



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

Pastor: Rev Abraham Orapankal, **abraham**
Mary Pat Burke-Grospin, *Business Administrator*
mpburke-grospin

Deacon Ron Caimi, *Senior Deacon*
Kelly Counts, *Receptionist*, **kcounts**
Deacon Russell Demkovitz, **rdevkovitz**
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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**

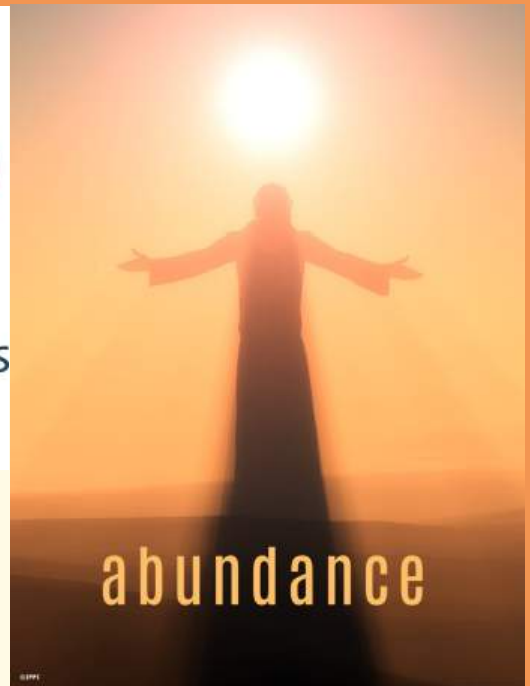
THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS
SUNDAY, JULY 23, 2023-
16th Sunday in Ordinary Time



World Day
for Grandparents
and the Elderly
2023

Today is the third World
Day of Grandparents
and the Elderly.

Please see page 7 for details.



SPREAD THE LIGHT IS COMING!

Think Christmas in July!!!

It is not too soon to begin to think about our
"Spread the Light" campaign in December.

Help us "Spread the Light!"

See page 9 for more details.



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 24th**
from **6 PM to 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 23, 2023

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

Monday, Jul 24, 2023 **St. Christina of Tyre, Martyr**

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

Tuesday, Jul 25, 2023 **Feast—St. James, Apostle & Martyr**

8:00AM	Mass	Church
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Wednesday, Jul 26, 2023 **Memorial—Sts. Joachim & Anne, Parents of Mary**

8:00AM	Mass—St. Joseph Novena	Church
10:00AM	Funeral Pre-Planning Mtg.	Neumann Rm

Thursday, Jul 27, 2023 **St. Innocent I, Pope**

8:00AM	Mass	Church
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Friday, Jul 28, 2023 **Memorial (India) St. Alphonsa, Religious**

8:00AM	Mass	Church
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Saturday, Jul 29, 2023 **Memorial—Martha, Mary & Lazarus**

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

Sunday, Jul 30, 2023

8:00AM	Mass	Church
9:30AM	ServiceWorX - Week 2	Cafeteria
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,

Hearty Welcome to Fr. Lancelot McGrath! Many of you have asked me if I was getting another priest in the place of Msgr. Brennan who retired and moved out. I am happy to share the good news that Bishop Checchio has appointed Fr. Lancelot McGrath as the Parochial Vicar at St. Matthias Church.

Fr. McGrath has been serving as Parochial Vicar at Nativity of Our Lord Parish, Monroe Township, for the past four years. I am happy to welcome him to our parish, though his appointment will be effective from September 1, 2023. In the meanwhile, I am happy that we can avail the services of different priests. I am happy that Fr. Nick Gengaro, who is so familiar to us all, Fr. Tom Lanza, the Vocations Director of the Diocese and Fr. Jose Lim, the newly ordained priest of our Diocese, have been the presiders at different Masses these past weekends. The Consolata Missionaries, who have helped us in the past, will also be helping us whenever possible. These opportunities give us an exposure to different priests who give us a different taste of priestly ministry, especially in preaching.

