sat., February 22	5:00 PM	75th Anniversary for Marie & Mauro DeFeo by Lisa DeFeo
Sun., February 23	8:00 AM	Lauren Salvi by The Enad Family
	10:00 AM	Jean Elguicze by Maria Saumell
	12:00 PM	Intention of Parishioners

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.

Connie Adams	Derowitsch Family	Marilyn Jensen	Joan Mazzacco	Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF
Beth, Jim & Jay Adams	Hattie Evans	Jean Alix Jolly	Frank McCann	Timothy Siclari
Sue Alese	Adam Figueriedo	Marie Claude Jolly	Ann McElwee	Catherine Steele
Robert Baker	Margaret Ann Cichon	Donna Kahora	Jessica Marie Merrick	Richard Sury
Edgar Banaag	Ford	Patty Kerekes	Gail Miranda	Jacqueline Taylor
Carolyn Banghart	Sharon Gadomski	Betsy Kondrat	Catalina Moran	Rosa Pacheco de Urbina
Ghislaine Baron	Heinley Gaspard	Kim Krikorian	Sarah Braun Morini	Anita Vance
Samantha Bellouny	Emma Gergely	Kathy Langenbacher	Robert Pellegrino	Minda Villarica
Carmen Bender	Gerard Giordano	Rose Larangeira	Robert Pierro	Eileen Weber
Mary Bostrom	Claude Godet	Linda Leone	Robert Pietrowiak	Nancy Whelan
Robert Brisson	Marie Godet	Henrietta Lesiak	Randolff Pinard	Ginette Zamor
Patricia Burke	Fr. Ben Gomez OMI	John Litrakis	Valerie Polci	Celia M. Zelinski
Karin Cabezas	Shelly Greene	Mary Lou Litrakis	Kim Price	Anne Zando
Ben Campbell	Joan Harris	Aries Magali	Frank Rispoli	
Tara Capatosto	Linda Hartong	Cynthia Magat	Gabriel Rivera	And for all who are ill, homebound, elderly, in nursing care, or living with chronic illness, we pray.
Rustico Castellano	Jeff Hentz	Kenneth & Kelly Magat	Bob Rotz	
Pierre Celestin	Sloopy & JP Hoffman	Bobby Manansala	Marisa Ruppel	
Lisa DeFeo	Marilyn Horvath	Susan, King & Tosh Manansala	Gloria Santos	
Patrick Dolphin	Jerry & Donna Hucul	Colleen Maniscalco	Maria Schwenzer	
Vivian Dong	Nicole Cherill Hynes	Alexandra Marquez	Felix Sebastian	
Sanora Doyen	Nick Isele	Christine Matthews	Patricia Shea	
Andrea Dubuisson	Rafael Jara		Amy Shepp	

Pray for those who have died...

— “His mercy endures forever.” *Chronicles*

Jozef Wyka, father of Arthur Wyka

William (Billy) Merrill

Helen Irene Shanosky

Reflect



Smile with Your Family



This is a re-run from the national archives of the letters of pure-hearted kids to their pastors proving how pure they are in heart: (Part-1)

Dear Pastor, I know God loves everybody but He never met my sister. Yours sincerely, Arnold. Age 8, Nashville.

Dear Pastor, Please say in your sermon that Peter Peterson has been a good boy all week. I am Peter Peterson. Sincerely, Pete. Age 9, Phoenix.

Dear Pastor, My father should be a minister. Every day he gives us a sermon about something. Robert Anderson, age 11.

Dear Pastor, I'm sorry I can't leave more money in the plate, but my father didn't give me a raise in my allowance. Could you have a sermon about a raise in my allowance? Love, Patty. Age 10, New Haven.

Dear Pastor, My mother is very religious. She goes to play bingo at church every week even if she has a cold. Yours truly, Annette. Age 9, Albany.

Dear Pastor, I would like to go to heaven someday because I know my brother won't be there. Stephen. Age 8, Chicago.



