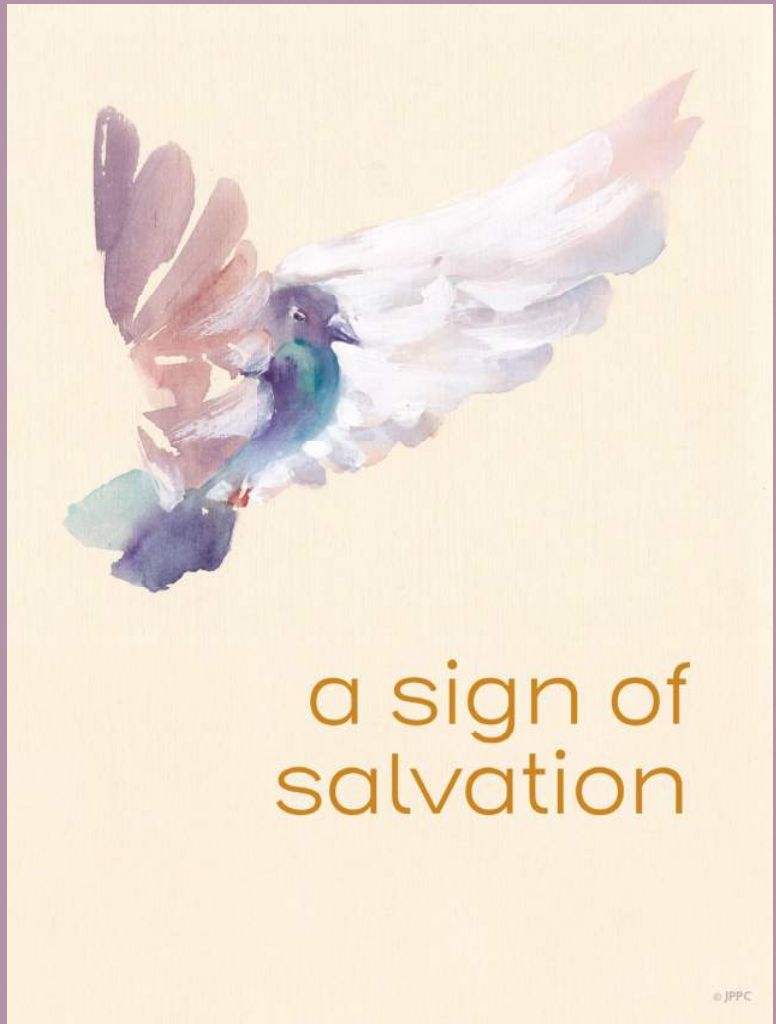




THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS
 SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2025
 Feast of the Presentation of the Lord



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

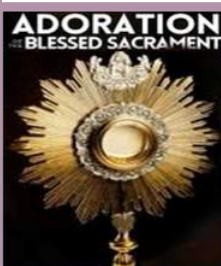
Amy Hanna, *Accountant/Databases*, **ahanna**
 Mike Lanyi, *Sacristan*
 Sue Lenczewski, *Youth Coordinator*, **SMYLE**
 Julio Montero, *Maintenance Supervisor*
 Debra Schurko, *Director of Religious Education*,
dschurko

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**



THERE IS A SECOND COLLECTION
TODAY TO BENEFIT THE
BUILDING REPAIR & REPLACEMENT FUND



PLEASE COME JOIN THE MANY WHO SPEND
SOME QUIET TIME WITH THE EUCHARISTIC LORD.
OUR NEXT ADORATION WILL BE
FEBRUARY 3, 2025 FROM 6 PM TO 8 PM.
WHEN THE DEACON IS AVAILABLE, WE CONCLUDE
ADORATION WITH A BENEDICTION.

