



**St. Matthias Parish Office:**  
 Open 8:30-6:00PM Mon-Fri  
 168 JFK Boulevard, Somerset, NJ 08873,  
 732-828-1400, fax: 732-828-0866,  
[www.stmatthias.net](http://www.stmatthias.net)

**Mass Schedule (in person):**  
 Sat—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](https://youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ)

**St. Matthias School (SMS):** open M –Thur  
 9:00-1:00. 732-828-1402 or 1540. 170 JFK Blvd.,  
 Somerset, NJ 08873 [www.stmatthias.info](http://www.stmatthias.info)

For all Parish emails, add @stmatthias.net  
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**Senior Priest:** Msgr. Seamus Brennan, [sbrennan](mailto:sbrennan@stmatthias.net)  
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 Mike Lanyi, Sacristan  
 Dolores R. Nann, Pastoral Associate for Faith  
 Formation, [dnann](mailto:dnann@stmatthias.net)  
 Vinnie Natale, Bookkeeper, [vnatale](mailto:vnatale@stmatthias.net)  
 Silvia Nizama, Housekeeper  
 Deacon John Radvanski, [deaconjohn](mailto:deaconjohn@stmatthias.net)  
 Joan Best Seamon, Pastoral Associate for Music  
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 Assoc. for Social Concerns, [msherwood](mailto:msherwood@stmatthias.net)  
 Phyllis Stone, Pastoral Associate for Liturgy/  
 RCIA & Admin. Assistant to the Pastor, [pstone](mailto:pstone@stmatthias.net)  
 Trish Stumper, Par. Support Secretary, [tstumper](mailto:tstumper@stmatthias.net)  
**St. Matthias School (add @stmatthiasnj.org)**  
 Mary Lynch, Principal, [mlynch](mailto:mlynch@stmatthiasnj.org)  
 Joseph Gidaro, Vice Principal, [jgidaro](mailto:jgidaro@stmatthiasnj.org)

## THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS

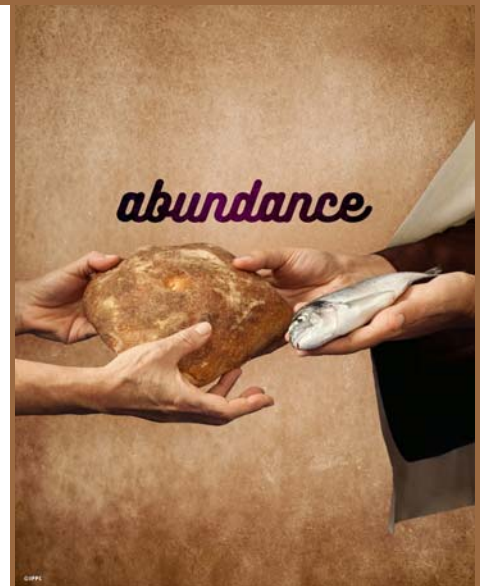
### SUNDAY, JULY 25, 2021 – Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

#### Highlights—This Week

**Goodbye Mass for Fr. Joe, TODAY,  
 Saturday** — See below.

**1st World Day of Grandparents and  
 Elderly** — TODAY, Sunday. See  
 below.

**Special 500 Year Anniversary of  
 Christianity in the Philippines:  
 Filipino Mass –Next Sunday,  
 Aug. 1, at 5:00PM.** See article on  
 pg. 8.



**This weekend!!**  
**Goodbye for Fr. Joe**  
**Saturday, July 24th, 5 PM**  
**Outdoor Mass (weather-permitting)**  
**Please bring your own chairs.**

#### 1st World Day of Grandparents and Elderly

For the first time, we celebrate the new, World Day of Grandparents and Elderly, established by Pope Francis. See the article on page 6.

To read Pope Francis' message to grandparents and elderly, and/or to watch his video (with English subtitles), visit the following link. (If you are reading this online, just hold down the CTRL key and then click on the link.)

[www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/events/event.dir.html/content/vaticanevents/en/2021/6/22/messaggio-giornata-nonni.html](http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/events/event.dir.html/content/vaticanevents/en/2021/6/22/messaggio-giornata-nonni.html)



**THE DOORS ARE OPEN for your children to enter  
 our SCHOOL where they will realize their full  
 CATHOLIC potential!**

St. Matthias School continues to accept new students for the 2021-2022 school year for PreK 3, PreK 4, and Kindergarten through grade 8. Before School and After School programs available. ALL are welcome! Explore our website, [www.stmatthias.info](http://www.stmatthias.info), and contact [mkosty@stmatthiasnj.org](mailto:mkosty@stmatthiasnj.org) to schedule an appointment. We look forward to welcoming your child!



If you shop on Amazon, please help us by starting at:  
[www.stmatthias.net/Amazon](http://www.stmatthias.net/Amazon)

## This Week at St. Matthias

- **All Masses** will be celebrated **in-person** (overflow in the cafeteria).
- **Masses** will also be **livestreamed on our YouTube channel: [youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ](https://youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ)**

The Church is open for **individual prayer** Sun-Fri from 7:30 am to 7pm & Sat from 9 am to 7pm, unless another event is taking place (Mass, Funeral, Wedding, etc.)

