



**St. Matthias Parish Office**

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

**Mass Schedule (in person):**

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

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

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

For all Parish emails, add @stmatthias.net

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

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

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

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

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

**THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS**  
**SUNDAY, JANUARY 5, 2025**  
**The Epiphany of the Lord**



**THERE IS A SECOND COLLECTION**  
**TODAY**  
**TO BENEFIT THE**  
**CATHOLIC CHARITIES'**  
**PARISH EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FUND**



*The Franklin High School Madrigals*  
*will sing a short concert of*  
*Christmas music in the Church*  
**TODAY immediately after the Noon Mass.**

Masses are also livestreamed on our YouTube channel: [youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ](https://youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ)

The Church is open for individual prayer

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

**Sunday, Jan 5, 2025** **Epiphany of the Lord**  
**Together in Charity**

8:00AM	Mass	Church
10:00AM	Mass	Church
11:00AM	RCIA	de Porres Rm & Ruiz Rm
11:00AM	Rosary Altar Society Mtg.	St. John XXIII Rm
12:00PM	Mass	Church
1:00PM	Franklin High School Madrigals	Church
2:00PM	GIFT	Church, John XXIII, classrooms

**Monday, Jan 6, 2025** **St. André, Religious**

8:00AM	Mass, Miraculous Medal Novena	Church
9:00AM	School Mass of the Epiphany	Church
11:00AM	School Open House	Church
6:00PM	Eucharistic Adoration	Church
7:00PM	Cub Scout Pack 195 Meeting	Church

**Tuesday, Jan 7, 2025** **St. Raymond of Penyafort, Priest**

8:00AM	Mass	Church
6:30PM	GIFT	Church, St. John XXIII Rm, Classrms

**Wednesday, Jan 8, 2025** **Severinus of Noricum, Apostle of Noricum**

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

**Thursday, Jan 9, 2025** **St. Adrian of Canterbury, Abbot**

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, Jan 10, 2025** **St. William of Bourges, Cistercian Bishop**

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

**Saturday, Jan 11, 2025** **St. Theodosius the Cenobiarch, Abbot & Founder**

10:00 PM	Reconciliation	Church
3:30 PM	Reconciliation	Church
5:00 PM	Vigil Mass	Church

**Sunday, Jan 12, 2025** **The Baptism of the Lord**

8:00AM	Mass	Church
10:00AM	Mass with Interpreter	Church
10:00AM	First Reconciliation - #4	Church
11:00AM	RCIA	de Porres Rm & Ruiz Rm
12:00PM	Mass	Church
1:30PM	Baptisms	Church



Dear Friends,

Merry Christmas, as we keep the feast of the Epiphany today. It is good to know that our Orthodox brethren in the USA and the rest of the world keep Christmas on January 7 as their churches follow the Julian calendar.

The story of the three kings (though the Bible speaks of them not as kings but as the wise men from the east or the Magi) has fascinated us all. Liturgically, Epiphany is when the birth of the Messiah is manifested to the world in and through the three kings (number three is concluded from the number of gifts offered to Baby Jesus). Equally fascinating is the story of a fourth king immortalized by Henry van Dyke in his story "The Other Wise Man" written in 1895.

*The fourth wise man is not mentioned in the Gospels but his name is Artaban. In the story version, our hero was late and missed the caravan as the other three left without him. He got to Bethlehem too late to see the Baby Jesus. But Artaban did make it in time to save one of the Holy Innocents by bribing a soldier. For the next 33 years Artaban searched for Jesus. He did not find Jesus, but all the while the Fourth wise man fed the hungry and helped the poor. Then one day in Jerusalem Artaban saw the "King of the Jews" being crucified. He started to offer a pearl as ransom. But then he saw a girl being sold into slavery to pay family debts. Artaban gave his pearl to buy freedom for the girl. Suddenly the earth quaked as Jesus died on the cross and a stone struck Artaban. Dying, he heard a Voice saying: "When you helped the least of my children, you helped me. Meet me in Heaven!" Artaban, the fourth Wise Man, had been making God present in his community for years by helping others. God asks each of us on the feast of Epiphany to be a fourth Wise Man by becoming God's epiphanies, making His love present in the world around us by our acts of love and kindness.*

This story can teach us something about making New Year resolution. Do you believe in making a New Year resolution? I believe everyone should have a New Year resolution because we all need personal growth. If so, why do some studies show that only about 20% persevere in practicing their resolutions while the vast majority's resolutions crash by February? There are many reasons like lack of specificity, overdue expectations, poor will power, etc. Still, making a resolution gives us an impetus to become better and improve areas where we need growth.

