



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, JANUARY 12, 2025
 The Baptism of the Lord

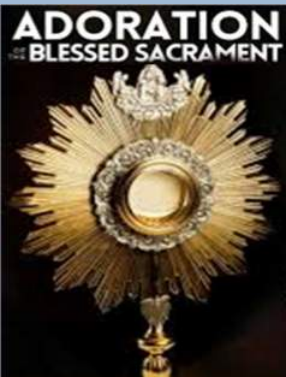
YOU ARE MY
 BELOVED SON.



OUR PARISH
 INAUGURATION OF
 JUBILEE 2025:
 PILGRIMS OF HOPE

SEE PAGE 4 FOR MORE DETAILS

© JPPC



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

OUR NEXT ADORATION WILL BE
 MONDAY EVENING,
 JANUARY 13, 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, Jan 12, 2024 **The Baptism of the Lord**

JUBILEE 2025 INAUGURATION

| | | |
|---------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 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 |

Monday, Jan 13, 2024 **St. Hilary of Poitiers, Bishop & Doctor**

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

Tuesday, Jan 14, 2024 **St. Devasahayam Pillai, Martyr**

| | | |
|--------|--------------------------|---------------|
| 8:00AM | Mass | Church |
| 6:30PM | SAC Meeting | dePorres Room |
| 7:30PM | Handbell Choir Rehearsal | Church |

Wednesday, Jan 15, 2025 **St. Paul, The First Hermit**

| | | | |
|---------|---------------------------|---------------------|--------|
| 8:00AM | Mass | St. Joseph Novena | Church |
| 9:30AM | Holy Spirit Prayer Group | de Porres Room | |
| 6:30PM | Girl Scout Trp. 63202 Mtg | PreK Classroom | |
| 6:45PM | Confirmation 7 | St. John XXIII room | |
| 7:30 PM | Folk Group Rehearsal | | Church |

Thursday, Jan 16, 2025 **St. Joseph Vaz, Priest**

| | | |
|---------|--------------------------------|--------|
| 8:00AM | Mass | Church |
| 1:00PM | Prayer Shawl | 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 17, 2025 **St. Anthony the Abbott, Father of Monks**

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

Saturday, Jan 18, 2025 **St. Margaret of Hungary**

| | | |
|---------|----------------------------|--------------|
| 9:30 AM | Secular Franciscan Meeting | de Porres Rm |
| 10:00AM | Bible Study | Ruiz Rm |
| 3:30 PM | Reconciliation | Church |
| 5:00 PM | Vigil Mass | Church |

Sunday, Jan 19, 2024

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



Dear Friends,

We know that the Jubilee Year 2025 was officially inaugurated by Pope Francis by opening the Holy Door of Saint Peter's Basilica, on December 24. There are four other Holy Doors in Rome: the Archbasilica of St. John Lateran, the Basilica of St. Mary Major, the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls, and the door located at the Rebibbia Prison in Rome.

Bishop James Checchio designated the following sacred places within our Diocese as places where the faithful may obtain the Jubilee Indulgence:

1. Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi, Metuchen, NJ
2. Shrine Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament, Raritan, NJ
3. National Blue Army Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima, Washington, NJ
4. National Shrine of St. Lucy Filippini (inside St. Mary of Mount Virgin Church, New Brunswick, NJ).

The Bishop's decree states (as you can see it on our website) *"These sacred spaces have been carefully chosen to reflect the spiritual significance of pilgrimage and to foster deeper conversion and reconciliation among the people of God. The visit is not merely an outward action but a reflection of the soul's pilgrimage towards God, with conversion, reconciliation, and renewal at its heart."*

Here in our parish, we inaugurate the Jubilee Year 2025 today, focusing on the meaning of this Jubilee year at all the Masses. The theme of this Jubilee Year, proposed by Pope Francis, is "Pilgrims of Hope." As he so beautifully expressed it: "We must fan the flame of hope that has been given us, and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision."

There will be many resources coming from our Diocese as well as from the USCCB (US Conference of Catholic Bishops) that we can make use of for our spiritual enrichment. I like to mention two easily accessible resources that we can start with immediately:

- 1) **Catholic Brain:** This is a faith formation program for individuals and families, with lots of informative and fun stuff for growing in our faith. Our Parish has already a subscription and we use it for the GIFT program. But I do encourage all of us to use it for our own spiritual benefit. See page 8 in today's bulletin for accessing it through Debbie Schurko, our Director of Religious Education.
- 2) **Rosary In A Year Podcasts:** This is for practicing one of the timeless devotional prayers of our Church – the Holy Rosary. See the blurb on page 7 in today's bulletin about accessing these daily podcasts. You can use them at your convenience.

