



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 26, 2025
 Third Sunday in Ordinary Time



TODAY IS THE START OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK



THERE IS A SECOND COLLECTION TODAY TO BENEFIT THE FOUNDATION FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION



ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT



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

Monday, Jan 27, 2024

**St. Angela Merici,
 Virgin & Foundress**

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

Tuesday, Jan 28, 2024

**St. Thomas Aquinas,
 Priest & Doctor**

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

Wednesday, Jan 29, 2025 **St. Constantius of Perugia,
 Patron of Perugia**

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
 7:30 PM Folk Group Rehearsal Church

Thursday, Jan 30, 2025

**St. Martina of Rome,
 Virgin & Martyr**

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 31, 2025 **St. John Bosco, Priest & Founder**

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

Saturday, Feb 1, 2025 **184 Blessed Claretian, Martyrs**

10:30AM Bible Study Ruiz Rm
 3:30 PM Reconciliation Church
 5:00 PM Vigil Mass Church

Sunday, Feb 2, 2024

8:00AM Mass Church
 10:00AM Mass Church
 11:00AM RCIA de Porres Rm & Ruiz Rm
 11:00AM Rosary Altar Meeting St. John XXII Rm
 12:00PM Mass Church
 2:00PM GIFT Church, St. John XXIII Rm, classrms

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.

This year we celebrate Catholic Schools Week from January 26 through February 1, 2025.



Catholic Schools
 United in Faith and Community

In his recent exhortation *Christus Vivit*, Pope Francis tells us, ‘Christ is alive! He is our hope, and in a wonderful way he brings youth to our world, and everything he touches becomes young, new, and full of life. The very first words, then, that I would like to say to every young Christian are these: Christ is alive and he wants you to be alive!’

Pope Francis is reminding us that at the heart of each of our Catholic schools is Jesus Christ. Our schools strive to ensure each student reaches their full potential, irrespective of class, creed, or ethnicity. Each person is welcomed and included because we share a common humanity, each made in the likeness and image of God. It is Jesus who reveals to us how much God loves us and it is Jesus who models what it is to be fully human, in our thoughts, words, and actions. When we live as Christ taught us, we too become more fully alive, flourishing into the people we were made to be.

This Catholic Schools Week, we recognize and celebrate the unique contribution our Catholic schools make to the well-being and flourishing of our students. In Christ, we have the ultimate role model, the one who shows us how to live authentically and to our full potential, through faith, hope, and love. In our Catholic schools, we are called to bring about God’s reign by following Christ’s example. For when we are alive in Christ, we flourish, becoming the people we are called to be.

‘I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.’
 (Jn 10:10)

Join us today for the Catholic Schools Week opening Mass at 10 AM followed by St. Matthias School’s Open House from 11 AM - 1PM.

In honor of Catholic Schools Week, graduates, parents of graduates, or parishioners who are able to, please consider donating to **Tuition Angels**, a parish managed, confidential fund. Your gift helps a family to continue to provide a strong, Catholic, Christ-centered education to a child. You may donate through Parish Giving, online, with a check in the donation basket, or a donation mailed to the Parish Office. Simply indicate on the envelope that the donation is for “TUITION ASSISTANCE” and kindly make a note on the check memo line”. You may make a one-time donation, or an ongoing regular contribution to the fund. Our school continues to be a nurturing, vibrant and essential part of our parish community. Your donations will help to assist this critical component.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration of the Tuition Angels fund.

Readings for the Week

Monday Heb 9:15, 24-28 Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4, 5-6 Mk 3:22-30
Tuesday Heb 10:1-10 Ps 40:2, 4ab, 7-8a, 10, 11 Mk 3:31-35
Wednesday Heb 10:11-18 Ps 110:1, 2, 3, 4 Mk 4:1-20
Thursday Heb 10:19-25 Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 Mk 4:21-25
Friday Heb 10:32-39 Ps 37:3-4, 5-6, 23-24, 39-40 Mk 4:26-34
Saturday Heb 11:1-2, 8-19 Lk 1:69-70, 71-72, 73-75 Mk 4:35-41
Sunday Mal 3:1-4 Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10 Heb 2:14-18 Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32

Mass Intentions for the Week

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
Mon., January 27	8:00 AM	Mary Agnello by Vinnie, Ethel, & Mary
Tues., January 28	8:00 AM	Birthday Blessing for Karen Francis by Anne Marie Francis
Wed., January 29	8:00 AM	Lou Carcich by Barbara & Family
Thurs., January 30	8:00 AM	Rose Barend by Rita Dinicola
Fri., January 31	8:00 AM	Pierce Frauenheim by Collins Family
Sat., February 1	5:00 PM	Intention of Parishioners
Sun., February 2	8:00 AM	Pearline Bolden by Tom and Sharon Gleason
	10:00 AM	James Vance by Julie Vitelli
	12:00 PM	James Rustemeyer by the Madison Family

Pray for those who are sick...