This is especially true for us Christians in living the values of our faith. Whether our resolution is of a secular nature (better money management, stop a bad habit like drinking, eating more healthily, etc) or of a spiritual nature, (to pray more, to read the Bible daily, attend church more regularly, etc), we need to practice perseverance in implementing these – as did Artaban, the fourth wise man. In order to have the discipline of perseverance, we need to be very conscious of the Word of God that tells us: "I can do everything through Him who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13). In other words, if we rely on God as the center of our New Year resolution, then we have a far better chance of success. It is a great help to have an accountability partner who will gently remind us or lovingly challenge us to stay the course.

As Proverbs 16:3 asks us, "Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established." Happy New Year Blessings!

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Orapankal

**BULLETIN ARTICLE REQUESTS:**  
If you would like to send information to be included in our bulletin, please email it to [bulletin@stmatthias.net](mailto:bulletin@stmatthias.net) by **9 AM, MONDAY, 5 business days before the needed bulletin date** (earlier for holiday weekends). Approved content is published on a space-available basis.

## Readings for the Week

**Monday** 1 Jn 3:22; 4:6 Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

**Tuesday** 1 Jn 4:7-10 Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8 Mk 6:34-44

**Wednesday** 1 Jn 4:11-18 Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13 Mk 6:45-52

**Thursday** 1 Jn 4:19; 5:4 Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17 Lk 4:14-22

**Friday** 1 Jn 5:5-13 Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20 Lk 5:12-16

**Saturday** 1 Jn 5:14-21 Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b Jn 3:22-30

**Sunday** Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Is 40:1-5, 9-11 Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 or Ps 104:1b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-28, 29-30 Acts 10:34-38 or Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7 Lk 3:15-16, 21-22



## Mass Intentions for the Week

<b>Sat., January 4</b>	5:00 PM	Intention of Parishioners
<b>Sun., January 5</b>	8:00 AM	Donald Armistead, by The Johnson Family
	10:00 AM	John Pfeiffer, by Mary Petrine
	12:00 PM	Jennie Vaccarella, by Jim & Mary Woods
<b>Mon., January 6</b>	8:00 AM	Evelyn Commrade, by Carolyn & John Stallone
<b>Tues., January 7</b>	8:00 AM	Patricia Annicchiarico, by Mary & Fred Lau
<b>Wed., January 8</b>	8:00 AM	John Rochford, by Mom
<b>Thurs., January 9</b>	8:00 AM	Jean Elguicze by Brian Scott
<b>Fri., January 10</b>	8:00 AM	Brian C. King, by Eileen King
<b>Sat., January 11</b>	5:00 PM	Bert Maglio by Maglio Family
<b>Sun., January 12</b>	8:00 AM	Intention of Parishioners
	10:00 AM	Barbara Ruziska, by Philand Family
	12:00 PM	Abraham Yesudas, by Johnson Abraham

## Pray for those who are sick...

If you or a family member are sick, please call the Parish Office or [email prayer@stmatthias.net](mailto:prayer@stmatthias.net) to add the name to this list. Names will be listed in the bulletin for **6 weeks**. Please let us know if this time period needs to be extended. We want to know how you are doing and want to offer you the support of our prayers.

**New people on our prayer list are noted in blue.**

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

## Pray for those who have died...

— "His mercy endures forever." Chronicles

Stephen Vajtay Sr.

Patricia Ann Goehring

Alexander Mallare

# Reflect



## Smile with Your Family



Last year when I called my parents to wish them a happy New Year, my dad answered the phone. "Well, Dad, what's your New Year's resolution?" I asked him. "To make your mother as happy as I can all year," he answered proudly. Then mom got on, and I said, "What's your resolution, Mom?" "To see that your dad keeps his New Year's resolution." 😊

Someone once said..."I made 6 resolutions last year and I kept them all year long: they are in an envelope on the top of my file cabinet." 😊

I accidentally booked a flight to a place called "Nowhere," and it turns out it IS a real destination in Oklahoma J Check it out if you don't believe 😊

The first 30 minutes of any road trip is spent mentally cataloging everything you forgot to pack 😊

At the airport, we all found the new gate, only to discover a third gate had been designated for our plane. Finally, everyone got on board the right plane, and the flight attendant announced: "We apologize for the gate change. This flight is going to Washington, D.C. If your destination is not Washington, D.C., you should deplane at this time." A moment later, a red-faced pilot emerged from the cockpit, carrying his bags, saying, "Sorry, wrong plane." 😊

