



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,
7:45 AM - 3:30 PM

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

Deacon Ron Caimi, *Senior Deacon*
Kelly Counts, *Receptionist*, **kcounts**
Deacon Russell Demkovitz, **rdemkovitz**
Nathalie Godet, *Website & Bulletin Coordinator*,
ngodet

Leslie Guillen, *Bulletin Editor*, **lguillen**
Amy Hanna, *Accountant/Databases*, **ahanna**
Mike Lanyi, *Sacristan*

Sue Lenczewski, *Youth Coordinator*, **SMYLE**
Julio Montero, *Maintenance Supervisor*
Dolores R. Nann, *Pastoral Associate for*
Faith Formation, **dnann**

Vinnie Natale, *Bookkeeper*, **vnatale**
Silvia Nizama, *Housekeeper*

Deacon John Radvanski, **deaconjohn**
Joan Best Seamon, *Pastoral Associate for*
Music Ministry, **jseamon**

Sr. Marie Therese Sherwood, *OSF, Pastoral*
Assoc. for Social Concerns, **msherwood**

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

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS
SUNDAY, JANUARY 14, 2024
2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time



JOIN US!

FOR TICKETS VISIT:

www.stmatthias.info

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS EVENT AND ON HOW TO DONATE SEE PAGE 8.



FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP'S ANNUAL DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

MONDAY, JANUARY 15, 2024

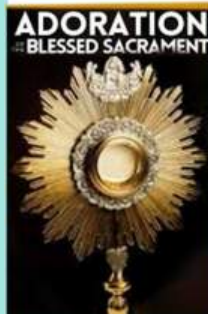
8:30 AM Breakfast Buffet & Celebration
DoubleTree Hotel, Somerset

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: DR. FRANCINE CONWAY

ADMISSION \$50

For Information, Ticket Sales, or Donations, visit www.FTMLK.org or use the QR code.

All tickets are available on the website. No tickets will be sold at the door.



PLEASE COME JOIN THE MANY WHO SPEND SOME QUIET TIME WITH THE EUCHARISTIC LORD. OUR NEXT ADORATION WILL BE MONDAY EVENING, JANUARY 22, 2024 FROM 6 PM TO 8 PM.

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

The Church is open for individual prayer

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

Sunday, Jan 14, 2024

8:00AM Mass Church
 10:00AM Mass w/Sign Language Interpreter Church
 12:00PM Mass Church

Monday, Jan 15, 2024 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
SMS & Parish Office closed

8:00AM No Mass
 6:00PM No Adoration

Tuesday, Jan 16, 2024 St. Joseph Vaz, Apostle of Ceylon

8:00AM Mass Church
 7:30PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal Church

Wednesday, Jan 17, 2024 St. Anthony the Abbot, Father of Monks

8:00AM Mass, St. Joseph Novena Church
 9:30AM Prayer Group 1 Holy Spirit de Porres Rm
 7:30PM Confirmation Prep #1 Gr. 8 John XXIII Rm
 7:30PM Folk Group Rehearsal Church

Thursday, Jan 18, 2024 St. Margaret of Hungary

8:00AM Mass Church
 10:00AM Prayer Shawl Ministry Ruiz Rm
 3:30PM Children's Choir Gr. 3 & 4 Church
 4:00PM Children's Choir Gr. 5-8 Church
 7:30PM Sunday 10AM Choir Rehearsal Church

Friday, Jan 19, 2024 St. Canute IV, Martyr & King of Denmark

8:00AM Mass Church

Saturday, Jan 20, 2024 St. Sebastian, Martyr & St. Fabian, Pope & Martyr

9:30AM Secular Franciscans de Porres Rm
 3:30PM Reconciliation Church
 5:00PM Vigil Mass Church

Sunday, Jan 21, 2024 Foundation for Catholic Education Collection

8:00AM Mass Church
 10:00AM Mass - Family Mass Church
 11:00AM Children's Liturgy of the Word K-5 Church
 11:00AM First Reconciliation Prep #4 Class Clsmrs
 12:00PM Mass Church



Bulletin Article Requests:

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



Dear Friends,

Greetings from my home in Kerala, India. I'm enjoying visiting my family, relatives and friends. I am also enjoying the hot weather - there are only two seasons here: hot and hotter. 😊

This year the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday falls on January 15th, his actual birthday. The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a Baptist Minister and a passionate preacher of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in word and example as well as a martyr for justice. King led the civil rights movement during the mid-1950s until his assassination in Memphis, Tennessee, on April 4, 1968. He was given the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964.

The theme for MLK Day 2024 is "Shifting the cultural climate through the study and practice of Kingian Nonviolence." A testament to the revolutionary power of nonviolence, Gandhi's success of non-violence in India directly influenced Martin Luther King, Jr., who argued that the Gandhian philosophy was "the only morally and practically sound method open to oppressed people in their struggle for freedom."

MLK Day invites us to reflect on the necessity of respecting all people – no matter who they are or how different they are. It is good to point out that the prayer intention of Pope Francis for the month of January is an invitation to all Christians to embrace the diversity of charisms in the Church as a richness. He wrote: "Let us pray that the Spirit help us recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian communities, and to discover the richness of different ritual traditions within the Catholic Church."

