



**St. Matthias Parish Office:**

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

**Mass Schedule (in person):**

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

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

170 JFK Blvd., Somerset, NJ 08873  
[www.stmatthias.info](http://www.stmatthias.info) 732-828-1402  
**School Office Hours**, Monday - Friday,  
7:45 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 21, 2024**  
3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time



**TODAY'S  
SECOND  
COLLECTION  
IS FOR THE  
FOUNDATION  
FOR CATHOLIC  
EDUCATION**



**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2024**  
JANUARY 28 - FEBRUARY 3, 2024

[www.NCEA.org/csw](http://www.NCEA.org/csw)  
#CSW2024

**JOIN US FOR THE START OF  
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK**

**NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 28<sup>TH</sup> AT THE 10:00 AM MASS**

**ADORATION  
OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**



**PLEASE COME JOIN THE MANY WHO SPEND  
SOME QUIET TIME WITH THE  
EUCCHARISTIC 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](https://youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ)

**The Church is open for individual prayer**

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

**Sunday, Jan 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	Clsrms
12:00PM	Mass	Church

**Monday, Jan 22, 2024**

8:00AM	Mass – Miraculous Medal	Church
6:00PM	Eucharist Adoration	Church

**Tuesday, Jan 23, 2024 St. Vincent, Deacon & Martyr**

8:00AM	Mass	Church
--------	------	--------

**Wednesday, Jan 24, 2024 St. Francis de Sales, Bishop & Doctor**

8:00AM	Mass, St. Joseph Novena	Church
9:00AM	SMS Honor Roll	Church
9:30AM	Prayer Group 1 Holy Spirit	de Porres Rm
6:30PM	School Finance Meeting	de Porres Rm
7:30PM	Folk Group Rehearsal	Church

**Thursday, Jan 25, 2024 Conversion of St. Paul, Apostle & Matyr**

8:00AM	Mass	Church
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 26, 2024 St. Timothy & St. Titus, Bishops**

8:00AM	Mass	Church
--------	------	--------

**Saturday, Jan 27, 2024 St. Angela Merici, Foundress of the Ursulines**

10:00AM	Caregivers Meeting	Ruiz Rm
12:00PM	Celebration of 1st Reconciliation	Church
3:30PM	Reconciliation	Church
5:00PM	Vigil Mass	Church

**Sunday, Jan 28, 2024**

8:00AM	Mass	Church
10:00AM	Mass–Sign Language Interpreter	Church
	<b>Catholic Schools Week begins @ Mass</b>	
10:00AM	First Eucharist Prep #1 Class	Church
11:00AM	CSW SMS Open House School & Cafeteria	
11:00AM	1st Eucharist Prep #1 Class	John XXIII Rm
12:00PM	Mass	Church
3:30PM	SMYLE Youth Group	Cafeteria



I don't know if it's my age ... but it seems that time is flying by! We are just a few weeks away from the Christmas season and in less than a month, we will be celebrating Ash Wednesday. This year it falls on Valentine's Day... a day of fasting and abstention. Of course, Ash Wednesday is the start of the forty days of Lent and this leads us up to Holy Week and to the glorious feast of Christ's resurrection, Easter Sunday.

Right now, however, we are in the few weeks of ordinary time. A little bit of a breather between the two major feasts of Christmas and Easter. In today's Gospel, we hear Christ calling a few of the apostles to come and follow Me. He calls them to leave their fishing nets and to become fishers of Men. My sisters and brothers, we are all called to be Disciples of Christ. When we are baptized, we are automatically called to be Disciples of Christ ... To leave "our nets" behind and to be fishers of men.

Sometimes we tend to forget that not only priests, religious, and Deacons receive the call from Jesus to follow Him. We are all called. Each one's answer to that call is obviously different. Twenty-five years ago, I answered God's call to the Diaconate and will be ordained twenty years this June. Sometimes we aren't tuned in to when God is calling us. There's a little story of a man whose house was going to be flooded. The rescuers came in a rowboat to rescue him. He refused to get in saying God will save him. The water rose higher to the top floor. Again the rescuers came with a boat. Again, he refused saying God will save Him. Finally, they came by helicopter when he was on his roof. Again, he refused... giving the same answer. He perished in the flood. When he got to heaven, he asked God "Why didn't you save me? God answered, "I sent you two boats and a helicopter and you didn't listen!"

