



THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS
 SUNDAY, JULY 2, 2023–
 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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 - 5PM, Sun - 8, 10 AM & 12 noon
 M/T/W/Th/F at 8:00AM

And 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

Pastor: Rev Abraham Orapankal, abraham
Senior Priest: Msgr. Seamus Brennan, sbrennan
 Mary Pat Burke-Grospin, Business Administrator
mpburke-grospin

Deacon Ron Caimi, *Senior Deacon*
 Kelly Counts, *Receptionist*, kcounts
 Deacon Russell Demkovitz, rdemkovitz
 Nathalie Godet, *Website Coordinator*, ngodet
 Leslie Guillen, *Bulletin Editor*, lguillen
 Amy Hanna, *Accountant/Databases*, ahanna
 Mike Lanyi, *Sacristan*
 Sue Lenczewski, *Youth Coordinator*, SMYLE
 Mary Jo Loboda, *Parish Staff, Development*,
mjloboda

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
 Joseph Gidaro, *Vice Principal*, jgidaro



Whoever
 receives you
 receives me.

MATTHEW 10:40



The next weekly
 Adoration will be on
 Monday, July 10th
 from 6-8 pm.
 Please note, there will be
 NO adoration this
 Monday, July 3rd.

Summer Camp for
 Teenage boys with
 fun activities like rock
 climbing, hiking, swimming,
 volleyball, basketball, etc.,
 in addition to prayer,
 fellowship, and witness.
 See page 7 for more details.



The Parish office will be
CLOSED
 Monday, July 3rd
 and
 Tuesday, July 4th.
No Mass on Tuesday.
 Enjoy the Holiday!

This Week @ St. Matthias From Our Pastor

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, Jul 2, 2023

8:00AM Mass Church
10:00AM Mass Church
11:00AM Rosary Altar Society Mtg. John XXIII Rm
12:00PM Mass Church

Monday, Jul 3, 2023 Feast— St. Thomas, Apostle & Martyr

Parish Office and School office closed.

8:00AM Mass / Miraculous Medal Novena Church

Tuesday, Jul 4, 2023 Opt. Memorial— St. Elizabeth of Portugal, Queen

No Mass - Independence Day (Parish Office Closed)

Wednesday, Jul 5, 2023 Opt. Memorial— St. Anthony Mary Zaccaria, Priest

8:00AM Mass—St. Joseph Novena Church

Thursday, Jul 6, 2023 Opt. Memorial— St. Maria Goretti, Martyr

8:00AM Mass Church
8:00PM K of C Mtg. Cafeteria

Friday, Jul 7, 2023 St. Pantaneus, Philosopher

8:00AM Mass Church
8:30AM 1st Friday Holy Hour Church
10:00AM Mass @ Spring Hill

Saturday, Jul 8, 2023 St. Raymond of Toulouse

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

Sunday, Jul 9, 2023

8:00AM Mass Church
9:30AM Service WorX #1 John XXIII & off site
10:00AM Mass -ASL Interpreter 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.

Dear Friends,

Happy Independence Day! Fourth of July is a beautiful time to come together and celebrate our nation's independence and to remember that true freedom comes from God. This quintessential summer holiday is to be celebrated "ideally with sun on your skin and sand between your toes" as one travel guide put it.

Summer, generally speaking, is a time to relax and refresh. We think of slowing down our hectic pace of life, plan a vacation, and find some time for ourselves to do the things that we wanted to do. Despite all the good intentions, some may find that many of their summer plans have to be postponed due to the very hectic pace that they had hoped to get a break from. But everyone can benefit from the summer season by intentionally planning to do something worthwhile.

Summer reading plan is one of those things that can be done this season, even if we don't get time to go for a vacation. There are many summer reading programs for children to keep reading and learning during their hiatus from school. We know reading for pleasure helps children grow and develop. But, what about adults? There are many book clubs for adults too. They all post a list of recommended books for summer reading. One librarian who organizes book club said: "Reading is a serious stress-buster, and after a really stressful year, it's a great way to unwind and relax. Honestly it is a form of self-care that we often overlook."

