



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

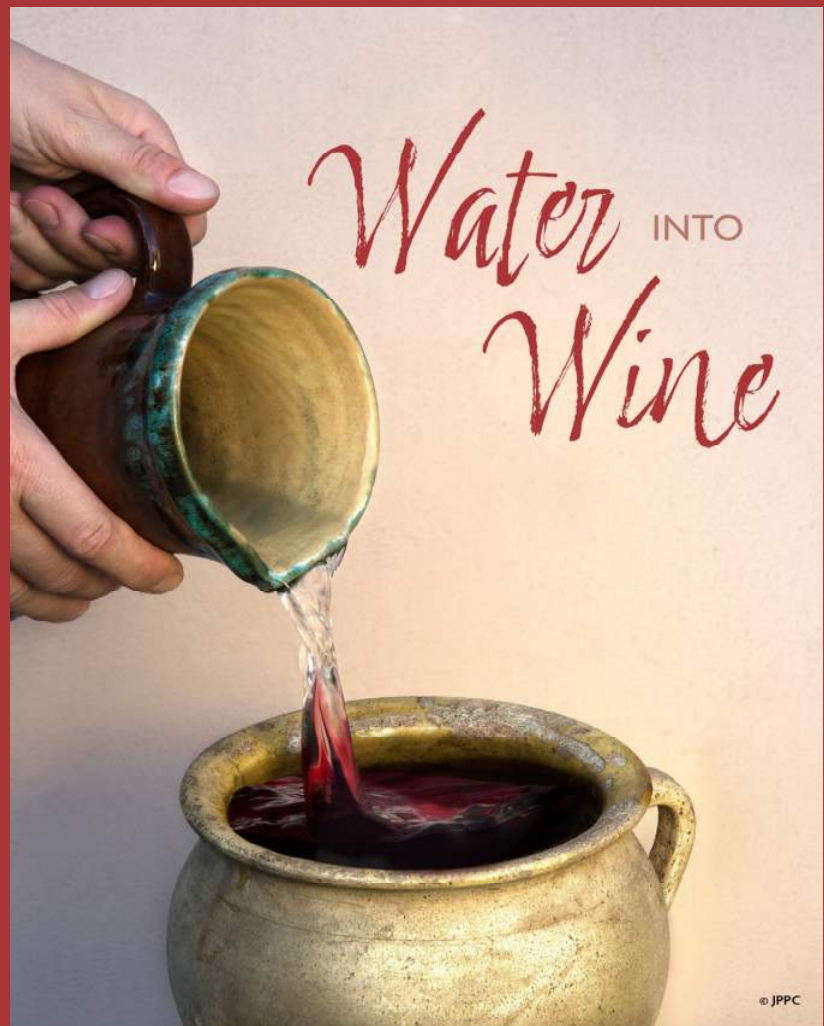
Anthony Baio, *Maintenance*
 Deacon Ron Caimi, *Senior Deacon*
 Maria Cornier, *Parish Secretary* **mcornier**
 Kelly Counts, *Receptionist*, **kcounts**
 Deacon Russell Demkovitz, **rdemkovitz**
 Nathalie Godet, *Website & Bulletin Editor*,
ngodet

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**

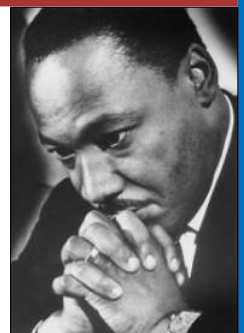
St. Matthias School (add @stmatthiasnj.org)
 Mary Lynch, *Principal*, **mlynch**

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS
SUNDAY, JANUARY 19, 2025
 Second Sunday in Ordinary Time



“Help Us to Realize That
 God Is the Answer.”

- Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



ADORATION
 OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT



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

THERE IS NO ADORATION THIS WEEK.