The timing of this intention is significant because we celebrate the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, January 18th through the 25th. In the short video that the Vatican has released (you can google it and watch it), the Pope urged Christians to unite our prayers to his "for the gift of diversity in the Church," since diversity is an opportunity to "rejoice". He noted that diversity and unity were already present in the early Christian communities, and that the tension brought about by diversity had to be resolved on a higher level, resorting to dialog and prayerful listening to the Holy Spirit: "To move forward on the journey of faith, we also need ecumenical dialogue with our brothers and sisters of other confessions and Christian communities. This is not something confusing or disturbing, but is a gift God gives to the Christian community so it might grow as one body, the Body of Christ." Pope Francis offered the example of the diversity of rites within the Eastern Churches that are in communion with Rome: "They have their own traditions, their own characteristic liturgical rites, yet they maintain the unity of the faith. They strengthen it, not divide it."

The Catholic Church is not a church of uniformity, as some mistakenly think, but a church of unity in diversity. Our community of St. Matthias is a microcosm of that reality. We are a diverse community, united in our faith in Jesus Christ. The Feast of Epiphany we celebrated last Sunday was a visible sign of unity in diversity. Let us proudly continue our rich and biblical tradition that we proclaim at every weekend Mass:

"All are welcome here at St. Matthias."

Your brother in Christ,
 Fr. Abraham Orapankal

Readings for the Week

Monday, January 15, 2024 1 Sm 15:16-23
Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23 Mk 2:18-22

Tuesday, January 16, 2024 1 Sm 16:1-13
Ps 89:20, 21-22, 27-28 Mk 2:23-28

Wednesday, January 17, 2024 1 Sm 17:32-33, 37, 40-51 Ps 144:1b, 2, 9-10 Mk 3:1-6

Thursday, January 18, 2024 1 Sm 18:6-9;
19:1-7 Ps 56:2-3, 9-10a, 10b-11, 12-13 Mk 3:7-12

Friday, January 19, 2024 1 Sm 24:3-21
Ps 57:2, 3-4, 6 and 11 Mk 3:13-19

Saturday, January 20, 2024 2 Sm 1:1-4,
11-12, 19, 23-27 Ps 80:2-3, 5-7 Mk 3:20-21

Sunday, January 21, 2024 Jon 3:1-5, 10
Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 1 Cor 7:29-31 Mk 1:14-20

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, Jan 13 5:00PM Marty Shaw, by Peter Horvath

Sunday, Jan 14 8:00AM Intention of Parishioners

10:00AM Ernesia Macri, by Julia Barbiero & Family

12:00PM In Memory of Nancy Checchio, by Family

Monday, Jan 15 8:00AM **No Mass**

Tuesday, Jan 16 8:00AM Edna Lawas, by Agnes

Wednesday, Jan 17 8:00AM Augustin Vidal, by Menchie Ventura

Thursday, Jan 18 8:00AM Luis Mallare, by Daughter

Friday, Jan 19 8:00AM James Brancato, by Lorie Smith

Saturday, Jan 20 5:00PM Joseph Doyle, by Isabelle & John Baker

Sunday, Jan 21 8:00AM Mary Eads, by The Family

10:00AM Intention of Parishioners

12:00PM Januario Referente, by Ventura Family

Pray for those who are sick...

If you or a family member are sick, please call the Parish Office or **email Kelly Counts** at kcunts@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.*

Beth & Jay Adams	Heinley Gaspard	Bill Johnson	Ann McElwee	Maria Schwenzer
Mary Agnello	Claudia Gemgnani	Renée Jolly	Jessica Marie Merrick	Amy Shepp
Kristin Baio	Emma Gergely	Bill Kelleher	Gail Miranda	Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF
Olga Marie Bando	Gerry & Jack Gernert	Betsy Kondrat	Menchie Molano-	Sr. Bernadine Marie
Carolyn Banghart	Claude Godet	Kathy Langenbacher	Sotelo	Stemnock
Samantha Bellouny	Marie Godet	Armando D. Liban	Danny Ongchango	Luzviminda Talag
Carmen Bender	Shelly Greene	Mary Lou Litrakis	Robert Pellegrino	Jacqueline Taylor
Mary Bostrom	Linda Hartong	John Litrakis	Robert Pietrowiak	Anita Vance
Tara Capatosto	Jeff Hentz	Denis Loboda	Valerie Polci	Eileen Weber
Elizabeth Card	Sloopy & PJ Hoffman	Aries Magali	Kim Price	Nancy Whelan
Kyle Davidson	Gene Horan	Kenneth & Kelly Magat	Denise Pultro	Ginette Zamor
Lisa DeFeo	Marilyn Horvath	Al Maglio	Doris Regan	Anne Zando
Zenon DeGuzman	Jerry & Donna Hucul	Susan, King & Tosh	Gabriel Rivera	And for all who are ill,
Marlene DiMaggio	Amanda Isele	Manansala	Arina Robinson	homebound, elderly,
Vivian Dong	Baby Elaine Isele	Alexandra Marquez	Bob Rotz	in nursing care, or
Hattie Evans	Nick Isele	Christine Matthews	Vincent Simpson	living with chronic
				illness, we pray.

Pray for those who have died...