Taxiing down the tarmac, the jetliner abruptly stopped, turned around and returned to the gate. After an hour-long wait, it finally took off. A concerned passenger asked the flight attendant, "What was the problem?" She replied: "The pilot was bothered by a noise he heard in the engine, and it took us a while to find a new pilot who was not bothered by it." 😊



### Parenting Tune-Up

How did you celebrate the end of 2024 and the start of 2025? Why not gather your family this first week of the New Year, and remember the joys of the year (birthdays, accomplishments, milestones) and sorrows (deaths, hurts, mistakes). Make some family resolutions for the new year. End with a group hug.

### Marriage Tune-Up

We humans mark time with watches and calendars. As we have just begun a new year, however, perhaps it would be meaningful today, to enter into a conscious NOW with your beloved. As you read this, pause, find your spouse, and look at each other tenderly. Ponder the goodness of being together. Embrace.



## STEWARDSHIP QUOTE FOR FAMILY LIFE

*"..they fell down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh..." - Matthew 2:11*

**Notice the order of events in the Magi's visit. First, they knelt before Jesus and prayed to Him. Then they presented Him with their gifts. We, too, must take time to pray before we present our gifts to the Lord. We never know what God may be asking us to share! (Archbishop Carlson)**

## A NEW RESOLUTION FOR THE NEW YEAR!

Did you make a New Year Resolution yet? Here are some suggestions:

- We might resolve to start every morning with a short prayer: "Good morning, Lord. Thank You for extending my life for one more day. Please grant me a special anointing of Your Holy Spirit so that I may do Your holy will today and avoid everything evil." This is an excellent way to transform our daily work into prayer by offering it to God early in the morning.
- Besides the family prayer and Bible reading, we might also resolve to say a short prayer, every evening, the last thing we do before we go to sleep: "Thank You Lord for helping me to do Your will today. Forgive me, Lord, for saying 'no' to Your grace several times today. I am really sorry for all my sins of the day. Please pardon me." And, as we close our eyes, we might say: "Good night, Lord. Father, into Your hands I commend my spirit."

May the New Year we have begun be a Happy 2025, overflowing with a "Yes" to God our Father, to the Lord Jesus our Brother and to the Holy Spirit our Advocate and our Guide in every good deed His grace suggests!

## EPIPHANY: FAITH IN THE JOURNEY

... magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw its star at its rising and have come to do him homage." Matthew 2: 1-12

At the age of 13, her world darkened. Her happiness disappeared; she no longer found joy in her classes where she excelled or in playing her beloved clarinet; she was becoming more and more withdrawn. By the time her family and friends realized she was struggling, she was very sick. At school, counselors and therapists confronted her about her detachment; her friends collectively decided that she was not worth their concern. Everything and everyone she turned to for love and acceptance were missing when she most needed it. Something "broke" inside of her. She didn't care if she lived or died.

So, desperate for a change, she transferred to another school - a Catholic high school. She was the daughter of a non-practicing Methodist and a nonpracticing Presbyterian. They left the decision of church and religion to her and her siblings - as long as they identified as "some sort of Christian." She didn't know whether she believed in God or not. "I found I was searching for something that refused to make itself known," she remembers. "If God existed, I concluded, God was not interested in my soul. God did not include me, but my too-cool-for-religion friends did. That is, until they didn't." At her new school, signs of God were pretty much everywhere she looked. That first day she felt like an invader. She wasn't interested in a new beginning; she simply wanted to put in her time. She wasn't interested in new friends, either. She was far from convinced that she would succeed in this new school - she just knew that her last school left her defeated.

But that's when the unexpected happened. "It took time and patience, but new friends found me. They did not give up on the moody and disconnected new student. Nothing was easy, but I was taught how to assimilate. It was a new form of love I had not yet known . .

"I was 18 years old when I was baptized into the Catholic Church. The first person I was introduced to on my first day of class stood next to me at the baptismal font as my chosen godmother. Since then, I have decided that my faith lies in my journey. I do not fear a lack of acceptance because I know God has a plan in motion. With God, I am no longer an outsider looking in. With God, I have found my missing community. [From "Through the Motions: My patient journey with depression" by Nicole Bazis, **America**, November 28, 2016.]