### Sunday, Jul 25, 2021

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

### Monday, Jul 26, 2021

|        |                         |        |
|--------|-------------------------|--------|
| 8:00AM | Mass                    | Church |
| 8:30AM | Miraculous Medal Novena | Church |

### Tuesday, Jul 27, 2021

|        |            |        |
|--------|------------|--------|
| 8:00AM | Daily Mass | Church |
|--------|------------|--------|

### Wednesday, Jul 28, 2021

|        |                              |             |
|--------|------------------------------|-------------|
| 8:00AM | Daily Mass                   | Church      |
| 7:30PM | Parish Vocation Ministry Mtg | dePorres Rm |

### Thursday, Jul 29, 2021

|        |            |        |
|--------|------------|--------|
| 8:00AM | Daily Mass | Church |
|--------|------------|--------|

### Friday, Jul 30, 2021

|        |            |        |
|--------|------------|--------|
| 8:00AM | Daily Mass | Church |
|--------|------------|--------|

### Saturday, Jul 31, 2021

|        |                             |        |
|--------|-----------------------------|--------|
| 3:30PM | Sacrament of Reconciliation | Church |
|--------|-----------------------------|--------|

### Sunday, Aug 1, 2021

|         |   |           |
|---------|---|-----------|
| 8:00AM  | Mass                                    | Church    |
| 9:30AM  | Service WorX- Wk 2                      | Cafeteria |
| 10:00AM | Mass : Vocations Ministry Commissioning | Church    |
| 12:00PM | Mass                                    | Church    |
| 5:00PM  | Filipino Mass- Fr. Abraham              | Church    |



#### Bulletin Article Requests:

If you would like to send information to be included in our bulletin, please email it to [bulletin@stmatthias.net](mailto:bulletin@stmatthias.net) by **12 Noon, WEDNESDAY, 10 days before the intended issue** (earlier for holiday weekends). Approved content is published on a space-available basis.

## From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends,

You may have heard of or even attended the Traditional Latin Mass (TLM), the Mass according to the Roman Missal of 1962 which is in Latin. Following the reforms after the Second Vatican Council, the Church implemented a new Roman Missal in 1970, which is what is followed all over the world generally. The old Mass (TLM) in Latin was still allowed for those who didn't want the new vernacular language Mass. The TLM had more prayers, chanting, rituals, incensing, communion on tongue only, women expected with veil on head, genuflections and other long-held practices – all of which are meant to bring about the sense of the mystery of the Real Presence, reverence to the sacredness of the heavenly liturgy and participation in the priestly sacrifice that Jesus Christ himself (the priest in persona Christi) is celebrating.

Those who followed the TLM felt that this Mass was the true liturgy and believed that a greater availability of this Mass could bring about a revival in the Church when more and more Catholics are leaving the Church. Others opposed this idea. In order to avoid a division, Pope Benedict XVI had given freedom for all priests to offer the TLM from 2013 onwards, hoping for unity and understanding. Last year the Vatican took a world-wide survey with all the Bishops to assess the situation in their own dioceses. The result made it clear that instead of the expected unity, the division was widening. The Pope writes:

*“An opportunity offered by St. John Paul II and, with even greater magnanimity, by Benedict XVI, intended to recover the unity of an ecclesial body with diverse liturgical sensibilities, was exploited to widen the gaps, reinforce the divergences, and encourage disagreements that injure the Church, block her path, and expose her to the peril of division. I am saddened that the celebration of the extraordinary form is now characterized by a rejection of the Second Vatican Council and its liturgical reforms. To doubt the Council is to doubt the Holy Spirit himself who guides the Church.”*

Therefore a week ago, on July 16, Pope Francis issued a “motu proprio” (an edict by the Pope personally) limiting henceforth the use of the TLM. Explaining his decision, Pope Francis wrote: *“In defense of the unity of the Body of Christ, I am constrained to revoke the faculty granted by my Predecessors. The distorted use that has been made of this faculty is contrary to the intentions that led to granting the freedom to celebrate the Mass with the Missale Romanum [Roman Missal] of 1962.”*

This decision is very disappointing and upsetting to the adherents of the TLM. You will hear many comments of disagreement on this decision even from some bishops and cardinals. The context I explained above should help you judge for yourself as to why Pope Francis made this decision to stem the tide of division. May the Holy Spirit continue to guide the Church towards greater unity and grace.