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 2, 2025

Building Repair & Replacement Fund

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

Monday, Feb 3, 2025 St. Blaise, Bishop & Martyr

8:00AM Mass, Miraculous Medal Novena Church
 6:00PM Eucharistic Adoration Church
 7:00PM Cub Scout Pack 195 Meeting Church

Tuesday, Feb 4, 2025 St. John De Britto, Priest & Martyr

8:00AM Mass Church
 6:30PM GIFT Church, St. John XXIII Rm, classrms
 7:30PM SVDP Society Meeting de Porres Room

Wednesday, Feb 5, 2025 St. Agatha, Virgin & Martyr

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

Thursday, Feb 6, 2025 St. Paul Miki & Companions, Martyrs

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

Friday, Feb 7, 2025 St. Gonsalo Garcia, Martyr

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

Saturday, Feb 8, 2025 St. Jerome Emiliani, Founder

10:30AM Bible Study Ruiz Rm
 3:30 PM Reconciliation Church
 5:00 PM Vigil Mass Church
 8:00 PM Night Of Winners Event Cafeteria

Sunday, Feb 9, 2024

8:00AM Mass Church
 8:00AM K of C Pancake Breakfast Cafeteria
 10:00AM Mass Church
 11:00AM 1st Communion Retreat St. John XXIII Rm
 11:00AM RCIA de Porres Rm & Ruiz Rm
 12:00PM Mass Church
 1:00PM Baptisms Church
 2:00PM Confirmation Retreat St. John XXIII Rm

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.

Dear Friends,

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Presentation, also known as Candlemas—one of my favorite Feast Days in the Church. It holds so much: the Holy Family, the prophet Simeon, and Anna. This feast marks a significant moment in the life of the Holy Family, with the public recognition of Jesus as the Messiah and His role as the light that guides us—hence, the title Candlemas. It is during this time that Jesus' name, “Jesus,” meaning “God saves,” would be recorded. His name reflects both His identity and His mission.



This Feast is a pivotal moment in the life of the Church, as it is also the 4th Joyful Mystery of the Rosary. Simeon and Anna waited in joyful hope for the Messiah, and when the Holy Family entered the Temple, Simeon took Jesus in his arms and blessed God. This was the central moment of Simeon’s life. However, this joyful occasion is tempered with the anticipation of future sorrow, as Simeon prophesied that Mary’s heart would be pierced with grief. Salvation comes at a cost, as Jesus will one day give His life for us.

Simeon and Anna offer us an example—showing us that we, too, can rewire our hearts and minds to be in God’s presence in our daily lives. In the ordinariness of our daily “temples”—our homes, workplaces, schools, and churches—we can listen for God’s Spirit, perceive His presence in the mundane, and live in constant expectation of God coming into our lives. We can experience the power of Christ’s presence daily and share it with others: a candle never loses its light when it lights another. Let’s keep the light shining.

Jesus Christ is God’s light to the world.

Fun Fact

February 2nd is also a day that celebrates a secular news event known as “Groundhog Day”. Many do not realize Groundhog Day, the folklore of rodents’ shadows and weather predictions has its roots in the tradition of Candlemas Day in Europe and the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord.

Candlemas Poem

If Candlemas be fair and bright, Come, Winter, have another flight; If Candlemas brings clouds and rain, Go Winter, and come not again.

Our Catholic Christian Takeaway

No matter what the groundhog sees, let your light shine for all to see that we may always reflect the light of Christ to the world around us.

Debbie Schurko



Readings for the Week

Monday Heb 11:32-40 Ps 31:20, 21, 22, 23, 24 Mk 5:1-20

Tuesday Heb 12:1-4 Ps 22:26b-27, 28 and 30, 31-32 Mk 5:21-43

Wednesday Heb 12:4-7, 11-15 Ps 103:1-2, 13-14, 17-18a Mk 6:1-6

Thursday Heb 12:18-19, 21-24 Ps 48:2-3ab, 3cd-4, 9, 10-11 Mk 6:7-13

Friday Heb 13:1-8 Ps 27:1, 3, 5, 8b-9abc Mk 6:14-29

Saturday Heb 13:15-17, 20-21 Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 Mk 6:30-34

Sunday Is 6:1-2a, 3-8 Ps 138:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 7-8 1 Cor 15:1-11 or 1 Cor 15:3-8, 11 Lk 5:1-11