JUBILEE 2025: PILGRIMS OF HOPE

10 THINGS TO KNOW - #6

Pilgrimage: Some 35 million pilgrims are expected to visit Rome this year. Pilgrimage is a “fundamental” part of jubilee events, Pope Francis said in “*Spes Non Confundit*.” “Setting out on a journey is traditionally associated with our human quest for meaning in life. A pilgrimage on foot is a great aid for rediscovering the value of silence, effort and simplicity of life.” The jubilee pilgrims are likely to visit Rome’s Christian catacombs and its seven pilgrim churches — the basilicas of St. Peter, St. Mary Major, St. John Lateran, St. Paul Outside the Walls,

St. Lawrence, Holy Cross and St. Sebastian — destinations St. Philip Neri popularized in the 16th century with a 15-mile walk.

Reflection: Most of us may not have the opportunity to make a pilgrimage to Rome, but a pilgrimage can be as simple as visiting a neighborhood church. Bishop James Checchio designated the following sacred places within our Diocese as places of pilgrimage:

- ◆ Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi, Metuchen, NJ
- ◆ Shrine chapel of the Blessed Sacrament, Raritan, NJ
- ◆ National Blue Army Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima, Washington, NJ
- ◆ National Shrine of St. Lucy Filippini (inside St. Mary of Mt. Virgin Church, New Brunswick, NJ)

Making a pilgrimage to a church of another Catholic rite can also be an experience that is deeply meaningful. In our own neighborhood, there are two Catholic Churches of the Eastern Rite: St. Thomas Syro-Malabar Catholic Church on Elizabeth Avenue, and St. Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church on Easton Avenue. Take the time to visit, learn about its patron saint, and pray for your family and community.

LIVE AND ENJOY THE BEATITUDES

I love the story that is told of a factory that was having problems with employees stealing. The company hired a security firm to help with the problem. They had guards posted at all exits and they were to check each employee as they left for the day. They searched their clothing and lunch boxes to make sure they were not taking anything out. Every day one guy came by with a wheelbarrow full of junk. Every day they stopped him and plowed through all of the junk and garbage that was in the wheelbarrow. It took several minutes every day to search through the junk. Every day the same thing - nothing but junk in the wheelbarrow. Finally, the security person said, "Look, fellow, I know something is going on. Every day you come through here and all we find in the wheelbarrow is junk. If you promise to tell me exactly what is going on, I promise not to turn you in. Tell me what is going on." The fellow grinned and said, "I'm stealing wheelbarrows." That story has two truths that I want to leave with you: 1) Things may not always be what they seem to be, at least on the outside, and 2) Don't go looking in junk and garbage for the most obvious answer to the meaning and essence of life. It's found in God's Word. It's found in your heart. As you give your heart and life to Jesus Christ, as you center your entire existence around him, you will have the blissful joy and happiness, the beatitudes Jesus promised.

TWO DIFFERENT POINTS OF VIEW ON HAPPINESS

The "Dear Abby" Column once received a letter from a 15-year-old girl which read as follows: Dear Abby: Happiness is not having your parents scold you if you come home late, having your own bedroom, and getting the telephone call you've been hoping for. Happiness is belonging to a popular group, being dressed as well as anybody, and having a lot of spending money. Happiness is something I don't have. "15 and Unhappy." Shortly after the letter was published, "Dear Abby" received a reply from 13-year-old girl who wrote: Dear Abby: Happiness is being able to walk and talk, to see and hear. Unhappiness is reading a letter from a 15-year-old girl who can do all four things and still says she isn't happy, I can talk, I can see, I can hear. But I can't walk. "13, crippled and Happy." These letters reflect two different points of view on happiness.

Today's gospel on the beatitudes does the same. We must take care to choose our way wisely. "There are two Ways, one of Life and one of Death, and there is a great difference between the two Ways." These are the opening lines of the "Didache" a first century Christian catechism used to teach new Christians the essence of the Christian faith. The way of life is the way of Jesus, the way of the beatitudes, the way of loving service to God and our brothers and sisters that leads to eternal life. The other way is the way of death. It is the way of self-centeredness, self-reliance, immorality, self-indulgence and immediate gratification. It leads to death and hell. Which way are we going? The challenge of the beatitudes is: "Are you going to be happy in the world's way or in Christ's way?" If we choose the world's way, we are seeking our blessings in the wrong place.