OUR NEXT ADORATION WILL BE
JANUARY 27, 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 19, 2024
 8:00AM Mass Church
 10:00AM Mass Church
 11:00AM RCIA de Porres Rm & Ruiz Rm
 12:00PM Mass Church

Monday, Jan 20, 2024 **St. Sebastian, Martyr & St. Fabian, Pope and Martyr**
Parish Office Closed
 8:00AM No Mass Church
 9:00AM Next Level Gathering Cafeteria

Tuesday, Jan 21, 2024 **St. Agnes, Virgin & Martyr**
 8:00AM Mass Church

Wednesday, Jan 22, 2025 **St. Vincent Pallotti, Priest & Founder**
 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 8 St. John XXIII room
 7:30 PM Folk Group Rehearsal Church

Thursday, Jan 23, 2025 **St. John the Almsgiver, Patriarch of Alexandria**
 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 24, 2025 **St. Frances De Sales, Bishop & Doctor**
 8:00AM Mass Church
 6:45PM Boy Scout Trp. 154 Meeting Cafeteria

Saturday, Jan 25, 2025 **Conversion of St. Paul, Apostle**
Foundation for Catholic Education Collection
 10:00AM Caregivers Meeting Ruiz Rm
 12:00PM First Reconciliation Church
 3:30 PM Reconciliation Church
 5:00 PM Vigil Mass Church

Sunday, Jan 26, 2024
Catholic Schools Week
Foundation for Catholic Education Collection
 8:00AM Mass Church
 10:00AM Catholic Schools Week Mass w/ Interpreter Church
 11:00AM St. Matthias School Open House School
 11:00AM RCIA de Porres Rm & Ruiz Rm
 12:00PM Mass Church
 1:30PM Baptisms Church



Dear Friends,

As you read this, I should be home – God willing – to spend some time with my family, especially with my mother. I will be away for three weeks, but you all will certainly be in my prayers and thoughts. I wish to reflect on three important events occurring this week.

First: We are already in the **“Week of Prayer for Christian Unity,”** which began yesterday. The theme this year is based on a text from the Gospel of John: "Do you believe this?" (John 11:26). The year 2025 marks the 1,700th anniversary of the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea in 325 AD. (Remember the Nicene Creed?) This commemoration provides a unique opportunity to reflect on and celebrate the common faith of various Christian churches as expressed in the Creed formulated at that Council. The *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2025* is an invitation to draw on this common heritage and to enter more deeply into the faith that unites all Christians.

We know that Jesus prayed for unity: “Father, may they all be one” (John 17:21). But this unity is not realized as an organizational unity. Instead, I believe that it is possible to have a unity based on loving service, the fundamental mark of Christianity. Such a unity is possible if we accept what St. Paul asked us to do: "Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace." (Ephesians 4:3).

Second: Tomorrow is MLK Day in honor of Martin Luther King Jr– the Baptist minister and civil-rights activist, who had a seismic impact on race relations in the United States, beginning in the mid-1950s. The King holiday is seen as a day to promote equal rights for all Americans, regardless of their background. The King Center has this to say about the theme for this year: *“Our strategic theme for 2025 is ‘Mission Possible: Protecting Freedom, Justice, and Democracy in the Spirit of Nonviolence365’”* Treating all with our God-given dignity and respect is still a challenge for us. That’s why the US Bishops Conference established an Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism. Here’s what the Bishops said: *“Racism has rightly been called America's original sin. It remains a blot on our national life and continues to cause acts and attitudes of hatred, as recent events have made evident. The need to condemn, and combat, the demonic ideologies of white supremacy, neo-Nazism and racism has become especially urgent at this time. Our efforts must be constantly led and accompanied by prayer - but they must also include concrete action.”*

Third: The National March for Life takes place this Friday, January 24 in Washington D.C. about which you have been reading in our recent bulletin issues. Over the past 52 years, the March for Life has collectively united millions of pro-life Americans from every age, background, and faith with a common purpose: to witness the inherent dignity and worth of every single human life, especially those endangered by abortion. As a pro-life Church, we support this largest annual human rights demonstration in the world, especially with our prayers.