Mass Intentions for the Week

Sat., February 1	5:00 PM	Intention of Parishioners
Sun., February 2	8:00 AM	Pearline Bolden by Tom and Sharon Gleason
	10:00 AM	James Vance by Julie Vitelli
	12:00 PM	James Rustemeyer by the Madison Family
Mon., February 3	8:00 AM	Jean Oberlander by Barbara Englehardt
Tues., February 4	8:00 AM	Birthday Blessings for Karen DiLella by Nancy Inzano
Wed., February 5	8:00 AM	Blessings to Caasi and Sitao by Family
Thurs., February 6	8:00 AM	Reiko Harada & Elisa Santos Gutierrez by The Morrills
Fri., February 7	8:00 AM	Adoracion DeGuzman by Adoracion & Eulalia
Sat., February 8	5:00 PM	Jack Shafranski by The Lyons Family
Sun., February 9	8:00 AM	Intention of Parishioners
	10:00 AM	Harold Wolkoff by Tom Fullerton
	12:00 PM	Sharon Harlan by Mike, Victoria, & Jack Harlan

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

Pray for those who have died...

— “His mercy endures forever.” *Chronicles*

Mary Sullivan

Mary Phillipuk



Smile with Your Family



Rejection at the Pearly Gate: A cab driver reaches the Pearly Gates and announces his presence to St. Peter, who looks him up in his Big Book. Upon reading the entry for the cabby, St. Peter invites him to grab a silk robe and a golden staff and to proceed into Heaven. A preacher is next in line behind the cabby and has been watching these proceedings with interest. He announces himself to St. Peter. Upon scanning the preacher's entry in the Big Book, St. Peter furrows his brow and says, "Okay, we'll let you in, but you will have only a cotton robe and wooden staff." The preacher is astonished and replies, "But I am a man of the cloth. You gave that cab driver a gold staff and a silk robe. Surely, I rate higher than a cabby." St. Peter responded matter-of-factly: "Here we are interested in results. When you preached, people slept. When the cabby drove his taxi, people prayed." 😊

Q: How do all the oceans say hello to each other?

A: They wave!

Q: What did one wall say to the other wall?

A: I'll meet you at the corner!

Q: What do you call a bear with no teeth?

A: A gummy bear!

Q: What did one plate say to the other?

A: Dinner is on me!

Q: What did one eye say to the other?

A: Between us, something smells.



JUBILEE 2025: PILGRIMS OF HOPE

10 THINGS TO KNOW - #4

The Jubilee Indulgence : Drawing on the Jewish roots, jubilee year emphasizes the sacrament of reconciliation and restoring relationships with God. They also provide an opportunity for a special jubilee indulgence, which can remove the residual effects of sin through the grace of Christ. Passing through the Holy Doors of the designated churches or shrines is not merely an outward action but a reflection of the soul's pilgrimage toward God, with conversion, reconciliation, and renewal at its heart. Thus, the faithful may obtain the Jubilee Indulgence by fulfilling the following conditions: *Reception of Holy Communion, Prayer for the intentions of the Holy Father, A sincere intention to detach from all sin, even venial sin, and, if necessary, going to confession, and Participating in liturgical celebrations or other designated religious activities connected to the Jubilee Year. In some cases, those unable to travel may fulfill the requirements through other means, such as prayers at home.*

Reflection: From the Latin *indulgentia*, it means literally a remission or release. We see in Scripture, for example, the case of a sinner in the Corinthian church, upon whom “punishment by the majority” had been placed — presumably excommunication (1 Corinthians 5:2) or other penitential acts. And, deciding that the sinner had had enough, that he had been restored, Paul remits the punishment:

For such a one this punishment by the majority is enough; so you should rather turn to forgive and comfort him, or he may be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. So I beg you to reaffirm your love for him. For this is why I wrote, that I might test you and know whether you are obedient in everything. Any one whom you forgive, I also forgive. What I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, has been for your sake in the presence of Christ [ἐν προσώπῳ Χριστοῦ, lit. in the face of Christ — Latin in persona Christi], to keep Satan from gaining the advantage over us; for we are not ignorant of his designs. (2 Corinthians 2:6–11)

Thus indulgence is a grace and healing that we all can benefit from.