Lent is a perfect time to spend some time asking God what are you calling me in my life right now. Remember that the call could be a whisper of a feeling. For me, Lent is a time for me to sit down with the Lord and see if there is somewhere different that the Lord is calling me. It does not matter at what stage in life you are, we must listen to the possibility that God may be calling us to something new and exciting in our lives. As we get closer to Lent think about what you may do... I say do rather than give up something. I feel doing this is putting Lent in a positive rather than a negative spiritual journey. More time in prayer with the Lord is a great way to enhance your Lenten journey. Perhaps it's time to join a Lenten small faith group. Whatever you do make this Lent the best you can and you will feel the joy of Christ's resurrection on Easter more fully.

Peace of Christ,

Deacon Russ

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

## Readings for the Week

**Monday, January 22, 2024** 2 Sm 5:1-7, 10  
Ps 89:20, 21-22, 25-26 Mk 3:22-30

**Tuesday, January 23, 2024** 2 Sm 6:12b-15,  
17-19 Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10 Mk 3:31-35

**Wednesday, January 24, 2024** 2 Sm 7:4-17  
Ps 89:4-5, 27-28, 29-30 Mk 4:1-20

**Thursday, January 25, 2024** Acts 22:3-16  
or Acts 9:1-22 Ps 117:1bc, 2 Mk 16:15-18

**Friday, January 26, 2024** 2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti  
1:1-5 Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 7-8a, 10 Mk 4:26-34

**Saturday, January 27, 2024** 2 Sm 12:1-7a,  
10-17 Ps 51:12-13, 14-15, 16-17 Mk 4:35-41

**Sunday, January 28, 2024** Dt 18:15-20 Ps  
95:1-2, 6-7, 7-9 1 Cor 7:32-35 Mk 1:21-28

## Mass Intentions for the Week

**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

**Monday, Jan 22** 8:00AM Mary Collins, by Marty Collins

**Tuesday, Jan 23** 8:00AM Louis Nepote, by Mary Nepote

**Wednesday, Jan 24** 8:00AM Richard Terzian,  
by Kathleen & William Gorka

**Thursday, Jan 25** 8:00AM Sylvia Vaccarella, by Mary & Jim Woods

**Friday, Jan 26** 8:00AM Health & Blessings for Matthew Wilson,  
by Peter & Kathleen Cardone

**Saturday, Jan 27** 5:00PM Intention of Parishioners

**Sunday, Jan 28** 8:00AM Joan & Terry Seamon,  
by Sr. Marie Therese

10:00AM Dennis Stuewe

12:00PM Lou Carcich, by The Carcich 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](mailto: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	Claudia Gemgnani	Renée Jolly	Jessica Marie Merrick	Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF
Mary Agnello	Emma Gergely	Bill Kelleher	Gail Miranda	Sr. Bernadine Marie Stemnock
Kristin Baio	Gerry & Jack Gernert	Betsy Kondrat	Menchie Molano-Sotelo	Luzviminda Talag
Olga Marie Bando	Claude Godet	Kathy Langenbacher	Danny Ongchango	Jacqueline Taylor
Carolyn Banghart	Marie Godet	Armando D. Liban	Robert Pellegrino	Anita Vance
Samantha Bellouny	Shelly Greene	Mary Lou Litrakis	Robert Pietrowiak	Eileen Weber
Carmen Bender	Linda Hartong	John Litrakis	Valerie Polci	Nancy Whelan
Mary Bostrom	Jeff Hentz	Denis Loboda	Kim Price	Ginette Zamor
Tara Capatosto	Sloopy & PJ Hoffman	Aries Magali	Denise Pultro	Anne Zando
Elizabeth Card	Gene Horan	Kenneth & Kelly Magat	Doris Regan	<b>And for all who are ill, homebound, elderly, in nursing care, or living with chronic illness, we pray.</b>
Kyle Davidson	Marilyn Horvath	Al Maglio	Gabriel Rivera	
Lisa DeFeo	Jerry & Donna Hucul	Susan, King & Tosh Manansala	Arina Robinson	
Zenon DeGuzman	Amanda Isele	Alexandra Marquez	Bob Rotz	
Vivian Dong	Baby Elaine Isele	Christine Matthews	Maria Schwenzer	
Hattie Evans	Nick Isele	Ann McElwee	Amy Shepp	
Heinley Gaspard	Bill Johnson			