— “His mercy endures forever.” Chronicles

Pat Leposa - former Spiritual Advisor at St. Matthias, Nancy Checchio, William Betterbid, Marie Catapano

Reflect



Smile with Your Family



"Father, I have a sin, and I need your help. I come to church on Sunday and can't help thinking I'm the prettiest girl in the congregation. I know I should not think that, but I can't help it. Please help me." The pastor replied, "Mary, don't worry about it. In your case, it's not a sin. It's just a horrible mistake." 😊

A little boy was listening to a long and excessively boring sermon in Church on vocation to priesthood and religious life. Suddenly the red sanctuary lamp caught his eye. Tugging his father's sleeve, he said, "Daddy, when the light turns green can we go home?" 😊

I went down the street to a 24-hour grocery store. When I got there, the guy was locking the front door. I said, "Hey! The sign says you're open 24 hours." He Said, "Yes, but not in a row!" 😊

A man asks a farmer near the field, "Sorry sir, would you mind if I crossed your field instead of going around it? You see, I have to catch the 4:30 PM train." The farmer says, "Sure, go right ahead. And if my bull sees you, you'll even catch the 4 PM one." 😊



Parenting Tune-Up

On January 15th we celebrate the contributions of Martin Luther King to racial equality and non-violence. Does your child have any friends from a different race? If not, why not? Talk, find ways to mix or read stories of a different ethnic group.

Marriage Tune-Up



"Speak, for your servant is listening."
(1 Samuel 3:18) A common complaint among couples is, "You're not listening to me." When is listening hard for you? If you're busy or tired, ask for a better time. Is there a conversation you've been avoiding?

March for Life 1/19/2024

The March for Life is an inspiring, peaceful, vibrant, and joy-filled rally of women, men, young people, and children from all across the country. Every year, tens of thousands of pro-lifers converge on the National Mall and march on Capitol Hill on the anniversary of the Supreme Court's 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling which legalized abortion in all 50 states. It's the largest annual human rights demonstration in the world. However, this is not just a protest... **TOGETHER, WE GATHER TO CELEBRATE LIFE.** We celebrate each and every life, from the moment of conception. We envision a world where every life is celebrated, valued, and protected.



Redhead got the job!

A company advertised an opening in its sales force. It received more than 1000 applications for the job. But of those many letters and resumes, one letter stood out: "I am presently selling furniture at the address below. You may judge my ability as a salesman if you will stop in to see me any time, pretending that you are interested in buying furniture. When you come in, you can identify me by my red hair. I will have no way of identifying you. That way, the sales abilities I exhibit will be no more than my usual everyday approach and not a special effort to impress a potential employer." The sales manager took the applicant up on his challenge and visited the furniture store. You won't be surprised to learn that the redhead got the job.

Today's Gospel tells us that Jesus' criteria for the selection of his apostles were different. He chose the weak and the least qualified and made them his strong and powerful witnesses.

Here is the schedule for this year's March for Life on Friday, January 19, 2024:

March for Life Expo: 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. & 4:00 p.m.- 7:00 p.m.

Pre-Rally Concert: 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

March for Life Rally: 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

March for Life: 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Rose Dinner Gala: 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

GOD IN THE NEXT CHAIR AT AA

John was standing with two of his disciples, and as they watched Jesus walk by, he said, “Behold the Lamb of God . . .

[John’s two disciples] said to [Jesus], “Rabbi” – which translated means “Teacher” —, “where are you staying?” He said to them, “Come, and you will see.” John 1: 35-42



Many of us know actor Hank Azaria as the voice of more than a hundred characters on the television show **The Simpsons**. Azaria was a good friend of the late Matthew Perry, the wise-cracking Chandler Bing on the hit sitcom **Friends** who died unexpectedly last October 28 at the age of 54. Perry wrote honestly and movingly about his struggles with addiction in his memoir **Friends, Lovers and the Big Terrible Thing**, and helped hundreds of people struggling with alcohol and drug abuse.

In a tribute to his pal [**The New York Times**, November 9, 2023], Azaria writes of how Perry helped Azaria confront his own problem with alcohol by taking Azaria to his first A.A. meeting in 2005. “We went to this very big gathering in Brentwood, California,” Hank Azaria writes. “We walked in, and I swear it seemed there were a thousand people in there. He knew the look on my face — daunted. Beyond daunted: demoralized. It’s very hard to imagine how going into a room like that is somehow going to make you want to stop drinking or make you feel better. And he looked at me and said in his Matthew, half-joking, very loving way: ‘It’s something, isn’t it? God is a bunch of drunks together in a room.’”

“At the time, I didn’t know what he meant. I’ve since learned. He meant that as bad as we feel, as low as we go, we tend to feel we’re alone in it, whether our problem is alcoholism, a bad marriage, illness, depression, strife . . . And it’s by going into a room with a few or a lot of other people and sharing, saying out loud what it is that’s upsetting us and hearing that from others that we feel, well, maybe we’re not alone. In fact, in time, what we become sure of is that the most unfortunate, terrible things we face are actually our greatest strength, as they connect us with others.

“[Matthew] was telling me I needed the support of those people in the room. I needed their stories. I needed to lean on them. I needed to tell them, ‘I don’t think I can make it through the day without drinking.’ And hear them say, ‘We didn’t, either.’”