Reflect

“A NEW REFRIGERATOR WITH A 10 YEAR WARRANTY!”

An elderly woman in frail health was speaking with her doctor and expressing her hope that she would have the strength to live just a few more months so that she could celebrate the birth of her first grandchild. Sure enough, the day came and the woman was present and well enough to hold the little child in her arms. When the woman went back to her doctor, he suggested that it would be important to set a new goal so that she had something to look forward to, something to “keep her going”. “Well”, the woman pondered, “my son did just buy me a new refrigerator with a 10 year warranty.”

Today in Luke’s Gospel we are introduced to a couple of characters who have been waiting for a long time for a promise to be fulfilled. When they see the Child, Anna and Simeon announce to everyone they see that He is the fulfillment of God’s promise to humanity.

PURIFICATION AND REDEMPTION CEREMONIES

The Gospel describes how Joseph, as the head of the Holy Family of Nazareth, presented Mary and the baby Jesus in the Temple of God for the mother’s purification and the child’s “redemption.” According to Leviticus 12:2-8, a woman who bore a child was unclean for forty days following the birth of a son or eighty days following the birth of a daughter. Although Mary, the most holy of women, ever-Virgin, was exempt from these precepts of the Law, because of her miraculous conception, she chose to submit herself to the Law just like any other Jewish mother. Joseph and Mary showed their total submission to Law and obey the norms prescribed by the Old Testament. The custom was practiced probably for the physical and emotional re-integration of the new mother into the community. There was a religious reason as well. Exodus 13:2, 12-13 prescribes that every first-born male belongs to God and must be set apart for the Lord, that is, dedicated to the service of God. However, once divine worship was reserved to the tribe of Levi, first-born who did not belong to that tribe were not dedicated to God’s service, and to show that they continued to be God’s special property, a rite of redemption was performed. The Law also commanded that the Israelites should offer in sacrifice some lesser victim – for example, a lamb or, if they were poor, a pair of doves or two pigeons. The Book of Numbers 18: 15 taught that since every Jewish firstborn male child belonged to Yahweh, the parents had to “buy back” (redeem), the child by offering a lamb or turtledoves as a sacrifice in the Temple. The price of redemption for a human baby is five shekels of silver (Num 18:15-16). Jesus never needed to be “bought back,” as he belonged wholly to the Lord, but Joseph kept these laws as an act of obedience to God.

THE ENCOUNTER WITH SIMEON AND ANNA

By the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the old, pious and Spirit-filled Simeon and Anna had been waiting in the Temple for the revelation of God’s salvation. The Greek Church celebrates the *Hypapante* or *Feast of the Encounter* commemorating the encounter of the New Testament represented by Jesus with the Old Testament represented by Simeon and Anna. Simeon, who is described as a righteous and devout man, obedient to God’s will, addresses himself to our Lord as a vassal or loyal servant who, having kept watch all his life in expectation of the coming of his Lord, sees that this moment has “now” come, the moment that explains his whole life. When he takes the Child in his arms, he learns, not through any reasoning process but through a special grace from God, that this Child is the promised Messiah, the Consolation of Israel, the Light of the nations. Simeon recognizes Jesus as the Lord’s anointed one, and in his prayer of blessing he prophesies that Jesus is meant to be the glory of Israel and the light of revelation to the Gentiles. Pope Francis: “Simeon took him in his arms and thanked God that he had finally “seen” salvation. Anna, despite her advanced age, found new vigor and began to speak to everyone about the Baby. It is a beautiful image: two young parents and two elderly people, brought together by Jesus. He is the one who brings together and unites generations! He is the inexhaustible font of that love which overcomes every occasion of self-absorption, solitude, and sadness. In your journey as a family, you share so many beautiful moments: meals, rest, housework, leisure, prayer, trips and pilgrimages, and times of mutual support... Nevertheless, if there is no love then there is no joy, and authentic love comes to us from Jesus. He offers us his word, which illuminates our path; he gives us the Bread of life which sustains us on our journey.”