EIGHT LAWS OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Some years ago a panel of doctors was appointed by the Federal government to meet together and draw up eight laws of public health that could be printed in pamphlet form and distributed to the public. After twelve days off exhaustive meetings, the doctors were unable to come to a consensus. It seems that their areas off concern were so diverse: one was a cancer specialist, one a cardiologist, one a psychiatrist, and they all approached the problem from their own discipline. The chest expert was concerned about coal dust from the mines and lint from textile mills, while the psychiatrist was concerned about the effects off urban stress. Finally, Dr. Harold Sladen from a Hospital in Detroit came up with an appropriate idea. He said: Let's just republish the eight **beatitudes** of Jesus and simply replace the word "Blessed" with the words "healthy."

HAPPINESS MYTHS

Dr. Harold Treffert is the director of the Winnebago Mental Health Institute in Wisconsin. In an article entitled "The American Fairy Tale," he discusses five dangerous ideas we have about the meaning of happiness. First, happiness is *things*. The more you accumulate and have, the happier you will be. Second, happiness is *what you do*. The more you produce and earn, the happier you will be. Third, happiness is being the *same as others*. The more you are fashionable and conform with the times, the happier you will be. Fourth, happiness is *mental health*. The fewer problems you have and the more carefree you are, the happier you will be. Fifth, happiness is *communicating with electronic gadgets*. The more you can communicate with a television set, a satellite or a computer, the happier you will be. According to Dr. Treffert, these five myths about happiness are the cause of many mental health problems today.

If happiness cannot be found through these five myths of "The American Fairy Tale," then where do we find it? Jesus gave us an answer when he outlined the beatitudes in today's reading from Luke. Today's readings teach us that true happiness, or beatitude, lies in the awareness of who we are and of what we are supposed to do. They remind us that we are all children of a loving Heavenly Father and that we will be happy in this world and in heaven only when we share our blessings with our brothers and sisters in need and work for uplifting them, thus declaring our "option for the poor," as Jesus did.

BEATITUDES: MATTHEW'S VS. LUKE'S VERSIONS

Matthew presents the beatitudes as coming at the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount. In Luke's version, Jesus stands on a plain and states the beatitudes in more compact and radical terms. Luke's "Sermon on the Plain" is shorter than Matthew's "Sermon on the Mount," the latter extending through three chapters. Matthew gives eight beatitudes (the ninth being an explanation of the eighth), while Luke gives four "beatitudes" and four "woes." This practice of pairing of blessings and woes is seen in Deuteronomy 27:12-13. The wording in Luke is also quite different from that in Matthew. In Matthew, Jesus uses the third person ("they will be filled"), whereas in Luke, He speaks in the second person ("you will be filled"). Matthew speaks only of the reward promised to those who live according to Jesus' message. Luke, on the other hand, emphasizes the consequences those who do not heed Jesus' words will suffer. Whereas Luke declares that the "poor," are blessed, Matthew uses the phrase "poor in spirit," thereby advocating a slightly different attitude, or disposition, toward God. Luke's version seems to mark with greater severity Jesus' warning to the "rich," the "full," the "laughing," and "those who are spoken well of," that is, to the self-centered and self-satisfied, whatever their financial or social status.

LIVING THE BEATITUDES

In the last century, a Belgian priest named Father Damien went to live on a remote island colony among people with leprosy. Father Damien tried to live the values of the beatitudes. He was pure in heart, merciful, hungry and thirsty for righteousness. He was publicly persecuted for doing what he believed was right. His biographers also say he was often lonely, depressed, and stubborn. His immediate superiors branded him a troublemaker. (Gavan Daws, Holy Man (Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 1984), p. 249) Catholic Church had to wait so long to name him as a saint in 2010. But people who knew Father Damien called him "happy" or "blessed."