Christ the “Lamb of God” continues to walk among us in the compassion and mercy of the struggling who help others in their struggles, in the generosity of the poor who give to those in need despite their own poverty, in the vision of those who build bridges across the chasms of prejudice and bigotry. Jesus dares us to “come and see”: to realize the presence of God in the goodness and generosity around us, to focus our attention on the needs of others before our own, to find purpose in bringing joy into the lives of others rather than in the pursuit of the things the world deems as important. The Jesus of Mark’s Gospel promises us that, if we but seek it, God’s grace opens our eyes and hearts to behold the life and love of God in our midst.

“COME, AND YOU WILL SEE . . .”

Philip found Nathaniel and said to him, “We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth . . . Come and see.” John 1: 43-51

“Teacher, where are you staying?”

I am sleeping under the bridge with the homeless who have no one, who have no place.

I am sitting at the same table with the poor kid no one wants anything to do with.

I am watching TV with the elderly couple who lives alone.

I am holding the young woman who is terrified of the surgery she is facing.

I am with your children when you are not there. I am with your spouse when you are apart.

I am with you when you’re feeling lost and alone.

I am putting my shoulder to yours in bearing your crosses of illness, despair and catastrophe.

Where am I staying?

Come, and you will see.

“We have found the Messiah,” Andrew says to his brother Peter (and Philip says to his friend Nathaniel) — and if we’re paying attention, we realize that we encounter God’s Christ in every individual who enables the sick and broken to find healing and wholeness, who helps the grieving and despairing to rebuild their lives, who lifts the poor and desperate out of their debilitating poverty. We’ve encountered God’s Christ in every act of forgiveness, in every effort at reconciling with those who are lost and forgotten, in every unheralded, unremarkable act of selfless generosity and humble compassion. If we look hard enough, if we look humbly enough, we encounter Christ walking among us as members of our family, friends and parish. We discover the Messiah “staying” within our own homes and hearts. We realize that we are made complete and whole in the presence in Emmanuel — “God is with us.”



Reflect



“EUREKA, EUREKA.”

According to legend, the ruler Hieros II asked the Greek philosopher Archimedes to find a method for determining whether a crown was made of pure gold or of gold mixed with silver. One day when Archimedes stepped into his bath and noticed that the water rose as he sat down, he ran out of the house naked shouting, "Eureka! Eureka!" (= "I have found it!") The method to determine whether a crown was pure gold, discovered by Archimedes in his bathtub, was to compare its weight to its volume. If one had one pound of gold and one pound of silver and submerged them in water, the silver would make the water rise higher than the gold, because it is less dense than gold, and therefore larger in volume, displacing more water. Archimedes compared the volume of water displaced by the suspected crown with that displaced by a pure gold crown of equal weight. Archimedes did not "find" this truth by searching after it -- although he might have spent days thinking about a solution to the problem. His "find" came as an unexpected surprise. He had probably noticed the water in the bathtub rising hundreds of times before, but its significance didn't "click" in his brain until that "eureka" moment.

Today's Gospel describes how John discovered Jesus as the Lamb of God and how Andrew, Simon, and Nathaniel discovered him as the "Promised Messiah" quite unexpectedly. Jesus was their "Eureka."

EVANGELIZATION – THE ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI STYLE

One day Francis of Assisi invited one of the young friars to join him on a trip into town to preach. The young friar was so honored at receiving such an invitation from St. Francis that he quickly accepted. They paused beneath a tree and Francis stooped to return a young bird to its nest. They went on and stopped in a field crowded with reapers and Francis bent his back to help load the hay onto a cart. From there they went to the town square where Francis lifted a bucket of water from the well for an old woman and carried it home for her. All day long he and St. Francis walked through the streets and byways, alleys and suburbs, and they rubbed shoulders with hundreds of people. Each time they stopped, the young friar was sure that St. Francis would stop and preach. But no words of great truth or wise discourse issued from the saint's mouth. Finally, they went into the Church, but Francis only knelt silently to pray. At the end of the day, the two headed back home. Not once had St. Francis addressed a crowd, nor had he talked to anyone about the Gospel. The young monk was greatly disappointed, and he said to St. Francis,

"I thought we were going into town to preach?" St. Francis responded, "My son, we have preached. We were preaching while we were walking and in everything we did. We were seen by many and our behavior was closely watched. It's of no use to walk anywhere to preach unless we preach everywhere as we walk! Preach the Gospel at all times. Use words only if necessary."



THE LAMB OF GOD

This is the most meaningful title given to Jesus in the Bible. It is used 29 times in the book of Revelation. It sums up the love, the sacrifice and the triumph of Christ. John's introduction might have brought five pictures of the "lamb" to the minds of his Jewish listeners.