We thank God that St. Matthias is a life giving community that welcomes and accepts all. Are we perfect? No. There is always room for improvement. Let us continue our efforts to eradicate any form of discrimination or prejudice in our thoughts and actions and promote life and unity.

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 5:1-10 Ps 110:1, 2, 3, 4
Mk 2:18-22

Tuesday Heb 6:10-20 Ps 111:1-2, 4-5, 9, 10c
Mk 2:23-28

Wednesday Heb 7:1-3, 15-17 Ps 110:1, 2, 3, 4
Mk 3:1-6

Thursday Heb 7:25—8:6 Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9,
10, 17 Mk 3:7-12

Friday Heb 8:6-13 Ps 85:8, 10, 11-12, 13-14
Mk 3:13-19

Saturday Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22 Ps
117:1bc, 2 Mk 16:15-18

Sunday Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10 Ps 19:8, 9, 10,
15 1 Cor 12:12-30 or 1 Cor 12:12-14, 27 Lk 1:1-4;
4:14-21

Mass Intentions for the Week

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
Mon., January 20	8:00 AM	NO MASS
Tues., January 21	8:00 AM	Mary Eads by The Cook and Eads Family
Wed., January 22	8:00 AM	Mary Collins by Marty Collins
		Charles Stines by Yanick André
Thurs., January 23	8:00 AM	Januario Referente by Menchi Ventura
Fri., January 24	8:00 AM	Patricia Nese by Rita Dinicula
Sat., January 25	5:00 PM	Jean Elguicze by Mary Pat & Family
Sun., January 26	8:00 AM	Remigio Yumang by Celerino Yumang
	10:00 AM	Thomas Lewinski by The Scott Family
	12:00 PM	Intention of Parishioners

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

Pray for those who have died...

— “His mercy endures forever.” Chronicles

Marie Pierre

Courtney Onwuzuruigbo

John Martinez

Keith Byer

Reflect



Smile with Your Family



Little Tommy was so impressed by his oldest sister's wedding that he announced. "I want to have a wedding just like Linda had." "That sounds great," said his father. "But whom will you marry?" Tommy announced: "I want to marry grandma because she loves me and I love her." "You can't marry grandma," his father said. "Why not?" Tommy protested. "Because she is my mother." "Well," reasoned Tommy. "Then why did you marry my mother?" 😊

What's the difference between love and marriage?

A: Love is blind and marriage is an eye-opener! 😊

Marriage is when Man and Woman become as one. The trouble starts when they try to decide which one 😊

"Marriage is a bond between a person who never remembers anniversaries and another who never forgets them." — Ogden Nash 😊

"The secret to a good marriage is to be a little deaf." — Ruth Bader Ginsburg 😊

"My most brilliant achievement was my ability to be able to persuade my wife to marry me." —Winston Churchill 😊

"Keep your eyes wide open before marriage, half shut afterwards." —Benjamin Franklin 😊



MARRIAGE QUOTES WORTH PONDERING

"Love has nothing to do with what you are expecting to get, only with what you are expecting to give—which is everything." —Katharine Hepburn

"One word frees us of all the weight and pain in life. That word is Love." —Socrates

"Every heart sings a song incomplete until another heart whispers back." —Plato

"A happy marriage is the union of two good forgivers." — Ruth Bell Graham

"There is no more lovely, friendly and charming relationship, communion or company than good marriage." — Martin Luther

Marriage is a call to give oneself to one's spouse as fully as Christ gave himself to the Church" — USCCB

"In your relationship as husband and wife, it is important to keep alive your awareness that the other person is a gift from God, and we should always give thanks for the gift from God." — Pope Francis.



