



St. Matthias Parish Office:

Monday - Friday, 8:30 am - 4:00 pm,
 Friday, 8:30 am - 1:00 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, 10 AM & 12 noon
 M/T/W/Th/F at 8:00AM
 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 - Thursday
 9AM-1PM Friday By Appointment

For all Parish emails, add @stmatthias.net

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 Mary Pat Burke-Grospin, *Business Administrator*
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 Mary Lynch, *Principal*, [mlynch](mailto:mlynch@stmatthiasnj.org)

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS
SUNDAY, JULY 16, 2023-
15th Sunday in Ordinary Time



THE PARABLE OF THE
SOWER

MATTHEW 13:1-23

**Today is the feast of
 Our Lady of Mount Carmel.
 Please join us after the 10 am
 Mass, to pray the Rosary in
 front of the statue of Mary
 outside the church door on
 the breezeway side.**



Next Sa



Please come join the many
 who spend some quiet time
 with the
 Eucharistic Lord on
Monday evenings
 from **6 PM to 8 PM.**

The next weekly
 Adoration will
 be on **Monday, July 17th**
 from 6-8 pm.

This Week @ St. Matthias

Masses are also livestreamed on our YouTube channel: [youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ](https://www.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, Jul 16, 2023

8:00AM Mass Church
10:00AM Mass Church
12:00PM Mass Church

Monday, Jul 17, 2023 **St. Alexis of Rome, Confessor**

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

Tuesday, Jul 18, 2023 **St. Frederick of Utrecht, Bishop & Martyr**

8:00AM Mass Church

Wednesday, Jul 19, 2023 **Sts. Justa & Rufina, Martyrs**

8:00AM Mass—St. Joseph Novena Church

Thursday, Jul 20, 2023 **St. Appolinaris, Martyr**

8:00AM Mass Church

Friday, Jul 21, 2023 **Opt. Memorial, St. Laurence of Brindisi, Priest & Doctor**

8:00AM Mass Church

Saturday, Jul 22, 2023 **Feast, St. Mary Magdalene, Apostle to the Apostles**

3:30PM Reconciliation Church
5:00PM Vigil Mass Church

Sunday, Jul 23, 2023

8:00AM Mass Church
10:00AM Mass Church
12:00PM Mass Church



Bulletin Article Requests:

If you would like to send information to be included in our bulletin, please email it to bulletin@stmatthias.net by 8 AM, MONDAY, 5 business days before the needed bulletin date (earlier for holiday weekends). Approved content is published on a space-available basis.

From Our Pastor

Dear Friends,

Summer is a time for growing vegetables in your garden. Glad to hear that many of our parishioners are growing tomatoes, zucchini, cucumber, eggplant, beans, peppers, melons, squash, kale, carrots etc. July-August is the best time to grow these heat-loving crops. Jesus used many stories related to farm life to teach his listeners about the kingdom of God. Today's Gospel is all about what a farmer does. Jesus takes the whole process of sowing seeds and uses it as a metaphor for sowing the Word of God in our hearts. If the seed has to yield a rich harvest, it has to grow in a soil that is tilled, fertilized and watered. So also, if the Word of God should produce good fruits in our lives, our hearts and minds should be open and prepared to receive God's Word. Thank God that all of us, in our own way, are making efforts to welcome the Word in our hearts, and our own family garden is a very real symbol of that!

Recently I had taken some visitors to my previous parish of St. John Neumann, Califon, to show them the parish and especially the parish gardens. Both the "Project Earth Garden" and the "Gift of Good Land Community Garden" are lush with all kinds of vegetables and flowers. Many large trays of ripe strawberries, blueberries, asparagus and other produce were donated to food pantries and soup kitchens. The lettuces, celeries, varieties of squashes, tomatoes, potatoes, peas – and what not – are almost ready, for harvest. The greatness of this garden is not only because we get some good produce, but also because it creates community and fellowship. In addition, it is the way St. John's community puts into practice the invitation of Pope Francis in his landmark document on creation, *Laudato Si*. Here are two paragraphs worth reflecting on from that great document:

"In the Judaeo-Christian tradition, the word "creation" has a broader meaning than "nature", for it has to do with God's loving plan in which every creature has its own value and significance. Nature is usually seen as a system which can be studied, understood and controlled, whereas creation can only be understood as a gift from the outstretched hand of the Father of all, and as a reality illuminated by the love which calls us together into universal communion."