We will also be praying the Jubilee Prayer, penned by Pope Francis, at all our Masses. It concludes with these words: *"May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever, Amen."*

Let us joyfully and prayerfully participate in this Jubilee Year 2025!

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Orapankal

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

Readings for the Week

Monday Heb 1:1-6 Ps 97:1 and 2b, 6 and 7c, 9 Mk 1:14-20

Tuesday Heb 2:5-12 Ps 8:2ab and 5, 6-7, 8-9 Mk 1:21-28

Wednesday Heb 2:14-18 Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9 Mk 1:29-39

Thursday Heb 3:7-14 Ps 95:6-7c, 8-9, 10-11 Mk 1:40-45

Friday Heb 4:1-5, 11 Ps 78:3 & 4bc, 6c-7, 8 Mk 2:1-12

Saturday Heb 4:12-16 Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15 Mk 2:13-17

Sunday Is 62:1-5 Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 7-8, 9-10 1 Cor 12:4-11 Jn 2:1-11

Mass Intentions for the Week

| | | |
|---------------------------|----------|--|
| Sat., January 11 | 5:00 PM | Bert Maglio by The Maglio Family |
| Sun., January 12 | 8:00 AM | Intention of Parishioners |
| | 10:00 AM | Barbara Ruziska by Philand Family |
| | 12:00 PM | Abraham Yesudas by Johnson Abraham |
| Mon., January 13 | 8:00 AM | Olivia Encalada by Gavilanes Family |
| Tues., January 14 | 8:00 AM | In Memory of MaryKutty Thomas by Patrick Smith |
| Wed., January 15 | 8:00 AM | Luis L. Mallare by Daughter |
| Thurs., January 16 | 8:00 AM | Alexis Verzosa by Purita Aligaen |
| Fri., January 17 | 8:00 AM | James Vance by Julie Vitelli |
| Sat., January 18 | 5:00 PM | Agustin Vidal by Menchi Ventura |
| Sun., January 19 | 8:00 AM | Intention of Parishioners |
| | 10:00 AM | Vincent Busono by The Busono Family |
| | 12:00 PM | Jorge Rodriguez by The Lenczewski 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 | Margaret Ann Cichon Ford | Marie Claude Jolly | Ann McElwee | Catherine Steele |
| Sue Alese | Sharon Gadomski | Donna Kahora | Jessica Marie Merrick | Mary Sullivan |
| Robert Baker | Heinley Gaspard | Patty Kerekes | Gail Miranda | Richard Sury |
| Edgar Banaag | Emma Gergely | Betsy Kondrat | Sarah Braun Morini | Jacqueline Taylor |
| Carolyn Banghart | Gerard Giordano | Kim Krikorian | Robert Pellegrino | Anita Vance |
| Ghislaine Baron | Claude Godet | Kathy Langenbacher | Robert Pierro | Minda Villarica |
| Samantha Bellouny | Marie Godet | Rose Larangeira | Robert Pietrowiak | Eileen Weber |
| Carmen Bender | Fr. Ben Gomez OMI | Linda Leone | Randolff Pinard | Nancy Whelan |
| Mary Bostrom | Shelly Greene | Henrietta Lesiak | Valerie Polci | Ginette Zamor |
| Patricia Burke | Linda Hartong | John Litrakis | Kim Price | Celia M. Zelinski |
| Tara Capatosto | Jeff Hentz | Mary Lou Litrakis | Frank Rispoli | Anne Zando |
| Rustico Castellano | Marilyn Horvath | Aries Magali | Gabriel Rivera | And for all who are ill, homebound, elderly, in nursing care, or living with chronic illness, we pray. |
| Lisa DeFeo | Jerry & Donna Hucul | Kenneth & Kelly Magat | Bob Rotz | |
| Patrick Dolphin | Nicole Cherill Hynes | Susan, King & Tosh Manansala | Marisa Ruppel | |
| Sanora Doyen | Nick Isele | Colleen Maniscalco | Gloria Santos | |
| Andrea Dubuisson | Rafael Jara | Alexandra Marquez | Maria Schwenzer | |
| Derowitsch Family | Marilyn Jensen | Christine Matthews | Amy Shepp | |
| Hattie Evans | Jean Alix Jolly | Frank McCann | Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF | |
| | | | Timothy Siclari | |

Pray for those who have died...