We need to respond to the challenge of the beatitudes in our daily life. Millions are starving, persecuted, homeless, and leading hopeless lives. The only way the promises of the beatitudes can become a reality for them is through the efforts of people like us. That is why we are told that we will be judged on the basis of our acts of mercy and charity (Mt. 25:31-46). Blessed Mother Teresa and her Sisters have accepted this challenge and demonstrate that we can "live the beatitudes" in the modern world. Hence, let us remember that each time we reach out to help the needy, the sick and the oppressed, we share with them a foretaste of the promises of the beatitudes here and now. Just as the apostles were called to minister to society's untouchables, all Christians are called to minister to the untouchables, and the discriminated against, and the marginalized in our own modern society.

LIBERATION OF THE OPPRESSED

If the poor, the hungry, the sorrowful and the hated are all blessed, then why should anyone attempt to help them improve their lot? The answer is that there is a difference between choosing poverty and being plunged into it without one's choice, due to an unjust socio-political situation. There are a few, only a few, saints like Francis of Assisi, who freely choose the sufferings and hardships that poverty brings. That is not what the Beatitude suggests, nor what Jesus asks of most of us. It is true that we are unable to eradicate poverty from the face of the earth. But we can help, either directly or by working with others, our poor brothers and sisters to improve their living conditions and education, so that they may choose to free themselves from the poverty thrust upon them by greedy exploiters. Luke's account offers the rich the good news that their salvation lies in their concern for the poor and in the good stewardship of sharing their goods with others in need. But the rich among us remain cursed as long as they remain unwilling to share their surplus with the needy. In short, in the beatitudes, Jesus envisions a society where the resources which belong to all are divided among all according to need, making every one blessed and happy.

SATAN'S BEATITUDES

Blessed are those who are too tired, too busy, too distracted to spend an hour once a week with their fellow Christians in church - they are my best workers.

Blessed are those who wait to be asked and expect to be thanked - I can use them in my business.

Blessed are those who are touchy. Soon they will stop going to church - verily, they shall be my missionaries.

Blessed are those who sow gossip and trouble - they are my beloved children.

Blessed are those who have no time to pray - for they are MY prey.

Blessed are those who gossip - for they are my secret agents.

Blessed are you when you read this and think it has everything to do with other people, and nothing to do with you - I've got room for YOU at my inn.

"DO YOU HAVE ATLAS COMPLEX?"

You may have heard the expression, "He has an Atlas complex." This usually refers to an individual who seems to have an exaggerated sense of his or her own importance. Or it may refer to the person who feels that he or she is the only one who can do a certain job, make important decisions, take care of himself/herself or other people. It is helpful for us to remember the Greek legend of Atlas. Atlas is the Titan of Greek mythology, guardian of the Pillars of Heaven who took part in the Titans' rebellion against Zeus and the gods. The great and powerful Zeus won the battle of course, in part because he was assisted by his famous 100-handed monster. The punishment which Atlas received was the job of replacing the Pillars of Heaven and holding up the sky on his own shoulders.

The story of Atlas is, of course, a myth. However, we both know that there are many people who go through life holding the weight of the world on their shoulders. Instead, let us learn to surrender ourselves to God, receive His strength and do what He commands us to do. We need to pray that our encounters with the holiness of God may lead us to recognize our sinfulness. The Good News of today's Gospel is that our sinfulness -- our pride and self-centeredness -- does not repel God. Our God is a God Who gives sinners a new start. It is important that we acknowledge our sinfulness. Our response must be modeled on that of the tax collector in the parable: "Lord, be merciful to me, a sinner" (Lk 18:13). The recognition of our inadequacy and sin is necessary for us, if we are to be willing and able to receive transformation through God's grace. Isaiah, Paul, and Peter teach us that even the greatest among us stand in need of conversion. God, Who calls us and commissions us for His service, wants us to realize His presence everywhere and in everyone, to repent of our sins and to remain in readiness to speak and act for Him in our life-circumstances as He shall direct.