## Pray for those who have died...

— “His mercy endures forever.” Chronicles

Vincent Simpson,

Norma A. Rosa,

Ellin Ossandon,

Barbara Ruziska

## Reflect



### Smile with Your Family



An old man visits his doctor and after thorough examination, the doctor tells him: "I have good news and bad news; what would you like to hear first?"

**Patient:** "Well, let me have the bad news first."

**Doctor:** "You have cancer. I estimate that you have about two years left."

**Patient:** "Oh no! That's just awful! In two years my life will be over! What kind of good news could you probably tell me, after this?"

**Doctor:** "You also have Alzheimer's. In about three months you are going to forget everything I told you." 😊

The best prayer I ever heard: "Lord, please make me the kind of person my dog thinks I am." 😊

There was a young boy who wanted to go down to the lake and fish and his mother asked him to take his little sister with him. He said, "Mom, don't make me take her with me. The last time she came with me I didn't catch a single fish." The mother said, "I'll talk to her and I promise this time she won't make any noise." The boy said, "Mom, it wasn't the noise. She ate all my bait!" 😊



### Parenting Tune-Up

Jan. 19 was the 45th annual March for Life in Washington DC. Tens of thousands of Pro-Life supporters went there and testified to their opposition to abortion. Couldn't go to Washington? You can still testify. Talk with your child about the value of life no matter how young or how old. Perhaps donate baby items to a pregnancy center.

### Marriage Tune-Up



Another way to Turn Your Beloved Off!! - Let Your Kids Pre-empt your Beloved. Our children are important and take a lot of care - But, sometimes, we unnecessarily put our kids before our spouse. Babysitters can be a gift from God. If you aren't a parent, substitute "work" for "kids."



### IT MAY NOT BE PRETTY, BUT HE CAN TEACH . . .

Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God. . . As he passed by the Sea of Galilee, [Jesus] saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting their nets into the sea; they were fishermen.

**Jesus said to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." Then they abandoned their nets and followed him. Mark 1: 14-20**

It's the first day of the fall semester. First-year college students take seats in the lecture hall for their first class in Biology 101. The professor welcomes everyone and calls the roll. He distributes the syllabus and explains the course material, the assignments, and his grading policies. The students find him engaging and approachable. Everything is off to a good start. However, before he begins the day's lecture, the professor says this:

"One more thing before we get started. "During the semester, when we meet for lecture or lab work, there will be times when I will stumble. I will slur words. It may take me a while to get the words out when answering your questions. I will fumble with my notes. I'll have to stop now and then because of a tremor in my hand or leg. And, in all probability, you'll have trouble deciphering my handwriting - don't hesitate to ask me to decode. You won't offend me.

"I have Parkinson's Disease. "I've been living with Parkinson's for the past five years. It's a challenge, but it hasn't stopped me from teaching — and it shouldn't stop you from learning.

"So don't worry. I'm O.K. It's a struggle — but I'm coping. I can still teach this subject that I love."

**This professor could retire from teaching, of course, and avoid the awkwardness and the embarrassment, the stares and the frightened looks on his students' faces. But he loves what he does — he's good at it and he loves the students he teaches. He refuses to give an inch to Parkinson's. So he "abandons the nets" of others' expectations, his own doubts and fears of criticism, his own safe "boat" to continue to use the skills and gifts God has given him: the ability to teach. To follow Christ means "abandoning our nets" of self-interest to embrace the needs of others; Jesus calls us to follow him along the difficult path of selfless compassion and humble generosity. That's the challenge of the disciple's call: to find our life's fulfillment in using our skills and knowledge for the common good rather than for personal profit or fame; to seek reconciliation and forgiveness when the rest of the world demands vengeance and settling the score; to see Christ in the faces of everyone we meet.**

## CASEY'S DEBT JUBILEE

In the last days of her life, Casey McIntyre made sure that others would have access to the health care she had. Casey was diagnosed with ovarian cancer in 2019. A publisher with Penguin Random House, Casey had a long hospitalization at New York's Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center before moving to home hospice care last May. Doctors expected her to live for a few weeks, but she had six months, a "bonus summer" that she and her husband and daughter spent traveling, going to the beach, and hosting gatherings of family and friends.