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Orapankal



## Readings for the Week

**Monday:** Ex 32:15-24, 30-34; Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23; Mt 13:31-35

**Tuesday:** Ex 33:7-11; 34:5b-9, 28; Ps 103:6-7, 8-9, 10-11, 12-13; Mt 13:36-43

**Wednesday:** Ex 34:29-35; Ps 99:5, 6, 7, 9; Mt 13:44-46

**Thursday:** Ex 40:16-21, 34-38; Ps 84:3, 4, 5-6a, 8a, 11; Jn 11:19-27

**Friday:** Lv 23:1, 4-11, 15-16, 27, 34b-37; Ps 81:3-4, 5-6, 10-11ab; Mt 13:54-58

**Saturday:** Lv 25:1, 8-17; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 7-8; Mt 14:1-12

**Sunday:** Ex 16:2-4, 12-15; Ps 78:3-4, 23-24, 25, 54; Eph 4:17, 20-24; Jn 6:24-35

## Mass Intentions for the Week

|                          |          |   |
|--------------------------|----------|---|
| <b>Saturday, Jul 24</b>  | 5:00PM   | Sadie Mi Hon & Jean Callender, by Antoinette Surdo-Palladino & Family |
| <b>Sunday, Jul 25</b>    | 8:00AM   | Robert Bachmann, by Senior Friends of the Bachmann family             |
|                          | 10:00AM  | Raquel Fischbach, by Elaine Schellenberg                              |
|                          | 12:00PM  | Martin Clemis, by Marion & Patty                                      |
|                          | (5:30PM) | Intention of Parishioners   |
| <b>Monday, Jul 26</b>    | 8:00A    | Teofilo & Nellie Bathan, by The Bathan Family                         |
| <b>Tuesday, Jul 27</b>   | 8:00AM   | Raquel Fischbach, by Vinnie   |
| <b>Wednesday, Jul 28</b> | 8:00AM   | Adulcia Franka Davis, by Anne Marie Francis                           |
| <b>Thursday, Jul 29</b>  | 8:00AM   | Sr. Victima, by The OSF Community                                     |
| <b>Friday, Jul 30</b>    | 8:00AM   | Theadora Woods, by Mr. & Mrs. James Woods                             |
| <b>Saturday, Jul 31</b>  | 5:00PM   | William Bell, by Vinnie   |
| <b>Sunday, Aug 1</b>     | 8:00AM   | Romola Ventura, by The Telyczka Family                                |
|                          | 10:00AM  | Birthday Blessings for Michele Curtis, by Mom                         |
|                          | 12:00PM  | Frank Sciotto, by Wife & children                                     |
|                          | (5:30PM) | 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](mailto: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.

Elbren, Sr. & Natalia Agdeppa  
Lucille Albani  
Carolyn Banghart  
Maria Barreiro  
Virginia Briggs  
Marie Brody  
Thomas Burns  
Baby Isla-Rose Callahan  
Tara Capatosto  
Ellen & Frank Catalina  
Sean Clancy  
Barbara Coan  
Tom Current  
Cenon DeGuzman  
Mary Ellen Delaney  
Alaina Derecola  
Surya & Juliany Dharma  
Nancy Diaz  
Jim Dolan

Mary Dolan  
Marty Dolphin  
William Dolphin  
Dorothy Domenici  
Josephine Geenty  
Claudia Gemgnani  
Emma Gergely  
Rose Gessner  
Mary Gidaro  
Emma Himey  
Sloopy Hoffman  
Kathleen Lagenbacher  
Al & Rose Larangeira  
William Lecorchick  
The Litrakis Family  
Al Maglio  
Sue Maglio-Alese  
Beatrice May  
Margaret Menendez

Gail Miranda  
Dave Moynihan  
Baby Ezran Natural  
Patricia Nese  
Danny Ochangco  
Julianne Opydike  
Maria Pennington  
Jim Pettit  
Christina Pietrowiak  
Oscar Poisler  
Kevin Reavey  
Chris Retz  
Ann Ritchick  
Angela Romanek  
Darius Rutashobya  
Rudy Schaar  
Maria Schwenzer  
Sr. Mary Amata Shina, OSF  
Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF

Catherine Sloomaker  
Encarnacion (Gina) So  
Alessandro Spagnolo  
Dennis Stuewe  
Jeff Tami  
Madeline Tarantino  
Fred & Carolyn Vanmiddlesworth  
Eulalia Villanueva  
Mark T. Worthington

Everyone who is ill with Covid-19  
...and for all who are homebound,  
elderly, in nursing care, or living with  
chronic illness

## Pray for those who have died...

—“His mercy endures forever.” Chronicles

## From the Pastoral Staff



Do you like to travel and visit new sites? In March 2020, the pandemic brought travel to a standstill, and many countries are still not open to international travelers. However, many tourist destinations have opened their doors in a new way by creating or expanding their virtual tours. Have you ever dreamed of visiting the Vatican Museums (or other religious sites) without the crowds? Grab a cup of coffee or tea and spend as long as you would like in the Sistine Chapel without the guards moving you along! Then visit some of the other famous religious sites.

**Vatican Museum:** <https://www.museivaticani.va/content/museivaticani/en/collezioni/musei/tour-virtuali-elenco.html>

**Basilique du Sacré-Coeur de Montmartre, Paris, France:** <http://www.sacre-coeur-montmartre.com/english/visit-and-audio-guide/article/video-tour-of-montmartre-and-sacre>

**SANTHOME Cathedral, International Shrine of St. Thomas Basilica - Tomb of St. Thomas, Chennai, India:** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cY\\_T\\_ZWiUTg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cY_T_ZWiUTg)

**St. Peter's Basilica, Vatican City:** [https://www.vatican.va/various/basiliche/san\\_pietro/vr\\_tour/index-en.html](https://www.vatican.va/various/basiliche/san_pietro/vr_tour/index-en.html)

**Basilica di San Marco, Venice, Italy:** <http://www.basilicasanmarco.it/> (official photos/info); [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RSi-25ZB7\\_M](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RSi-25ZB7_M) (unofficial video)

**Catedral de Santiago de Compostela, Galicia, Spain (St. James):** <http://catedralsantiago.es/en/>

**Sanctuary and Grotto of our Lady of Lourdes, France:** <https://www.lourdes-france.org/en/virtual-tour/> (scroll down and click on the yellow button that says "Virtual Tour")

If you would like to go beyond the religious sites and explore a city you have never visited, go to [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com) and search for "virtual tour of" followed by the name. For example, you can search for "virtual tour of Cinque Terre" or "virtual tour of Antarctica". You will find both short and long videos, some made by professionals and some made by tourists. Pick your favorites, share them with friends, and enjoy!