Pray



BLACK HISTORY MONTH MASS

All are encouraged to attend a very special Mass in honor of Black History Month on **Saturday, February 22nd** at **5 pm** here at St. Matthias! The presider will be Fr. Joseph Kabali, originally from Kenya, currently serving at the Church of St. Matthew the Apostle in Edison and the music will be provided by the Kenyan Catholic Community, in coordination with our own Joan Seamon. It is sure to be a wonderful event – don't miss it!

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.

ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN.



Live Lent

This will be your ideal companion as you gather weekly in your small group to gain inspiration during this Jubilee Year of Hope.

Come and Join the Journey of Hope

Start for the first time or continue with a St. Matthias Small Faith Sharing Group!

We have 15+ groups that meet on various days/times of the week.

If you are new to this experience, please sign up

www.stmatthias.net/live-lent-2025

Facilitators will be contacting group members who have been part of their group. Each group likely will be meeting either on Zoom or in person, usually on the same date/time.

Groups will begin the week of March 2. New members, please sign-up by February 28th. Most groups will be using the same resource.

In Small Faith Groups, there's always new insights we receive from the Scriptures. Insights that benefit us the rest of our lives. For everyone there is a need to pause, reflect, and pray. Let us take this time during Lent to Journey in Hope with each other.

THE FIRST COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION RETREATS ARE RESCHEDULED FOR



Communion

March 23rd, 2025

in the

St. John XXIII Room

COMMUNION RETREAT:

11am to 1pm

1 Parent & Child Attend

CONFIRMATION RETREAT:

2pm to 5pm

1 Parent or Sponsor & Candidate Attend



Confirmation



SAC IS LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS



The School Advisory Council (SAC) is looking for new members. St. Matthias Parish members, who would want to contribute some of their time and expertise to help advise the Pastor and the Principal in making St. Matthias School better today, and well prepared for the future, are welcome. The individuals could be past, or current SMS parents or grand parents, who care deeply about the elementary and middle school Catholic education. Experience in education, finance, accounting, technology, engineering, property management, healthcare, procurement, or human resources is welcome.

The council generally meets once a month (6-7 times a year), in person and/or via zoom. The principal, the vice-principal and the pastor report on the current status and challenges. The council discusses the current issues and the ways to position the school in a better place for the future. The topics like academics, marketing, enrollment, technology and grounds improvements, giving (Tuition Angels, The Annual Fund) and others are discussed. The council member term is 3 years. As we currently have a few members close to the end of their term, we are looking to fill multiple positions.

Interested individuals can contact the current SAC chair **Sue Lenczewski**, myworld2@comcast.net or the school Principal **Mrs. Lynch**, mlynch@stmatthiasnj.org. If you feel, you would be a good contributor, please pray about it, and reach out to us, as we strive to be a diverse team of advisors (in culture and experience) who can use their time and talent to assist the school administration in making SMS the best it can be.

SAC website - www.stmatthias.info/school-advisory-council



CONSTANCE BAKER MOTLEY

1921 - 2005; THE JUDICIARY'S UNSUNG CIVIL RIGHTS HERO

Ms. Motley played a pivotal role in the fight to end racial segregation. She was the daughter of working-class immigrants from the West Indies. She graduated from Columbia Law School in 1946. She was the first African American woman to argue a case before the Supreme Court and the first to serve as a Federal judge. She served with Thurgood Marshall and also represented Dr. Martin Luther King in critical moments.

As a Frontline lawyer for the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund she personally led the litigation that integrated the universities of Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi, among others. With the backing of the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, she helped James Meredith gain enrollment at the University of Mississippi. This caused riots. Two people were killed before Federal troops restored order.

Ms. Motley litigated the historic case of *Brown v. Board of Education* which outlawed racial segregation in public schools. She also successfully championed the rights of minorities to protest peacefully. She personally argued 10 Supreme Court cases, winning nine, and assisted in nearly 60 cases that reached the High Court.

Ms. Motley left the NAACP in 1965 to become the first African American woman in the senate in New York and the first elected Manhattan Borough president. President Johnson appointed her as a judge to the Southern District Court of New York in 1966.

In 1987 Ms. Motley was featured on New York subway signs honoring the bicentennial of the Constitution. She passed away in 2005 at the age of 84. In 2024 she was honored with the 47th forever stamp in the Black Heritage series.