Today is World Day for Grandparents and Elderly. This day was established by Pope Francis to be celebrated on the fourth Sunday, closer to July 26, the feast of Sts. Joachim and Anne, the grandparents of Jesus. The goal is “to draw attention to a category all too often placed on the margins, remembering instead their value and encouraging actions in their favor.” The Pope is celebrating the Mass for and with the grandparents and the elderly today (Sunday, July 23) in St. Peter's Square.

“**His mercy is from age to age**” (Lk 1:50) is the theme chosen for this year. This choice was intended to connect the Rome event to the great celebration of the World Youth Day in Lisbon (Aug. 1-6), to ideally put young and old 'in dialogue', as the Pope has always desired. The theme was chosen to be in tune with that of World Youth Day in Lisbon: “Mary arose and went with haste,” taken from Luke's Gospel. Even the short passage “His mercy from age to age” is taken from Luke's Gospel and is the end of the first part of the Magnificat, when Mary immediately goes to meet her elderly cousin Elizabeth after the Angel's annunciation. Thus, it is a theme that highlights the importance of dialogue between generations. Indeed, dialogue between the elderly and the young helps to obtain a more complete vision of the way in which a more humane and fraternal society can be built.

As we celebrate the grandparents and the elderly of our parish, let us remember that they have a thing or two to teach us about enduring change and handling life's adversity. Respecting them can be the most gratuitous return for their selfless efforts that benefited us in different ways. Bible is very clear on this: “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise), “that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land. (Ephesians 6:1-3). “Never speak harshly to an older man, but appeal to him respectfully as you would to your own father. Treat older women as you would your mother....” (Timothy 5:1-3).

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Orapankal



Readings for the Week

Monday: Ex 14:5-18; Ex 15:1bc-2, 3-4, 5-6; Mt 12:38-42

Tuesday: 2 Cor 4:7-15; Ps 126:1bc-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5, 6; Mt 20:20-28

Wednesday: Ex 16:1-5, 9-15; Ps 78:18-19, 23-24, 25-26, 27-28; Mt 13:1-9

Thursday: Ex 19:1-2, 9-11, 16-20b; Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56; Mt 13:10-17

Friday: Ex 20:1-17; Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11; Mt 13:18-23

Saturday: Ex 24:3-8; Ps 50:1b-2, 5-6, 14-15; Jn 11:19-27 or Lk 10:38-42

Sunday: 1 Kgs 3:5, 7-12; Ps 119:57, 72, 76-77, 127-128, 129-130; Rom 8:28-30; Mt 13:44-52 or Mt 13:44-46

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, July 22 5:00PM Margaret Pagnano, by Acevedo Family

Sunday, July 23 8:00AM Intention of Parishioners

10:00AM Sr. Amata, by Tuition Angels: Judy, Joan, Rena & Jo-Ann

12:00PM Trooper Anthony Raspa, by Trooper Anthony Eggert

Monday, July 24 8:00AM Jane Mellari, by The Banbone Family

Tuesday, July 25 8:00AM Ann Jackson, by David & Linda Madison

Wednesday, July 26 8:00AM Yacone Family, by Espy & Violy

Thursday, July 27 8:00AM Beatrice Sunga, by Flora Sunga

Friday, July 28 8:00AM Paul Temple, by The Santisi Family

Saturday, July 29 5:00PM In Memory of K.C. Fung, by Julia Fung

Sunday, July 30 8:00AM John Morrow, by The Madison Family

10:00AM Intention of Parishioners

12:00PM In Loving Memory of Victoria Villareal Moreno, by The Moreno Family

Pray for those who are sick...