JUBILEE 2025: PILGRIMS OF HOPE

10 THINGS TO KNOW - #2

2. **Holy Doors.** Pope Francis opened the Jubilee 2025 on December 24, at 7 p.m., with the rite of the opening of the Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica. Four other Holy Doors have been designated in Rome: St. John Lateran, St. Mary Major, St. Paul Outside the Walls and Rebibbia Prison, a Roman prison Pope Francis has visited twice before to celebrate Mass and wash inmates' feet on Holy Thursday.

The doors represent the passage to salvation Jesus opened to humanity. Pope Martin V opened the Holy Door in the Basilica of St. John Lateran - the Diocese of Rome's cathedral - for the first time for a jubilee in 1423. Pope Alexander VI opened Holy Doors at Rome's four main basilicas for the Holy Year of 1500. At the end of a holy year, these Holy Doors are formally closed and then bricked over by masons.

Reflection: Open doors are signs of welcome to enter. How welcoming are we to others to our homes? More importantly, is the door of our heart remain open to Jesus? But the door especially represents Christ Himself – the one and only way to eternal life. As Jesus said in John 10:9: "I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture." But he will not force us to enter. He stands at the door of our hearts knocking (Revelation 3:21). We must open our hearts to Him and cross the threshold of hope, striving for holiness. The holy door invites us to enter God's house, symbolically letting God into our hearts.

“I HAVE TWO WIVES!”

There was an article in Reader's Digest few years ago, by a man named Patrick Cooney titled, "Why I Wear Two Wedding Bands." Cooney says that he has worn two wedding bands for more than a dozen years. When he's asked about them, he responds, "I have two wives." He's kidding, of course. One day a stranger would not let him off with this glib answer about why he wears two bands. So Cooney spilled the whole story. He explained his father died in 1999. As they were saying their final farewells at his funeral, his mother, who had been married to his father for 50-plus years, removed his father's wedding band and handed it to Patrick. Surprised, he placed the gold band on his left middle finger, next to his wedding band. There it has remained. He told the stranger that he wears his father's wedding band to honor his father and his parents' marriage. He also wears it to remind himself to be the son, brother, husband, and dad that his father wanted him to be. He is now 60 years old and has been married for 30 years. The stranger walked away, then turned back and said, "Sir, you know, I have my father's wedding band in my sock drawer at home, and beginning today, I am going to start wearing it." Powerful story. **But isn't it true of all our relationships? It's important not only to be faithful and attentive to our spouse, but to our children or our parents and our friends. I can tell you right now, without any hesitation at all that it is God's will for us to take care of our relationships.**

WHEN WINE RUNS OUT OF YOUR FAMILY LIFE?

Three men were sitting together bragging about how they had given duties to their new wives when the week long honeymoon was over. The first man had married a [Baptist] woman and had told her that she was going to do the dishes and housecleaning. It took a couple days, but on the third day he came home to a clean house and dishes washed and put away. The second man had married a [Presbyterian] woman. He had given his wife orders that she was to do all the cleaning, dishes, and the cooking. The first day he didn't see any results, but the next day he saw it was better. By the third day, he saw his house was clean, the dishes were done, and there was a huge dinner on the table. The third man had married a [a Catholic] woman, a black belt holder in karate. He told her in a commanding voice that her duties were to keep the house cleaned, dishes washed, lawn mowed, laundry washed and hot meals on the table for every meal. He said the first day he didn't see anything, the second day he didn't see anything, but by the third day some of the swelling had gone down from below his eyes which received karate punches from his new wife and he could see a little out of his left eye, enough to fix himself a bite to eat and load the dishwasher. We laugh to keep from crying, don't we? **We need Jesus' presence in the family for its smooth running. Just as Jesus filled the empty water jars with wine, let us fill the empty hearts in our family with love. By the miracle of Cana, Jesus challenges us to enrich the empty lives of those around us with the new wine of love, mercy, concern and care.**

“THE BEST IS YET TO BE!”