In addition, Casey planned her memorial service, wrote letters to her 18-month-old daughter Grace, and put together the pieces to make her last wish come true. Two days after she died on November 12 — according to plan — a post appeared on her social media accounts: "A note to my friends: if you're reading this I have passed away. I'm so sorry. To celebrate my life, I've arranged to buy up others' medical debt and then destroy the debt." She then asked for donations to pay off the medical debt of others. Within a week, they blew way past the initial goal of \$20,000, raising almost a quarter of a million had been raised — enough to buy and pay off \$14 million in medical debt.

Casey McIntyre's campaign is part of **RIP Medical Debt**, an organization that buys medical debt in bundles "at a steep discount," and then pays it off. Every \$1 donated buys about \$100 in medical debt. RIP Medical Debt uses data analytics to find families and households saddled with excessive debt because of medical treatment. In the course of her treatment, Casey and her husband, Andrew Gregory, met many cancer patients who were in precarious financial positions. Many of these patients and their families were forced to make difficult decisions: Should they pay their mortgage or make a payment on their medical bills? Did they want to extend their life for a couple more years or die soon so they could leave their savings to the next generation? "People are making miserable decisions about their care because of money," Andrew says. "This imaginary debt is dragging so many people down. It's an immoral part of our nation. When Casey and Andrew saw a news story about a North Carolina church that worked with RIP Medical Debt to raise \$15,000 that enabled them to burn \$3 million in medical debt, they put their plan in place. "Casey was very, very sick at the end of her life, and she couldn't finish everything she wanted to finish. But I knew she wanted to do this memorial and debt jubilee . . . "To see Casey's good and happy life continuing in this way is very beautiful to me." [*The New York Times*, November 19, 2023; *The Washington Post*, November 18, 2023.]

**Christ entrusts to each one of us — whether fisherman, doctor, cook, teacher, student, pastor, laborer, child, senior — the work of discipleship: to realize God's Kingdom of mercy and justice, of generosity and reconciliation, in this time and place of ours. It often means "repositioning" our "nets" not for ourselves but for the sake of others. Christ calls us as disciples to seek reconciliation and forgiveness when the rest of the world demands vengeance and settling the score; to see Christ in the faces of those who have been written off by society; to embrace the role of servant when the conventional wisdom dictates "me first." If we're going to realize his call to be "fishers of men," we have to be willing to cast our nets into waters that are deep and turbulent, waters we do not know. Waters that threaten the safety and security of our small boats in order to "catch" the poor, the struggling, the lost, the despairing — not to mention ourselves — for God.**

### Do you appreciate the call to be Christ's Disciples?

Every one of us is called by God, both individually and collectively. The mission of preaching, teaching and healing which Jesus began in Galilee is now the responsibility of the Church. Our own unique vocation and our relationship with the risen Lord are the same as that of the universal Church. Be we religious, priests, married or single people, we are all called, and in this call we become what God wants us to be. The call, of course, begins with our Baptism and the other Sacraments of Initiation. It is strengthened throughout the years with the Eucharist and Reconciliation, healed and consoled by Anointing and made manifest in Matrimony, or Holy Orders. God is relentless in calling us back to Himself, even when we stray away from Him.

### Stewardship Quote:

**"Follow me and I will make you fishers of men." - Mark 1:17.**

Jesus' call to "Follow me" is a call to all Christians! The call is in the here and now, in our present circumstances, not when we think we are "ready" or have everything in order. Good stewardship of our God-given gifts means that things aren't always going to go according to our schedule and that God has a much better plan in store for each of us. (Archbishop Carlson)

# Reflect

## Four Reasons why People do not catch fish!

There are basically four reasons why people do not catch fish: (

- 1) Some people are using the wrong bait.
- 2) Some people are fishing in the wrong lake, that is, they don't know where the fish are.
- 3) Some people have got the right bait and they're in the right lake, but they don't know how to fish.
- 4) Then there are some people who have the right bait, and they're in the right lake, and they know how to fish but they're just not going fishing.