Now that we have begun the Parish Phase of the Eucharistic Revival, I would ask all of us to focus on reading some books on the Holy Eucharist this summer. There are many books out there. I have lined up to read three books this summer. The first one is: "Telling the Story of Jesus: Word – Communion – Mission." The author, Cardinal Luis Tagle, tells the readers to be in communion with Jesus and that this communion is found in the Eucharist as well as among the lost, the tired, and the abandoned people of this world. He focuses on three fundamental dimensions of Christian experience: 1) authentic spiritual worship of Jesus in and beyond Eucharist, 2) our communion in the Word of God, and 3) the mission each one of us has to tell the story of Jesus based on our experience of him. I look forward to being enriched by this and other two books: *This is My Body* (Bishop Barron) and *Becoming Eucharistic People: The Hope and Promise of Parish Life* (Timothy O'Malley).

But, summer reading on the Eucharist need not be limited to books. There are many resources on line about the Eucharistic Revival that are easily accessible. Here are just four websites with a ton of materials:

www.eucharisticrevival.org, www.wordonfire.org, www.usccb.org, and www.fdlc.org/eucharistic-revival-resources/ You will find great videos and information about this revival, enriching articles on the Eucharist, powerful speakers on the Eucharist, free webinars and easy activities for the whole family centered on the Eucharist.

In the meanwhile, let us keep up the enthusiasm with which we have entered the Year of Eucharistic Revival here at St. Matthias. The Monday adoration is well attended as people come to experience personal communion with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. This should lead us to have better communion with others. That is how we become the Body of Christ.

Your brother in Christ,
Fr. Abraham Orapankal



Readings for the Week

Monday: Eph 2:19-22; Ps 117:1bc-2; Jn 20:24-29

Tuesday: Gn 19:15-29; Ps 26:2-3, 9-10, 11-12; Mt 8:23-27

Wednesday: Gn 21:5, 8-20a; Ps 34:7-8, 10-11, 12-13; Mt 8:28-34

Thursday: Gn 22:1b-19; Ps 115:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9; Mt 9:1-8

Friday: Gn 23:1-4, 19; 24:1-8, 62-67; Ps 106:1b-2, 3-4a, 4b-5; Mt 9:9-13

Saturday: Gn 27:1-5, 15-29; Ps 135:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6; Mt 9:14-17;

Sunday: Zec 9:9-10; Ps 145:1-2, 8-9, 10-11, 13-14; Rom 8:9, 11-13; Mt 11:25-30

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, Jul 1	5:00PM	Emily & Frank Gatarz, by Claire
Sunday, Jul 2	8:00AM	Vincent Jimmy Azzollini, by The LaTorre Family
	10:00AM	Intention of Parishioners
	12:00PM	Dennis Stuewe, by Ellin & Gil Ossandon
Monday, Jul 3	8:00AM	Gabriel Jayanthakumar, by Mercy Gabriel
Tuesday, Jul 4	8:00AM	No Mass
Wednesday, Jul 5	8:00AM	Santina C. Spinella, by The Family
Thursday, Jul 6	8:00AM	Blessings for Sr. Maria Derecola, by The School Sisters of St. Francis
Friday, Jul 7	8:00AM	Gilbert Reyes, by Espy
Saturday, Jul 8	5:00PM	Mary Gidaro, by Son, Joseph
Sunday, Jul 9	8:00AM	Gregory Dolphin, by Pat Dolphin
	10:00AM	Nicandro R. Ventura, by Menchie Ventura & Family
	12:00PM	Intention of Parishioners

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	Jim Pettit	Jeff Sullivan
Tammy Baskaran	Robert Kashinsky	Randolff Pinard	Tom Szabo
Regina Berlowitz	Kathleen Langenbacher	Valerie Polci	Don Tibay
Bishop Paul Bootkowski	Mary Lou Litrakis	Denise Pultro	Mary Ann Vlad
Barbara Butler	John Litrakis	Kim Price	Nancy Whelan
Tara Capatosto	Joseph Lubrano	Doris Regan	Mark Worthington
Ellen Catalina	Aries Magali	Gabriel Rivera	Carl Wyopen
Kyle Davidson	Al Maglio	Arina Robinson	Angie Yetyet
Lisa DeFeo	Anne McElwee	Arthur Robinson	
Hattie Evans	Margaret Menendez	Maria Schwenzer	
Josephine Geenty	Carol Millemann	Amy Shepp	
Claudia Gemgnani	Eleanor Nagy	Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF	
Helen Geraghty	Danny Ongchango	Sr. Bernadine Marie	
Emma Gergely	Robert Pellegrino	Stemnock	

And for all who are ill, homebound, elderly, in nursing care, or living with chronic illness, we pray.