— “His mercy endures forever.” Chronicles

Henrietta Hansen

Dean Roberts

Virginia (Ginny) Trovato

Gerald Vinella

Reflect



Smile with Your Family



Before performing a Baptism, the priest approached the young father and said solemnly, "Baptism is a serious step. Are you prepared for it?" "I think so," the man replied. "My wife has made appetizers and we have a caterer coming to provide plenty of cookies and cakes for all of our guests." "I don't mean that," the priest responded. "I mean, are you prepared spiritually?" "Oh, sure," came the reply. "I've got a keg of beer and a case of whiskey." 😊

Sam Houston was the first president of the Republic of Texas. It's said he was a rather nasty fellow with a checkered past. Later in life Houston made a commitment to Christ and was baptized in a river. The preacher said to him, "Sam, your sins are washed away." Houston replied, "God help the fish." 😊

My friend said he found baptism incredibly moving. I guess being carried to the altar as a baby will do that to you. 😊

They asked the baby how he liked his baptism. He just gave them the silent treatment. 😊

They say with baptism comes great responsibility... mostly to stay dry for the photo op. 😊

I wanted to be baptized in chocolate milk, but the church said that was heresy. 😊

Just saw a sign that said "Drive-thru baptism." Seems a little shallow to me. 😊

Did you hear about the nervous pastor during the baptism?

A: He dropped the baby...and the microphone! 😊



JUBILEE 2025: PILGRIMS OF HOPE

10 THINGS TO KNOW - #1

1. **History and Frequency of Jubilee Year:** A jubilee year, also known as a "holy year," is a special year in the life of the church currently celebrated every 25 years. The most recent ordinary jubilee was in 2000, proclaimed by St. John Paul II. Later, Pope Francis calling for an Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy in 2015-2016. Jubilee years have been held on regular intervals in the Catholic Church since 1300, but they trace their roots to the Jewish tradition of marking a jubilee year every 50 years.

According to the Vatican website for the jubilee, these years in Jewish history were "intended to be marked as a time to re-establish a proper relationship with God, with one another, especially the poor, and with all of creation, and involved the forgiveness of debts, the return of misappropriated land, and a fallow period for the fields."

Reflection: We celebrate jubilees for almost everything—buildings, dioceses, churches, even streets. Sometimes, these jubilees occur every ten years, far removed from the 50-year interval of the Biblical Jubilee. Our jubilees are often vibrant and celebratory, yet they seem disconnected from their deeper purpose—spiritual renewal and engagement with the poor and creation. Are we truly celebrating jubilees in the spirit of their Biblical origins? Perhaps it is time to reflect on whether our Jubilee celebrations in parishes, religious institutes, and families need a profound renewal—or even reconsideration altogether!

(This series is adapted from *America, The Jesuit Review*, 10 December 2024)

THOMAS MERTON



A young man once described his experience of sinking into insanity. He was a very bright university student, but he had abandoned his studies in favor of nightclubs and pornography. One night he retired to a hotel room. As he lay in bed, the window appeared to expand until it reached the floor. He heard a mocking voice in his mind saying, "What if you threw yourself out of that window?" The young man wrote: "Now my life was dominated by something I had never known before: fear. It was humiliating, this strange self-conscious watchfulness. It was a humiliation I had deserved more than I knew. I had refused to pay attention to the moral laws upon which all vitality and sanity depend." Well, this young man did begin to pay attention to the moral law. He began to put his life in order - and to experience inner peace. He eventually entered the Catholic Church and went on to become one of the most famous monks of the twentieth century. His name is Thomas Merton. Today's Gospel on Jesus' baptism should challenge us, too, to examine whether we are keeping our Baptismal promises.

THIS IS MY BELOVED SON/DAUGHTER

Edward Farrell, a friend of mine, is a Catholic priest who serves an Inner City Parish in Detroit. He's written some marvelous books. One I would especially recommend is entitled *Prayer Is a Hunger*. Ed is a part of a small group with whom I meet each January. I've told you about this group. We call it the Ecumenical Institute of Spirituality. It's an important group for me. Though we meet only for three days once a year, sharing our spiritual pilgrimages with one another, seeking to focus our minds and hearts on some growing edge, it's an important part of my life. Ed is a part of it too. He's one of the most genuinely humble persons I know. Serving some of God's forgotten people in one of Detroit's most depressed areas, he is quietly profound. I never will forget the insight he provided me about this text. He said that Jesus went to the cross so that we too could hear the same word Jesus heard at his baptism - so that you and I can hear, "This is my beloved daughter/this is my beloved son, with whom I am well pleased." Have you thought about it that way? Jesus' paid the price so that for you and me, the heavens could open, and we could know the reality of God's Spirit as a living power and presence, in our lives. Jesus wanted us to know the reality of Good News in the dark days of hopelessness and despair. The Voice which named Jesus God's beloved Son is still speaking in our souls, "You are Mine. You are unique and special. I am pleased with you. I love you. I love you so much that I gave My beloved Son for you. You are my beloved son, you are my beloved daughter." (Rev. Maxie Dunnam).