***The Lord Jesus came not only that we might put our faith in Him, but that we might go fishing with Him. You see, our problem is not that we have the wrong lake. The water is full of fish. The problem is not that we have the wrong bait. We have the Gospel which can hook any fish. Our problem, I believe, is one of ignorance and apathy. There are many Christians who believe they do not know how to share the Lord Jesus, and then there are many who just don't want to go.***

## “It takes a tough man to make a Tender Chicken”



Purdue Farms had the same problem when they tried to expand their chicken business. Their popular slogan tried to appeal to women by making men prepare a chicken dinner. Do you recall the slogan? It was, "It takes a tough man to make a tender chicken." Desiring to reach into the Spanish market they translated their slogan and announced to the entire Latino world, "It

takes a virile man to make a chicken affectionate." Now that's a personal touch but not the kind I had in mind.

***How can we reach others for Christ? We can do it by speaking their language – understanding their jobs, taking an interest in their hobbies, speaking to them about their families. We can do it with a personal touch.***

## “Who and what am I working for?”

There is a story about a holy rabbi. In the town where he lived, the houses of the rich stood in an isolated area so that they had to hire men to watch over their property at night. Late one evening as the rabbi was coming home he met a watchman walking up and down. ‘For whom are you working?’ the rabbi asked. The man told him and then inquired in his turn, ‘And for whom are you working, rabbi?’ The words struck the rabbi like a shaft. ‘I am not working for anyone just now,’ he barely managed to say. Then he walked up and down beside the man for a long time. ‘Will you be my servant?’ he finally asked. ‘I should like to,’ the man replied, ‘but what would be my duties?’ ‘To ask me that question every now and then,’ said the rabbi.

***It's a question each of us might ask ourselves every now and then: Who or what am I working for? Jesus has called us to be His disciples. The mission of preaching, teaching and healing which Jesus began in Galilee is now our responsibility. Be we religious, priests, married or single people, we are all called, and in this call we become what God wants us to be. The call, of course, begins with our Baptism and the other Sacraments of Initiation. It is strengthened throughout the years with the Eucharist and Reconciliation, healed and consoled by Anointing and made manifest in Matrimony, or Holy Orders. God is relentless in calling us back to Himself, even when we stray away from Him.***

## Integrity, Intelligence and Energy!

Warren Buffett, the nation's most successful financial investor and the second-richest man in America, has some very valuable advice on hiring the best people for your business. He says, "Somebody once said that in looking for people to hire, you look for three qualities: integrity, intelligence, and energy. And if they don't have the first, the other two will kill you." [Omaha World Herald, Feb. 5, 1994 . Cited in *Thoughts of Chairman Buffett*, (New York: Harper Business, 5332).] If you were looking to hire someone to work for you, where would you begin? Wouldn't you begin with someone you could trust?

***Jesus saw something in these men that helped him to know that he could depend on them. This is not to say that the disciples were perfect. Certainly they were not. There is a silly story about Jesus having his Last Supper with his disciples. As they ate, he looked around at them. There, in one direction, he saw Judas Iscariot, who would betray him to the authorities before three hours had passed. On the other side was Peter, who would deny him three times before the cock crowed. And almost immediately opposite him was Thomas, who, on a crucial occasion, would express doubts.***

***There seemed only one thing to do. Jesus called over the headwaiter, "Max," he said, "separate checks."***



## Pray



### *November Baptisms*

Catholic community of St. Matthias welcomes the following children who were baptized in November. We support them with prayers and ask their parents to nurture them so they can grow to be faith-filled people of God and our parish community.