Pray for those who have died...

— “His mercy endures forever.” Chronicles

William Dolphin, Victor Phillipuk

Reflect



Smile with Your Family



Father William, the old priest, made it a practice to visit the parish school one day a week. He walked into the 4th grade class, where the children were studying the states, and asked them how many states they could name. They came up with about 40 names. Father William jokingly told them: "When I was your age, I knew the names of all the states. How come you don't?" One smart boy raised his hand and said, 'Yes Father, but in those days there were only 13 states.' 😊

Alvin: My great-grandfather fought with Napoleon, my grandfather fought with the French and my father fought with the Americans. **Alex:** Your relatives couldn't get along with anyone, could they? 😊

Only in America can a pizza get to your house faster than an ambulance. 😊

Only in America do people order double cheeseburgers, a large fry, and a DIET coke 😊.

Only in America do banks leave both doors open and then chain the pens to the counters 😊.

Only in America . . . do we use answering machines to screen calls and then have call waiting so we won't miss a call from someone we didn't want to talk to in the first place 😊

Only in America do we buy hot dogs in packages of ten and buns in packages of eight. 😊

Parenting Tune-Up



"...Do not be afraid... You are worth more than the sparrows..." (Matthew 10:26-33).

Speak with your children about the fears they have and lead them to trust the words of Jesus.

Marriage Tune-Up



Independence is an important step on the journey to adulthood, but marriage also requires dependence. I depend on you to keep your word, to be there when I'm feeling hurt, to watch the kids so I can have a break. How do you depend on one another?

Saints and Preachers who lived for others

There are many Saints and preachers who lived for others as Jesus did: John Chrysostom, who lived in the fourth century, was one of the most powerful preachers in Church history. Yet, he devoted more time and energy to the poor than to preaching. He established many Christian charities, hospices, and hospitals for the destitute. Bernard of Clairvaux, a Cistercian abbot and renowned monastic theologian and preacher, led many people to Christ. He also established a network of hostels, hospices, and hospitals that survive today. John Wycliffe, who translated the New Testament into English, led a grass-roots movement of lay-preachers and relief workers who ministered to the poor.

General William Booth was a Methodist preacher when he started The Salvation Army. Dwight L. Moody, one of the best known of all the pastors in America established more than 150 street missions, soup kitchens, clinics, schools, and rescue outreaches. [John Wimber and Kevin Springer, *Power Points* (New York: Harper San Francisco, 5335), p. 523.]

The Christian Faith is about giving. We only have to survey the ministry of Jesus to see that. There was nothing self-serving in anything Jesus ever did. He was truly the Man for others. And he called us to be men and women for others. At the very heart of our Faith is a spirit of giving.

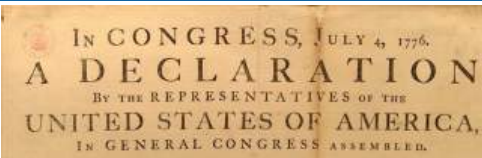
"The heroes are the guys who didn't come back."



One of the most famous pictures from World War II must surely be the photo of five valiant Marines raising an American flag on the island of Iwo Jima. The young man in the center of the photo was John Bradley.

After the war, Bradley moved back to Antigo, Wisconsin, married his high school sweetheart, and raised a family. Although John Bradley won the Navy Cross for saving a fellow

soldiers' life, he preferred not to talk about the war. And he absolutely refused to accept the hero worship that others tried to force on him. One of the few comments Bradley ever made about the war, he made to his young son, James. In response to James' remark about heroism, John Bradley replied, "The heroes of Iwo Jima are the guys who didn't come back." ("The Man in the Photograph" by James Bradley from *Flags of our Fathers. Reader's Digest*, Nov. 6444, pp. 125-129.)



July Fourth is our Nation's Birthday!

Yes, this weekend we commemorate the fact that in 1776, the Continental Congress, representing the 13 colonies, approved the Declaration of Independence. But that was only the first step on the road to freedom as a sovereign nation. Many other steps followed - trials, tribulations, discussions, debates, violence, tragedies, hunger, sickness, deaths - to make the contents of that document a reality for us to enjoy that freedom given to us by those who went before us. When we see how that freedom is abused and how our "pursuit of happiness" is hindered, we need to revisit the most famous words from the Declaration and make a self-examination to see how we

can make a difference in our world by living the spirit of this great document:

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to affect their Safety and Happiness."