Ms. Motley undoubtedly served as inspiration to many young African American women who would eventually become lawyers and activists themselves.



Material derived from several online sources including: www.npr.org, The Civil Rights Digital Library, and official U.S. Government websites

Give (and Receive!)

Stewardship Totals for Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025				Last Year's Total
	In-Pew/Mail	Parish Giving	Weekly Total	Weekly Total
Week 31 - Feb. 2, 2025	\$11,179.50	\$9,145.50	\$20,325.00	\$23,533.25
Week 32 - Feb. 9, 2025	\$6,480.00	\$27,424.00	\$33,904.00	\$53,109.73
Week 33 - Feb. 16, 2025				\$20,568.93
Week 34 - Feb. 23, 2025				\$22,498.25
			Month-to-date Total	February Total Last Year
			\$54,229.00	\$119,710.16
			Current Year-to-date Total	Year-to-date as of February 29, 2024
			\$837,706.51	\$807,945.13

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 February 16, 2025 6th Sunday of Ordinary Time

“Blessed are you when people hate you... exclude and insult you, and denounce your name... on account of the Son of Man.” - LUKE 6:22

All of us have been in situations when someone has made a negative comment or joke about God or our Catholic faith. How did you respond? Did you stay silent or pretend to go along with the crowd because you didn't want to cause waves and then, later, you felt bad? Know that God is with you all the time; the Holy Spirit will put the right words in your mouth. Pray for the strength and courage to proclaim our faith to others, especially during uncomfortable situations.

Reflexiónese – 16 de febrero de 2025 Domingo 6^o del Tiempo Ordinario

“Bienaventurados ustedes cuando los odien, los desprecien, los insulten y hablen mal de ustedes por causa del Hijo del hombre.” - Lucas 6:22

Todos nosotros hemos estado en situaciones en las que alguien hace un comentario negativo o una broma acerca de Dios o de nuestra fe católica. ¿Cómo respondió usted? ¿Permaneció callado o fingió estar de acuerdo con la multitud porque no quería causar problemas y luego se sintió mal por eso? Sepa que Dios esta con usted todo el tiempo; el Espíritu Santo pondrá las palabras correctas en su boca. Ore para tener la fuerza y la valentía para proclamar su fe a los demás, especialmente en las situaciones incómodas.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL 2025-2026 TUITION ASSISTANCE ONLINE APPLICATION PROCESS OPENED January 1st



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 www.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.

Connecting to Our Local Community



FREE TAX PREPARATION

There are AARP Foundation Tax-Aide volunteers providing free tax returns to Somerset County residents. These volunteers go through intensive training and testing to prepare to be IRS-certified tax preparers. Several of our parishioners have had their taxes prepared by them. If anyone wishes to make use of their assistance, know that their phone lines open **after February 1st**. It is completely free.



For an appointment, call 908-541-5710



METUCHEN CURSILLO MOVEMENT

Annual Lenten Encounter with Christ

Saturday, April 5, 2025

8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Mary, Mother of God Church

157 S. Triangle Road Hillsborough, NJ

The Mission will continue...

Very Rev. Timothy Christy (St. Francis Cathedral, Metuchen)

Dcn. Sal Bonfiglio, OFS

(Mary, Mother of God Church, Hillsborough) Share In:

Mass, Stations of the Cross, Keynote Speakers, Adoration

Benediction, Confession

Please Register:

<http://www.metkursillo.org/events/encounter.htm>

Breakfast Delights

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Make a friend, be a friend, bring a friend to Christ



METUCHEN CURSILLO

Parish Leadership

Parish Pastoral Council: Co-Chairs: Stephen Busono sbusono@gmail.com Bill Isele t33sm@aol.com	Secretary: Sheila Tartaglia Members: Teresa Yannotta Joe Percoco Miles London	Fr. Lancelot McGrath Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio Trustees: Pearl Scott Marge Richards	Parish Finance Council: Kester Hector, Chair FinanceCouncil @stmatthias.net 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, 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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