"It must be said that some committed and prayerful Christians, with the excuse of realism and pragmatism, tend to ridicule expressions of concern for the environment. Others are passive; they choose not to change their habits and thus become inconsistent. So what they all need is an "ecological conversion", whereby the effects of their encounter with Jesus Christ become evident in their relationship with the world around them. Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience."

Isn't it wonderful that Jesus who literally walked on this earth was very much aware of creation? That's why he spoke of the sun, rain, birds, animals, flowers, cultivation and harvesting. As we reflect today on the most notable parable of Jesus, "The Sower and the Seed" (Mt 13:1ff), we are invited to plant and nurture the seeds of our relationship with Jesus.

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Orapankal



Readings for the Week

Monday: Ex 1:8-14, 22; Ps 124:1b-3, 4-6, 7-8; Mt 10:34 — 11:1

Tuesday: Ex 2:1-15a; Ps 69:3, 14, 30-31, 33-34; Mt 11:20-24

Wednesday: Ex 3:1-6, 9-12; Ps 103:1b-2, 3-4, 6-7; Mt 11:25-27

Thursday: Ex 3:13-20; Ps 105:1, 5, 8-9, 24-25, 26-27; Mt 11:28-30

Friday: Ex 11:10 — 12:14; Ps 116:12-13, 15, 16bc, 17-18; Mt 12:1-8

Saturday: Sgs 3:1-4b or 2 Cor 5:14-17; Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9; Jn 20:1-2, 11-18

Sunday: Wis 12:13, 16-19; Ps 86:5-6, 9-10, 15-16; Rom 8:26-27; Mt 13:24-43 or Mt 13:24-30

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, July 15	5:00PM	Intention of Parishioners
Sunday, July 16	8:00AM	Memory of Louie D. Ramas, by Mom
	10:00AM	Martin Clemis, by Pat Dolphin
	12:00PM	Mary Martha Toczek, by The Enright Family
Monday, July 17	8:00AM	Garcia Family , by Violy Garacia
Tuesday, July 18	8:00AM	Keith Orts, by The Enright Family
Wednesday, July 19	8:00AM	John Serdula, by The Family
Thursday, July 20	8:00AM	George F. Eichelberger, by The McNamara Family
Friday, July 21	8:00AM	Victoria Moreno, by The Walter Family
Saturday, July 22	5:00PM	Margaret Pagnano, by Acevedo Family
Sunday, July 23	8:00AM	Intention of Parishioners
	10:00AM	Sr. Amata, by Tuiton Angels: Judy, Joan, Rena & Jo-Ann
	12:00PM	Trooper Anthony Raspa, by Trooper Anthony Eggert

Pray for those who are sick...

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

Carolyn Banghart	Marilyn Horvath	Danny Ongchango	Sr. Bernadine Marie Stemnock
Tammy Baskaran	Robert Kashinsky	Robert Pellegrino	Jeff Sullivan
Regina Berlowitz	Kathleen Langenbacher	Jim Pettit	Tom Szabo
Bishop Paul Bootkowski	Rose Larangeira	Randolff Pinard	Don Tibay
Barbara Butler	Mary Lou Litrakis	Valerie Polci	Mary Ann Vlad
Tara Capatosto	John Litrakis	Denise Pultro	Nancy Whelan
Ellen Catalina	Joseph Lubrano	Kim Price	Mark Worthington
Kyle Davidson	Aries Magali	Doris Regan	Carl Wyopen
Lisa DeFeo	Al Maglio	Gabriel Rivera	Angie Yetyet
Hattie Evans	Anne McElwee	Arina Robinson	
Josephine Geenty	Margaret Menendez	Arthur Robinson	
Claudia Gemgnani	Carol Millemann	Maria Schwenzer	And for all who are ill, homebound, elderly, in nursing care, or living with chronic illness, we pray.
Helen Geraghty	Eleanor Nagy	Amy Shepp	
Emma Gergely	Joseph Nguyen	Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF	

Pray for those who have died...