MOMENT OF AFFIRMATION



When the American writer, Maya Angelou, was growing up, she didn't see her mother very much. She was brought up in large part by her grandmother, a wonderful and saintly woman. She tells how when she was twenty years old, she took a trip to San Francisco to visit her mother. It was a particularly important yet vulnerable moment in Maya's life; she was struggling to make her way in life and groping her way towards becoming a writer. She had quite a good meeting with her mother. When it was time to leave, her mother walked her down the hill to the waiting bus. As they parted, her mother said, "You know, I think you are the greatest woman I have ever met." Years later Maya could still recall that moment vividly. She said, "Waiting for the bus, I sat there thinking, 'Just suppose she's right. Suppose I really am somebody.' It was one of those moments when the sky rolled back. At times like that, it's almost as if the whole earth holds its breath." Maya went on to become a highly successful and respected writer and poet. She composed and delivered an inspiring poem at the inauguration of President Clinton. Today's Gospel tells us how Jesus heard the voice of his Heavenly Father, immediately after his baptism, affirming him as "My beloved Son".

IDENTIFIED WITH VICTIMS

When leprosy broke out among the people of the Hawaiian Islands in the middle of the 19th century, the government authorities responded by establishing a leper colony on the remote island of Molokai. The victims were snatched by force from their families and sent to this island to perish. However, moved by their terrible plight, a young Belgian priest, Saint Damien De Veuster, asked permission from his superiors to minister to them. Straightaway he realized that there was only one effective way to do this, and that was to go and live among them. Having got permission, he went to Molokai. At first, he tried to minister to the lepers while maintaining a certain distance. But he soon realized that he had to live among them in order to gain their trust. As a result he contracted leprosy himself. The reaction of the lepers was immediate and wholehearted. They embraced him and took him to their hearts. He was now one of them. There was no need, no point any more, in keeping his distance. The lepers had someone who could talk with authority about leprosy, about brokenness, about rejection and public shame. Today's Gospel tells us how, by receiving the baptism of repentance, Jesus became identified with the sinners whom he had come to save.

Reflect

OUR IDENTITY AND MISSION

The baptism of Jesus reminds us of our **identity and mission**. First, it reminds us of **who we are** and **Whose we are**. By Baptism we become the adoptive sons and daughters of God, brothers and sisters of Jesus, members of his Church, heirs of Heaven and temples of the Holy Spirit. We become incorporated into the Church, the Body of Christ, and made sharers in the priesthood of Christ [CCC #1279]. Hence, "Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit and the door which gives access to the other Sacraments" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, #1213). Most of us dipped the fingers of our right hand into the holy water font and blessed ourselves when we came into Church today. Why? This blessing is supposed to remind us of our Baptism. And so when I bless myself with Holy Water, I should be thinking of the fact that I am a child of God; that I have been redeemed by the Cross of Christ; that I have been made a member of God's family and that I have been washed, forgiven, cleansed and purified by the Blood of the Lamb.

TWO SOURCES OF INSPIRATION

Among the millions of Jews imprisoned by the Nazis in the death camps of the '30's and '40's was Victor Frankl. In spite of the horrors and the odds, he survived. Around him, next to him, each day of his ordeal, dozens, hundreds, thousands of fellow-Jews and others died. Most of them died in the ovens, of course, but there were others who died simply because they gave up hope and lost heart, overwhelmed by horror and fear and hopelessness. Frankl survived, he said, because two forces sustained him: one was the certainty of his wife's love. The other was an inner drive to rewrite the manuscript of a book he had completed after years of labor -- which the Nazis had destroyed. Frankl's imprisonment was lightened by daily imaginary conversations with his wife and by scrawling notes for his book on all the bits and scraps of paper he could find. Now Frank has written eloquently of these two insights to cope with life: first, the discovery and certainty of being loved, and, second, having a clear and controlling purpose in life. [Nate Castens, Chanhassen, Minnesota, via Ecunet, *Gospel Notes for Next Sunday*, 36259] Both are the messages we receive in Christian Baptism.