If you or a family member are sick, please call the Parish Office or **email Kelly Counts** at 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
Tammy Baskaran
Regina Berlowitz
Bishop Paul Bootkowski
Barbara Butler
Tara Capatosto
Ellen Catalina
Kyle Davidson
Lisa DeFeo
Hattie Evans
Josephine Geenty
Claudia Gemgnani
Helen Geraghty
Emma Gergely
Marilyn Horvath

Robert Kashinsky
Kathleen Langenbacher
Rose Larangeira
Mary Lou Litrakis
John Litrakis
[Carol Ann Loftus](#)
Joseph Lubrano
Aries Magali
Al Maglio
Anne McElwee
Margaret Menendez
Carol Millemann
Eleanor Nagy
Joseph Nguyen
Danny Ongchango

Robert Pellegrino
Jim Pettit
Randolff Pinard
Valerie Polci
Denise Pultro
Kim Price
Doris Regan
Gabriel Rivera
Arina Robinson
Arthur Robinson
Maria Schwenzer
Amy Shepp
Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF
Sr. Bernadine Marie
Stemnock

Jeff Sullivan
Tom Szabo
Don Tibay
Mary Ann Vlad
Nancy Whelan
Mark Worthington
Carl Wyopen
Angie Yetyet

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*

Reflect



Smile with Your Family



I've started growing herbs in my garden. To help identify them I'm growing them in alphabetical order. My neighbor asked me, "How do you find the time?" I said, "Thyme? Easy, it's right here next to the sage." 😊

A priest started to water his garden. He bowed his head and began with a prayer: "Lettuce spray..." 😊

A married couple were walking through a garden when suddenly a dog ran towards them. They both knew it will bite them. The husband lifted his wife to let the dog bite him rather than his sweetheart. The dog stopped before them, unsure what to do, barked a little and ran away. The husband put his wife down, expecting a hug and a few kind words of gratitude from her. But his wife shouted, "I've seen people throwing

stones & sticks at dogs, this is the first time I see someone trying to throw his wife at a dog 😊

8-year-old Jake was in the garden filling in a hole when his neighbor peered over the fence. Interested in what the youngster was doing, he asked, "What are you doing there, Jake?" "My goldfish died," Jake sobbed. "And I've just buried him." The obnoxious neighbor laughed and said condescendingly, "That's a really big hole for a little goldfish, don't you think?" Jake patted down the last heap of earth with his shovel and replied, "That's because he's inside your cat." 😊

The philosopher who said, "work well done never needs doing over," never weeded a garden. 😊

Parenting Tune-Up



Consider adding this to your family prayer. If you don't have a family prayer tradition, start one with this ancient prayer: "May God bless you and keep you! May God's face shine upon you and be gracious to you! May God look upon you kindly and give you peace!" (Numbers 6:22-27)

Marriage Tune-Up



"For we do not know how to pray as we ought." (Romans 8: 26) Praying together is one of the most intimate (and scary) deeds a couple can do. Revealing our innermost thoughts and feelings can be a risk. But try and see how wonderful it can be because it brings you two closer than ever!

Bad Choices are "Weeds" Ruining our Lives!



You may have read about a 61-year-old Massachusetts grandmother who ended up in a mess of trouble sometime back. It was on the first day of her new job as a school bus driver. She took some wrong turns and made some poor decisions as to which roads to take. She got so lost that she wound up in the state of Connecticut. Because she had already picked up ten kids on her route, an all-points bulletin was issued for her on charges of kidnapping, and, since she had crossed the state line, the F.B.I. was called in.

After finally locating the lady and interrogating her, the police and F.B.I. agents concluded that she had made some wrong turns and had simply lost her way. So they released her.

A few wrong turns. It happens in life. It happens to good people. A few bad judgments and suddenly you are lost, entangled, trapped in the weeds, a golfer might say. Sometimes much is at stake. A marriage. Your health. The safety of others. Pulling weeds is an important part of a successful life.

Here's a "Weed-Gatherer"!