*Shayleigh Ann Cullen*  
*Lennox Michael Krivoruchko*

*Kaiden Thomas Cullen*  
*Charley Mark Palmer*

## Serve



### 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 27th

**TIME:** 10:00 - 11:30am

**PLACE:** Ruiz Room in Parish Office

**PLEASE PARK BEHIND THE PARISH OFFICE TO ENTER THE RUIZ ROOM DOOR**

For additional info please contact: Donna Kahora: [donnakahora@yahoo.com](mailto:donnakahora@yahoo.com) 732-246-2124 or  
Sister Marie Therese: [msherwood@stmatthias.net](mailto:msherwood@stmatthias.net), 732-828-1400

### MORNING 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](mailto:jzdzarski@comcast.net).

Please note that an adult must accompany those under the age of 18.

#### 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).



### FROM OUR ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Who are the clients that we serve? They are the person who waits on you in your favorite restaurant, the person at the checkout line at the supermarket, a fellow parishioner.... they are our neighbors living in Franklin Township and the surrounding area who are struggling to make ends meet and provide for their families.

This past year, our ministry has seen a dramatic increase in those in need of rental or utility assistance. With COVID funds and protections gone, landlords have become more aggressive and less tolerant if rent is not paid on the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month. Many of those who have sought our help this year were facing eviction.

One such client is a woman interviewed by Bob Cherill and me. Her sister, living in Jamaica, developed cancer. Putting her family first she helped with her sister's medical bills for eight months before she passed away resulting in her falling behind on her rent. Adding to her financial burden, she hit a deer and had to spend over \$1000 for repairs to her car. Her landlord threatened eviction which led her to seek assistance from our St. Vincent de Paul Society. We were able to assist her with her back rent and prevent eviction. She is financially stable again and moving forward with her life. In gratitude, she made a donation to our ministry to help another person in need.

Our ministry and those we serve are grateful for the generosity of our St. Matthias parishioners who support us with donations given through the poor boxes, Parish Giving and in contribution envelopes.

You are in our continued prayers. May 2024 be a blessed and joyous year!

*John Galat, Vice President, St. Vincent de Paul Society at St. Matthias*

# 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.

# 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](mailto:mlynch@stmatthiasnj.org) for more information.



## PRAYING WITH INCLUSIVE ICONS

February 10, 2024 • 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Presenter: Patricia Brintle

“The Inclusive Icons of the Church of St. Francis Xavier” won the Faith and Form 2022 International award for Visual Arts and “A Delicate Balance” won the “Images of Peace” national competition. Patricia Brintle won the 2022 Faith and Form International Award for Religious Art & Architecture in the Visual Art Category for “The Inclusive Icons of the Church of St. Francis Xavier” in Manhattan.

Born and raised in Haiti, Brintle’s colorful style reflects her native land, and her rich culture guides her creative muse. Her paintings are infused with complex symbolism. She favors bright and vivid colors as she explores the universality of human emotions in every one of her artworks. Patricia shares her deep prayer and invites us to be drawn into the icons of invitation.

### Ways to Register and Participate:

- **In-person for the day - Donation: \$30 (includes lunch)**
- Overnight Friday and attending the Retreat Saturday - Donation: \$85
- **Virtual Participation - Donation: \$20**
- To register for the Praying With Inclusive Icons Retreat please email: S. Joannie Cassidy at [jlc.cassidy@gmail.com](mailto:jlc.cassidy@gmail.com) or call (732) 898-9981.





# 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 27 - Jan. 7, 2024	\$16,480.90	\$22,968.75	\$39,449.65	\$23,916.25
Week 28 - Jan. 14, 2024	\$10,063.00	\$17,300.25	\$27,363.25	\$38,289.75
Week 29 - Jan. 21, 2024			\$0.00	\$23,456.25
Week 30 - Jan. 28, 2024			\$0.00	\$23,378.25
			<b>Month-to-date Total</b>	<b>January Total Last Year</b>
			\$66,812.90	\$113,283.45
			<b>Current Year-to-Date</b>	<b>Year-to-Date as of January</b>
			\$66,812.90	\$113,283.45



## 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](http://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 21, 2024 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

*"Follow me and I will make you fishers of men."- Mark 1:17*

Jesus' call to "follow me" is a call to all Christians! The call is in the here and now, in our present circumstances, not when we think we are "ready" or have everything in order. Good stewardship of our God-given gifts means that things aren't always going to go according to our schedule, but that God has a much better plan in store for each of us.