- 1) **The Lamb of Atonement** (Lev. 16: 20-22). A lamb was brought to the Temple on the Day of Atonement ("Yom Kippur"). Placing his hands over its head, the high priest transferred all the sins of his people to the lamb. It was then sent into the wilderness (*as the lamb who takes away the sins of the Jews*) to be killed by some wild animal.
- 2) **The Lamb of Daily Atonement** (Ex. 29: 38-42; Numbers 28: 1-8). This was the lamb sacrificed on the "Black Altar" of the Temple every morning and evening to atone for the sins of the Jews.
- 3) **The Paschal Lamb** (Ex. 12: 11ss.). The Paschal Lamb's blood saved the firstborn of the Jewish families in Egypt from the "Angel of destruction." The event was memorialized yearly in the sacrifice of the Paschal Lamb at Passover.
- 4) **The Lamb of the Prophets**, an image portraying one who, by his sacrifice, would redeem his people: "The gentle lamb led to the slaughterhouse" (Jer. 11: 19), "like a lamb to the slaughter" (Is 53:7). Both, as we know, refer to the sufferings and sacrificial death of Christ.
- 5) **The Lamb of the Conquerors**. The picture of a horned lamb on the Jewish flag at the time of the Maccabean Liberation War was used as a sign of conquering majesty and power. The great Jewish conquerors like Samuel, David and Solomon were described by the ancient Jewish historians as "horned lambs."

Connect & Serve

Giving Tree Generosity

Thank you to all those who supported the annual Giving Tree.

Once again, it was a great success. With your generosity, we provided the following:

- ◆ Over 350 individual gifts to YES Learning Centers (St. Ladislaus and Sacred Heart Schools), Ozanam Family Shelter, Ozanam Men's Shelter and Naomi's Way
- ◆ \$1,450.00 in gift cards to PACT
- ◆ \$1,100.00 in gifts cards as well as men's/women's underwear, sock, hats, scarves, gloves, sweatpants/shirts and toiletries to Elijah's Promise
- ◆ Numerous boxes of diapers, baby/toddler clothes, coats, baby wipes, baby wash & lotions, umbrella strollers and gift cards to Pregnancy Aid
- ◆ Gift & food cards for 10 St. Matthias/SVDP families - approx. 45 cards
- ◆ 60+ gifts sent directly to Great Expectations.

These deliveries were met by organizational staff who expressed their thanks and blessings for the continued support of the Catholic Community of Saint Matthias.

I would also like to thank all the Angels, "elves" and drivers who helped throughout. Without you, none of this would have been possible... your time and effort in getting everything sorted, packed and delivered is much appreciated. Wishing you all the best – **Joanne**

Additional Gratitude for Giving Tree Generosity

Dear Friends

Thank you so much for your generosity with so many gifts and donations to the **Pregnancy Aid Center**. Your continuous support, prayers and donations make a real difference in the lives of so many families in our community.

Gratefully,

The Pregnancy Aid Center Volunteers

THANK YOU TO ST. MATTHIAS FROM THE CENTER FOR GREAT EXPECTATIONS

Dear Father Abraham,

Thank you for your support over the past year. It is because of donors like you that we are able to continue to provide our life-changing services to our clients year after year. Below is a list of your 2023 contributions to The Center for Great Expectations. **Total = \$1664.00**

You play an integral role in our success! Your investment in recovery and endorsement of our mission and vision makes a powerful statement about your commitment to keeping our community strong today, tomorrow and for generations to come. As we embark on a new year, we are excited about the possibilities that lie ahead and the positive impact we can create together. Your generosity is the driving force behind our ability to make a meaningful difference, and we are deeply thankful for your unwavering support.

With Gratitude,

Peg Wright

President/CEO

Pray

ADULT ENRICHMENT COURSE - "THE THEOLOGY OF THE EUCHARIST"

The Office of Ongoing Faith Formation will be offering a free-of-charge Adult Enrichment Course entitled "The Theology of the Eucharist" on twelve consecutive Thursdays **starting January 4 through March 21, 2024 from 10 am to 11:30 am**. The course will be offered at the St. John Neuman Pastoral Center located at 146 Metlars Lane, Piscataway, NJ. The classes will be presented by Fr. Glenn Comandini, S.T.D. and will include a lecture and Q & A. There is a \$15. fee to attend which covers all 12 sessions. You may register online at www.diometuchen.org/faith-formation (please register only one time for all 12 classes). For more information, please email amarshall@diometuchen.org or call 732- 562-1543.

ANNUAL DIOCESAN RESPECT LIFE MASS & PRO-VITA AWARDS

Bishop Checchio will celebrate the Annual Respect Life Mass on **Sunday, January 21, 2024 at 12 noon** at the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi in Metuchen. All are welcome!

Learn



St. Matthias School is looking for help in the following areas:

- After School Program (Paid Position)
- Substitute Teachers (\$95 a day)
- School Advisory Council (Finance Volunteer)
- Athletic Association (Directors/Board Member Volunteers)
- School Finance Members (Volunteers)
- Marketing (Stipend)

Please email **Mrs. Mary Lynch**, Principal at mlynch@stmatthiasnj.org for more information.

LET'S FIESTA!

PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING NEW, UNUSED ITEMS IN THEIR ORIGINAL PACKAGING TO THE ST. MATTHIAS SCHOOL NIGHT OF WINNERS! DONATIONS CAN BE DROPPED OFF TO THE SCHOOL OR PARISH OFFICE.

Jewelry	Vacation Home Rentals	Collectibles
Bottles of Wine/Liquor	American Girl Dolls	Barware
Housewares	Sporting Equipment	Pet Items
Appliances	Gaming Stations	Beauty Items
Electronics (TV's, iPads, Kindles, etc.)		

