



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 9, 2025
 Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

**THE KNIGHTS
 OF COLUMBUS
 PANCAKE
 BREAKFAST**



**TODAY from
 8:00am -
 12:00 noon**
 in the **school
 cafeteria.**

Proceeds from
 the breakfast
 will benefit the
 St. Matthias
 School Tuition
 Angels.

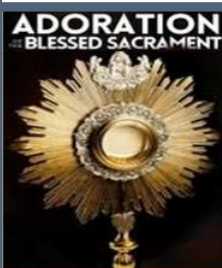
**We look
 forward to
 seeing you
 there!**



WE ARE SAD TO ANNOUNCE THE PASSING OF MARY SULLIVAN.

Mary was a faithful member of St. Matthias Parish since 1976. For 25 plus years Mary taught 1st grade at St. Matthias School. She served as interim principal at St. Matthias School between Sr. Ave and Sister Amata in 1994. Mary was a catechist in the RCIA Program for many years, helped in the GIFT Program and also a Eucharist Minister bringing the Body of Christ to the homebound.

Mary was unassuming, quiet in her own way but yet strong of character, a vital personality always there for her family, to love and support her children and grandchildren. Mary had a great devotion to the Eucharist. She was dedicated first to her faith, her love of God, and second to the children she taught over the years. She will remain in the hearts of those who were fortunate to know her. She is predeceased by her husband Jack, who passed away in 1992.



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

**OUR NEXT ADORATION WILL BE
 FEBRUARY 10, 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 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

Monday, Feb 10, 2025 St. Scholastica, Virgin

School Closed

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

Tuesday, Feb 11, 2025 Our Lady of Lourdes

8:00AM Mass Church
 6:30PM SAC Meeting de Porres Rm
 7:30PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal Church

Wednesday, Feb 12, 2025 St. Eulalia, Virgin & Martyr

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

Thursday, Feb 13, 2025 St. Catherine De Ricci, Virgin

8:00AM Mass Church
 3:30 PM Children's Choir, Grades 3 & 4 Church
 4:00 PM Children's Choir Grades 5-8 Church
 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal Church

Friday, Feb 14, 2025 St. Cyril & Methodius, Apostle of the Slavs

♥ **St. Valentine's Day** ♥

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

Saturday, Feb 15, 2025 St. Jovita & Faustinus, Martyrs

9:30AM Secular Franciscan Mtg de Porres Room
 10:30AM Bible Study Ruiz Rm
 12:00PM El Shaddai Prayer Meeting Church
 3:30 PM Reconciliation Church
 5:00 PM Vigil Mass Church

Sunday, Feb 16, 2024

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



Dear Friends,

Gratitude is a powerful force that can transform our lives and the lives of those around us. It is the reconditioning of the things we have, the people who support us, and the opportunities we are given. When we cultivate a grateful heart, we open ourselves to a deeper sense of joy, peace, and fulfillment. In the bustle of our daily lives, it is easy to take things for granted.

We often focus on what we lack rather than what we have. But when we pause to reflect on our blessings, we begin to see the abundance that surrounds us. Gratitude shifts our perspective from scarcity to abundance, from negativity to positivity. Being grateful does not mean ignoring the challenges and difficulties we face. Instead, it means acknowledging them and finding the silver linings within them. It means recognizing that even in the midst of hardship, there are still things to be thankful for. This mindset helps us build resilience and find strength in adversity. Gratitude also fosters a sense of connection and community. When we express our appreciation to others, we strengthen our relationships and create a ripple effect of kindness. A simple "thank you" can brighten someone's day and remind them that they are valued. By practicing gratitude, we contribute to a culture of positivity and support. Let us take a moment each day to reflect on the people and the things we are grateful for. It could be as simple as the warmth of the sun, the smile of a loved one, or the opportunity to learn and grow. By making gratitude a daily practice, we can transform our lives and the world around us. May we all strive to cultivate a grateful heart and live each day with an attitude of gratitude.

Amen.