Three Marriages, One Spouse...

"Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." Matthew 10: 37-42

We've heard all the reasons: *He's not the man I married . . . She didn't change, but I did . . . We grew apart.* Why do most relationships end? Change - specifically, how to accept change in another. At some point in any long-term relationship, each partner is likely to evolve from the person we fell in love with into something new - and not always into something cuter or smarter or more fun. The same for our children. Spouses go from rock climber to couch potato, from rebel to middle manager, from incurable romantic to sleep obsessed. Sons and daughters, overnight it seems, devolve from their angelic First Communion photos into sullen, self-absorbed teenagers - who just as quickly blossom into responsible young adults. Writer Ada Calhoun, in her forthcoming memoir **Wedding Toasts I'll Never Give**, writes:

"A year and a half ago, Neal and I bought a place in the country. We hadn't been in the market for a house, but our city apartment is only 500 square feet, and we kept admiring this lovely blue house we drove by every time we visited my parents. It turned out to be shockingly affordable. So now we own a house. We bought furniture, framed pictures and put up a badminton net. We marveled at the change that had come over us. Who were these backyard-grilling, property-tax-paying, shuttlecock-batting people we had become? "When we met in our 20s, Neal

wasn't a man who would delight in lawn care, and I wasn't a woman who would find such a man appealing. And yet here we were, avidly refilling our bird feeder and remarking on all the cardinals.

"Neal, who hadn't hammered a nail in all the years I'd known him, now had opinions on bookshelves and curtains, and loved going to the hardware store. He whistled while he mowed. He was like an alien. But in this new situation, I was an alien, too - one who knew when to plant bulbs and how to use a Crock-Pot, and who, newly armed with CPR and first aid certification, volunteered at a local camp. Our alien selves were remarkably compatible . . . Several long-married people I know have said this exact line: I've had at least three marriages. They've just all been with the same person. I'd say Neal and I have had at least three marriages: our partying 20s, child-centric 30s and home-owning 40s."

Our lives change over the years - the challenge is to continue to grow, to continue to love, to continue to be there for one another as we change. As Jesus says in today's Gospel, we find our true lives in the lives we "lose," we discover our true selves in the persons we become over time. In God's wisdom and grace, we can transform such change from a "cross" into an experience of resurrection in which we discover the love of God in our midst and become the means for revealing that love to those we love and who love us.

The seminarian sponsored by the cobbler.

There was a poor lad in a country village who, after a great struggle, became a priest. His benefactor in his days of study in the seminary was the village cobbler. In due time, the new priest became an associate pastor in his benefactor's parish. On that day his benefactor cobbler

said to him, "It was always my desire to be a minister of the gospel, but the circumstances of my life made it impossible. But you are achieving what was closed to me. And I want you to promise me one thing--I want you to let me make and cobble your shoes--for nothing--and I want you to wear

Continued

Jul 2, 2023

The seminarian sponsored by the cobbler. (continued)

them in the pulpit when you preach. Then I will feel that you are preaching the gospel that I always wanted to preach standing in my shoes." Beyond a doubt the cobbler was serving God as the preacher was, and his reward would one day be the same. (Adapted from Barclay). Today's gospel challenges us to help those in the ministry by using our God given talents. The Church and Christ will also always need those in whose homes there is hospitality, and in whose hearts there is Christian love. All service ranks the same with God.

Today's Gospel lesson implies that there might be differing rewards for prophets, righteous persons, and little ones -- and differing rewards for those who receive prophets, righteous persons, and little ones. The good news is that the modesty of our circumstances does not limit our potential

rewards. We don't have to be a prophet to receive a prophet's reward--we have only to receive a prophet. We don't have to be a great saint to receive a great saint's reward--we have only to show hospitality to such a saint. The smallest gift to the littlest disciple brings a certain reward. Just as God knows and cares about every hair of our heads, so also He knows about our generous acts in behalf of the faithful. Such gifts are counted as gifts to Jesus -- and gifts to Jesus are counted as gifts to the Father. Another bit of good news is that, as we are engaged in the Lord's work, those who help us are also promised a reward. That is true whether we are clergy or lay people, preachers or janitors. We may not be comfortable being on the receiving end rather than the giving end, but the Lord has ordained that our receiving becomes a means of blessing to the giver.