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

New people on our prayer list are noted in blue.

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

Pray for those who have died...

— “His mercy endures forever.” *Chronicles*

Emma Gergely



Smile with Your Family



God and Satan: God populated the earth with broccoli and cauliflower and spinach, green and yellow vegetable of all kinds, so Man and Woman would live long and healthy lives. And Satan created McDonald's. And McDonald's brought forth the 99-cent double-cheeseburger. And Satan said to Man, "You want fries with that?" And Man said, "Super-size them." And Man gained pounds. And God created the healthful yogurt, that woman might keep her figure that man found so fair. And Satan brought forth chocolate. And woman gained pounds. And God said, "Try My crispy fresh salad." And Satan brought forth ice cream. And woman gained pounds. And God said, "I have sent you heart-healthy vegetables and olive oil with which to cook them." And Satan brought forth a chicken-fried steak so big it needed its own platter. And Man gained pounds and his bad cholesterol went through the roof...And Man went into cardiac arrest. And God sighed and created quadruple bypass surgery. And Satan created HMOs. 😊

Q. Who was the greatest financier in the Bible? A. Noah – he was floating his stock while the rest of the world was in liquidation. 😊

Q. Who was known as a mathematician in the bible?
A. Moses – he wrote the book of numbers. 😊

At our weekly Bible study, the leader asked Walter, an elderly gentleman, to open the meeting with a prayer. Walter did so in a soft voice. Another man, straining to hear, shouted, "I can't hear you!" Walt replied, "I wasn't talking to you." 😊



JUBILEE 2025: PILGRIMS OF HOPE

10 THINGS TO KNOW - #3

The Jubilee theme: The theme of the Holy Year is "Pilgrims of Hope." The papal bull of May 9, 2024, that introduced the Jubilee Year is titled "Spes Non Confundit" or "Hope does not disappoint," drawn from Romans 5:5. Pope Francis wrote:

"Everyone knows what it is to hope. In the heart of each person, hope dwells as the desire and expectation of good things to come, despite our not knowing what the future may bring. "Even so, uncertainty about the future may at times give rise to conflicting feelings, ranging from confident trust to apprehensiveness, from serenity to anxiety, from firm conviction to hesitation and doubt," he continued. "Often we come across people who are discouraged, pessimistic and cynical about the future, as if nothing could possibly bring them happiness. For all of us, may the Jubilee be an opportunity to be renewed in hope. God's word helps us find reasons for that hope."

Pope Francis also hopes the year draws Catholics toward patience, which he described in "Spes Non Confundit" as a "virtue closely linked to hope," yet can feel elusive in "our fast paced world, we are used to wanting everything now."

Reflection: The biblical definition of hope is "the sure and confident expectation of receiving what God has promised us in the future." This is the hope St. Paul holds out in his letter to the Romans: "Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit" (15:13). How hopeful are we with matters of our own lives? Do we radiate hope to others? Who is someone who needs hope and encouragement in our family or friendship circle? What can I do to uplift that person with the kind of hope that the Bible speaks of? Let us remember: without hope, there is no life!

TODAY IS SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD

In 2019, Pope Francis had declared that the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time is to be devoted to the celebration, study and dissemination of the Word of God. Do we believe that God is always accessible to us? He's just a phone call away! Here's one simple way to call upon God in various situations of our daily life:

NUMBERS IN EMERGENCY

Dial direct; no need for operator assistance!