A teenage daughter asks her father, "Why don't you go to Church?" He replies, "Because the Church is full of hypocrites." "What do you mean by a hypocrite?" she asks. He thinks for a moment and answers, "A hypocrite says one thing and does something else." "That sounds like you, Daddy!" she replies. "I'm no hypocrite!" he responds. "Yes, you are," she says. "You tell me that going to Church is important. You say that I have to go to Church, but then you don't go. You say one thing and do another. Doesn't that make you a hypocrite? I wish you could go with me because there is room in the Church for one more hypocrite."

Why we should not treat others as "Weeds"

The parable hints at why we should not treat others as "weeds," i.e. evil or wicked.

- 1) Each one of us is a combination of wheat and weeds. In each of us there are elements of the Kingdom of God and elements that are deeply opposed to it. Even Paul recognized that struggle within himself (cf. Romans 7:21-25). God told Paul that it was precisely through his weaknesses that He could reveal His glory. "My power is made perfect in [your]"

Reflect

Why we should not treat others as “Weeds”

(continued)

weakness" (Corinthians 12:9). Relying on the power of God, we, too, must learn to be patient with the evil ones.

2) The time for judgment is not yet come because the Kingdom of God is still in the growing stage. Now is the time to expect conversion, because with the help of God's grace sinners can change.

3) Another reason we should avoid judgment is that we cannot draw a line which would neatly separate the good from the bad because everyone is a mixture of good and evil. Here is Karl Rahner's piece of advice to enthusiastic "weed"-gatherers: "The number-one cause of atheism is Christians themselves. What an unbelieving world finds simply unbelievable is the presence of those who proclaim God with their mouths and deny Him with their lifestyles. Perhaps, the best defense of God would be to just keep our mouths shut and to live as He told us to. The Gospel would then have such a power and attraction that we wouldn't have to worry about defending it."

The Kingdom of God is always Growing!

It started small when Christ established it, like a mustard seed as told by Jesus in today's Gospel. Just a few disciples gathered in a room on the first Easter Sunday. And it starts small wherever it goes. St Augustine of Canterbury had only a handful of monks when he crossed the English Channel around the year 600 to evangelize the barbaric Anglo-Saxons. Just over a century earlier, St Patrick had gone to the even more barbaric land of Ireland, which even the Roman Empire had never conquered, all by himself. It starts small inside our souls as well. The voice of conscience, God's voice within us, is often only just a whisper, like a tiny breeze. Christ's Kingdom starts small, like a mustard seed, like a little bit of yeast in a huge batch of flour - but it's alive, and so it is always growing. And so, 100 years after St Augustine and a couple of buddies arrived in England, the English Church was exporting hundreds of saints and missionaries back to continental Europe to evangelize the new waves of barbarian invaders. And so, by the time of St Patrick's death, an entire nation of primitive tribes had begun to be civilized and united under the Christian Faith. And so, even if God's voice is only a whisper in our conscience, when we follow it, He works wonders. Some critics of the Catholic Church say that today's Church is too big and developed to be the descendent of that small group of fishermen that Jesus started with. But when you plant a mustard seed, you expect something to happen. You expect to go back and find a vibrant bush (mustard shrubs grow to about 10 feet in height) which doesn't look anything

like the seed. Christ's Kingdom is always alive, dynamic, always growing. And so, if we ever find ourselves bored with our Christian Faith, it's simply because we have wandered away from Jesus.

Good folks sometimes do stupid things!

Fans of country music revere the name of George Jones. Jones has had enough hit songs on his hundred or so albums to make the careers of ten singers. Sometime back, George was nearly killed in an automobile accident. He was talking on his cell phone. When the news first came out, many of his fans probably assumed that George was off the wagon again. Along with George Jones' talent and genius came a dark side. Jones had a reputation for wild living and self-destructive behavior. In the past he had struggled with a serious addiction to alcohol and drugs. His addictions were so severe that Jones would literally do anything to fuel his habit. At one time, George was almost outwitted by his then-wife, Tammy Wynette. To keep him away from the local bar, Tammy took George's car keys. But George's determination to feed his addiction won out. He hopped on his riding lawn mower and rode ten miles to the nearest bar. [Randy Scott, *Country Music Revealed* (New York: MetroBooks, 1995), p. 60.] Why otherwise good people allow themselves to get trapped in self-destructive patterns of behavior is beyond our understanding. And where does such behavior come from? Can we get off the hook by saying, "The devil made me do it?" Is it genetic?