— “His mercy endures forever.” *Chronicles*

Lawrence T. Byrnes, Sr., Brian Burke, Richard H. Kaiser

Reflect



Smile with Your Family



A farmer and his pig were driving down the road when a cop pulled him over. The cop asked the farmer, "Didn't you know it is against the law to ride with a pig in the front of your truck?" The farmer replied, "No, I didn't know that." The cop asked the farmer where he was going and he said, "To Memphis". The cop said, "I will let you off the hook this time if you promise to take the pig to the zoo when you get to Memphis." So the farmer promised he would. Several days later the cop spotted the farmer with the pig driving down the road and he pulled him over again. The cop said "I thought I told you to take this pig to the zoo when you got to Memphis." The farmer replied, "I did and we had so much fun, I taking him to Kings Island now" 😊

An old farmer wrote to his son in prison: "This year I wont

be able to plant potatoes because I cant dig the field. I know if you were here you would help me" The son wrote back: "Dad don't even think of digging the field because that's where I buried all the money I stole from the bank." Police read the letter and the very next day the whole field was dug by police looking for the money but nothing was found. The next day the son wrote again: "Now plant your potatoes dad; it's the best I can do from here." 😊

What's a potato's least favorite day of the week?
Fry-day! 😊

My farmer friend told me that horse manure is excellent for strawberries. I said, "You may be right, but I still prefer whipped cream." 😊

Parenting Tune-Up



When speaking to your kids (or anyone) consider these proverbs: "It is better to leave angry words unspoken than to mend the heart those words have broken." and "The tongue is the only instrument that gets sharper with use."

Marriage Tune-Up



Not everything married couples say to each other is kind and gentle. Sometimes it's thorny or boring. Carve out 5 minutes (or more) for deep sharing today. Perhaps something like, "A fear, need, or joy I have is..."

Parenting: ACT 1

The parable of the sower. Matthew 13: 1-23

Most nights after dinner, her 3 and 4-year-old daughters call, "Mom! We need you! Come dance with us!" After a few minutes of pleading, she joins them. The dancing is more jumping around and includes loud off-key singing and crazy hair-swinging. "What we lack in rhythm we more than make up for in laughter," she says, "and I love to see my little girls this way: joyful, silly, and happy to have me around."

But she knows this won't last forever. This is Act 1 in the parent-child relationship. Act 2 will begin in the blink of an eye: the day "when they will die of embarrassment to see me dancing and certainly will not in any way encourage me to do so." She remembers dancing with her mom, too, when she was a little girl. And singing in the car and snuggling up to her mom in bed when she read **Little Woman** and

Little House on the Prairie. Act 1. Then came Act 2: shutting herself up in her room to listen to "her" music, reading on her own, preferring the company of her friends to time with her mom. She's already prepared herself for Act 2 with her two daughters.

But she's also discovered that there's a third act in the mother-daughter relationship. She remembers: "When I was in my early 20s and living in New York City, I went home for a long weekend to visit my parents in Maine. The dinner dishes were cleared, my dad had gone to bed, and it was just my mom and me sitting on the couch together, in our pajamas, chatting about what was new with her and me and her friends and my friends. I remember snuggling into her and her stroking my hair, just like she used to do when I was a child, as we talked and

talked.

"During Act 3, we went to movies again, went shopping, and even went on road trips together - just the two of us - to various destinations. We talked most days, laughed often, cried some, too. By that point I was my own person, but as luck would have it, I had grown into someone who loved having her around, just as I had when I was little. "And so, while I try to savor every hug, kiss, laugh, and sigh from my daughters, knowing that they'll never be this little again and they'll never again need me with the same intensity, I also try to keep in mind that with some luck, we'll have an Act 3 where we can all dance together once more."