- When in sorrowcall John 14
- When men fail youcall Psalm 27
- When you have sinnedcall Psalm 51
- When you worrycall Matthew 6:19-34
- When you are in danger call Psalm 91
- When God seems far awaycall Psalm 139
- When your faith needs stirringcall Hebrews 11
- When you are lonely and fearfulcall Psalm 23
- When you grow bitter and critical call1 Corinthians 13
- When you feel down and out call Romans 8:31
- When you want peace and rest call Matthew 11:25-30
- When the world seems bigger than God call Psalm 90
- When you want Christian assurance call Romans 8:1-30
- When your prayers grow narrow or selfish call Psalm 67
- When you want courage for a task call Joshua 1
- When you think of investments and returns call Mark 10
- If you are depressed call Psalm 27
- If your pocketbook is empty call Psalm 37
- If you are losing confidence in people call 1 Corinthians 13
- If people seem unkindcall John 15
- If discouraged about your work call Psalm 126
- If self pride/greatness takes hold call Psalm 19
- If you want to be fruitful call John 15
- For understanding of Christianity call 2 Corinthians 13
- For a great invention/opportunity call Isaiah 55
- For how to get along with fellow humans call Romans 12
- For Paul's secret to happiness call Colossians 3:12-17



ST. OSCAR ROMERO'S "OPTION FOR THE POOR."

Speaking in the synagogue in Nazareth, Jesus used Isaiah's prophetic terms, long since seen as referring to the coming Messiah, to describe his own mission. Jesus said he had been sent, among other reasons, "to bring Good News to the poor." The success of Jesus' mission, particularly with the poor who had no political power except that conferred by their sheer numbers, made Jesus a "dangerous" person to the religious authorities of Israel and eventually resulted in his crucifixion.

The Christian Gospel is still dangerous when its truth is really put into practice. This is clearly seen in the case of Archbishop Blessed Oscar Romero, who was murdered when, like Jesus, he reminded people of the needs of the poor and the oppressed in El Salvador. The story begins in 1979 when a young priest, Father Grande, was shot and killed on the streets of El Salvador. His "crime" was that he spoke out against the government, which brutally suppressed all forms of protests and executed thousands of innocent people using its notorious "Death Squads." When Fr. Grande's great friend, Bishop Oscar Romero, was chosen to be the new Archbishop, the authorities thought he would keep quiet on the question of the oppressed poor in that country. Instead, Archbishop Blessed Oscar Romero became an outspoken defender of the poor and a critic of the state-supported "Death Squads." To honor the memory of his martyred friend, Romero refused to appear in any public ceremonies sponsored by the army or the government. He soon became the voice and conscience of El Salvador. His words and actions were reported throughout the whole world so that everybody knew the atrocities happening in El Salvador. Romero's fight for human rights led to his nomination for the Nobel Peace Prize. On March 24, 1980, at 6:25 PM, as the Archbishop was offering Mass in a hospital Chapel, a shot from the back of the Church struck him in the chest, killing him instantly. Thus, Archbishop Blessed Oscar Romero died a martyr for the Gospel of Christ. As we reflect today on Jesus' words about his mission, let us remember St. Oscar Romero and continue to strive to live out faithfully, in our world and in our daily lives, the "dangerous" truths of the "Good News" which is Jesus' gift to us today.

"POVERTY FOR US IS FREEDOM!"

Mother Teresa thinks so. There was a beautiful article about her in Time magazine. She was asked about the materialism of the West. "The more you have, the more you are occupied," she contends. "But the less you have the more free you are. Poverty for us is a freedom. It is a joyful freedom. There is no television here, no this, no that. This is the only fan in the whole house...and it is for the guests. But we are happy. I find the rich poorer," she continues. "Sometimes they are more lonely inside...The hunger for love is much more difficult to fill than the hunger for bread... The real poor know what is joy." When asked about her plans for the future, she replied, "I just take one day. Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has not come. We have only today to love Jesus." Is there anyone in this room as rich as Mother Teresa?

Jesus reminds us of the "Today concept" with his words to the people in the synagogue: "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." In selecting this Messianic passage as referring to himself, Jesus sums up both the source of his power and authority, and the nature of his freeing and saving ministry. First, Jesus claims the power of God's Spirit as the source of his work. Second, Jesus makes this proclamation in the context of Judaism – on the Sabbath, from the Scriptures, and in the synagogue. Third, Jesus identifies his work, the work of the Messiah, with that of the Suffering Servant of Yahweh (see Isaiah 42: 1-4, in particular), who brings Good News to the poor, proclaims release to the oppressed and recovery of sight to the blind -- figuratively and literally. Fourth, this agenda begins in Nazareth and extends to all places where the Word of God will be heard and understood.

Reflect

“YOU’LL LEARN MORE FROM THAT THAN ANYTHING I CAN TELL YOU!”