Heroic suffering of the baseball player Kirk Gibson



Suffering and pain are integral to life's experience but they need not humiliate, defeat, and destroy us! A Detroit News article some years ago carried the story of Kirk Gibson during his glory days with the Tigers. Few really knew the price of pain and agony paid by Gibson for that glory. According to the article, Kirk Gibson was a baseball player who knew how to live with pain. In 1980, he tore the cartilage in his wrist. Two years later, he had a sore left knee, a strained left calf muscle, and a severe left wrist sprain. In 1983, he was out for knee surgery, and in 1985 he required 17 stitches after getting hit in the mouth with a wild pitch. In addition, he bruised a hamstring muscle, injured his right heel, and suffered a sore left ankle. His worst injury involved severe ligament damage to his ankle in 1986, a year predicted to be his best. When asked about pain, Gibson was quoted as saying, "There are pluses and minuses in everything we do in life. But the pluses for my career, myself, and my family make it worth it. It's the path I chose." He accepted Jesus' challenge in today's gospel, whoever does not take up his cross* and follow after me is not worthy of me."

"I invested your coin and it is now 10000!"

Baron De Rothschild was one of the richest men who ever lived. Legend has it that the Baron once posed before an artist as a beggar. While the artist, Ary Scheffer, was painting him, the financier sat before him in rags and tatters holding a tin cup. A friend of the artist entered, and the baron was so well disguised that he was not recognized. Thinking he was really a beggar, the visitor dropped a coin into the cup. Ten years later, the man who gave the coin to Rothschild received a letter containing a bank order for

10,000 francs and the following message: "You one day gave a coin to Baron de Rothschild in the studio of Ary Scheffer. He has invested it and today sends you the capital which you entrusted to him, together with the compounded interest. A good action always brings good fortune. Signed, Baron de Rothschild." (BITS & PIECES, February 4, 1993, p. 24.)

A simple act of kindness was bountifully rewarded. Now hear the words of our Lord: "And whoever in the name of a disciple gives to one of these little ones even a cup of cold water to drink, truly I say to you he shall not lose his reward." Even a cup of cold water, says the Master, given to one of his little ones will be rewarded.

Be hospitable and generous

Hospitality means encountering the presence of God in others, usually in those whom we least expect. The virtue of hospitality is the virtue of recognizing the presence of God in others and nourishing this presence. We as a community are to look for the opportunities to be hospitable--and, of course, there are plenty of occasions for hospitality. Maybe it is simply a kind word to a stranger - or even a smile. When we live in such a busy and hectic world, we tend to brush off people who need help. A kind smile or a "hello" to someone waiting with us in a grocery line may be the only kindness that person encounters all day.

We become fully alive as Christians through the generous giving of ourselves. What is more important than sending checks for charitable causes is giving of ourselves to people: in the way we speak to them and about them, in the way we forgive their failings, in the way we encourage them, console them and help them, and even in the way we think about them. These types of generosity reflect warmth radiating from the very love of God.

Reflect

“Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me...”

These words may sound a bit extreme, since family comes first to most of us. 1) What Jesus means is that all loyalties must give place to loyalty to God. The wants of any person or any group of people (e.g. a family) cannot be met by trampling on or denying the rights and needs of others. If members of your family act unjustly, you must, in conscience, separate yourself from them. In other words, you cannot condone immoral practices even by members of your family.

From the Pastoral Staff

We have now entered summer...July fourth is only a couple of days Away. School is out and many will be taking a vacation.

Liturgically we are in ordinary time. The slow time in the church so to speak.

Many will enjoy the beach... the mountains... or maybe just relaxing around the house.

Just enjoying the longer days and the sun makes us feel more relaxed.

But what about our spiritual life... Our relationship with the Lord?

Are we taking a vacation from Him? As we might be doing with our work,

During the summer are we putting God on the back burner? Jesus is with us twenty four seven and 365 days a year. He doesn't take a vacation.

In today's Gospel Jesus reminds us of how important it is to not lose sight of our relationship with Him... And what He expects from us.

He reminds us of our reward of eternal life with Him in heaven.

