



THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS
SUNDAY, JULY 28, 2024
 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time



HE IS THE
Sustainer
OF LIFE

© JPPC

St. Matthias Parish Office: Eff. 6/10/24

Monday - Thursday, 8:30 am - 4:00 pm,
 Friday 8:30AM-1:00PM
 168 JFK Boulevard, Somerset, NJ 08873
 732-828-1400, fax: 732-828-0866
www.stmatthias.net

Mass Schedule (in person):

Sat - 5 PM, Sun - 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM & 12 noon
 M/T/W/Th/F at 8:00 AM
 also on our YouTube channel
youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ

St. Matthias School (SMS):

170 JFK Blvd., Somerset, NJ 08873
www.stmatthias.info 732-828-1402
 School Office Hours, Monday-Thursday 9AM-1PM, and Friday by appointment.

For all Parish emails, add @stmatthias.net

Pastor: Rev Abraham Orapankal, **Abraham**
 Fr. Lancelot McGrath, *Parochial Vicar* **lmcgrath**
 Mary Pat Burke-Grospin, *Business Administrator*
mpburke-grospin

Deacon Ron Caimi, *Senior Deacon*
 Kelly Counts, *Receptionist*, **kcounts**
 Deacon Russell Demkovitz, **rdeankovitz**
 Nathalie Godet, *Website & Bulletin Editor*,
ngodet

Leslie Guillen, *Bulletin Coordinator*, **lguillen**
 Amy Hanna, *Accountant/Databases*, **ahanna**
 Mike Lanyi, *Sacristan*
 Sue Lenczewski, *Youth Coordinator*, **SMYLE**
 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**

St. Matthias School (add @stmatthiasnj.org)
 Mary Lynch, *Principal*, **mlynch**

ARE YOU DONE WITH THE HEAT? THINK COOL!
THINK SNOW! THINK CHRISTMAS!
THINK CHRISTMAS IN JULY!!!



SPREAD THE LIGHT IS COMING!

See page 7 for more details.



PLEASE COME JOIN THE MANY WHO SPEND SOME
QUIET TIME WITH THE EUCHARISTIC LORD.
OUR NEXT ADORATION WILL BE MONDAY EVENING,
JULY 29, 2024 FROM 6 PM TO 8 PM.
WHEN THE DEACON IS AVAILABLE, WE CONCLUDE
ADORATION WITH A BENEDICTION.

Masses are also livestreamed on our YouTube channel: youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ

The Church is open for individual prayer
 Mon-Fri: 7:30 am to dusk , Sat: 9 am to 6pm, and
 Sun: 7:30 am to 1 pm, unless another service is taking place.

Sunday, July 28, 2024

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

Monday, July 29, 2024 Memorial—Martha, Mary & Lazarus

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

Tuesday, July 30, 2024 St. Chrysologus, Bishop & Doctor

8:00AM Mass Church

Wednesday, July 31, 2024 St Ignatius of Loyola, Priest

8:00AM Mass St. Joseph Novena Church
 9:30AM Holy Spirit Prayer Grp. de Porres Rm

Thursday, Aug 1, 2024 St. Alphonsus Maria De'Liguori, Founder, Bishop & Doctor

8:00AM Mass Church

Friday, Aug 2, 2024 St. Eusebius of Vercelli, Bishop & Martyr

8:00AM Mass Church
 8:30AM 1st Friday holy Hour w/Benediction Church

Saturday, Aug 3, 2024 St. Lydia, St. Pauls' 1st convert at Philippi

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

Sunday, Aug 4, 2024

8:00AM Mass Church
 10:00AM Mass Church
 11:00AM Rosary Altar Society Mtg. Off Site
 12:00PM Mass Church
 1:00PM Retirement Celebration– Dee Nann Cafeteria



Bulletin Article Requests:

If you would like to send information to be included in our bulletin, please email it to bulletin@stmatthias.net by 9 AM, MONDAY, 5 business days before the needed bulletin date (earlier for holiday weekends). Approved content is published on a space-available basis.



Dear Friends,

Today on National Parent’s Day we recognize the invaluable role parents or guardians play in our lives. From a Catholic perspective, we acknowledge the sacred duty of parents to nurture their children’s faith, moral development, and to encourage a life of service. Parenting is both a privilege and an awesome responsibility. This day encourages us to appreciate the sacrifices parents make and the love they pour into our lives.

I am privileged to minister to and with many teens whose faith and values have been formed by their parents. These adults have modeled compassion which their children have embodied through their own words and deeds. This past week four St. Matthias teens attended a week of service and retreat in Trenton. Each day they tirelessly served the residents, and homeless population in various capacities. Stay tuned to hear about their experiences and invaluable contributions to the community.