The story is told of Noelene Martin, a Franciscan monk in Australia assigned to be the guide and "gofer" for Mother Teresa when she visited New South Wales. Thrilled and excited at the prospect of being so close to this great woman, he dreamed of how much he would learn from her and what they would talk about. But during her visit, he became frustrated. Although he was constantly near her, the friar never had the opportunity to say one word to Mother Teresa. There were always other people for her to meet. Finally, her tour was over, and she was due to fly to New Guinea. In desperation, the Franciscan friar spoke to Mother Teresa: "If I pay my own fare to New Guinea, can I sit next to you on the plane so I can talk to you and learn from you?" Mother Teresa looked at him. "You have enough money to pay airfare to New Guinea?" she asked. "Yes," he replied eagerly. "Then give that money to the poor," she said. "You'll learn more from that than anything I can tell you." Mother Teresa understood that Jesus' ministry was to the poor, and she made it hers as well. That was the way she lived her miracle.

We need to let the power of the Holy Spirit fill us, and to be ready to have miracles done through us. Today's Gospel tells us that Jesus performed miracles because he was filled with the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus promised the same Spirit to his disciples: "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor to be with you forever—the Spirit of truth.... He lives with you and will be in you" (John 14:16-17). To this very day, the Holy Spirit is available to all believers who sincerely ask Him to dwell in their hearts. If we fail to receive, and then to use, His power and His gifts, we are left with nothing but our natural abilities, and we will be unable to be used as instruments in His freeing miracles. Miracles occur every day through weak human instruments, although they may be less spectacular than the ones Jesus performed. People whose minds are ravaged by fear and hatred can be miraculously filled with peace and kindness. Those whose hearts are crippled with bitterness and anger can be made gentle and peaceful. Perhaps others, whose relationships with their spouses are strained, can be miraculously healed by love and faithfulness. These are true miracles, performed by the power of God, through the Holy Spirit, often making use of human instruments. Let us be ready to become Spirit-filled instruments of Christ's saving freedom.



LIBERATION FROM HATE!

The Walt Disney TV movie, *Ruby Bridges*, told the story of Ruby Bridges, a six-year-old African-American girl, who was the first person to integrate the schools in New Orleans. Every day the federal marshals escorted her into the schoolhouse, because both sides of the sidewalk would be lined with people who were screaming threats. Robert Coles, a noted Harvard psychiatrist, volunteered his time to work with young Ruby. Every day he would talk with her, trying to help her weather the crisis. On the news one night, he noticed her walking up the sidewalk and the people were screaming and throwing things, but suddenly she stopped and said something and started backing down the sidewalk. Then the marshals picked her up and took her into the building. That night, Cole asked her what she said to the marshals. She said, "I was not talking to the marshals." He said, "Yes, you were. I saw you on the news. I saw your lips moving. You were talking to the marshals." She said, "I was not talking to the marshals." He said, "Well, what were you doing?" She said, "I was praying for those people who were hollering at me. I had forgotten to pray and I was trying to go back and pray for them as I walked to the school building." Cole shook his head and said, "You were praying for the people who were screaming at you?" She said, "Yes, my mama taught me that when people speak mean of you, you pray for them just like Jesus prayed for the people who spoke mean of him."

We need to receive Christ's freedom, live it and pass it on to others: As members of Christ's Mystical Body, we share in the freeing, saving mission of Jesus. However, even after we have chosen to believe in him, to accept his teachings and to live them out in our lives, we are still in bondage. We are captives of sin, and only Christ can set us free. We are often blinded by our evil habits, addictions and need for financial security. Pride and prejudice can make us blind to the needs of the less-fortunate, prompting us to fear and avoid them, rather than to love and help them. We can also be blind to the presence of God within ourselves and others. We are often not free to listen to a lonely, heart-broken neighbor. We can be prisoners of materialism and consumerism, chained to pleasure, power, money and control of everyone and everything in our world. Accordingly, we need to be freed and raised to a richer level of life. Once we receive true liberation from Christ, we need to share it with those we encounter in our daily lives -- in our families, communities, parishes and workplaces.

WE CELEBRATE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK



Since 1974, National Catholic Schools Week is the annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. It starts the last Sunday in January and runs all week, which in 2025 is January 26 – February 1. The theme for National Catholic Schools Week 2025 is "Catholic Schools: United in Faith and Community." Schools typically observe the annual celebration week with Masses, open houses and other activities for students, families, parishioners and community members. Through these events, schools focus on the value Catholic education provides to young people and its contributions to our Church, our communities, and our nation.

We are very proud of our St. Matthias school as we educate the whole child, mentally, physically and spiritually through rigorous academic programs rooted in the teachings of the Catholic faith in safe, caring school communities.