“Two Wolves within you!”

“Have you ever noticed that the people who are bad sometimes are the very same people who are good sometimes?” It reminds us of a story called, “Two Wolves.” It goes like this: An old Cherokee is teaching his grandson about life. "A fight is going on inside me," he said to the boy. "It is a terrible fight and it is between two wolves. One is evil - he is anger, envy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego." He continued, "The other is good - he is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion, and faith. The same fight is going on inside you - and inside every other person, too." The grandson thought about it for a minute and then asked his grandfather, "Which wolf will win?" The old Cherokee simply replied, "The one you feed." ***Today's Gospel parable reminds us that we are a mixture of good and evil and, hence, instead of judging others we have to lead exemplary Christian lives and leave the judgment to God.***

A “self-test” for your patience!



“Imagine yourself in the following situation: It’s Saturday at 5:45p.m. You’re flying in a plane at 35,000 feet. The plane is an hour-and-a-half late. People are grumpy; some are angry. Flight attendants are apologizing and offering complimentary cocktails to soothe the raw nerves and roiled tempers. To top it all off, the meal is late and the passenger on your left has a cold and gives out a big sneeze about every ninety seconds. What would be your response to these problems?”

“Or... imagine another situation. You are at the grocery store; busy evening long lines ahead of you; your shopping cart has a wheel that drags; the fruit juice aisle is blocked off as two shoppers lean over their carts to chat; you do a u-turn and rush down another aisle; you finally finish and choose a check-out line with only two shoppers ahead of you; the cashier at the register is new; her hands tremble; beads of perspiration form on her forehead; slowly she begins to tally your total; her cash register tape runs out; she doesn’t know how to change it; she calls for help from the manager. What’s your response?”

“Or, how about this one: It’s dinner-out-with-the family night in that special place. You have fasted most of the day so that you may eat what you’d like tonight. You’re shown to a table and given a menu but the restaurant is very crowded and the waiters are extremely busy. So you sit there, hungry as a wolf with only a glass of water and a menu that you’ve begun to gnaw on. What’s your response?”

Swindoll in his book *Growing Strong in the Seasons of Life* insists that in these relatively unimportant situations, “the rubber of Christianity meets the road of proof.” In other words, it is at such times that our faith is really tested. Indeed, the best test of our growth as Christians occurs in situations like the ones mentioned above.

Today’s Gospel reminds us of God’s patience, leniency and willingness to wait – to allow time for the wicked to come to conversion and for good people to overcome their small faults. We need to practice patience. First of all, we need to be patient with ourselves. We may not get everything done perfectly this week, but so what? Then we must be patient with the others – those who annoy us by the way they drive their cars, those whose opinions differ from ours, those who make too much noise and disturb us and those who make our spiritual progress more difficult for us by their bad example and counter-witnessing. Let’s practice patience, remembering that, in the end, it is God who controls. Let us patiently and lovingly treat the “weeds” in our society as our brothers and sisters and do all in our power to put them back on the right road to heaven, especially by our good example and our fervent prayer for their conversion.

Who is a Saint and who is a Sinner?

There was this village, which was plagued with sheep thieves and it was about time they were taught a lesson.