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 1:1-19 Ps 104:1-2a, 5-6, 10, 12, 24, 35c Mk 6:53-56

Tuesday Gen 1:20—2:4a Ps 8:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 Mk 7:1-13

Wednesday Gen 2:4b-9, 15-17 Ps 104:1-2a, 27-28, 29bc-30 Mk 7:14-23

Thursday Gen 2:18-25 Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 Mk 7:24-30

Friday Gen 3:1-8 Ps 32:1-2, 5, 6, 7 Mk 7:31-37

Saturday Gen 3:9-24 Ps 90:2, 3-4abc, 5-6, 12-13 Mk 8:1-10

Sunday Jer 17:5-8 Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 & 6 1 Cor 15:12, 16-20 Lk 6:17, 20-26

Mass Intentions for the Week

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
Mon., February 10	8:00 AM	Artie Moloughney by Karen Francis
Tues., February 11	8:00 AM	Vincent Napolitano by Rita and Family
Wed., February 12	8:00 AM	Klimik Family by Nijole Klimik
Thurs., February 13	8:00 AM	Health & Blessings for Gladstone Gonzales by Anne Marie Francis
Fri., February 14	8:00 AM	Marilyn Bachmann-Johnson by Cornier Family
Sat., February 15	5:00 PM	Florencia Abante by The Tibay Family
	8:00 AM	Anne & Francis Musage & the Deceased Clergy of Consolata Missionaries by Anne Marie Francis
	10:00 AM	Intention of Parishioners
Sun., February 16	10:00 AM	Intention of Parishioners
	12:00 PM	Louis Gaston Peters Achacon & Caasi Family

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

Pray for those who have died...

— “His mercy endures forever.” *Chronicles*

M. Elizabeth “Betty” Finnegan

Joseph Wyka



Smile with Your Family



Catching fish from the shop: A man had spent fruitless day fishing. He didn't want to go home empty-handed. He decided to stop at a local fish market. "I'd like three good sized fish," he said to the clerk. "But before you wrap them, toss them to me, one by one." The clerk looked puzzled at his request, "Sir? That's a strange thing to ask." Smiling the man said, "This way I'll be able to tell my wife truthfully that I caught them!" 😊

Q: What starts with E, ends with E, and has only 1 letter in it? A: Envelope. 😊

Q: Can February march? A: No, but April may. 😊

Q: If you have 13 apples in one hand and 10 oranges in the other, what do you have? A: Big hands. 😊

Walking on water: Three ministers were out on a lake fishing one fine afternoon in a boat, a Protestant minister, an Episcopalian priest and a newly-arrived Catholic priest. They were sitting out in the middle of the lake and the Protestant minister said he had to relieve himself, so he got out of the boat and walked across the water to shore, relieved himself behind a tree. Then walked back to the boat. The Episcopalian priest did the same thing. The Catholic priest thought to himself, if they can do it, so can I. So he stepped out of the boat and started sinking. After saving him and bringing him back on the boat one minister commented: "We should have told him where the rocks are under the water!" 😊



JUBILEE 2025: PILGRIMS OF HOPE 10 THINGS TO KNOW - #5

Expressions of Hope: The year calls Christians to action. Pope Francis called for “signs of hope” in the Jubilee Year, including the desire for peace in the world, openness to life and responsible parenthood, and closeness to prisoners, the poor, the sick, the young, the elderly, migrants and people “in difficult situations.” Pope Francis has called on affluent countries to forgive the debts of countries that would never be able to repay them, and address “ecological debt,” which he described as “connected to commercial imbalances with effects on the environment and the disproportionate use of natural resources by certain countries over long periods of time.”

Reflection: Hopelessness seems to be a growing problem around us. This cultural negativity can be countered with biblical hope which is an enduring, settled confidence in the promises of God while we still await the ultimate fulfillment of those promises. St. Paul wrote: “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.” (Romans 15:13). We can be bearers of hope to our own family friends. A simple smile can ignite hope in someone who feels lonely, while kind words like 'please,' 'sorry,' and 'thank you' are powerful gestures that can be practiced anytime, anywhere, to spread hope and kindness.



WORLD MARRIAGE DAY

Every year on Sunday, February 9th we celebrate World Marriage Day. This day provides an opportunity to reflect on the beauty and sanctity of marriage, especially from a Catholic vocation perspective. For Catholics, marriage is not merely a social or legal contract, but a sacrament — a divine calling through which a husband and wife are invited to live out God's love in the world. It's a vocation, meaning it is not only a personal commitment between two people but also a spiritual mission to reflect Christ's love for His Church.

In the Catholic tradition, marriage is a partnership grounded in mutual love, respect, and sacrifice, with each spouse working together to help each other grow in holiness. This sacramental relationship is meant to be a visible sign of God's grace, with the couple growing together in faith, prayer, and service to others. World Marriage Day is a reminder of the sacredness of this commitment, encouraging couples to renew their vows, reflect on their shared journey, and strengthen their bond through God's grace.