Notice in today’s Gospel it’s the contributions of the young boy that Jesus transformed into a miracle which fed many. Just as Jesus ensured nothing was wasted, parents strive to make the most of their efforts, leaving lasting impressions on their children’s lives. We also need in our lives mentors like Andrew, who noticed the boy and invited him to share his meager offerings. This week take time to pause and notice the young people around you. Invite and encourage them to be the positive difference in someone’s life. Regardless of our age and limitations, we all desire to be recognized, and to accompany others so we can make a difference.

When we trust God with our poverty, God can multiply it for a greater purpose whenever we surrender what little we have or might feel we are. Although many parents face financial, emotional, and physical challenges, they still sacrificially provide and their effects multiply. Just as Jesus’ sacrifice revealed the depth of his love, and his miracles revealed His divinity, parent’s selfless acts reveal their extraordinary capacity for unconditional divine love. I pray that by receiving Jesus in the Eucharist that you become more fully alive -through one small act of love at a time.

Prayers for a Blessed Summer!

Deacon John

Readings for the Week

Monday Jer 13:1-11 De 32:18-19, 20, 21 Jn 11:19-27 or Lk 10:38-42

Tuesday Jer 14:17-22 Ps 79:8, 9, 11 and 13 Mt 13:36-43

Wednesday Jer 15:10, 16-21 Ps 59:2-3, 4, 10-11, 17, 18 Mt 13:44-46

Thursday Jer 18:1-6 Ps 146:1B-2, 3-4, 5-6AB Mt 13:47-53

Friday Jer 26:1-9 Ps 69:5, 8-10, 14 Mt 13:54-58

Saturday Jer 26:11-16, 24 Ps 69:15-16, 30-31, 33-34 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

Saturday, July 27	5:00PM	Martin Slyman, by Sue Lenczweski
Sunday, July 28	8:00AM	Beatrice Surga, by Flora Surga
	10:00AM	In Loving Memory of Victoria Villareal Moreno, by The Moreno Family
	12:00PM	Intention of Parishioners
Monday, July 29	8:00AM	Health & Blessings for Renée Jolly, By The Godet Family
Tuesday, July 30	8:00AM	Doris Aduofua, by Sister
	8:00AM	Maureen Glodek, by The Girls
Wednesday, July 31	8:00AM	Joseph B. Gordon, by Fr. Lance & Fr. Abraham
Thursday, August 1	8:00AM	Eileen Lenihan, by The Family
Friday, August 2	8:00AM	Mark I. Dolak, by sister, Eileen
Saturday, August 3	5:00PM	Intention of Parishioners
Sunday, August 4	8:00AM	Helen Walters, by Rickey Walters
	10:00AM	Courtney Gonzalez, by Anne Marie Francis & Family
	12:00PM	John Petrine, by Mary & Children

Pray for those who are sick...

If you or a family member are sick, please call the Parish Office or **email Kelly Counts** at kcunts@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	Heinley Gaspard	Mary Lou Litrakis	Robert Pietrowiak	Eileen Weber
Brandon Barbarite	Claudia Gemgnani	John Litrakis	Randolff Pinard	Nancy Whelan
Ghislaine Baron	Emma Gergely	Denis Loboda	Valerie Polci	Ginette Zamor
Helen Bell	Claude Godet	Aries Magali	Kim Price	Anne Zando
Samantha Bellouny	Marie Godet	Kenneth & Kelly	Frank Rispoli	
Mary Bostrom	Shelly Greene	Magat	Gabriel Rivera	
Tara Capatosto	Linda Hartong	Susan, King & Tosh	Bob Rotz	
Elizabeth Card	Jeff Hentz	Manansala	Marisa Ruppel	
Rustico Castellano, Jr.	Marilyn Horvath	Alexandra Marquez	Maria Schwenzer	
Lisa DeFeo	Jerry & Donna Hucul	Christine Matthews	Amy Shepp	
Zenon DeGuzman	Jean Alix Jolly	Ann McElwee	Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF	
Pat Dolphin	Renée Jolly	Jessica Marie Merrick	Timothy Siclari	
Vivian Dong	Donna Kahora	Gail Miranda	Catherine Steele	
Sanora Doyen	Betsy Kondrat	Menchie Molano-	Sr. Bernadine Marie	
Andrea Dubuisson	Kathy Langenbacher	Sotelo	Stemnock	
Hattie Evans	Rose Larangeira	Danny Ongchango	Anita Vance	
Sharon Gadomski	Armando D. Liban	Robert Pellegrino	Leticia Veridiano	

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

Nedelia Salgado

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!" 😊

MOMS WILL ALWAYS BE MOMS:

Alessandro Volta's mother: "It is shocking to see you all the while dipping those copper and zinc rods in that beaker." 😊

Andre Ampere's mother: "Apart from fooling around all the time shall you ever find time to glance through your current books!" 😊

Christopher Columbus' mother: "I don't care what you were busy discovering and where, you could still have dropped a two line letter!" 😊



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 food pantry, etc.