In a drama written for television entitled Love Among the Ruins, Lawrence Olivier and Katharine Hepburn star as two old friends who were childhood sweethearts forty years ago. Still a single man, Lawrence Olivier is now a prominent lawyer near the age of retirement. Katharine Hepburn is now a widow who comes by chance to Olivier's office for some legal help. Their old romance flares up again, and this time Olivier gets enough courage to ask Hepburn to marry him. To convince her to say 'yes' he quotes these verses from Robert Browning's poetry: "Grow old along with me! The best is yet to be. The last of life, for which the first was made. Our times are in his hands."

This television drama about love and marriage, and about "the best is yet to be," throws some light on today's Gospel story about the wedding feast at Cana. In his book, John: The Different Gospel, Fr. Michael Taylor points out that, unlike the other evangelists, John calls Jesus' works of wonder signs instead of miracles. John does this because they reveal in a visible way the inner spiritual identity of Jesus. Further, the other symbol in the Cana story, The Old Testament, symbolized by the water, is not being cast aside; it is being transformed by Jesus into something better –the new wine of the New Testament. Indeed, this hour that has finally come is the best that is to be in human history because it is characterized by the abundance and excellence of God's glory being revealed in Jesus.

THE SETTING FOR THE MIRACLE AT CANA

Christ's first miracle, which John refers to as a "sign," takes place in the village of Cana in Galilee. The hometown of the disciple Nathaniel but an otherwise insignificant town, Cana was located some eight miles northeast of Nazareth. This miracle is the first in John's series of seven signs by which Jesus manifested his power and glory during his public ministry. Presumably, the "disciples" who accompanied Jesus were Andrew, Simon Peter, Zebedee's sons James and John, Philip, and Nathaniel. Jesus' mother Mary was also present. Joseph is not mentioned in the story; he may well have died already. It is also possible that Mary was in some way related to the bride or groom and may have been serving as an assistant to the wedding director. According to a version recounted in the Coptic Gospels, the bridegroom was Simon of Cana, Jesus' disciple and the brother of Jacob and Judah. He was the son of Joseph's brother Cleophas (Helpai) and Mary's elder sister, and, hence, the nephew of both Mary and Joseph. Such weddings usually began on Wednesdays with the celebration lasting for seven days. During this period, guests arrived each day bringing gifts and participating in the joy of the occasion. In verse 3, we read that, in the course of the celebration, "the wine ran short." This was a difficult situation for the young couple, and may indicate that they came from poor families.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 2025

January 18–25 is traditionally the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The theme of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2025 is based on a text from the Gospel of John: "Do you believe this?" (John 11:26). The prayers and reflections have been prepared by the brothers and sisters of the monastic community of Bose in northern Italy in cooperation with the international team appointed by the Catholic Church's Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity and the Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches.

Begun in 1908, these days have been set aside each year so that Christians the world over may share the prayer of Jesus: "that all may be one... that the world may believe" (John 17:21). All are encouraged to use the Daily Scripture and Prayer to join with Christians around the world praying "that all may be one... that the world may believe" (John 17:21). Here's a model prayer we all can pray:

"Lord God, we thank you for sending your Son Jesus Christ to gather all peoples into the one communion of love and life through your Holy Spirit. We thank you for reminding us in our day to extend every effort to maintain the unity of the followers of Christ for which He so fervently prayed.

We ask today that this unity, this gift of the Holy Spirit, be so renewed among our churches that they will overcome obstacles that hinder a fuller expression of this gift and prevent a stronger witness to your love in Christ, through the Spirit with whom You live and reign forever and ever, Amen."