The "three acts" of parenthood that Laura Shea Souza writes about are "seeds sown" by moms and dads in the course of their

Continued

Reflect

Parenting: ACT 1 (continued)

children's life: the seeds of patience, of understanding, of forgiveness, of compassion. The parable of the sower speaks especially to parents: that Mom and Dad's own example of selflessness and humility, of compassion and generosity, are "seeds" that are planted in the minds and hearts of their daughters and sons that will mature one day into their own harvest of generosity and forgiveness - and the "seeds" of that same harvest they will then "sow" in the lives of their own children.



God's Vegetable Garden:

This is the story of the fussy vegetarian. A young woman was committed to being a vegetarian, but she was never satisfied with any of the fruit or vegetables she

bought. For her, all melons were too ripe, or not ripe enough, all tomatoes were bruised or unripe, and heads of cauliflower and broccoli were too big or too little. Then one day, driving down Tarpon Avenue, she drove past a new store with a long line of people waiting to get in. She looked, and the sign said, God's Fruit and Vegetable Stand. "Finally," she said, "I can get some decent vegetables and fruit." So she stood on line and waited. Hours went by before she walked through that door. She was enveloped in light, but she didn't see any apples or oranges or tomatoes or cabbage, or anything to buy. She walked to the light, and there was a counter there. And behind the counter, there stood God. She could tell it was God because of the light, and because he had an apron on with a big G on it. Anyway, she placed her order, "I would like some perfect broccoli, and some perfect carrots, some perfect tomatoes and a perfect melon. Also, if you have perfect Brussels sprouts that would really be a miracle." "Sorry," God said, "I only sell seeds here." She went away disappointed!

Actually, God doesn't sell seeds, He gives seeds to us. The seeds are his Word in its many expressions. But we have to do something with this precious gift. It simply is not enough just to hear the Word of God. We have to let it grow within us and influence our lives enabling us live like the People of the Word

Share your Best Corn Seed!

Each year he entered his corn in the state fair where it won a blue ribbon. One year a newspaper reporter interviewed him and learned something interesting about how he grew it. The reporter discovered that the farmer shared his seed corn with his neighbors. "How can you afford to share your best seed corn with



your neighbors when they are entering corn in competition with yours each year?" the reporter asked. "Why sir," said the farmer, "didn't you know? The wind picks up pollen from the ripening corn and swirls it from field to field. If my neighbors grow inferior corn, cross-pollination will steadily degrade the quality of my corn. If I am to grow good corn, I must help my neighbors grow good corn."

Keep Sowing the Seed!

One of William Barclay's friends tells this story. [William Barclay, *The Daily Study Bible*] In the church where he worshiped, there was a lonely old man, old Thomas. As he had outlived all his friends, hardly anyone knew him. When Thomas died, his only old friend had the feeling that there would be no one else to go to the funeral. So he decided to go, so that there might be someone to follow the old man to his last resting-place. There was no one else, and it was a miserable wet day. The funeral reached the cemetery, and at the gate there was a soldier waiting, an officer, but on his raincoat there were no rank badges. He came to the graveside for the religious ceremony. When the pastor finished his prayers, the officer stepped forward and gave a solemn military salute to Thomas in the closed coffin as if to a dead king. The friend walked away with this soldier, and as they walked, the wind blew the soldier's raincoat open to reveal the shoulder badges of a brigadier general. The general said, "You will perhaps be wondering what I am doing here. Years ago Thomas was my Sunday school teacher. I was a wild lad and a sore trial to him. He never knew what he did for me, but I owe everything I am or will be to old Thomas, and today I had to come to salute him at the end."

Thomas did not know what he was doing. No preacher or teacher ever does. Keep sowing the high-yielding seeds of the word of God. This is the GOOD news of today's Gospel for all of us, tenant farmers.

Michael Pe's Heroism!