Two of them were caught and branded on their foreheads with the letters ST (standing for Sheep Thief), that would be their punishment for life! Unable to bear the shame one of them ended his life, while the other decided to mend his ways. He set about doing all the odd jobs in the village and would help all those who needed help. Years passed and his misdeed was forgotten. As an old man now he was looked upon as someone who could be relied upon to help anyone in need. One day as he was passing by, he heard little children talking about him. One remarked: "I wonder what those letters 'ST' on his forehead stand for?" Another child replied "I am not sure, but he is such a kind man, I am sure 'ST' stands for Saint!"

Today’s parable was told so that we might not go around judging others as weeds or wheat. Judgment is the function of God the Father and His angels. Instead, the parable asks us to take a close look at our own life with the understanding that one can judge one’s own heart, then repent and bear good fruit. It is a time to look at our own sins and at the way we conduct our own life, then to make a decision about our own repentance so that we can turn around and bear fruit for Jesus. Our Gospel lesson asks us whether we are secure in our Faith life. Are we secure in the knowledge that one day we will be judged as wheat or weed? How often have we been a "weed" in the garden of the Lord? Would we, knowing what we know now, like to have been plucked up at those times? God is so merciful that He allows evil to exist in order that what is good may grow. He allows evil to exist because He can turn it into good. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, God can change even the ugliest thorn into a blossom of faith. In God’s field we have two responsibilities: to grow in grace and to share His Word and love with others.

From the Pastoral Staff



The mission of the **Center for FaithJustice** is to inspire the next generation of leaders by creating programs to serve those in need and educate for justice in the Catholic tradition. Named for the biblical passage that inspired them, “Faith without works is dead” (James 2:26), their signature WorX programs unfold through week-long mission retreats incorporating equal parts direct service to those in need and intensive reflection on Catholic Social Teaching.

The **Center for FaithJustice** offers three core programs — ServiceworX, JusticeworX, and LeaderworX — that are targeted at middle, high school, and college students accordingly.

We at St. Matthias within our Confirmation Prep programming have been partnering with the Center for over 15 years. Our **2023 ServiceWorX Camp #1** took place the week of **June 25 - June 30**. It was based out of St. Matthias and the 22 participants and 4 counselors were bused to various service sites in the morning and returned back to our school cafeteria for lunch and an afternoon of reflecting on their service experience in the light of Catholic Social Teaching.

Our **ServiceWorX Camp #2 2023** will take place the week of **July 30 - August 4**. Our 23 participants for this week will join us for the **10AM Mass on Sunday, July 30**. Please welcome this second group and pray for them during this week long experience.

Dee Nann



Connect



World Day
for Grandparents
and the Elderly
2023

A Day for Grandparents and Seniors (55+)

The Diocese of Metuchen's Offices of Human Life and Dignity and Family Life are sponsoring a day for grandparents and seniors (55+) on Wednesday, July 26, 2023 (Feast Day of St. Joachim & St. Anne) from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM. There will be a Welcome and Breakfast at 9:30 AM,

a Presentation at 10:30 AM and Adoration at 11:30 AM followed by Mass. This event is free, but registration is required.

For more information, please call 732-562-1543 or email amarshall@diometuchen.org.



“SAVE THE DATE”!

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

SIGHT & SOUND

“DANIEL LIVE ON STAGE”

Saturday, April 20, 2024

More details to follow...



Learn



2023-2024 GIFT for K-8 Religious Formation

www.stmatthias.net/faith-formation/

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. Please visit www.stmatthias.net/faith-formation/ for more information and to register for **G.I.F.T.**



Attention 2nd Graders:

First Eucharist Preparation 2023-2024

www.stmatthias.net/first-eucharist-first-reconciliation/

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**. The 2023-2024 Registration for First Eucharist/First Reconciliation is available online at www.stmatthias.net/first-eucharist-first-reconciliation/ Questions? Please email Dee Nann at dnann@stmatthias.net or call the Parish Office, 732-828-1400.