I AM PLEASED WITH YOU

On January 19, AD 383, the Christian Roman Emperor Theodosius named his son Arcadius as co-emperor. It was during a period in Church history when the Arian Heresy was spreading throughout the Roman Empire. The Arian Heresy held that Jesus Christ was not fully God. Theodosius called for a truce between Christians and Arians and called for a conciliatory conference. One Christian Bishop who was not willing to compromise his faith in Christ's deity was Amphilochus of Iconium. So he had to suffer persecution from the Arians. On the coronation day Bishop entered the reception hall, bowed to the emperor, ignored his son and made a poignant speech, and turned to leave. "What!" said Theodosius, "Do you take no notice of my son the co-emperor? Is this all the respect you pay to a prince that I have made equal dignity with myself?" At this the bishop gave Arcadius a blessing and replied, "Sir, do you so highly resent my apparent neglect of your son because I do not give him equal honor with yourself? What must the eternal God think of you, who have allowed His coequal and coeternal Son to be degraded in His proper divinity in every part of your Empire? Remember God the Father's proclamation on the day Jesus was baptized by John in the River Jordan."

"This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased" Mark and Luke have the words addressed to Jesus, "You are my Son..." But Matthew's "This is my Son" makes the words relevant to the bystanders because they are an open testimony to the Father's approval of his Son ... and we should view "Son" as a Messianic title. The Heavenly Voice points to a relationship shared by no other. It is significant, it is "good news," that Jesus hears he is the "beloved Son, with whom [God] is well pleased" before his public ministry begins. The Heavenly Father is much pleased with his Son's humble submission and speaks audibly and directly to him for all to hear: "You are my beloved Son, with you I am well pleased." The Holy Spirit, too, is present as Jesus submits to John's baptism. The Holy Spirit anoints Jesus for his ministry which begins that day as Jesus rises from the waters of the Jordan River.

Connect

CAREGIVER/CARE SUPPORT MINISTRY MEETING

We'd like to invite parishioners who are caring for ill loved ones, or are coping with chronic illness themselves, and in need of spiritual and emotional support, to join us for discussion and prayer.

DATE: SATURDAY, January 25th

TIME: 10:00 AM - 11:30AM

PLACE: Parish Office - DePorres Room

For additional info please contact: **Donna Kahora**, donnakahora@yahoo.com

Pray



THE ROSARY IN A YEAR PODCAST

Started January 1, 2025

The Rosary in a Year (with Fr. Mark-Mary Ames) takes Catholics on a journey to deeper prayer and greater love for the Rosary. In daily podcast episodes, Fr. Mark-Mary, CFR, helps listeners grow gradually into a daily habit of prayer and shares insights into the spiritual riches contained within the Rosary. Through reflections from great saints, traditional forms of imaginative prayer, immersion into sacred art, and practical techniques for focus used by the Franciscan friars. The Rosary in a Year transforms what often feels like repetition into a genuine source of relationship with Jesus and Mary through the Rosary.

www.ascensionpress.com/RIY



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/

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 - or - Ivette Michel at 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. All are welcome to join.

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:** jirehfoh@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!



Learn



CATHOLICBRAIN

Pope Francis launched the Jubilee Year of Hope on Christmas Eve, ushering in a time of reflection, reconnection, and celebration within the Catholic Church. To support our families in this special year, we are offering access to CatholicBrain, an online faith formation platform.

CatholicBrain.com provides parents with valuable tools to foster lasting spiritual growth in children while deepening their own understanding. On this platform, you'll find an interactive Bible, daily prayers and saints, seasonal resources, and much more. Faith nurtured from a young age becomes a lifelong guide. If you'd like to gain access for your family, please contact the Religious Education Office by emailing dschurko@stmatthias.net.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL 2025-2026 TUITION ASSISTANCE ONLINE APPLICATION PROCESS OPENS 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 <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.factsmgt.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 !!



MORNING OF SERVICE



The next Morning of Service will be held on **Saturday, January 25th**. If you are interested in volunteering that morning, please email **John and Coleen Zdziarski** at jzdzarski@comcast.net. Please note that those under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult. **The sites are:**

1. **Franklin Food Bank** - 224 Churchill Avenue in Somerset - sorting canned goods, etc. Minimum age is 14. Limited to six people (8:00 AM - 12:30 PM).
2. **Pregnancy Aid Center** - 59 Thompson Street in Raritan - sorting children's clothing. Limited to eight people (9:30 AM- 12:00 noon).