In 1998, sixteen-year-old Alden Tucker read a news story about Michael Pe, a fifteen-year-old boy of multiracial heritage who had contracted leukemia. Michael's only hope for recovery was a bone-marrow transplant; unfortunately, his exotic ethnic heritage—African-American, Hispanic, and Korean—drastically reduced his chances of finding a matching donor. Alden Tucker who is of the same ethnic mix as Michael immediately volunteered to serve as a donor. Because bone marrow donation is an invasive and painful procedure, federal law prohibits bone-marrow testing for people less than eighteen years of age. Alden Tucker wasn't about to take "no" for an answer. He began talking to reporters and legislators about changing the consent laws for bone-marrow

Continued

July 16, 2023

Reflect

Michael Pe's Heroism! (cont'd)

donation. He also met and befriended Michael Pe. Just before Michael's death in 1999, Alden promised him that he would never give up the campaign to change bone-marrow donation laws. In March 2000, the Michael Pe Law allowing bone-marrow testing and donation by people under the age of eighteen was signed into law in the state of Washington. (Rebecca Cook in *Teen People*, cited in "Everyday Heroes," *Reader's Digest*, Nov. 2001.)

He was only a teenager but Alden Tucker made a difference. So can you and I, if we are willing to pay the price by sowing the seeds of the Gospel with a high level of commitment. A challenge for examination of conscience. The questions we need to ask ourselves are: Am I merely hearing God's word without understanding it? Does God's word meet with a hard heart in me? Am I too anxious about money, security, provision for retirement or old age? Is God's word taking root in me? Converting me? Transforming me? Enabling me to sacrifice? And what about the "fruits" that we are being invited to produce: justice and mercy, hospitality for the immigrant and those with AIDS, the dispossessed, the unborn, the single mother? By refusing to consider these, we may be missing the healing that the Word of God can bring into our lives.

Christo-therapy

I am reminded of a priest who wrote a book on what he called "Christo-therapy" In that book he shared his own experience. He had lived an ordinary life and nothing special had happened to him. After some years in the ministry he was feeling depressed and fell sick. This depression carried on for some time and began to worry him. He went from doctor to doctor but to no avail. No remedy would cure him. Someone told him of an old Hindu doctor who lived in the vicinity of his parish, who they claimed was very good. The priest decided to try him and went to his clinic. The doctor examined him and listened to the story of his prolonged depression. Finally he said: "Father, I find nothing physically wrong with you. I feel awkward to say this. You are a priest. Don't you believe God's word can heal you?" Embarrassed, the priest left the clinic and went home. From that night he started reading the word of God wanting to be fully open and believing in its power. Slowly the depression disappeared and that priest experienced healing and wholeness as he read the Word of God with faith.

The good spiritual yield in life depends on how much a person willingly accepts and responds to the word of the Lord. In his parable of the sower, Jesus uses four different soil-types to represent four separate responses people can give to God's saving word. In fact, each one of us may display all four different types of soil at various time in our personal lives. Which one are we? And which one should we be?

Mallard duck hunting

The Reverend Jerry Anderson, a retired pastor in Tennessee, was an avid duck hunter as a young man. Every fall when the first cold front moved in from the north, he would take out his duck decoys, clean them up and put new anchors on them. When duck season opened, he was ready. He and his dad usually hunted mallards. Now, mallards are puddle ducks, according to Reverend Anderson. They paddle around in shallow water and feed on the marsh grasses growing there. They eat only what they can reach from the surface. Occasionally, though, he and his dad would see a red-head or canvasback slipping into their decoys. These are diving ducks. They dive to great depths to feed on plants growing on the bottom of the lake. Now in some ways Anderson says, Christians are like those ducks. Some are puddle ducks, satisfied with the nourishment they find in the shallows of the Christian life. Others are divers. They plunge deeply into the Word through study, reflection, and participation in the life and ministry of their church. According to the parable of the sower the word yields a rich return in their lives.