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

Confirmation Preparation 2023-2024

www.stmatthias.net/confirmation/

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 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



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



Silver & Gold Wedding Anniversary Celebration



You are cordially invited to celebrate your 25th or 50th Wedding Anniversary with the Church of Metuchen and renew your marriage vows with Bishop James F. Checchio at a special Evening Prayer Service at the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi in Metuchen on **Sunday, October 22, 2023 at 3:00 PM**. Registration is required. Please register online at: <https://www.diometuchen.org/silver-and-gold-anniversary-celebration>.

If you are unable to access, please contact the Family Life Office at 732-562-1543 or amarshall@diometuchen.org. Registration will close on **October 6, 2023**. Although no fee is required, in the past many Jubilarian couples have given a donation of gratitude to the Church in memory of this special occasion. Donations of Gratitude may be made online at <https://www.diometuchen.org/silver-and-gold-anniversary-celebration> or calling 732-562-1543.

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.



ARE YOU DONE WITH THE HEAT?

THINK COOL! THINK SNOW! THINK CHRISTMAS!

SPREAD THE LIGHT IS COMING!

Think Christmas in July!!!

It is not too soon to begin to think about our “Spread the Light” campaign in December.

This is a wonderful opportunity to honor your loved ones, your business, a family milestone or any other celebration or occasion.

Last year we lit in excess of 270 trees which brightened our church and spread good will to all our neighbors in Somerset and beyond.

This is the largest fund raiser for the parish. We thank all our past participants and we encourage all parishioners to join in this inspirational, and what is becoming, an honored tradition in our parish and community.

Help us “Spread the Light”!

(Sign up forms are available at exit doors of the church and on the website)

Online payments via ParishGiving will be available on August 1, 2023.

www.stmatthias.net/trees

Give (and Receive!)

**Stewardship Reflection July 23, 2023
16th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

“The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a man who sowed good seed in his field... He who sows good seed is the Son of Man, the field is the world, the good seed the children of the kingdom.”-Matthew 13:24, 37-38

As children of God, we are all “good seeds”. We are blessed by God with the potential to accomplish much good in the world. We fulfill God’s plan when we spend time in prayer every day, use our skills to help others and share our financial gifts to help build God’s kingdom on earth. Through our example of gratitude and generosity we sow “good seeds” on earth and ultimately help each other get to Heaven!

**Reflexiónese 23 de julio de 2023
16° domingo del Tiempo Ordinario**

“El reino de los cielos es semejante a un hombre que sembró buena semilla en su campo...El que siembra la buena semilla es el Hijo del Hombre, y el campo es el mundo; y la buena semilla son los hijos del reino.”- Mateo 13:24, 37- 38

Como hijos de Dios, todos nosotros somos “buenas semillas”. Fuimos bendecidos por Dios con el potencial para hacer mucho bien en el mundo. Cumplimos el plan de Dios cuando pasamos tiempo en oración cada día, cuando utilizamos nuestras habilidades para ayudar a los demás y compartimos nuestros dones financieros para ayudar a construir el reino de Dios en la tierra. ¡A través de nuestro ejemplo de gratitud y generosidad “sembramos” las buenas semillas en la tierra y finalmente ayudamos a otros a llegar al Cielo!

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	\$9,256.00	\$13,763.25	\$23,019.25	
Week 4 - July 23, 2023			\$0.00	
Week 5- July 30, 2023				
			Month-to-date Total	June Total Last Yr
			\$79,246.25	\$0.00
			Current Year-to-date Total	Year-to-date as of
			\$100,655.50	

Connect with Our Local Community



RETROUVAILLE

RETROUVAILLE is a Lifeline to Help Couples Heal and Renew their Marriages sponsored by the Office of Family Life, Diocese of Metuchen, NJ. RETROUVAILLE consists of a weekend experience for married couples (no group discussions) with six follow-up sessions. The upcoming weekend is August 18-20, 2023. All inquiries are confidential. For further information, please contact Rich Colasuonno 732-236-0671 or Annette Colasuonno 732-672-0748 or email 3024@helpourmarriage.org.



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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