Not sure what we might be looking for?
You can purchase something from the AMAZON WISH LIST:
https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3A6FWUGQ9Y32T?ref=wl_share

From the Diocese

CATHOLIC SCHOOL 2024-2025 TUITION ASSISTANCE ONLINE APPLICATION PROCESS OPEN

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, 2024**. 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.

ESCUELA CATÓLICA 2024 -2025 ASISTENCIA DE MATRÍCULA PROCESO DE APLICACIÓN EN LÍNEA ABIERTO

Las familias interesadas en solicitar asistencia con la matrícula para acudir a una escuela primaria o secundaria elegible de la Diócesis de Metuchen, pueden presentar su solicitud en línea ahora a través FACTS Grant & Aid Assessment en la dirección electrónica <https://online.factsmgt.com/aid>. Las solicitudes en línea deben completarse (incluida toda la documentación requerida) antes del **31 de Marzo de 2024**. Las solicitudes están disponibles en inglés y en español.

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

Serve



A DAY OF SERVICE

The next Morning of Service will be held on **Saturday, January 27th**. 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 Township Food Bank** - 224 Churchill Avenue in Somerset - sorting canned goods, etc. Minimum age is 14. Limited to six people (8:15 - 12:00 noon).
2. **Pregnancy Aid Center** - 59 Thompson Street in Raritan - sorting children's clothing. Limited to eight people (9:30 - 12:00 noon).

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 27, 2024

TIME: 10:00 - 11:30am

PLACE: Ruiz Room in the Parish Office **PLEASE PARK BEHIND THE PARISH OFFICE TO ENTER THE RUIZ ROOM DOOR**

For additional info please contact: **Donna Kahora** at donnakahora@yahoo.com 732-246-2124
or Sister Marie Therese: msherwood@stmatthias.net 732-828-1400



Give (and Receive!)

Stewardship Totals for Fiscal Year July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024				Last Year's Total
Current Month	In-Pew/Mail	Parish Giving	Weekly Total	Weekly Total
Week 23 - Dec. 3, 2023	\$11,088.00	\$16,600.50	\$27,688.50	\$31,740.25
Week 24 - Dec. 10, 2023	\$9,084.00	\$24,533.75	\$33,617.75	\$38,685.75
Week 25 - Dec. 17, 2023	\$9,502.10	\$12,750.25	\$22,252.35	\$22,959.25
Week 26 - Dec. 24, 2023	\$5,443.00	\$11,882.05	\$17,325.05	\$64,137.25
Week 27 - Dec. 31, 2023	\$17,555.00	\$10,019.25	\$27,574.25	\$23,916.25
* Christmas & Sunday Collections are Combined for 2023			Month-to-date Total	Month-to-date Total
			\$128,457.90	\$181,438.75
Christmas (In-pew/mail): \$41,676.00			Current Year-to-date	Year-to-date as of December
(Parish Giving): \$23,339.25			\$2,042,894.65	\$2,053,024.81



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

Most of our contributing parishioners have signed up with our online Parish Giving Program. That has been a big help to the parish in so many ways. If you are one of the few who have not, here's why it is helpful to you and important for St. Matthias:

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, scan the QR code or 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.

Stewardship Reflection January 14, 2024 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, 'What are you looking for?'" - John 1:38

When we recognize who we are, it's easier to find what we are looking for. Once we see ourselves, and others, as children of God, we spend less time looking for the material comforts of the world. Instead, our hearts long for something deeper that can only be filled by God. Ask God daily how He wants you to live the life He intended for you.

Reflexiónese 14 de enero de 2024 - 2º Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario

"Jesús se volvió, y al ver que lo seguían les preguntó: —¿Qué están buscando?" - Juan 1:38

Cuando reconocemos quienes somos, es más fácil encontrar lo que estamos buscando. Una vez que nos vemos a nosotros mismos, y a los demás, como hijos de Dios, pasaremos menos tiempo buscando las comodidades materiales del mundo. E cambio, nuestros corazones anhelaran algo más profundo que solamente puede ser satisfecho por Dios. Pregúntele a Dios diariamente como quiere que viva su vida, la vida que él tiene dispuesta para usted.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The parish office is in need of volunteers Monday - Friday mornings. If you have some free time, please contact Mary Pat in the parish office, (732) 828-1400. Thank you for all you do for St. Matthias.

Connecting to Our Local Community

January Co-Ed Retreat:

Exploring the Many Ways of Prayer

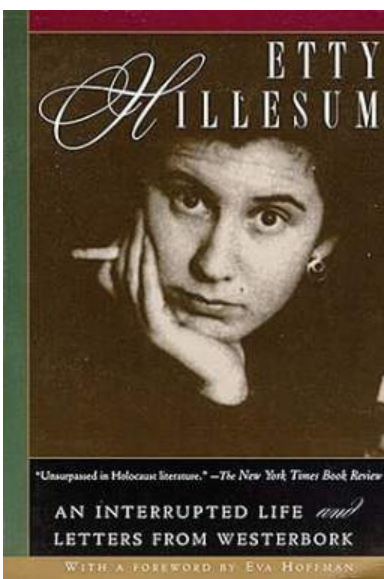
January 25-28, 2024

Led by Fr. Joe Costantino, S.J.