He says “whoever gives only a cup of cold water to one of these little ones to drink because the little one is a disciple ... Amen I say to you, he will surely not lose his reward.

We can't let up on our journey just because we may be on a vacation... or just stepping back from our daily Grind.

Jesus is with us twenty four seven... And so we must be with Him as well.

We have so many ways to keep up our spiritual life during these summer months.

Even if we can't physically attend Mass... We now have the benefit of Livestream. We can pray any time anywhere. We now have adoration on Mondays From 6-8 PM where we can take an hour or a few minutes to sit with the Lord.

So have a safe and enjoyable summer. If you are able to get away... enjoy.

But remember Jesus doesn't take a vacation from us... so we should not forget Him as well.

Peace of Christ
Deacon Russ



Pray

QUO VADIS SUMMER CAMP

Dear Parents of Teen Boys,

July 11-14 is our High School Quo Vadis summer camp for boys. We have changed the venue to Camp Shiloh in Hewitt, NJ. This will provide fun activities like rock climbing, hiking, swimming, volleyball, basketball, etc., in addition to prayer, fellowship, and witness.

Please consider encouraging your son to attend our annual Quo Vadis summer camp in July, it is free! It is a great opportunity to have fun with your friends, play sports, share meals, grow in your faith, and continue to process where God may be calling you in your life.

This is a great opportunity for young men to have fun with their friends and develop the tools to be able to think/pray about where God may be calling them in their life, particularly major life decisions, like college choices, career paths, etc. Please register ASAP.

Quo Vadis 2023 <https://diometuchen.org/quovadis>





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 dnann@stmatthias.net



“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



“Laborers for the Harvest,” God Calls Us to Vocation

Over the past three Sundays, the gospel of our Mass has focused on Jesus sending his disciples out to continue his ministry of preaching and healing. Two Sunday’s ago, we heard Jesus referring to his disciples as “laborers for the harvest” and counseling them to give of themselves freely to all those they encounter. In the gospel of last Sunday’s Mass, Jesus tells those same disciples to trust in God as they set out – to put their fears aside, to speak and act confidently with the assurance that God is with them on their mission. Today, we hear Jesus alert his disciples that their mission will not be easy, that not all will welcome them, some might even treat them harshly. Amidst all of this, Jesus makes it clear that acknowledging him as

Lord, embracing the salvation that he offers, and placing God at the center of one’s life is imperative.

It is abundantly clear that those first disciples were called to a special task, a particular vocation of great importance - to bring God to the world and the world to God, and to help others achieve that which Jesus says is imperative.

Two thousand years later, it is the same for us as Christian disciples. We are also called by God to vocation as “laborers for the harvest.” We too are asked to cast our fears aside, to go out into the world, to give freely of ourselves, to stand-up to rejection, to bring God to others and others to God, to help all those we encounter achieve that which Jesus says is imperative.

So, each day we go out into our little corner of the world, proclaiming the

Good News of Jesus Christ in our inspired words and loving actions. We prayerfully ask God to show us particularly how he wants us to do this whether it be in our family life, in our occupations, or in ministerial and charitable work. We listen for God’s voice, and we embrace God’s guidance. And then, like those first disciples, we go out as “laborers,” confident that God is with us, knowing that as we plant seeds, it is God who brings about the harvest. A wise person once said: *“where the needs of the world and your talents cross there lies your vocation.”* Let’s all prayerfully reflect on this and listen for what particular vocation God is calling us to.

For additional information about the Saint Matthias Vocations Ministry please email Joe Percoco at:

percoco@rutgers.edu

Give (and Receive!)

Stewardship Reflection July 2, 2023 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“... whoever does not take up his cross and follow after me is not worthy of me.” Matthew 10:38

Pope Benedict XVI said “The world offers you comfort. But you were not made for comfort, you were made for greatness”. “Comfort” puts me first. “Picking up your cross and following Jesus” puts God and others first. Why settle for comfort when you can achieve greatness! Pick up your cross, ask Jesus for guidance on using your gifts and live the life God intended for you!