### Reflexiónese 21 de enero de 2024 3<sup>er</sup> Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario

*"Siganme, y Yo haré que ustedes sean pescadores de hombres".  
-Marcos 1:17*

¡El llamado de Jesús a "Seguirlo" es un llamado para todos los cristianos! El llamado es aquí y ahora, en nuestras circunstancias actuales, no cuando pensemos que estamos "listos" o que tenemos todo en orden. La buena administración de los dones que Dios nos ha dado significa que las cosas no siempre van de acuerdo con nuestro cronograma, sino que Dios tiene reservado un plan mucho mejor para cada uno de nosotros.



## 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

## EXPLORING THE MANY WAYS OF PRAYER

### January Co-Ed Retreat:

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



### STRESS IN YOUR MARRIAGE?

Do you feel lost, alone or bored in your marriage? · Are you frustrated, hurt or angry with your spouse? · Have you thought about separation or divorce? · Does talking about it only make it worse? **RETROUVAILLE** is a Lifeline to Help Couples Heal and Renew their Marriages sponsored by the Office of Family Life, Diocese of Metuchen, NJ.

RETROUVAILLE consists of a weekend experience for married couples (no group discussions) with four follow up sessions. **The upcoming weekend is February 2 – 4, 2024.** All inquiries are confidential. For further information, please contact Rich Colasuonno 732-236-0671 or Annette Colasuonno 732-672-0748 or email [3024@helpourmarriage.org](mailto:3024@helpourmarriage.org).

### THE GIFT OF LECTIO AND VISIO DIVINA

Growing in relationship with God is a process like any other relationship. Lectio and Visio Divina are two traditional ways that help us to cultivate deep intimacy and friendship with God. These forms of prayer will be explored as means to encounter God and lead us into contemplative rest in & with God. (\$20-\$30 as you are able)



**Presenter:** Sr. Eileen Smith, RSM

**Tuesday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, 7-8:30 pm Hybrid**

**Call us at 908-753-2091 or email us at [msmhope@msmhope.org](mailto:msmhope@msmhope.org).**

Registration for all offerings is required **10 days in advance** to avoid the program being cancelled.

## Parish Leadership

<b>Parish Pastoral Council:</b>  <b>Co-Chairs:</b> Frank Rees <a href="mailto:Frees814@gmail.com">Frees814@gmail.com</a>  Marilyn Wegg <a href="mailto:mcw-wam@comcast.net">mcw-wam@comcast.net</a>	<b>Co-Secretaries:</b> Stephen Busono <a href="mailto:sbusono@gmail.com">sbusono@gmail.com</a> Bill Isele <a href="mailto:t33sm@aol.com">t33sm@aol.com</a> Al Drabnis Didi Molano	Sheila Tartaglia  Fr. Lancelot McGrath, Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio  <b>Trustees:</b> Pearl Scott Marge Richards	<b>Parish Finance Council:</b>  Kester Hector, Chair <b>Finance Council</b> <a href="mailto:@stmatthias.net">@stmatthias.net</a> Carmen Driz-Mellini 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](http://www.stmatthias.net/join-us), or visit the Parish Office.

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

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

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



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

**ARE THESE YOUR SIZE?**




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

[www.middlebushfire.com](http://www.middlebushfire.com) [HELP@MIDDLEBUSHFIRE.COM](mailto:HELP@MIDDLEBUSHFIRE.COM)  
 MIDDLEBUSH VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT [www.middlebushfire.com](http://www.middlebushfire.com)



**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](http://Restas.com)  *Trusted For 77 Years*  
 1873 Amwell Road • Somerset

**star22home** **Angie's List Award Winner 2015-2023**  
 Showroom & Design Center by Appointment  
 www.star22home.com \$10,000 Complete Bathroom Remodel. Labor /Materials  
 KITCHENS • BATHROOMS 22 Plainfield Ave., Piscataway, NJ **5 DAY BATH** [www.my5DB.com](http://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](http://www.morganbasementwaterproofing.com)

**PA FINANCIAL, CPA**  
 Professional Tax, Accounting, Bookkeeping, Payroll  
[www.pafinancials.com](http://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](http://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](http://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.candfpaint.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



**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





**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

**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  
-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