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 | \$22,868.05 | \$27,688.50 |
| Week 23 - Dec. 8, 2024 | \$15,032.00 | \$25,027.00 | \$40,059.00 | \$33,617.75 |
| Week 24 - Dec. 15, 2024 | \$11,475.00 | \$16,031.50 | \$27,506.50 | \$22,252.35 |
| Week 25 - Dec. 22, 2024 | \$11,241.00 | \$12,386.50 | \$23,627.50 | \$17,325.05 |
| Week 26 - Dec. 29, 2024 | \$15,539.50 | \$9,625.50 | \$25,165.00 | \$27,574.25 |
| Retirement Fund for Religious: \$4,467.00 | | | Month-to-date Total | December Total Last Year |
| Christmas (In-Pew/Mail): \$35,106.00 | | | \$139,226.05 | \$128,457.90 |
| (Parish Giving): \$12,745 | | | Current Year-to-date Total | Year-to-date as of December 31, 2023 |
| | | | \$651,905.01 | \$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 12, 2025 The Baptism of Our Lord

“John answered them all, ‘I baptize you with water; but he who is mightier than I is coming... he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit...’” - Luke 3:16

The Catholic Catechism states that “Jesus’ immersion in the water is a sign for all human beings of the need to die to themselves to do God’s will.” In other words, as baptized Catholics, there is only one gift that we need to give to Jesus – the gift of ourselves. Surrender yourself to God, place your trust in Him, and allow the Holy Spirit to work through you for the greater glory of God.

Reflexiónese – 12 de enero de 2025 El Bautismo de Nuestro Señor

«Juan entonces les respondió a todos: Yo, en verdad, los bautizo con agua; pero viene uno que los bautizará con el Espíritu Santo...» - Lucas 3:16

El Catecismo Católico establece que “la inmersión de Jesús en el agua es un signo para todos los seres humanos de la necesidad de renunciar a sí mismos para hacer la voluntad de Dios”. En otras palabras, como católicos bautizados hay solamente un regalo que necesitamos darle a Jesús - el don de nosotros mismos. Ríndase ante Dios, coloque su confianza en Él y permita que el Espíritu Santo obre a través de usted para la mayor gloria de Dios.



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

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

Connecting to Our Local Community



NEW HOMESCHOOL MINISTRY

All parents of Homeschool Families are cordially invited to attend the inaugural meeting for the new Diocesan Homeschool Ministry.

The event will take place on **January 14, 2025** from **6:30–8:30 pm** at **St. Theodore RC Church** at 855 Route 57, Port Murray, NJ.

Please come to hear about the ministry vision and a presentation on “Franciscan at Home” which is a free catechetical resource.

For more information about this event contact: **Fr. Gilbert Starcher** at gstarcher@diometuchen.org

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 or call 732-562-1543.



*The Franklin Township
Dr. Martin Luther King Community Foundation Presents*
**Franklin Township’s Annual
Dr. Martin Luther King Community Breakfast**

Monday, January 20, 2025

8:30AM Breakfast Buffet & Celebration

Double Tree Hotel- Somerset



Admission \$60

Keynote Speaker:

Bonnie Watson Coleman

Congresswoman, U.S. House of Representatives



For Event Information, Ticket Sales, Donations or Business Promotion Use QR Code Above or Visit

www.FTMLK.org

Email FTMLKCF@gmail.com Call 732-328-8374

No tickets sold at the door.

Purchase Tickets Before 1/15/2025

All tickets are available through website.

Parish Leadership

Parish Pastoral Council:

Co-Chairs:

Stephen Busono
sbusono@gmail.com
Bill Isele
t33sm@aol.com

Co-Secretaries:

Sheila Tartaglia
Teresa Yannotta
Joe Percoco
Miles London
Fr. Lancelot McGrath,
Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio

Trustees:

Pearl Scott
Marge Richards

Parish Finance Council:

Kester Hector, Chair
Finance Council
@stmatthias.net
Carmen Driz-Melilli
Barry Dusault
Joan Pritchard

Mary Pat Burke-Grospin,
Ex-Officio
Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio

About St. Matthias (please contact the staff members on the cover for up-to-date information)

Parish Registration — Welcome to St. Matthias! Please register on our website. www.stmatthias.net/join-us, or visit the Parish Office.

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

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

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



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



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Event Dates

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

APPLY ONLINE 

Apply prior to an event for on-the-spot interviews!

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