**Today's solemnity of the Epiphany centers on the journey that every one of us travels, the journey that is ultimately a search for God: finding God in our life's meaning, finding God in belonging to family and community; finding God in the satisfaction of doing good. As the magi experienced, God sets "stars" ahead of us - for this student, the star was a group of teachers and classmates who would not let her be lost to the darkness of her depression. The understanding and support of family and friends, the forgiveness we extend and receive, the meaning we come in know in giving and serving those in need, are all "epiphanies" of God's presence in our own Bethlehems. In the new year before us, may our hearts and spirits behold these many epiphanies in which we re-discover the love of "Emmanuel" - God in our midst!**

## WHAT'S EPIPHANY?

The Greek word Epiphany (επιφάνεια), which means *appearance or manifestation* or showing forth, is used to describe Jesus' first appearance to the Gentiles. Originally the word Epiphany referred to the visit of a king to the people of his provinces. "Epiphany" refers to God's Self-revelation as well as to the revelation of Jesus as His Son. Epiphany is an older celebration than the feast of Christmas, having originated in the East in the late second century. In Italy and Spain, the gifts traditionally associated with the Christmas season are exchanged today, on the feast of the Epiphany. Among Italians, it is believed that the gifts are brought by the old woman, *Befana* (from Epiphany), whereas Spanish custom attributes the gifts to the *Kings or Magi*. The feast commemorates the coming of the Magi as the first manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles in the Western Church. In the Eastern Church, the feast also commemorates the baptism of Christ. The angels revealed Jesus to the shepherds, and the star revealed him to the Magi, who had already received hints of Him from Jewish scriptures. Later, God the Father revealed Jesus' identity to Israel at his baptism in the Jordan. In the synagogue at Nazareth, Jesus revealed himself as the promised Messiah. Finally Jesus revealed himself as a miracle worker at the wedding of Cana, revealing his divinity. These multiple revelations are all suggested by the Feast of the Epiphany.



### MISSION OF THE FAMILY

Men and women, young and old, strengthen and grow in your faith for your families with five short videos produced by the Knights of Columbus called the "Mission of The Family". The videos can be found on the Knights of Columbus website for free! Here is the link to find "The Mission of The Family" videos:

[www.kofc.org/en/campaigns/into-the-breach.html](http://www.kofc.org/en/campaigns/into-the-breach.html)  
The five videos are less than 14 minutes in length.

## Reflect

### LEGENDS ABOUT THE STAR AND THE WISE MEN!

There is a beautiful old tradition about the star in the East. The story says that when the star had finished its task of directing the wise men to the baby, it fell from the sky and dropped down into the city well of Bethlehem. According to some legend, that star is there to this day, and can sometimes still be seen by those whose hearts are pure and clean. It's a pretty story. It kind of makes you feel warm inside. There are other legends about this story of the wise men from the east. For instance, how many wise men were there? In the old days in the east, they believed that there were 12 men who made the journey, but now most everyone agrees there were three. One old legend even tells us the names of the three. Melchior was the oldest of the group, with a full beard. He gave the baby the gift of gold. Balthazar also had a beard, but was not as old as Melchior. He presented the gift of myrrh. The youngest of the three was Casper, who had no beard yet, but did present the gift of frankincense to the baby. Yet another legend goes on to tell us that, after seeing the baby, the three continued traveling as far as Spain, telling the world the good news about what they had seen.

*These stories bring the wise men a little more to life, and add some color to the meaning of Christmas. They can also get in the way. The problem with legends is that sometimes they add color to stories that don't need any additional color. In fact, sometimes legends are so colorful, they are unbelievable, and can end up making the entire story unbelievable as well – kind of like that star falling in the well. It makes you warm inside. It also makes you wonder. I am not out to ban legends, but I do think it might be worthwhile to hear the story one more time, the way it was told the first time ...*



### “THE LIGHT SHE LIT IN MY LIFE IS STILL BURNING!”

Mother Teresa once visited a poor man in Melbourne, Australia. He was living in a basement room which was in a terrible state of neglect. There was no light in the room. He did not seem to have a friend in the world. She started to clean and tidy the room. At first he protested, “Leave it alone. It is alright as it is.” But she went ahead anyway. As she cleaned, she chatted with him. Under a pile of rubbish she found an oil lamp covered with dust. She cleaned it and discovered that it was beautiful. And she said to him, “You have got a beautiful lamp here. How she said to him, “You have got a beautiful lamp here. How come you never lighted it?” “Why should I light it?” “No one ever comes to see me.” Will you promise to light it if one of my sisters comes to see you?” “Yes,” he replied. “If I hear a human voice, I will light the lamp.” Two of Mother Teresa’s sisters began to visit him regularly. Things gradually improved for him. Every time the sisters came to visit him, he had the lamp lighted. Then one day he said to them: “Sisters, I will be able to manage myself from now on. Do me a favor. Tell the first sister who came to see me that the light she lit in my life is still burning.”