Ana V. Kelly  
Pastoral Associate for Marketing and Development

PS - If you are reading this online, just hold down the CTRL key and click on any of the above links, to see the video.

## Reflect



### Smile With Your Family —



**More than just feet!** When visiting parishioners in a nursing home, Fr. John usually breaks the Consecrated Host while giving communion since many are ill and unable to eat the full Host. Once while visiting Mrs. Smith, he broke the Sacred Host and gave her a small piece. But she was upset and insisted: "I don't want just the feet of Christ! I want the whole body of Jesus Christ!"

**"What would Jesus do?"** I heard about a little boy who got into a heated argument with his sister about who was going to get the last brownie, and his mother overheard this discussion and came in to try to resolve the fuss. Her two children, both extremely upset, each wanted that last brownie. So, sensing the opportunity to teach a deeper

spiritual truth, the mother looked at her children and asked that very relevant question..."What would Jesus do?" Well, that little boy immediately answered, "That's easy. Jesus would just break that brownie and make 5,000 more!"

**"What's the expiration date on it?"** A little girl in Milwaukee had her tonsils out and was staying with her grandmother while her parents were at work. One day she complained of a sore throat. "I have some holy water from Lourdes that I got from my mother," the grandmother said. "Should I put some on your neck?" The girl thought for a moment and then asked, "What's the expiration date on it?" 😊

### Parenting Tune-Up



"Where can we buy enough food for them to eat?" (John 6: 5) Some families ask this question every day. Hopefully you have enough healthy food to eat - but not everyone does. Ask your children to join you in feeding the hungry this week through a donation, giving food or service to a local food pantry, etc.

### Marriage Tune-Up



As you're listening to your beloved explain a problem, ask yourself: "Why is this important to her/him?" One challenge in marital communication is not understanding the emotion and motive behind the message. Ask questions like, "What makes you feel that way?" (from [Smart Marriages](#))

## Sunday Reflection: Maria's Mite for the Poor

"There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish; but what good are these for so many?" John 6: 1-15 (16-21)



Maria is in her late 50s. She cleans toilets at a major sports arena. Every day she comes to work lugging through the security line three duffel bags bursting with plastic Tupperware. She says little; she never smiles; she is dressed in whatever she can find at the St. Vincent de Paul thrift store. On this

particular day, a new security guard is on duty when Maria comes to work. He gives Maria and her duffel bag of Tupperware the "all clear" and waves her through. After several days, the security guard asks, "Excuse me, ma'am, I'm just curious . . . what are these containers for?"

Maria's scowl quickly turns to a smile and begins to tell her story: Maria was homeless three years ago. For years, she lived under a highway overpass just a few miles from the arena. She spends her time outside of work caring for a sick friend who can barely move on his own. After every game, Maria fills the Tupperware in her duffel bags with leftover chicken fillets, burgers, and other uneaten treats. She brings it all to the homeless shelter where she used to stay. "The reason I took this cleaning job was so I could have access to all this leftover food," Maria explains. "Usually arenas just throw it away, but I know people would really enjoy it."

The security guard is moved by Maria's story - and generosity. "Maria, what keeps you going? What sustains you?" he asks. "The goodness of people," Maria says simply. "It's like a shade went up on my window. When I was homeless, all I could see was how bad I was inside and that I didn't deserve a good life. When the shade lifted, I could look outside myself. I saw goodness that I never saw before . . . [I] just believe in a loving God and I'm doing my part to share the good news." [From "The examined life: What sustains you?" by Jessie Bazan, U.S. Catholic, May 2018.]

**Like the boy in today's Gospel who gives the little he has, Maria makes use of the opportunities she has been given for the good of those who live in even harder circumstances. The multiplication of the loaves and fish did not start with nothing: Jesus was able to feed the crowds because one boy was willing to share what little he had; from his gift, small though it was, Jesus worked a miracle. Eucharist is possible only when self defers to community, only when serving others is exalted over being served, only when differences dissolve and the common and shared are honored above all else.**

## Did this Miracle really Happen as Narrated?

The traditional teaching of the Church is that Jesus literally multiplied the bread and fish to feed his hungry listeners. Let us look at some other interpretations and see their credibility.



**One:** At the beginning of this century in his classic book, *The Quest for the Historical Jesus*, Schweitzer suggested that what we have here is a "sacrament" rather than a full meal. All the people received was the merest crumb of food, and yet, somehow, with Jesus present among them, it was enough. That, however, does not explain the baskets full of leftovers from the five loaves and two fish.