Are you in a rut with your prayer life? Perhaps you may even feel as if you have no prayer life at all or maybe your prayer life simply needs to be given a new shot of life and energy. Wherever you are in your prayer life and faith journey, this retreat is for you. This retreat offers an extra night for prayer for those who wish to begin a day earlier.

Loyola Jesuit Center, 161 James Street, Morristown, NJ 07960



AN INTERRUPTED LIFE:

THE DIARIES, 1941-1943; AND LETTERS FROM WESTERBORK

A Series of Virtual Book Reflections with Marie O'Hagan SSJ

Thursdays: 6:30 - 7:30 PM

2024 Dates: Jan. 18th • Feb. 1st • Feb. 15th • Feb. 29th • March 14th • March 28th

As we approach a new year, many of us promise ourselves to live each day more fully, so as to not miss God's presence on our journey. Everyone one of us needs encouragement for this resolution to bear fruit. Perhaps, Etty Hillesum might be the best of companions for this endeavor. Even in the challenges of her life she was able to say, "Ultimately, we have just one moral duty: to reclaim large areas of peace in ourselves, more and more peace, and to reflect it towards others. And the more peace there is in us, the more peace there will be in our troubled world." Join us as we explore the life of an amazing woman, learning from her life how to fully live our own lives.

Register:

Donation: \$65

To register for An Interrupted Life: The Diaries, 1941-1943; and Letters from Westerbork Retreat please email S. Joannie Cassidy at jlc.cassidy@gmail.com or call (732) 898-9981.

Parish Leadership

Parish Pastoral Council:

Co-Chairs:

Frank Rees

Frees814@gmail.com

Marilyn Wegg

mcw-wam@comcast.net

Co-Secretaries:

Stephen Busono

sbusono@gmail.com

Bill Isele

t33sm@aol.com

Al Drabnis

Didi Molano

Sheila Tartaglia

Fr. Lancelot McGrath,
Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio

Trustees:

Pearl Scott

Marge Richards

Parish Finance Council:

Kester Hector, Chair

Finance Council

[@stmatthias.net](https://www.stmatthias.net)

Carmen Driz-Melilli

Barry Dusault

Gwen Orlovski

Audrey Francis

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.

ARE THESE YOUR SIZE?



MIDDLEBUSH VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT.
 21 OLCOTT STREET
FIRE FIGHTERS NEEDED WE WILL TRAIN!

www.middlebushfire.com HELP@MIDDLEBUSHFIRE.COM
 MIDDLEBUSH VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT www.middlebushfire.com

Sorge & Garthe
 EXPERT TILE INSTALLATION
 TILE
 COMMERCIAL • RESIDENTIAL

Complete Kitchen & Bathroom Remodeling
 Porcelain Marble
 Granite Countertops
 Heated Floors
 Backsplashes
 Shower Doors
732-514-1500
 Lic # 13VH00782600
 (Parishioner)

EXCELLENCE GUARANTEED
Resta's Auto Care
 AAA 732-873-8900 Restas.com   *Trusted For 77 Years*
 1873 Amwell Road • Somerset

star22home
 www.star22home.com
 KITCHENS • BATHROOMS
 22 Plainfield Ave., Piscataway, NJ

Angie's List Award Winner 2015-2023
 Showroom & Design Center by Appointment

\$10,000 Complete Bathroom Remodel.
 Labor /Materials

5 DAY BATH
 www.my5DB.com
 O: 732-369-6387
 M: 732-343-5450

catholicmatch
 New Jersey
 CatholicMatch.com/dateNJ



Morgan
 basement waterproofing

In Our 4th Decade of Quality Service
French Drains • Foundation Repair • Mold Remediation
 All Work Guaranteed
732-777-7888
www.morganbasementwaterproofing.com

PA FINANCIAL, CPA
 Professional Tax, Accounting, Bookkeeping, Payroll
www.pafinancials.com
 Email: philip@pafinancials.com • Parishioner
 732-325-3157 • Somerset, NJ 08873



Diocese of Metuchen
 Catholic Cemeteries and Crematory
800-943-8400

Holy Cross Burial Park 840 Cranbury-South River Rd. Jamesburg, NJ 08831
 Resurrection Burial Park Hoes Lane and Park Ave. Piscataway, NJ 08854

www.diometuchen.org/cemeteries



SPRINGHILLS
 LIVE HAPPY

RE-IMAGINE SENIOR LIVING




An Assisted Living and Memory Care Community in your neighborhood.

SCHEDULE A TOUR TODAY!

732.873.4800

473 Demott Lane
 Somerset, NJ 08873

www.springhills.com

PROTECTIVE PAVING



DRIVEWAYS PARKING LOTS
 FULLY INSURED
 FREE ESTIMATES
732-828-4177
 SOMERSET, NJ

ARE YOU CONSIDERING PLACING AN ADVERTISEMENT IN THE ST. MATTHIAS WEEKLY BULLETIN?



Now is a great time to call and find out how you can support our parish and grow your business at the same time!

Call 1.800.333.3166 today for details on this great opportunity!