ST. TIMOTHY AWARD RECIPIENTS 2025



Isabella Fama-Lin and William (Billy) Makowski were awarded the St. Timothy Award on Saturday, January 25th at the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi in Metuchen.

We are thrilled to recognize two outstanding high school students who have answered the call to live as true disciples of Christ. Their dedication to

faith, Catholic morals, and integrity sets a positive example for their peers. These students consistently witness to their faith through their actions, embodying the values we hold dear at St. Matthias. We are truly blessed to have such remarkable young people in our community.



BARBICIDE

There is an amusing true story about a man named Maurice King. Maurice became displeased with his barber. His barber was not particularly adept with a razor. Rarely would Maurice leave this barber's shop without a new collection of nicks and scratches. Even more disturbing, Maurice became a little concerned that his barber's tools weren't as sanitary as they could be. So he invented a germ-killing blue liquid that he began marketing to barber shops and hair salons. Even today, you walk into any salon or barber shop and you'll see glass jars of this pale blue liquid on the counters. It's used for soaking razors, scissors, combs and other equipment. What's the name of this blue liquid? Barbicide. The name is a little inside joke thought up by Maurice King after a particularly bad trip to the barber. I say it's an inside joke because the word Barbicide means "kill the barber." Look for it at your favorite barber shop or hair salon. **As foretold by Simeon, Mary and Joseph didn't escape life's nicks and scratches. Neither did Jesus. Jesus was a child like any other child, and as such he surely had his bumps and bruises growing up. Mary was likely in her late forties when she experienced the unspeakable tragedy of watching her son die an excruciating death on the cross of Calvary. You think you hurt. Imagine how she hurt. "A sword will pierce your soul." Life can be very cruel even to the best of people. Can people ever get any better than the Holy Family of Nazareth -- Mary, Joseph and Jesus? And yet they had difficult lives.**

"WELL, HAVE YOU EVER HEARD AN AMISH PARENT YELL?"

A scholar was conducting a study of an Amish village. The Amish are a branch of the Mennonite church who live in traditional rural villages far from industrialization and technology: no computers, televisions, refrigerators and telephones. In his study of the Amish village school, the researcher noticed that Amish children never screamed or yelled. That surprised him. So he decided to check it out with the schoolteacher. He told the teacher that he had not once heard an Amish child yell, and asked him why that was so. The teacher replied, "Well, have you ever heard an Amish parent yell?" The inference is clear: Like the parents, so the children!

We are all familiar with Mother's Day and Father's Day which we celebrate every year. Why is there not a Parents' Day where we celebrate father and mother together as a couple? Today should be a good day to focus on both parents together, as we see both parents of Jesus, Joseph and Mary, together make the long journey to Jerusalem to present their firstborn Child in the Temple as the law of God required. In the image of Joseph and Mary presenting Jesus in the Temple, we have a wonderful model of husband and wife united in practicing the faith and in raising their child in the faith.

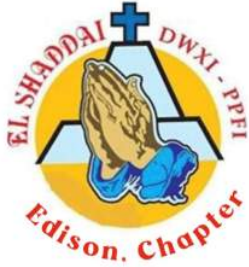
IF YOU WORRY ABOUT YOUR CHILD, THEN READ ON ...

Bruce and Darlene Marie Wilkinson in their book *The Dream Giver for Parents* tell about a teenager who noticed that his father worried himself nearly to death, trying unsuccessfully to be everywhere and do everything to protect his child from life's difficulties. This young man wrote his father the following note: "I am sure you remember, Dad, how you used to tell me stories when I was young and was afraid or insecure. Well, I have noticed that you are often worried about what might become of me when you're not there to help. Now I want to remind you of one of the stories we read together when I was little. It's the story of the rooster who got up before dawn every day to sit on the roof of the farmhouse and crow so that the sun would rise. Because that's what he really believed: that it was his responsibility to make the sun come up. He was always afraid that if he didn't crow, everything would go wrong. He kept worrying: "What would happen if I fell ill, or even died? How would the crops grow, and the children wake up in time for school, and the frost melt, and the flowers blossom if I weren't there to make the sun rise? The world would become cold and dark; all the grass and the trees would die and the people too eventually . . ." Then one evening, Rooster attended a party and overslept the next morning. The other animals realized that he was not there to make the sun come up and were just about to panic when they saw a glimmer of light on the horizon . . . It was the sun rising without Rooster! Rooster was miserable when he found out that he had nothing to do with the sun's rising every morning. And embarrassed! But he was also extremely relieved. "What a weight off my shoulders," he thought, "that I don't have to I can't make the sun come up! Yet, every morning, there it is. There must be Someone Else taking care of all this."