**Two:** A few Bible scholars suggest that the "miracle" may be interpreted also as Jesus' success in getting a group of selfish people to share their personal provisions with others. According to this interpretation, it appears strange and unnatural that the crowd had made this nine-mile long expedition to such a desolate village without taking anything to eat. When people set out on a journey, they usually took their food with them in a small basket called a *kophinah* or in a bigger wicker basket. But if they had done so in this case, each one might have been unwilling to share what he had brought with others. If such were the case, Jesus might have deliberately accepted the five loaves and fish from the little boy in order to set a good example for the crowd. Moved by this example of generosity, the crowd might have done the same: thus, there could have been enough for all. This view was propounded by the famous preacher-novelist Lloyd C. Douglas, author of *The Robe*. This explanation argues that the real "miracle" occurred when the example of the boy responding to Jesus turned a crowd of selfish men and women into a fellowship of generous sharers. Again, such a fanciful interpretation fails to explain the huge left over bread!

**Rejecting both interpretations, we accept the literal interpretation of the miracle which makes the miracle a Messianic sign with Eucharistic reference, pointing to the Divinity of Christ and it offers an example of God's love for us, expressed in superabundant generosity.**

## Waste! Waste! Waste!

A test in a western state showed that the average family throws away between eighty and one hundred dollars' worth of food annually. Unused food thrown away is waste. Multiply that by all the households in America plus all the unused food thrown away from restaurants and we are reversing the miracle of the five thousand. Waste! Waste! Waste! Another thing to consider is that we have regulated the farmers to produce less and less in this country. Surely there is a way to exercise more effective stewardship in these matters.

## Reflect

### 300 Calorie a Day Diet!

Some years ago I had a friend who was on a 300-calorie-a-day diet under a doctor's supervision. 300 calories! That boggles the mind! I inhale 300 calories just smelling the aroma of a good pizza. But my friend on the three-hundred-calorie-a-day diet lost sixty pounds, and as a result reached his near-ideal weight in a very short time. But one cannot subsist indefinitely on a 300-calorie-a-day diet. Sooner or later there must come an end to the dieting, for starving oneself in this manner is highly dangerous. And it did happen that he became ill and the doctors told him to get off that austere diet!

***In like manner, to starve oneself spiritually can be equally dangerous. Perhaps that is what Jesus was getting at when He spoke those strange words in John, Chapter 6: "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." (Jn 6:35)***

### Free-Food Tree!

Appalled at the wastefulness of their students, two elementary school teachers in Santa Cruz, California, planted a young sapling on the school's campus and named it the Free-Food Tree. Rather than discard their uneaten or unwanted sandwiches, the children were encouraged to place them under the tree so that students who had lost their lunch or could not afford one could help themselves. Some children began to bring an extra sandwich from home so that they'd have one to put under the Free-Food Tree. Eventually, the supply of donated food was sufficient to nourish all the school's hungry youngsters with enough left over to offer to the homeless who lived in the city park near the school. In addition to learning not to waste their share of this world's goods, the students had their first encounter with hunger and began to understand what they could do to alleviate it. A valuable lesson indeed, considering the fact that every hour 1,500 of this world's children die of hunger or hunger-related causes. (*Celebration*).

### 1<sup>st</sup> World Day for Grandparents

**Today, Sunday, 25 July 2021**, is designated by Pope Francis, as the First World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. It coincides with the Feast of Saints Joachim and Anne, grandparents of Jesus, on July 26. Occurring in the Year of Amoris Laetitia Family 2021-22 with the theme, 'I am with you always' (Mt 28:20), the day draws attention to the vital role grandparents and the elderly play in our communities and in the mission of the Church.

This theme, chosen by Pope Francis for this inaugural commemoration, expresses the closeness of the Lord and the Church to every older person, especially in these challenging times of the Covid-19 pandemic. "I am with you always" is also a promise of closeness and hope that young and old can mutually share. Not only are grandchildren and youths invited to be present in the lives of older people, but older people and grandparents also have a mission of evangelization, proclamation and prayer, and of encouraging young people in their faith.

Here at St. Matthias, we recognize and honor all the Grandparents and the Elderly. May you recognize that you are an invaluable treasure to us all.

### Interested in These Explanations?

Multiplications as symbol of the Eucharist: No Bible scholar doubts that all six bread miracles in the gospels are about the Eucharist. The multiplication of the loaves is the only miracle from Jesus' public ministry narrated in all four Gospels with Eucharistic overtones. The early Christian community saw this event as anticipating the Eucharist. John uses this story in his gospel to introduce Jesus' profound and extended reflection on the Eucharist and the Bread of Life. The Cycle B lectionary has selected portions from John chapter 6 for five Sundays to remind us of Jesus' teaching on the Eucharist.

The Eucharistic coloring of the multiplication of bread is clear in Jesus' blessing, breaking, and giving the loaves. Thus, the miracle itself becomes a symbol of the Eucharist, the sacrament of unity. The sharing of the broken bread is a sign of a community that is expected to share and provide in abundance for the needs of its members. Our word Eucharist is taken from the Greek language and describes an action: "to give thanks." In the Eucharist we are fed by Jesus himself, and we are sent to serve others. Matthew invites us to see this miracle as a type or symbol explaining the sacra-

ment's meaning.