Marriage, as a vocation, also involves a shared responsibility to raise children in the faith and create a loving, Christ-centered home. In this way, marriage becomes a reflection of the larger Church community, where love, service, and sacrifice are central. On World Marriage Day, Catholics are called to honor the commitment they have made, praying for the strength to live out their vows in a world that often challenges the values of love, faith, and family. Through prayer and intentional living, married couples can bear witness to the joy of their vocation and God's love for all humanity.

EXEGESIS OF TODAY'S GOSPEL

Epiphany on the sea: The story of the miraculous catch of fish described in today's Gospel is similar to the post-resurrection appearance of Jesus recounted in John 21: 4-14. In both accounts, the apostles at first fail to recognize who Jesus is, then receive a revelation of his true identity. This prompts a full confession of Faith from Simon Peter to which Jesus responds by commissioning him as the representative of the disciples. In this sense, both narratives are Epiphanies in which Jesus reveals himself to the world as the Messiah—for he does what only God can do. The point of this story lies, not in the miraculous catch, but in the confession of Peter and his commissioning by Jesus.

The fishermen and fishing: The scene is the Sea of Galilee (*Gennesaret* in Greek and *Tiberias* in Latin). This body of water is thirteen miles long and seven and a half miles wide. In Jesus' time, there were ten prosperous towns situated around the lake. Most of the people residing in them made their living from the waters in front of them. Thus, one gets the idea of how rich the lake was in fish. The Sea of Galilee was the site of many manifestations of Jesus' Divine power. In the incident in today's Gospel, Jesus preached from Peter's boat to a large crowd jammed together at the edge of the water. When the teaching had ended, Jesus told Peter to pull out into deeper water for a catch of fish. In matters of fishing, Peter was an expert, while Jesus was only a carpenter. Hence Peter, perhaps not wanting Jesus to look foolish, explained, "Master, we have worked hard all night long, caught nothing." Peter might have added that fish come to the surface in the Sea of Galilee only at night, or that the presence and noise of people would frighten the remaining fish away. Instead he said, "Nevertheless, if You wish it, I will lower the nets."

"HOP INTO MY WHEELBARROW...!"



There's a wonderful story of a tightrope walker, who was challenged to walk a tightrope across Niagara Falls. Everything was in place. There were huge steel struts on either side of the canyon and a strong, steel tightrope. There were television cameras, reporters and a massive crowd. But there was no safety net. The tightrope walker appeared with a wheelbarrow, which he had decided to push in front of him across the rope. The crowd cheered him on, although some begged him not to make this foolish attempt. One voice in the crowd was more vociferous than the rest: "Go on! You can do it! I know you can! Don't listen to these pessimists. I have complete faith in you." The tightrope walker turned to the speaker and asked, "You have faith in me? You're certain? You know I can do it?" The speaker emerged from the crowd and nodded. "I'm absolutely certain. I have no doubts at all. You can do it!" "OK," said the tightrope walker. "Hop into my wheelbarrow. I'll wheel you across!" Amazingly, the speaker climbed into the wheelbarrow. And the tightrope walker wheeled him safely across to the other side. What incredible, courageous, foolhardy faith!

Today's Gospel describes Peter's leap to a much deeper and stronger Faith in Jesus and His ministry through Jesus' response to Peter's trusting obedience, His gift of a miraculous haul of fish at the Lake of Gennesaret. Peter's declaration of trust was what made the miracle that followed possible. We may assume that Jesus smiled a little, indicating that he understood Peter's point and still wanted the fisherman to take the boat out into deeper water. So Peter obeyed. This time, however, instead of pulling up an empty net, Peter and Andrew found the net was filled to bursting point, and they had to ask the help of their partners, Zebedee's sons James and John, to help them bring in the catch.

"CAN YOU BALANCE A BALL ON THE END OF YOUR NOSE?"

There was a man who took great pride in being a former Navy Seal. And why not? This is an elite group. It takes a special sailor to qualify as a Navy Seal. This man tells about sharing his military exploits with his grandson's kindergarten class. This former Seal regaled the children with his war stories. After he finished, hands shot up into the air all over the classroom. The kids were eager to ask questions. "So," asked one little girl, "can you balance a ball on the end of your nose?" Well, to be sure, a Navy Seal ought to be able to balance a ball on the end of his nose. Life has a way of humbling us, doesn't it? We think we are impressing people, and all they want is to see us balance a ball on the end of our nose.