MARY'S INTERVENTION AT CANA

Among the Jews of that time, wine was not only considered a staple food item, but was also frequently used in times of celebration. To run short of wine at a wedding feast was certainly a serious problem, particularly damaging to the reputation of the host and an ill omen for the newly-married couple. When Mary pointed out the problem to Jesus, his reply seems, on the surface, to be a bit sharp. This, however, is to misunderstand the passage. Although Jesus addressed his mother as "Woman" or "Dear Woman," the term was roughly equivalent to our word "lady" or "madam", and was not, in itself, unnecessarily harsh. It was, in fact, a term of respect and is the same word Jesus used when he addressed his mother from the cross, saying of John, "Woman, behold your Son." Jesus' next words are also easily misunderstood. He asked Mary, "What is it to me and to you?" This implies no rudeness on Jesus' part. Probably, it means, "We are guests, and guests are not expected to supply the things needed at a feast." Jesus further protested, "My hour has not yet come," The "hour" of Jesus includes his passion, death, Resurrection and exaltation taken as one great event. In spite of Jesus' detachment from the problem, Mary instructed the waiters, "Do whatever He tells you," showing Faith that her son would do what the newlyweds and their families really needed. The Church uses the account of this miracle to remind us that, by virtue of her position as the Mother of God and our Heavenly mother, Mary's intercession for us with God has great power.

AND "THEY LIVED HAPPILY FOR EVER"

In *The Odyssey*, Homer (ca. 850 BC) wove an epic poem of 24 books around the wanderings and adventures of the mythic Odysseus, King of Ithaka. With his ships scuttled and lost at sea after the Trojan War, Odysseus angered the sea-god, Poseidon, who blocked his every attempt to return to Ithaka, forcing him to roam the earth. While he encountered and coped with one calamity after another, his faithful wife Penelope remained in Ithaka awaiting his return. Years passed with no word from Odysseus. At last, Telemachus, their only son, had grown to manhood. Suitors, wishing to take for themselves Odysseus' wealth and kingdom had been seeking Penelope's hand in marriage. In an effort to fend them off, Penelope promised that she would choose one of them after she had finished weaving a shroud for her father-in-law. Still hoping for her husband's return, Penelope stalled for time by secretly unraveling each day's weaving during that evening. Eventually, but only after years of suffering and separation, the loving couple were reunited.

Current statistics in western countries give us the impression that "happily ever after" endings now exist only in the world of myth. In the book *The Moral Compass*, William J. Bennett says, "In recent history, marriage has devolved from being a Sacrament to a contract to a convention to, finally, a convenience, and the wedding vow changed from 'as long as we both shall live' to 'as long as we both shall love.'" Today's Gospel teaches us that if Jesus and Mary are invited into the marriage and are permanently, honorably retained in the family, they will help us solve the tough problems of our family life.

"BUT, DO YOU LOVE ME?"

In a scene of the stage play and movie, *Fiddle on the Roof*, the hero Tevye on one occasion keeps nagging his wife Golda, asking her whether she loves him or not. He keeps pestering her to say she does... But she is in no romantic mood and brushes him off, until finally she turns to him and says, "Look at this man... Look at you... I am your wife, I cook your meals, wash your clothes, milk the cows, raise half a dozen daughters for you, my bed is yours, everything I have and am, I share with you – and after all that, you want to know whether I love you? Oh, well... I guess I do...."

Most grown-up people, religious included, don't go telling people they love them... even if Jesus tells us we have to love one another. But they do express this love by what they do for those people around them every day. Let's invite Jesus into the ordinary events of daily life, he can make them new! Let us, "invite Jesus and Mary to remain with us in our homes." St. John Mary Vianney suggests this as the solution for many of our family problems. He used to encourage parents to create an atmosphere of prayer, Bible-reading, mutual love and respect and sacrificial service at home so that the presence of Jesus and Mary might be perpetually enhanced and experienced in the family.

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



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.

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!



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/

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

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 www.diometuchen.org/tuition-assistance. Applications are available in English and Spanish.

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



SAC IS LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS



The School Advisory Council (SAC) is looking for new members. St. Matthias Parish members, who would want to contribute some of their time and expertise to help advise the Pastor and the Principal in making St. Matthias School better today, and well prepared for the future, are welcome. The individuals could be past, or current SMS parents or grand parents, who care deeply about the elementary and middle school Catholic education. Experience in education, finance, accounting, technology, engineering, property management, healthcare, procurement, or human resources is welcome.