Dad, you light up my life, but it really isn't your responsibility to "make the sun rise for me." I know that you know Someone Else is taking care of me. (*Sisters, OR: Multnomah, 2004*), pp. 102-103) That was a lesson that Mary and Joseph had to learn. And it's a lesson I hope you and I have learned as well. God will take care of those we love, and God will take care of us. Mary and Joseph went on with their lives following Christmas, and so shall we. They faced life's many challenges, but they did it with love and with faith in God. It was not easy, but they knew God was with them, just as God is with us. It's good to know. Indeed, it's the best Good News in the world.



Pray



EL SHADDAI

Catholic Charismatic Renewal Community

Cordially Invites You to a Day of Praise and Worship

Saturday, February 15, 2025

1 pm - 4 pm

St. Matthias School Cafeteria

For detailed information contact: Sis. Leena, 732-925-8255, or Sis. Menchi, 908-458-2995



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.

Connect



Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast

The Knights of Columbus will hold its annual Pancake Breakfast in honor of Past Grand Knight Robert Norland next **Sunday, February 9th from 8:00am - 12:00 noon** in the **school cafeteria**. Proceeds from the breakfast will benefit St. Matthias School Tuition Angels.

The cost is \$12.00 for adults, \$5.00 for ages 10-18 and children under 10 are free.

Breakfast menu is pancakes, eggs, sausage, bagels, juice, coffee and much more.

We look forward to seeing you there!

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP MEETS ON ZOOM, ON FEBRUARY 12TH 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 on Zoom on **Wednesday, February 12th, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.** To register and receive the link, 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 during the journey.

For more information, visit alz.org/NJ.



GIVING TREE 2024

A huge THANK YOU to all who supported our annual Giving Tree and to the volunteers who helped to collect, sort and especially those who delivered all the packages. Thanks to all of you we were able to provide:

- 450 individual gifts to the various organizations,
- Baby/toddler clothing, diapers, baby supplies, toys, and strollers to Pregnancy Aid,
- Men's/women's clothing, cold weather essentials and toiletries to Elijah's Promise,
- \$2,500.00+ in gift cards to PACT, Elijah's Promise, and Local Families.

Our Saint Matthias Community came through once again, and your generosity is greatly appreciated. Thank you, thank you, thank you ... wishing you peace, love, and all the best in this New Year!



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



HARRIET BELL HAYDEN

In 1844, with the help of a white Northerner, Harriet Bell Hayden born in 1916 and her husband Lewis Hayden escaped slavery in Kentucky and made their way to safety in Canada. Becoming activists in the antislavery cause they soon returned to the US and settled in Boston's Black and abolitionist neighborhood of Beacon Hill. Harriet ran a boarding house out of their home at 66 Phillips Street, while Lewis ran a successful clothing store. Behind the heavy oak door of their two-story brick house, Harriet kept rifles, kegs of gunpowder and a secret tunnel.

Her willingness to defend freedom-seekers and to shelter new arrivals to Boston made her and her home a vital part of Boston's Underground Railroad and earned her home the nickname the "Temple of Refuge." The Lewis & Harriet Hayden House is a private residence on Boston's Black Heritage Trail and is listed as a national historic site. Between 1850 and 1860, it is estimated that Harriet sheltered hundreds of people fleeing slavery protecting them from slave catchers on the prowl in Boston as a result of the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850.