*The light that God lit to announce the coming of His son is still burning. The Magi followed the path of the great light and reached the cradle of Jesus. For the last twenty centuries many have followed the footprints of the Magi. Today, Jesus stands before us declaring, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” (Jn 8:12).*

### IDEAS TO PRACTICE IN THE NEW YEAR!

(From the International Catholic Stewardship Council)

**Practice gratitude** – Cultivating a grateful heart is the hallmark of a Christian steward. Every day, express thankfulness. Seeing the good in your life will allow you to keep your heart compassionate and loving.

**Encounter the Lord each day** – Find time to be with the Lord each day, whether it be for an hour or ten minutes. Have a conversation with the Lord. Give your joys and worries to Him as well. Allow God's love to transform them.

**Be present to others** – There is much celebration and mourning, joy and sorrow in peoples' lives. What a blessing it is to be able to share those times and not let others experience them alone. The gift of your presence to others is much more valuable than you realize.

**Resist overwork** – There is a pressure to produce, meet goals, be successful. But activities that lead us to overwork, constant fatigue and worry do not give glory to God. What God calls us to do we can do well. Be mindful that life requires balance, down time and letting go of unrealistic goals.

**Give more** – Good stewards realize that everything they have is entrusted to them as gift to be shared. There is no better place to begin than sharing with the community that gathers around the Lord's table at Mass.

**Make a difference in your parish community** – Believe it or not, your parish community can use your talents. Offering your talents to your faith community is one of the most effective ways to feel useful and connected to others, and it is a potentially life-changing New Year's resolution.

**Consider living more simply** – We cannot find fulfillment in possessions. They add nothing to our self-worth. Jesus blessed the "poor in spirit" in his Sermon on the Mount; and Saint Francis of Assisi urged us to live with only what was necessary, for that is how we begin to find God.

**Don't give up** – People give up their New Year's resolutions because of perfectionism and unrealistic expectations. So take it slow, be kind to yourself and keep trying. Resist the urge to throw your hands up and quit. You succeed through small, manageable changes over time.

## Pray

### ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT



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

**OUR NEXT ADORATION WILL BE MONDAY EVENING,  
JANUARY 6, 2025 FROM 6 PM TO 8 PM.**

WHEN THE DEACON IS AVAILABLE, WE CONCLUDE ADORATION WITH A BENEDICTION.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU GO FOR ADORATION? YOU FALL IN LOVE! ULTIMATELY,  
YOU CAN'T HELP THIS ONE! WHEN YOU SPEND MORE TIME WITH AN OPEN HEART IN ADORATION  
AND JUST LET CHRIST LOVE YOU, THEN YOU'LL FALL IN LOVE TOO.  
THAT LOVE WILL DEFINE YOU AND ALLOW YOU TO BE YOURSELF.

**"I CAME THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE, LIFE IN ALL ITS FULLNESS." (JOHN 10:10)**

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

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

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

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

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



### COME PRAY THE ROSARY WITH US

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

## Connect

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



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

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

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

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

## Learn

### ST. MATTHIAS AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM WORKERS NEEDED

St. Matthias School is in need of workers for our After School Program.

The hours are 2:30PM-6:00PM.

Please email **Mary Lynch**, [mlynch@stmatthiasnj.org](mailto:mlynch@stmatthiasnj.org) &

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

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



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



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

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

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

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

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

## Serve

### ACCOMPANIMENT PROJECT

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

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

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



### ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP MEETS ON ZOOM, ON JANUARY 8TH AT 2 PM

The Alzheimer's Association and Saint Matthias Catholic Church are co-hosting a monthly Support Group for individuals living with Alzheimer's or Dementia, their care partners, and others dealing with the disease. Our next meeting will be **Wednesday, January 8th**, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Zoom. The Group provides a safe and supportive environment and offers dementia-related education, emotional support, and connections with resources so that the group members may enhance their lives during the journey. To register, call 800-272-3900 and mention the St. Matthias group. For more information, visit [alz.org/NJ](http://alz.org/NJ).