What kind of soil are we? How do we respond to the Word of God and to the various Acts of God in our lives? Do we allow the trials and tribulations of this world to overwhelm the tender seed growing within us? Do we pull back when people harass us because we are believers? Do we decide, because things are not working out the way we think they ought, that God doesn't care for us, or that He is powerless, weak and not to be heeded? Do we allow the cares of this world, our ambitions or our desires for success and happiness, to choke out the messages that God sends us through the various events of our daily lives and through the various people we encounter? How we respond to the Word of God is the key to how fruitful the Gospel is going to be in our lives. Unlike the situation in nature, we can, as it were, change the kind of soil that we are. God allows the seed to land on the hard paths, on the rocky ground and in the thickets of our lives in the hope that in those places it will find a place to mature and bear fruit, that those things which impede growth will be removed and that the soil may be just a little deeper than it at first appears to be in those rocky places.



Part-Time General Maintenance Person

St. Matthias is looking for a **part-time general maintenance person**. This employee will be responsible for maintaining the safety and cleanliness of the church/school. Please contact **Mary Pat Burke-Grospin** at: mpburke-grospin@stmatthias.net or (732) 828-1400 ext.121.

YOU'RE CAPABLE OF GREATNESS AT ST. MATTHIAS!

Adults (21 - 100) years of age, please click
<https://stmatthias.net/supportsmyle/>

In Mathew's Gospel for today, we hear the familiar parable about the Sower - God - who generously and indiscriminately scatters seeds in different types of soil which represents diverse people of all ages. God needs you and me to help spread the Good News of Jesus who is the Word of God - the seed. First, we have to let the seed be sown deep within ourselves, where it can't be stolen, scorched, or choked. Then we're called to help spread the seed without making judgments, or excuses regarding the prospects of the seed taking root and growing in anyone, anywhere, or anytime. Here at St. Matthias, we're blessed with many talented and gifted people of all ages. **Have you stopped to consider that Jesus might be calling you to help nurture the seeds of faith within our youth?**

Extraordinary growth can happen when we as adults take the time to stop, to look, to listen, and to respond to the interests, concerns, and struggles of our youth. God's Word within us and spoken through us comforts, guides, encourages, and challenges us to help make a difference in the lives of our youth. And in return, your faith and life could be enriched by our youth as well!

There are many direct, and also valuable indirect ways, for adults to minister either to, for, with our youth. How do you know what you might contribute? Think about whatever you're passionate about doing which gives you meaning and purpose - either professionally or as a hobby. This might be something a teen would also be curious to ask you questions about or even try with your guidance. Think of those adults who helped nurture your seeds and growth as a teen. Ask yourself if now might be the time for you to **pay-it-forward** by becoming a hands-on mentor within our Youth Ministry - SMYLE - St. Matthias Youth Living Evangelization? Or you could become an advisor volunteering behind the scenes by helping other adults and teen leaders create opportunities to guide our youth in discovering their own potential for growth.

Right now, we have an urgent need to help grow our fledgling Youth Ministry. We're blessed with many eager youth, but very few adults. Without your help, this vital ministry is at risk. Our youth need you!

We have also asked our youth to recommend adults whom they admire and would like to see participate in supporting

SMYLE. If a young person asks you, know this is God speaking through them and inviting you to make a difference. They see qualities and possibilities within you that perhaps you might have become too busy to consider sharing as a mentor. If you're thinking this invitation doesn't apply to you, perhaps it's because your seeds have been stolen, scorched, or choked? Guess what? The Sower has planted new seeds within your heart which are capable of bearing great fruit! Don't ignore the potential you're still capable of becoming - regardless of your age!

SMYLE is a safe space for our teens for self-expression and to find their purpose while developing an authentic relationship with God, others, and self.

SMYLE provides Social, Service, Spiritual, and Religious opportunities/events where teens can form community with people who can bring joy, create new possibilities, and spark new adventures or friendships!

Our teens in Junior High and High School (grades 6 - 12) have completed surveys highlighting their interests and concerns during these challenging times. We've created this Adult survey - <https://stmatthias.net/supportsmyle/> as an attempt to match their responses with your skills and gifts. Please help St. Matthias to create a variety of different opportunities for our youth, by sharing your time & talent in areas of interest/need identified by our youth. When you click on this link, you'll see a variety of seeded opportunities that might be a match for you.