This story recalls a particular aspect of the Mass: In this miracle, Jesus transforms a young boy's offering of five barley loaves and two fish. In the offertory at Mass, we present the fruits of our labors, represented by bread and wine. These gifts, given to us first by God as grain and fruit, are returned to God in our offering of thanksgiving. God in turn transforms our gifts, making this bread and wine the very Body and Blood of Jesus. We also offer ourselves in this exchange, and we, too, are transformed by the Eucharist.

This daily breaking of the bread also had eschatological associations: it was an anticipation of the messianic banquet. John's description of this event anticipates the Messianic banquet of heaven, as the crowd sits down in rows to enjoy a great free meal. Each time we celebrate the Eucharist, we are anticipating the eternal banquet of heaven. The Church's Eucharist today combines both the sacrificial and the eschatological associations. In the recent past, emphasis has been placed more on the sacrificial than on the eschatological aspect, but the imbalance is now being redressed.

## “I Wish I Could Be A Brother Like That!”

Paul had received a special pre-Christmas gift from his rich brother. It was a beautiful new car — fully loaded and ready to go. On Christmas Eve, when Paul came out of his office, a street kid was walking around the shiny new car, admiring it. "Is this your car, mister?" the kid asked. When he replied that it was and that his brother had given it to him for Christmas, the boy said, "You mean your brother gave it to you, and it didn't cost you anything? Free? For nothing? Gosh, I wish..." The boy hesitated, and Paul knew what he was about to say. He had heard it many times over the past few days. He was going to wish he had a brother like that. **But what the boy said shocked Paul. "I wish," the boy said, "I wish I could be a brother like that." We can be a brother like that or a sister like that. All it takes is that we offer ourselves and what we have, to God. All it takes is that we cease to worry about how little we have and begin instead to think about what it is that we can offer to others, as the little boy in today's gospel story did by sharing his bread and fish with the multitude through Jesus.** ("Chicken Soup" series).

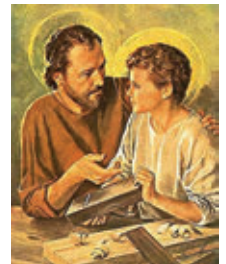
## “Do It Now! Not Later!”

There was a rich man who complained to his friend thus: The people do not like me. They say I am very stingy and greedy, but I have made my will. I have willed the entire property to a charitable institution. The friend replied, "Have you heard of the story of the pig and the cow?" A pig came to the cow and complained: "People speak so well of you and your friendliness. It is true that you give milk. But they profit from me much more. They have meat and sausages of different types. Even my feet and hands they eat. Still nobody loves me as they love you. For everybody I am a pig, nothing more. Why?" The cow reflected and said, "Perhaps it is because I give while I am alive, you give, or rather it is taken away, after you are dead!" -Is it not folly to postpone the good we can do here and now for later?

## Joseph an Obedient Father—July Reflection for the Year of St. Joseph

Our reflection for July is titled “Joseph an obedient Father.” Did you know that God’s will came to Joseph four times during dreams? And each time he obeyed the instruction in the dream!

Mary’s mysterious pregnancy troubled him deeply and he had decided to dismiss her quietly (Mt.19). But God’s intervention came to him when an angel told Joseph in a dream to take Mary as his wife for the child conceived in her was from the Holy Spirit (Mt 1:20-21). Joseph obeyed immediately: “When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him” (Mt 1:24).



Later on we see the angel telling Joseph in a second dream: “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him” (Mt 2:13). Again Joseph obeyed immediately and left for Egypt with Mary and baby Jesus (Mt 2:14-15).

The angel came to Joseph a third time telling him to return to the land of Israel (cf. Mt 2:19-20). Once again, Joseph promptly obeyed. “He got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel” (Mt 2:21).

There is a fourth instance when the angel came asking Joseph to make a detour! Thus instead of returning Judea, Joseph “went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth” (Mt 2:22-23).

Besides these, the Gospel of Luke describes how Joseph obeyed or observed all the prescriptions of the Law: the rites of the circumcision of Jesus, the purification of Mary after childbirth, the offering of the firstborn to God (Lk 2:21-24). Pope Francis says in his Apostolic Letter *Patris Cordae*:

“In every situation, Joseph declared his own “fiat”, like those of Mary at the Annunciation and Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. In his role as the head of a family, Joseph taught Jesus to be obedient to his parents (cf. Lk 2:51), in accordance with God’s command (cf. Ex 20:12). During the hidden years in Nazareth, Jesus learned at the school of Joseph to do the will of the Father. That will was to be his daily food (cf. Jn 4:34). Even at the most difficult moment of his life, in Gethsemane, Jesus chose to do the Father’s will rather than his own,<sup>[16]</sup> becoming “obedient unto death, even death on a cross” (Phil 2:8). The author of the Letter to the Hebrews thus concludes that Jesus “learned obedience through what he suffered” (5:8). All this makes it clear that “Saint Joseph was called by God to serve the person and mission of Jesus directly through the exercise of his fatherhood” and that in this way, “he cooperated in the fullness of time in the great mystery of salvation and is truly a minister of salvation.”

# Pray

All are Welcome!

Celebrate 500 years of  
Christianity  
in the Philippines



The Filipino Community humbly shares the Gift of Faith to all brothers and sisters. To mark this special occasion, Novena Masses are being offered every Sunday starting June 13.