The council generally meets once a month (6-7 times a year), in person and/or via zoom. The principal, the vice-principal and the pastor report on the current status and challenges. The council discusses the current issues and the ways to position the school in a better place for the future. The topics like academics, marketing, enrollment, technology and grounds improvements, giving (Tuition Angels, The Annual Fund) and others are discussed. The council member term is 3 years. As we currently have a few members close to the end of their term, we are looking to fill multiple positions.

Interested individuals can contact the current SAC chair **Sue Lenczewski**, myworld2@comcast.net or the school Principal **Mrs. Lynch**, mlynch@stmatthiasnj.org. If you feel, you would be a good contributor, please pray about it, and reach out to us, as we strive to be a diverse team of advisors (in culture and experience) who can use their time and talent to assist the school administration in making SMS the best it can be.

SAC website - www.stmatthias.info/school-advisory-council



**JOIN US FOR THE START OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK
NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 26TH AT THE 10:00 AM MASS**



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.



Serve

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 27 - Jan. 5, 2025	\$13,846.00	\$27,299.00	\$41,145.00	\$39,449.65
Week 28 - Jan. 12, 2025	\$10,565.00	\$22,651.50	\$33,216.50	\$27,363.25
Week 29 - Jan. 19, 2025				\$21,531.25
Week 30 - Jan. 26, 2025				\$19,936.25
			Month-to-date Total	January Total Last Year
			\$74,361.50	\$108,280.40
			Current Year-to-date Total	Year-to-date as of January 31, 2024
			\$726,266.51	\$688,234.97

REMINDER!

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

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

Stewardship Reflection January 19, 2025 2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time

“To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit.” - 1 Corinthians 12:7

St. Paul tells us that God has blessed each of us for a reason. How has God blessed you? Are you using your gifts according to God’s plan? How are you helping to build God’s kingdom here on earth? Remember that if you don’t do the work God planned for you, no one else can do it. Live the life God has intended for you. Take time to discern your charisms (gifts from the Holy Spirit). Experience the supernatural Peace and Joy God desires for each of us.

Reflexiónese – 19 de enero de 2025 Domingo 2º del Tiempo Ordinario

“El Espíritu se manifiesta de manera diferente en cada uno para beneficio de todos.” - 1 Corintios 12:7

San Pablo nos dice que Dios nos bendice a cada uno de nosotros por una razón. ¿Cómo lo ha bendecido Dios? ¿Está utilizando sus dones de acuerdo con el Plan de Dios? ¿Cómo está ayudando a construir el Reino de Dios aquí en la tierra? Recuerde que si usted no hace la obra que Dios ha planificado para usted, nadie más puede hacerla. Viva la vida que Dios tiene dispuesta para usted. Tome tiempo para discernir sus carismas (dones del Espíritu Santo). Experimente la Paz y la Alegría sobrenatural que Dios desea para cada uno de nosotros.

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

Connecting to Our Local Community

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.



SPIRITUAL AWAKENINGS VIDEO CLUB

Friday, February 14 from 10-11:30am

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

\$20-\$30 as you are able

Parish Leadership

Parish Pastoral Council:	Secretary:	Fr. Lancelot McGrath	Parish Finance Council:	Mary Pat Burke-Grospin, Ex-Officio
Co-Chairs:	Sheila Tartaglia	Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio	Kester Hector, Chair	
Stephen Busono			Finance Council	
sbusono@gmail.com	Members:	Trustees:	@stmatthias.net	Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio
Bill Isele	Teresa Yannotta	Pearl Scott	Carmen Driz-Melilli	
t33sm@aol.com	Joe Percoco	Marge Richards	Barry Dusault	
	Miles London		Joan Pritchard	

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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