Our Scriptures for today all have one thing in common: Isaiah, Paul and Peter met God and were humbled. Simon Peter understood the message very quickly. Confronted by the size of the catch, he recognized the presence of God before him and became convinced of his own pride and self-centeredness, that is, of his sinfulness. We find the same response in all three readings today. Isaiah, seeing the glory of God in his vision, says, "What a wretched state I am in! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips... and my eyes have looked at the King, the Lord of hosts." Paul, not particularly known for his modesty, says, "I am the least of the apostles... I hardly deserve the name apostle." Peter begs Jesus to go away. His simple confession -- "Leave me Lord. I am a sinful man."-- marks a turning point in his life, and becomes the model for our response to Jesus. Jesus seized the opportunity to proclaim Peter's mission, a call Peter was able to receive because he had seen the tremendous power of God. Thus Peter became the first person in the Gospel to acknowledge his sinfulness. He is also the first apostle to be called by Jesus. Today's Gospel concludes with an inspiring image of commitment: "When they brought their boats to the shore, they left everything and followed him" (Lk 5:11).

“OH GOD, HERE I AM, SEND ME. SEND ME!”

William Bausch tells the story of a nun who received some extra grant money. She worked as a chaplain in a women's prison in Chicago. She went to the women and said, "I have some money that I want to spend on you and I'm going to give you some options: 1) I can hire an attorney to come and talk with you on how you can shorten your sentences; 2) I can hire a welder to come in and teach you to weld so that you can have a marketable skill when you leave the prison; or 3) I can hire a dancer and a painter to teach you how to dance and how to paint." Ninety-five percent chose the dancer and the painter because, as they said, "They always wanted to express themselves, but never had the chance." That puts God's calling where it should be and that is in a positive light. The most fulfilling, the most expressive, the most joyful experience you will ever know in your life is walking in the middle of God's will for your life. Hear the invitation, and say, "Oh God, here am I, send me. Send me!"

Each of us has a unique mission in the Church. God has a different call for each of us. Because each of us is unique, each of us has a mission which no one else can fulfill. God will use all of us, and particularly what is unique in us, to bring this mission to fulfillment. Our response must be like that of Isaiah: "Here I am, Lord... send me." "I'll do it. I'll play my part. I'll speak to that neighbor, that coworker, that friend, that relative. I'll talk to my daughter about the way she is rearing her children. I'll keep my mouth shut and refuse to gossip or criticize my co-workers or my bosses. I'll pray every day. I'll learn to listen patiently to those in need. I'll do it."

“BUT THE FOG IS NOT ON THE MAPS!”

Several years ago, two land surveyors were sent from a large city in Wales to survey the mountains in North Wales. For a week, they stayed in an isolated cabin in shepherd country. Every day they went out with maps, compasses, and charts checking the countryside and the valleys. Several days into the first week, an old shepherd came up to them and said, "Might be best if I go with you tomorrow." They said, "No, there's no need for that. We have our maps and charts. We'll be fine. We have everything we need." The old shepherd said again, "It might be best if I went with you tomorrow." "No, we have our maps and charts. We know these hills just like you. We'll be okay." And the old shepherd said, "You may have your maps, but the fog is not on the maps." There come times in our lives when all the charts, maps, and other resources are insufficient. There come times when we can only do God's work in His power and in his strength. It is an awesome, humbling, and revealing experience to stand before the miracle worker as He reaches out and calls us.

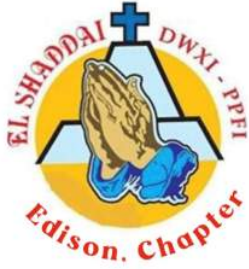
THE CHALLENGING INVITATION!

Many years ago, the great explorer, Sir Francis Drake, was attempting to recruit a number of young men for an upcoming exploration. He gathered them around and told the group that if they came with him they would see some of the most marvelous things their eyes could ever behold – sandy white beaches, juicy fruits, foreign peoples, priceless treasures, and gorgeous landscapes. And he told them that this wild adventure could be theirs if they came with him. Not one of them enlisted for the journey. The next day a different group came out. Drake told them that if they came with him they would encounter storms that would terrify them to tears. Tiger winds would hammer them and blow them off course for months. Water would frequently be scarce. At times they would be so thirsty that their very souls would cry out for simply one drop of water. In short, danger would always be their constant companion. Drake concluded by declaring that if they could handle these things, the joys of exploration would exceed their wildest dreams. Every single one of them in the group joined Sir Francis Drake that day. Some did not even go home to say goodbye to their families! They just boarded the ship, eager for the journey.