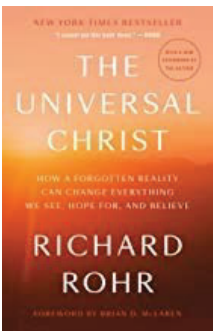
On **August 1 at 5pm**, the 7th novena Mass will be celebrated at **St Matthias Church** with Fr Abraham as presider and homilist.

The Sunday Novena will conclude on August 15 at 4 pm at Blue Army Shrine, Asbury, NJ- Archbishop Gabriele Caccia, Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations as main celebrant of the Mass.

Souvenir T-shirts will be on sale before and after novena Mass. Proceeds will support this diocesan celebration.

For further details, please access:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/o/diocese-of-metuchen-filipino-apostolate-dmfa-31889632699>



## You Are Invited!

**WHAT?** To join a Spiritual Reading Group for Richard Rohr’s book, **THE UNIVERSAL CHRIST**

**WHY?** Your friend Jesus the Christ desires to deepen your understanding of his identity and foster your awareness of his presence in our world.

**HOW?** Via monthly zoom meetings.

**INTERESTED?** Please email **Sister Marie O’Hagan, SSJ** [Our beloved former St. Matthias Staff member now working predominantly in spiritual formation!] [SparrowsNestSpiritualCenter@gmail.com](mailto:SparrowsNestSpiritualCenter@gmail.com)

# Learn



**First Eucharist Preparation**  
for ALL 2nd grade Families (GIFT+SMS)

Register online **NOW**, at [www.stmatthias.net/first-eucharist-first-reconciliation](http://www.stmatthias.net/first-eucharist-first-reconciliation)

In-person sessions will be held on certain Sunday mornings, 10:30-11:30 AM, for the 2nd graders with at least one parent.

Questions? Please email Dee Nann at [dnann@stmatthias.net](mailto:dnann@stmatthias.net), or call or email Faith Formation Assistant, Nathalie Godet at 732-828-1400 or [ngodet@stmatthias.net](mailto:ngodet@stmatthias.net)



**Confirmation Preparation**  
for ALL 7th & 8th graders (GIFT & SMS)

Register online **NOW**, at [www.stmatthias.net/confirmation](http://www.stmatthias.net/confirmation)

A 7th grade parent meeting will be held in October/November.



**GIFT Registration — for K-8 Religious Ed**  
for all children, K-8th grade not attending a Catholic school.

Register online **NOW**, at [www.stmatthias.net/faith-formation](http://www.stmatthias.net/faith-formation)

In-person monthly sessions for families will be offered at 6:30 PM on Tuesdays & Wednesdays, and at 2 PM on Sundays. No meals this year due to Covid.

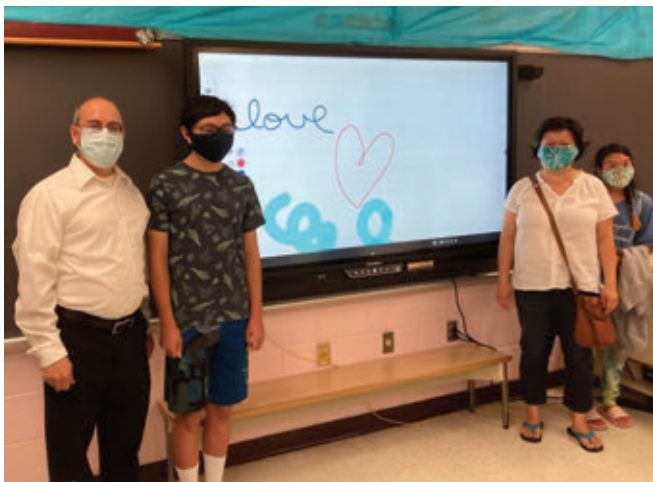


# Give

## Stewardship Reflection July 25, 2021 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

**“There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish; but what good are these for so many?”  
JOHN 6:9**

The miracle of the Loaves and Fishes carries two important messages. First, no matter how little we have, we always have enough to share. Second, Christ can take our humble gifts and do great things with them if we are just willing to let Him. Nothing is impossible with God. All of our gifts, big or small, were given to us for a reason. No gift is too small or insignificant!



## Reflexiónese — 25 de julio de 2021 Domingo 17° del Tiempo Ordinario

**Aquí hay un muchacho que tiene cinco panes de cebada y dos pescados, pero ¿qué es esto para tanta gente?” JUAN 6:9**

El milagro de los Peces y los Panes lleva consigo dos mensajes importantes. Primero, no importa lo poco que tengamos, siempre tenemos suficiente para compartir. Segundo, Cristo puede tomar nuestros humildes dones y hacer grandes cosas con ellos si simplemente se lo permitimos. Con Dios nada es imposible. Todos nuestros dones, grandes o pequeños, nos fueron dados por una razón. ¡Ningún don es demasiado pequeño o insignificante!

### Thank You to the Low Family!

Thank you to the Low Family who donated a Promethean board for one of our classrooms. By using the employer company match option offered by Novartis, they were able to obtain a double-match for their donation.

In this photo, Richard, William, Christie, and Annabelle explore the many uses of the Promethean board and also participated in a blessing service.