Reflexiónese 2 de julio de 2023 13º domingo del Tiempo Ordinario

“...y el que no toma su cruz y me sigue no es digno de mí.”- Mateo 10:38

El papa Benedicto XVI dijo: “El mundo ofrece su comodidad, pero no fuimos hechos para la comodidad, sino fuimos hechos para la grandeza”. La “comodidad” me pone a mi primero .“Tomar tu cruz y seguir a Jesús” pone a Dios y a los demás primero. ;Por qué conformarse con la comodidad cuando podemos alcanzar la grandeza! ;Tome su cruz, pídale a Jesús que lo guíe para utilizar sus dones y viva la vida que Dios tiene dispuesta para usted!

Stewardship Totals for Fiscal Year July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023				Last Year's Total
Current Month	In-Pew/Mail	Parish Giving	Weekly Total	Weekly Total
Week 49 - June 4, 2023	\$9,285.00	\$14,255.25	\$23,540.25	\$36,320.75
Week 50 - June 11, 2023	\$9,270.00	\$25,348.75	\$34,618.75	\$29,165.25
Week 51 - June 18, 2023	\$10,173.00	\$12,108.25	\$22,281.25	
Week 52 - June 25, 2023	\$8,865.00	\$11,350.25	\$20,215.25	
			Month-to-date Total	June Total Last Yr
			\$100,655.50	\$65,486.00
Building R & R Collection: \$2,304.00			Current Year-to-date	Year-to-date as of
			\$1,394,975.73	\$1,322,499.06

Connect with Our Local Community



Consider joining **Sr. Marie O'Hagan, SSJ**, our beloved former St. Matthias staff member for one or both of these most interesting spiritual offerings!

The Beauty of Grace

You are invited to a spiritual book club exploring Russ Ramsey's book, **Rembrandt is in the Wind**. Ramsey introduces us to nine artists whose artistic gifts, as well as their own life experiences, have created entry points for God's grace. Club meetings are: **on ZOOM**, from 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM on Wednesdays: 9/13, 9/27, 10/11, 10/25, 11/15 and 11/29. Cost is \$60.00.

If interested, contact **Sister Marie O'Hagan, SSJ** at, plaidmoh@gmail.com.

A Heart-Centered Life

You are invited to a spiritual book club exploring Kevin O'Brien, S.J.'s newest book, **Seeing with the Heart**. Not one of us takes our vision for granted. Where would we be if we could not see? Through O'Brien's writings we have the opportunity of learning ways to use our heart's vision, to see God, to see life, to see others and to see ourselves ever more clearly! If interested, contact **Sister Marie O'Hagan, SSJ** at, plaidmoh@gmail.com.



Day for Grandparents and Seniors July 26, 2023

The Diocese of Metuchen is pleased to host a Celebrate Life Event - A Day for

Grandparents & Seniors (55+) on Wednesday, **July 26, 2023 from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm at the St. John Neumann Pastoral Center, Piscataway**. The morning will include, breakfast, fellowship, and a guest speaker presentation followed by Eucharist Adoration and Holy Mass. This event is an outreach to our aging Catholic community and promises to be an upbeat day!

There is no fee but registration is required.

For more information or to register, visit:

<https://www.diometuchen.org/humanlifeanddignity>



Sisters' Conference Retreat: To Live Out Loud

Sunday, July 16, 2023 5:00 PM through
Saturday, July 22, 2023 12:00 PM

St. Francis Center for Renewal,
395 Bridle Path Road, Bethlehem, PA 18017

sfcr-info@stfrancisctr.org

"I came that you may have life and have it abundantly."

* John 10:10

Registration Options

Full Week Overnight Stay (single occupancy) — \$500 (includes all meals)

Full Week Commuter Participant — \$325 (includes all meals)

Full Week Virtual Attendance Via Zoom — \$200

How to Register: To register by phone or to pay by check, please call the Center at 610-867-8890.

Parish Leadership

Parish Pastoral Council:

Co-Chairs:

Rose Peng, rosepeng@optonline.net

John Taylor, jptaylor1068@yahoo.com

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Marilyn Wegg

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Anne Marie Francis
Bill Isele

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Trustees:

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Parish Finance Council:

Kester Hector, Chair

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[@stmatthias.net](http://stmatthias.net)

Carmen Driz-Melilli
Barry Dusault
Gwen Orlovski

Audrey Francis
Joe Porter
Joan Pritchard
Mary Pat Burke-Grospin,
Ex-Officio
Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio

About St. Matthias (please contact the staff members on the cover for up-to-date information)

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

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

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

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



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



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Tuesday, 10/11

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