What is it about Jesus' message that made the disciples eager for the journey? They were made eager because first, Jesus offered them a change. The paths that are offered to us must promise to shape us, build our character, change our worldview, if they are to have any appeal to us at all. If we are presented with a challenge that will change us, we will be eager for the journey.

But there is a big question: Who are called as the fishers of men? It is not true that Christ's invitation to become "fishers of men" is addressed only to the apostles and their successors (the bishops together with the priests and religious). Every Christian is commissioned to a ministry of love and justice by virtue of his/her Baptism. Lumen Gentium - one of the documents of Vatican II, the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, in paragraph no. 31 describes all of us very clearly as, "the faithful who by Baptism are incorporated into Christ's Body and are placed in the people of God and in their own way share the priestly, prophetic and kingly office of Christ and to the best of their ability carry on the mission of the whole Christian people in the Church and in the world." In addition to this, Vatican II's Apostolicam Actuositatem no. 3 says, "Incorporated into Christ's Body through Baptism and strengthened by the power of the Holy Spirit through Confirmation, the laity are assigned to the apostolate by the Lord Himself." It is even stated that where lay involvement is lacking, "the apostolate of the pastors will frequently be unable to obtain its full effect; where lay responsibility is absent the Church is incomplete," (Apostolicam Actuositatem nos. 10, 21, PCP II).

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



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.

Serve



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.



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.

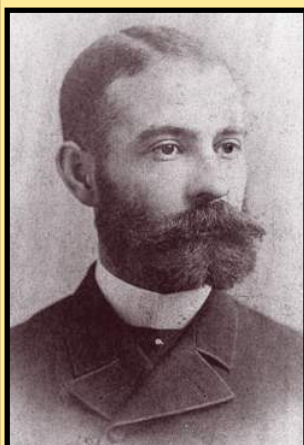
The council generally meets once a month (6-7 times a year), in person and/or via zoom. The principal, the vice-principal and the pastor report on the current status and challenges. The council discusses the current issues and the ways to position the school in a better place for the future. The topics 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



DR. DANIEL HALE WILLIAMS



Surgeon, Dr. Daniel Hale Williams was born in 1856 of free parents and raised in Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania. Williams graduated from the Chicago Medical College in 1883, a time when very few Black physicians practiced, especially on white patients. When Williams graduated from what is today Northwestern University Medical School, he opened a private practice where his patients were white and black. Black doctors, however, were not allowed to work in America's private hospitals. He founded Provident Hospital in 1891, in Chicago which was the first non-segregated hospital in the United States. Provident also had an associated nursing school for African Americans. In 1893, he performed the first successful open-heart surgery, this achievement was largely overlooked due to racial prejudice.

Williams passed away in 1931. He believed that healing physical wounds could contribute to healing societal ones, a vision that resonates with ongoing struggles for equality today.

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				\$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
			\$20,325.00	\$119,710.16
			Current Year-to-date Total	Year-to-date as of February 29, 2024
			\$803,802.51	\$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 9 2025 5th Sunday of Ordinary Time

“Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?’ ‘Here I am,’ I said, ‘send me!’” - Isaiah 6:8

Every day, in little ways and in big ways, God asks, “Whom shall I send?” Whether it is someone to take on a new ministry, to give a friendly smile to a stranger or to say a word of encouragement to a friend, God constantly provides opportunities to help someone in need. God is always talking to us; we just need to pay more attention. When you hear God calling have the courage to walk through the door and say, “Here I am, Lord.”

Reflexiónese – 9 de febrero de 2025 Domingo 5^o del Tiempo Ordinario

“Entonces oí la voz del Señor que decía: ¿A quién enviaré, y quién irá por nosotros? Y yo respondí: Heme aquí, envíame a mí.” - Isaías 6:8

Cada día, en pequeñas y grandes maneras, Dios pregunta “¿A quién enviare?”, bien sea alguien que toma un nuevo ministerio, que da una sonrisa amable a un extranjero o dice una palabra de consuelo a un amigo, Dios nos provee constantemente de oportunidades para ayudar a los necesitados. Dios nos habla constantemente: solo necesitamos poner más atención. Cuando usted escucha el llamado de Dios tiene el coraje de caminar a través de la puerta y decir “Aquí estoy Señor.”

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

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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
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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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