If you would like to explore an employer company match for your donation, please contact Joe Gidaro at [jgidaro@stmatthiasnj.org](mailto:jgidaro@stmatthiasnj.org)

| Stewardship Totals for Fiscal Year July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022 |             |                |                             | Last Year's Total             |
|---|-------------|----------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Current Month   | In-Pew/Mail | Parish Giving* | Weekly Total                | Weekly Total                  |
| Week 1 - July 4, 2021   | \$8,212.00  | \$14,364.25    | \$22,576.25                 | \$26,905.88                   |
| Week 2 - July 11, 2021  | \$7,656.53  | \$26,200.75    | \$33,857.28                 | \$23,090.88                   |
| Week 3 - July 18, 2021  | \$10,149.00 | \$12,715.25    | \$22,864.25                 | \$21,664.13                   |
| Week 4 - July 25, 2021  | \$0.00      | \$0.00         | \$0.00                      | \$20,480.88                   |
|   |             |                | <b>Month-to-date Total</b>  | <b>July Total Last Yr</b>     |
|   |             |                | \$79,297.78                 | \$92,141.77                   |
|   |             |                | <b>Current Year-to-date</b> | <b>Year-to-date as of Jul</b> |
|   |             |                | \$79,297.78                 | \$92,141.77                   |



### Getting Ready for Back-to-School Shopping? Will you be doing any shopping on Amazon?

If so, please start your Amazon shopping by clicking on the link at:

[www.stmatthias.net/amazon](http://www.stmatthias.net/amazon)

A portion of your purchases will be donated to St. Matthias, at no cost to you. Thank you!

# Serve

## Become an Altar Server



Is there a voice urging you to be an altar server? It's God!

Pope Francis said: *“Serving at the altar is a privileged way to draw closer to Jesus, which in turn enables you to open yourselves to others, to journey together, to set demanding goals*

*and to find the strength to achieve them.”*

If you are at least a 5th grade parishioner and would like join the ministry, contact Cathy Allegro, [callegro@stmatthiasnj.org](mailto:callegro@stmatthiasnj.org). Training will be near the end of the summer. Servers will begin ministering in September.

### Vocations Ministry - Called to Build God's Kingdom — July 25, 2021



Pope Francis in “Gaudete et Exsultate: on the call to holiness in today’s world” says:

Let the grace of your baptism bear fruit in a path of holiness. Let everything be open to God; turn to him in every situation. Do not be dismayed, for the power of the Holy Spirit enables you to do this, and holiness, in the end, is the fruit of the Holy Spirit in your life (cf. Gal 5:22-23).

Holiness is not beyond our reach. Our Baptism bears fruit in holiness. What simple thing can you do today to make your life more holy.....a few extra minutes of prayer in the morning or evening .....praying the Rosary..... reading scripture or inspirational literature..... having a conversation about your faith with a loved on..... spending some time in thought about what are your gifts and how you are using them to build up God's Kingdom .....calling up or emailing a staff member or chairperson to volunteer your services, or at least to find out more info?

See, you are holier already! Joan Best Seamon

### St. Matthias School Positions Available for the 2021-2022 School Year

- 1) INSTRUCTIONAL AID needed for Pre-Kindergarten class. Candidates must have a minimum of 60 college credits and will assist the classroom teacher in all aspects of preschool teaching. Twenty-nine hours per week maximum, Monday thru Friday. Compensation is hourly.
- 2) AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM ASSISTANTS needed. The program begins at 2:30 and ends at 6:00. Compensation is hourly. Working options include 1, 2 or 3 days per week. Some duties include homework help, indoor and outdoor games, playtime, and overall monitoring of children in grades Pre-K 3 to 8.
- 3) SUBSTITUTES needed to teach Pre-Kindergarten 3 to grade 8. Candidates must have a minimum of 60 college credits and be available Monday thru Friday.

For all positions, candidates must be VIRTUS trained and go through a background check. If interested, please contact [jgidaro@stmatthiasnj.org](mailto:jgidaro@stmatthiasnj.org)



## Parish Leadership

|                                 |  |                  |                              |  |   |
|---------------------------------|--|------------------|------------------------------|--|---|
| <b>Parish Pastoral Council:</b> | Rose Peng<br>Frank Rees                          | <b>Trustees:</b> | Isaac Peng<br>Marge Richards | <b>Parish Finance Council:</b>                   | Audrey Francis<br>Kester Hector<br>Joan Pritchard |
| <b>Co-Chairs:</b>               | Maria Tapia-Burch<br>John Taylor<br>Marilyn Wegg |                  |                              | <b>Finance Council</b>                           | Mary Pat Burke-Grospin,<br>Ex-Officio             |
|                                 | Ana Kelly, Ex-Officio<br>Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio |                  |                              | <b>@stmatthias.net</b>                           | Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio                           |
| <b>Co-Secretaries:</b>          | Lorraine Farr<br>Anne Marie Francis              |                  |                              | Susan Klimcsak<br>Barry Dusault<br>Gwen Orlovski |   |

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

**Parish Registration** — Welcome to St. Matthias! Please register on our website. [www.stmatthias.net/join-us](http://www.stmatthias.net/join-us), or visit the Parish Office.

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

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

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



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



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