## Give (and Receive!)

Stewardship Totals for Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025				Last Year's Total
Current Month	In-Pew/Mail	Parish Giving	Weekly Total	Weekly Total
Week 22 - Dec. 1, 2024	\$12,927.55	\$9,940.50	<b>\$22,868.05</b>	\$27,688.50
Week 23 - Dec. 8, 2024	\$15,032.00	\$25,027.00	<b>\$40,059.00</b>	\$33,617.75
Week 24 - Dec. 15, 2024	\$11,475.00	\$16,031.50	<b>\$27,506.50</b>	\$22,252.35
Week 25 - Dec. 22, 2024	\$11,241	\$12,386.50	<b>\$23,627.50</b>	\$17,325.05
Week 26 - Dec. 29, 2024				\$27,574.25
<b>Retirement Fund for Religious: \$4,467.00</b>			Month-to-date Total	December Total Last Year
<b>** This bulletin was printed on an accelerated schedule at the publishers request.</b>			<b>\$114,061.05</b>	\$128,457.90
<b>The final December totals will be in a future bulletin.</b>			Current Year-to-date Total	Year-to-date as of December 31, 2023
			<b>\$626,740.01</b>	\$579,954.57

### REMINDER!

When we contribute via check, the Chase Bank requires that the checks must be made out to  
**“Church of St. Matthias.”**

No other variation of this designation will be acceptable due to greater security controls.

### Stewardship Reflection January 5, 2025 The Epiphany of the Lord

**“... They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.” - Matthew 2:11**

What gifts do you give to the Lord? Pope St. Gregory said that these three gifts represent what we should give God every day. Gold – we should reflect Christ’s wisdom in all our relationships. Frankincense – represents our daily prayer and adoration to God. Myrrh – is a symbol of our daily sacrifices that we unite with Jesus for the sake of others.

### Reflexiónese – 5 de enero de 2025 La Epifanía del Señor

**«...y postrándose lo adoraron y abriendo sus tesoros le presentaron obsequios de oro, incienso y mirra.» - Mateo 2:11**

¿Qué regalos le da usted al Señor? El santo papa Gregorio dijo que esos tres obsequios representan lo que deberíamos darle a Dios cada día. Oro – ya que debemos reflejar la sabiduría de Cristo en todas nuestras relaciones. Incienso - representa nuestras oraciones diarias y la adoración a Dios. Mirra - es un símbolo de nuestros sacrificios diarios en los que nos unimos con Jesús para el bien de los demás.

## GIVING TUESDAY IS BACK!

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



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

# Connecting to Our Local Community

## THE BODY OF CHRIST CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

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

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

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

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



### LIFE IN THE SPIRIT WEEKEND RETREAT

This special spiritual experience is for young adults, young professionals and young couples ages 21-35. Hold the dates of February 7-9, 2025. Await more info, or email to: [jirehfoh@gmail.com](mailto:jirehfoh@gmail.com)

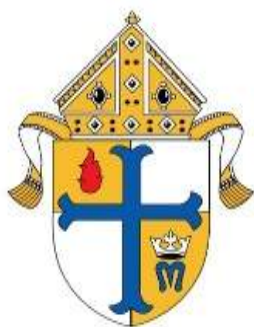


The 2025 theme for the 52nd annual March for Life is “EVERY LIFE: WHY WE MARCH.” The right to life is a human right. Our defense of that right is a joyful witness to the beauty and dignity of every human person.

**For more info:** [www.marchforlife.org/national-march-for-life/](http://www.marchforlife.org/national-march-for-life/)

### HEARING ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE IN OUR CHURCH

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



## ROSARY for LIFE

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

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

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

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

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

## Parish Leadership

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

**Parish Registration** — Welcome to St. Matthias! Please register on our website. [www.stmatthias.net/join-us](http://www.stmatthias.net/join-us), or visit the Parish Office.

**Marriage** — Registered parishioners should contact the parish office a year before the desired wedding date.

**Baptism** — Baptismal Preparation Sessions are held four times a year for registered parishioners. Please contact the parish office before the baby is born. The sacrament of Baptism is celebrated on the second and fourth Sunday of each month, except during Lent.

**Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)**- If you are interested in becoming a Catholic or completing the Sacraments of Initiation-- Baptism/Confirmation/Eucharist, please call the Parish Office.



**St. Matthias School** is a PreK3 through 8<sup>th</sup> grade school rooted in faith, inspired by love, and dedicated to academic excellence. Before and After School Care Programs are available. Come visit! Contact 732-828-1402 to schedule a tour.



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**Event Dates**

October 22	October 29
November 5	November 12
November 19	December 3
December 10	

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