Pray



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.



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 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!



EL SHADDAI

Catholic Charismatic Renewal Community

Cordially Invites You to a Day of Praise and Worship

Saturday, February 15, 2025

1 pm - 4 pm

St. Matthias School Cafeteria

For detailed information contact: Sis. Leena, 732-925-8255, or Sis. Menchi, 908-458-2995

FROM THE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL (PPC)

- The first meeting of our PPC for this New Year was held on January 13. We wish to share these main points with you all. The Council
- looked at the suggestions in the Suggestion Box. Most of them were words of appreciation.
- Discussed the Jubilee Year plans: some of them are already in the bulletin, and others will be informed as they are being planned.
- Discussed the possibility of adding or constructing an adoration chapel to our church.
- Encouraged the Bible Study focused on the Eucharist starting this coming Saturday.
- Suggested to promote and keep reminding that the GIFT program is open to all.
- Agreed that the Vocation Ministry could put a monthly blurb in the bulletin about various vocations.

Learn



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

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.

Connect



Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast

Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast The Knights of Columbus will hold its annual Pancake Breakfast in honor of Past Grand Knight Robert Norland on **Sunday February 9th from 8:00am - 12:00 noon** in the **school cafeteria**. Proceeds from the breakfast will benefit St. Matthias School Tuition Angels.

The cost is \$12.00 for adults, \$5.00 for ages 10-18 and children under 10 are free.

Breakfast menu is pancakes, eggs, sausage, bagels, juice, coffee and much more.

We look forward to seeing you there!

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP MEETS ON ZOOM, ON FEBRUARY 12TH AT 2 PM

The Alzheimer's Association and Saint Matthias Catholic Church are co-hosting a monthly Support Group for individuals living with Alzheimer's or Dementia, their care partners, and others dealing with the disease. Our next meeting will be on Zoom on **Wednesday, February 12th, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.** To register and receive the link, call 800-272-3900 and mention the St. Matthias group.

The Group provides a safe and supportive environment and offers dementia-related education, emotional support, and connections with resources so that the group members may enhance their lives during the journey.

For more information, visit alz.org/NJ.



Give (and Receive!)

Stewardship Totals for Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025				Last Year's Total
Current Month	In-Pew/Mail	Parish Giving	Weekly Total	Weekly Total
Week 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	\$8,940.00	\$13,587.50	\$22,527.50	\$21,531.25
Week 30 - Jan. 26, 2025				\$19,936.25
Solemnity of Mary Collection:		\$2,297.00	Month-to-date Total	January Total Last Year
Together in Charity Collection:		\$4,449.00	\$96,889.00	\$108,280.40
			Current Year-to-date Total	Year-to-date as of January 31, 2024
			\$748,794.01	\$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 26, 2025 3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time

*“Go, eat rich foods and drink sweet drinks, and allot portions to those who had nothing prepared...”
 Nehemiah 8:10*

Ezra’s instructions to the people show us that God does not forbid us from enjoying the good things in life. He wants us to be happy! However, God expects us to be grateful for all that He has given us and to generously share our blessings with those who are in need. Now here’s the hard part – to share all we have without expecting anything in return.

Reflexiónese – 26 de enero de 2025 Domingo 3^o del Tiempo Ordinario

*“¡Vayan! Preparen buena comida, beban vino dulce y compartan con los que no tienen nada preparado...”
 Nehemiah 8:10*

Las instrucciones de Esdrás al pueblo nos muestran que Dios no nos prohíbe disfrutar de las cosas buenas de la vida. ¡Él quiere que seamos felices! Sin embargo, Dios espera que seamos agradecidos de todo lo que Él nos ha dado y que compartamos nuestras bendiciones con los necesitados. Ahora bien, esa es la parte difícil - compartir todo lo que tenemos sin esperar nada a cambio.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL 2025-2026 TUITION ASSISTANCE ONLINE APPLICATION PROCESS OPENED 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.

Connecting to Our Local Community



FREE TAX PREPARATION



There are AARP Foundation Tax-Aide volunteers providing free tax returns to Somerset County residents. These volunteers go through intensive training and testing to prepare to be IRS-certified tax preparers. Several of our parishioners have had their taxes prepared by them. If anyone wishes to make use of their assistance, know that their phone lines open **after February 1st**. It is completely free.

For an appointment, call 908-541-5710



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

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:** jirehfof@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!

Parish Leadership

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

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