After the Civil War, Harriet was also involved with many social causes and organizations. In 1875, she co-founded the Prince Hall Auxiliary Association to provide a space for female family members of the Prince Hall Masons, and led the association in raising funds for a new Masonic lodge. In 1887, Harriet was a founding member of the West End Woman Suffrage League, which connected African-American leaders in the old West End to the larger movement for women's suffrage in Boston, the rest of New England, and the country as a whole.



Harriet Hayden died four years after her husband in her home in 1893. In her will, she left \$5,000 to Harvard Medical School to establish the Lewis and Harriet Hayden Scholarship for Colored Students for "needy and worthy colored students in the Harvard Medical School (HMS)."

It is believed to be the first and only university endowment given by a former slave. The HMS Hayden scholarship continues today.

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 27 - Jan. 5, 2025	\$13,846.00	\$27,299.00	\$41,145.00	\$39,449.65
Week 28 - Jan. 12, 2025	\$10,565.00	\$22,651.50	\$33,216.50	\$27,363.25
Week 29 - Jan. 19, 2025	\$8,940.00	\$13,587.50	\$22,527.50	\$21,531.25
Week 30 - Jan. 26, 2025	\$25,977.00	\$8,706.50	\$34,683.50	\$19,936.25
Solemnity of Mary Collection:		\$2,297.00	Month-to-date Total	January Total Last Year
Together in Charity Collection:		\$4,449.00	\$131,572.50	\$108,280.40
Foundation for Catholic Education Collection:		\$3,945.00	Current Year-to-date Total	Year-to-date as of January 31, 2024
			\$783,477.51	\$688,234.97

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 26, 2025 The Presentation of the Lord

“Because he himself was tested through what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.” - Hebrews 2:18

When we join a support group, there is comfort in sharing our pain with people who have experienced the same thing; they understand what we are going through. The next time you experience suffering, talk to Jesus. He has experienced more suffering than most of us, He understands. Plus, Jesus knows us better than we know ourselves. Only He can fill the hole you feel in your heart.

Reflexiónese – 2 de febrero de 2025 La presentación del Señor

“Y ya que él mismo sufrió la tentación, puede ahora ayudar a los que son tentados.” - Hebreos 2:18

Cuando nos unimos a un grupo de apoyo, nos consuela compartir nuestro dolor con las personas experimentan la misma situación porque entienden por lo que estamos pasando. La próxima vez que experimente el sufrimiento, hable con Jesús. Él ha experimentado más sufrimiento que la mayoría de nosotros. Él nos comprende. Además, Jesús nos conoce mejor de lo que nos conocemos nosotros mismos. Solo Él puede llenar el vacío que sientes en tu corazón.

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



SPIRITUAL AWAKENINGS VIDEO CLUB

Friday, February 14 from 10-11:30am

There are many great spiritual masters of our time. Richard Rohr, OFM and others have works that have touched millions of God-seekers. Join this monthly video club and share your insights and prayerful responses to the works of Fr. Rohr and others. In Person and Zoom.

\$20-\$30 as you are able

SACRED TIME, SACRED SPACE

Wednesday, February 19 from 9:30am-3pm

A personal, quiet day to enjoy God's presence. Day begins with communal prayer. Bring a bag lunch. In Person Program. \$20-\$30 as you are able

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT WEEKEND RETREAT

Who: Young adults, young professionals & young couples (ages 21-35)

When: February 7-9, 2025

Where: Liebenzell Retreat Center, Schooleys Mountain, NJ

Theme: Cast Your Crowns Before The Throne (Rev. 4:10-11)

Registration Fee: \$100 Regular Admission (December 25 - January 12) | \$135 Late Registration (January 12 - 24)

Questions? Contact: 732-763-5991 or **Email:** jirehfof@gmail.com



What are you waiting for? The right job? The right relationship? When you hit a certain age? And then things will finally feel like they've fallen into place? There is much life to be lived during this "in-between" season and your life right now is not aimless or a waste of time. Christ is calling you (or any young adult you may know) to a deeper relationship with Him that is joyfully lived out through the power of the Holy Spirit — TODAY. Will you take that first step to know Him? To follow Him again?

Come and journey with other young adults on this retreat filled with talks, testimonies and community. Come and see what He has in store for YOU personally!

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-Mellini 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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