We can do more for our youth as we gain more adult support - so please pray and also encourage other adults to participate!

If you don't have time to respond to the survey, but would like to chat with us, just provide your contact info in the top of the form, or email smyle@stmatthias.net

Thanks for prayerfully considering being a part of a ministry where you're capable of greatness!

Deacon John



Learn



2023-2024 GIFT for K-8 Religious Formation

<https://forms.gle/hgirKfxZYp7hMFGj6>



We are happy to invite all parents/families with children in K-8, who are not attending a Catholic school, to register their children for our religious education/formation program (GIFT) for 2023-2024. **Grade One participation in GIFT is required prior to the typical 2nd Grade participation in First Communion preparation for non-Catholic school students.**

The 2023-2024 registration form for our K-8 family-based parish program of religious formation, G.I.F.T. [Growing In Faith Together], is currently available to complete online at 2023-2024 GIFT for K-8 Religious Formation. www.stmatthias.net/faith-formation/ Please register your family/children in grades K-8. This year we are planning to offer 2 sessions each month: on Tuesday evening's at 6:30PM; and on Sunday afternoons at 2PM. You choose which one of the two sessions to attend.

The fees for the program are noted on the parish website page. Please register online; the fee can also be paid online.

Please note: GIFT is required for all children in grades 1-8 who are not attending a Catholic school; it is optional for kindergarten students. It is required also during the sacramental prep years.



Communion

Attention 2nd Graders:

First Eucharist Preparation 2023-2024

<https://forms.gle/K4jTK2GeD56jY7uWg>



For all families in GIFT and for those who are students at St. Matthias School who have (baptized) children who are in 2nd grade [fall 2023] or older who desire to receive the Sacraments of First Reconciliation/First Eucharist in 2024, sacramental preparation is required through the parish-you **must register online**. Typically, classes are held for all children and at least one parent on certain Sunday mornings in the St. John XXIII room [school building] and certain classrooms following the 10AM Mass (required) for families in church. First Reconciliation is celebrated in January 2024 and there will also be a retreat for parents and child in the spring. Be sure to register early. The sacramental preparation fee for this program is \$80. The 2023-2024 Registration for First Eucharist/First Reconciliation is available online at <https://www.stmatthias.net/first-eucharist-first-reconciliation/> Questions? Please email Dee Nann at dnann@stmatthias.net or call the Parish Office, 732-828-1400.



Confirmation

Attention 7th & 8th Graders or older students who have not prepared for Confirmation

Confirmation Preparation 2023-2024

<https://forms.gle/dkFT9GsdmXR4EDjZA>



Register for Confirmation Preparation as soon as possible!

Families who have a 7th or 8th grader in either St. Matthias School or the GIFT program and desire to have their child prepare for the **Sacrament of Confirmation** need to complete the **2023-2024 Confirmation registration form online**, available at <https://www.stmatthias.net/confirmation/> . A parent meeting for 7th grade (or year one) parents will be held in November for all registered 7th graders-or those in Year 1 of Confirmation Preparation who may be a bit older. **Questions?** Please email Dee Nann at nann@stmatthias.net

Pray



RCIA

If you came for the Easter Vigil, you saw some of our adult parishioners receiving the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Communion. They had undertaken a process known as the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) for about 10 months. Our next process will begin in September.

There are weekly gatherings where people come together to share, grow, and understand the Catholic faith. These are not classes but a faith-sharing group. Please contact Anne Marie Francis at alfrancis.30@gmail.com OR Mary Frances Reavey at mfreavey@gmail.com

Pray (Continued)

Mission Appeal for Franciscans in Action of Haiti & Source de Vie of Haiti. August 12/13, 2023

Deacon Enock Berluche Sr., a Representative of the Diocesan Sharing Program, will preach a Mission Appeal in our Parish for the Following Missions: Franciscans in Action of Haiti and Source de Vie of Haiti on **August 12/13 2023**. Mission activities in those places are touching the lives of the poorest of the poor. You may not be able to go there to reach out or to help those in need but your generous financial support can help continue to provide the basic necessities to those in need. Your help will be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Learn

BEFORE and AFTER SCHOOL DIRECTOR POSITION AVAILABLE

Saint Matthias School is looking for a director for our before and after school program for the 2022-2023 school year. This is a part-time position for an individual who enjoys working with children and who has some managerial experience. The hours are 2:00-6:00, Monday to Friday. If you are interested, please phone the school at 732-828-1402, extension 144 or send an email to mlynch@stmatthiasnj.org.