C & F Paint Hardware
Benjamin Moore Paints
1075 Easton Ave., Suite 12 A
Somerset, NJ 08873
732-764-8908
www.candypaint.com
Frank Del Tufo - Owner

SUPERIOR HARDWOOD FLOORING
FREE ESTIMATES
SANDING | INSTALLS | REPAIRS | REFINISHING
Franco Oliveira 201.744.8883
superiorhardwoodflooring@hotmail.com

Steve's Pizza & Restaurant
900 Easton Ave. Somerset Village
732-247-0400
\$1.50 Off Large 18" Pie

AJS PAINTING
TONY SCHINELLA, PARISHIONER
Friendly, Courteous Service
Owner Operated, Free Proposals
Meticulous, Guaranteed Work
Highest Quality, Affordable Price
No Job Too Small • Since 2001
732-873-8477

SOLD BARROOD
Selling, Buying or Renting Houses - Call us for help!
700 EASTON AVE., SOMERSET
732-846-1661
Good people, great service, since 1940
PARISHIONER

Waterstone WEALTH ADVISORS, LLC
John C. Moynihan, CFP®
Certified Financial Planner™, practitioner
Somerset, NJ
732.873.0433 • www.wwallc.net
Practical Solutions for Managing Wealth

Event Space Rental
Green Brook NJ 08812
908-532-3141
Birthday, Baby Shower, Meetings
grandcentraljerseyevents.com

BRIGHT VIEW POWERWASHING & PAINTING
Greg Dente, Owner/Operator
Somerset & surrounding areas
Friendly & Reliable Services
Free estimates • Guaranteed work
We keep our promises • No job too small
POWERWASHING & SMALL PAINTING WORK
908.812.2061

GLEASON FUNERAL HOME
AT NEED CARE • PRE-NEED • MONUMENTS
PARISHIONER OWNED
William K. Gleason, Mgr., N.J. Lic. No. 4489
1360 HAMILTON STREET • SOMERSET, NJ
732-545-0700
WWW.GLEASONFUNERALHOME.COM

Dolan since 1949
Kitchen & Bath Remodeling
American Standard HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING
Plumbing, Heating, Cooling, Electric
732-247-2763
696 Franklin Blvd., Somerset, NJ 08873
www.jackdolanandsons.com info@jackdolanandsons.com

WE'RE HIRING!
Substitute Teachers & Support Staff throughout New Jersey
Apply today at SOURCE4TEACHERS.com

D'Angiolillo Chiropractic Center
Find out more about us and how we can help you!
Visit Our Website @ www.DrJoeD.com
(732) 873-2222
PROFESSIONAL CENTER AT SOMERSET
11 Clyde Road, Suite 103
Somerset, NJ 08873
Serving Our Community Since 1985

BRUNSWICK FURNITURE OUTLET, LLC
330 Townsend St., New Brunswick, NJ
Rafael Se Habla Español
732-354-4420

April Tarantino
Broker Associate
Direct: (732) 735-3511
apriltarantino@hotmail.com
www.apriltarantino.com
31 Years Experience - Somerset Specialist

RIDESHARE ZONE
Stop Ask Match Inform
#WHATSMYNAME

Mallory's Army Foundation
United Together In The Fight Against Bullying...
Don't Just Teach Kindness... BE KINDNESS!
www.MallorysArmy.com
(973) 440-8657
info@mallorysarmy.org
It's easy to join our mailing list! Just send your email address by text message:
Text MALLORYSARMY to 22828 to get started.
Message and data rates may apply.

RAIKE'S Home Improvement LLC
732-249-7113
Fully Insured Lic. 13VH06498900 www.raikeshomeimprovement.com
We Install & Construct
• Windows • Finished Basements • Siding
• Doors • Kitchens • Roofing
• Decks • Baths • Custom Interior Woodwork
Power Washing
Homes • Decks • Sidewalks • Driveways • Stoops • Etc.
No Job Too Small! Cabinet Refacing Parishioner

DALTON
QUALITY PROFESSIONAL SERVICE
Serving Central NJ Since 1986
RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL SALES/SERVICE
All Major Credit Cards Accepted
P. Lic. #12425 • E. Lic. #9526
NJ Reg #13VH02047500 • HVAC Lic. 1510
ELECTRIC, PLUMBING HEATING & COOLING
NOW HIRING QUALIFIED TEAM MEMBERS
1186 LIVINGSTON AVENUE, NORTH BRUNSWICK, NJ
732-247-7390 • www.DaltonElectricCo.com

FRANKLIN ELECTRIC MAINTENANCE CO. INC. Lic. #18219
Family owned and operated since 1956.
-SALES
-SERVICE
-INSTALLATION
732-249-1359
www.FranklinElectricNJ.com
DON'T BE LEFT IN THE DARK!

FIND YOUR NEW BEST FRIEND.
\$60 adoption fee | animals are spayed/neutered, micro-chipped & up-to-date on shots
Franklin Township Animal Shelter
475 DeMott Lane, Somerset, NJ 08873
732.873.2500 x6255 | Tue-Fri 12-3 & Sat 12-6
Ad sponsored by Second Chance For Animals

BOYLAN Funeral Home
188 Easton Avenue
New Brunswick, NJ 08901
732-545-4040
Robert Fox, Manager
N.J. License No. 4371
www.BoylanFH.com
Family owned and operated since 1958
10 Wooding Avenue
Edison, NJ 08817
732-572-0076