School Advisory Council is Looking for New Members



The School Advisor 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 grandparents, 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 current interim chair Peter Kostik (peter.kostik@gmail.com) who will then present the candidates to Fr. Abraham and Principal Mrs. Lynch for approval. 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 .

SAC website -

<https://stmatthias.info/school-advisory-council>

Give (and Receive!)

Stewardship Reflection July 16, 2023 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“The seed sown among thorns is the one who hears the word but then the cares of the world and the lure of riches choke the word and it bears no fruit.”-Matthew 13:22

Does the lure of riches and material goods choke God out of your life? Are you so caught up in earthly activities that you have no time for God? Gratitude and generosity are virtues that we should strive to do on a daily basis. Every decision we make either takes us one step closer to God or one step further away. What we receive at Mass every Sunday should be shared with others all the other days of the week as well.

Reflexiónese 16 de julio de 2023 15º domingo del Tiempo Ordinario

“Las semillas que cayeron entre los espinos representan a los que oyen la palabra de Dios, pero muy pronto el mensaje queda desplazado por las preocupaciones de esta vida y el atractivo de la riqueza, así que no producen ningún fruto.”- Mateo 13:22

¿El atractivo de la riqueza y los bienes materiales ahogan a Dios de su vida? Está tan absorto en las actividades terrenales que no tiene tiempo para Dios? La gratitud y la generosidad son virtudes que debemos esforzarnos en cultivar diariamente. Cada decisión que tomamos nos lleva un paso más cerca de Dios o nos aleja más de Él .Lo que recibimos en la Misa del Domingo debería compartirse también con los demás el resto de los días de la semana.

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 1 - July 2, 2023	\$11,660.00	\$9,623.25	\$21,283.25	
Week 2 - July 9, 2023	\$10,009.00	\$24,934.75	\$34,943.75	
Week 3 - July 16, 2023			\$0.00	
Week 4 - July 23, 2023			\$0.00	
Week 5- July 30, 2023				
			Month-to-date Total	June Total Last Yr
			\$56,227.00	\$0.00
Building R & R Collection:			Current Year-to-date	Year-to-date as of Jun
			\$100,655.50	

Connect



“Save the Date”! DANIEL LIVE ON STAGE

The Senior Ministry and St. Martin DePorres Society will be hosting a trip to Lancaster, PA to see:

“DANIEL LIVE ON STAGE” at the
Sight & Sound Theater on Saturday, 4/20/2024

More details to follow...



Connect with Our Local Community

Beginning Experience of the Hudson Valley invites those who have **suffered the loss of a marriage or spousal relationship** through death, divorce or separation to a **one day remote program held on Saturday, September 23, 2023** from 9AM to 4PM. In the Beginning... Coping with Life Alone is a program designed to help you along your grief journey and is led by those who are on this same journey. To register please **call Jim at 845 569 9452 or Denise at 845 325 3147.**



Parish Leadership

Parish Pastoral Council: Co-Chairs: Rose Peng, rosepeng@optonline.net John Taylor, jptaylor1068@yahoo.com	Co-Secretaries: Frank Rees Marilyn Wegg Stephan Busono Anne Marie Francis Bill Isele	Msgr. Seamus Brennan, Ex-Officio Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio Trustees: Pearl Scott Marge Richards	Parish Finance Council: Kester Hector, Chair FinanceCouncil@stmatthias.net Carmen Driz-Melilli Barry Dusault Gwen Orłowski	Audrey Francis Joe Porter 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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event dates

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Tuesday, 10/18

Tuesday, 10/25

November 2022

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Tuesday, 11/08

Tuesday, 11/15

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