Marriage Tune-Up



One challenge in marital communication is one person not understanding the emotion and motive behind the message. As you're listening to your beloved explain a problem to you, ask yourself: "Why is this important to him/her?" Understand from the other's point of view.

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

Maria is a white woman 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 the 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.

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." (John 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.

We need to commit ourselves to share with others, and to work with God in communicating His compassion. It is too easy to blame God, too easy to blame governments, too easy see these things as other people's problems. They are also our problems. That is the meaning of the Eucharist we celebrate here today. In other words, as Christians we need to commit ourselves to share what we have with others, and to work with God in communicating his compassion to all. God is a caring Father and He wants our co-operation to be part of His caring for all of us, His children. That's what the early Christians did, generously sharing what they had with the needy. They were convinced that everything they needed to experience a fulfilling life was already there, in the gifts and talents of the people around them. People of our time need to be encouraged to share, even when they think they have nothing to offer. Whatever we offer through Jesus will have a life-giving effect in those who receive it. We are shown two attitudes in the Gospel story: that of Philip and that of Andrew (John 6:7-9). Philip said, in effect: "The situation is hopeless; nothing can be done." But Andrew's attitude was: "I'll see what I can do; and I will trust Jesus to do the rest." Let us have Andrew's attitude.

How much food do we Waste?

Here's some statistics from RTS (Recycle Track Systems): The United States discards more food than any other country in the world: nearly 60 million tons — 120 billion pounds — every year. That's estimated to be almost 40 percent of the entire US food supply, **and equates to 325 pounds of waste per person.** That's like every person in America throwing 975 average sized apples right into the garbage — or rather right into landfills, as most discarded food ends up there. In fact, food is the single largest component taking up space inside US landfills, making up 22 percent of municipal solid waste (MSW). All told, the amount of food wasted in America has an approximate value of nearly \$218 billion – the equivalent of 130 billion meals.

The sad paradox is that in a rich country like U.S.A., one child out of five grows up in poverty, and three million people are homeless. Way back in 1961, Pope Saint John XXIII wrote: "The problem in feeding the world's hungry population lies with our political lack of will, our economic system biased in favor of the affluent, our militarism, and our tendency to blame the victims of social tragedies such as famine. We all share responsibility for the fact that populations are undernourished. Therefore, it is necessary to arouse a sense of responsibility in individuals, especially among those more blessed with this world's goods." (Mater et Magistra) 157-58).

That's a miracle!

Rembrandt could take a two-dollar canvas, paint a picture on it, and make it a priceless masterpiece. That is art. John D. Rockefeller could take a worthless check, sign his name to it, and make it worth a million dollars. That's capital. A mechanic can take a piece of scrap metal and bend and shape it into a \$500 automobile part. That is skill. ***Jesus Christ can take the commonest bread and dried fish, bless and multiply it, making a banquet for 5,000! That's a miracle.***

Parents' Day is today: July 28

Parents' Day is celebrated on the fourth Sunday of July each year. Parental figures in the United States receive the recognition for the role they play in their children's lives on Parents' Day. The day aims to promote responsible parenting and to recognize positive parental role models. It celebrates the special bonds of love between parental figures and their children.

Happy Parents' Day to all the Parents!

"May I have some chocolate chip cookies?"

A 3-year-old boy who went to the grocery store with his mother. Before they entered she had certain instructions for the little boy: "Now you're not going to get any chocolate chip cookies, today, so don't even ask." She put him in the cart and off they went up and down the aisles. He was doing just fine until they came to the cookie section. Seeing all those chocolate chip cookies was just too much and he said, "Mom, can I have some chocolate chip cookies?" Mom said, "I told you not even to ask. You're not going to get any, that's all." They continued down the aisles, but in their search for certain items she had to back track and they ended up in the cookie aisle again. "Mom, can I please have some chocolate chip cookies?" She said, "I told you that you can't have any. Now sit down and be quiet." Finally, they arrived at the checkout. The little boy sensed that the end was in sight, that this might be his last chance. He stood up on the seat and shouted in his loudest voice, "In the name of Jesus, may I have some chocolate chip cookies?" Everybody in the checkout lines laughed and applauded. And that little boy got his chocolate chip cookies. And not just one package. The other shoppers were so moved by the little boy's outburst that he and his mother went home with 23 boxes of chocolate chip cookies.

That little boy experienced an unexpected miracle. Let's look at the passage and then you'll see what I mean. The miraculous feeding of the five thousand people by Jesus, with five barley loaves and two fish, as described in today's gospel, is associated in Church tradition with the Holy Eucharist. John's version of the miracle clearly heightens the Eucharistic allusions when we read it along with the miraculous feeding of 100 men by the prophet Elisha in today's first reading. But unlike Elisha, Jesus himself assumed the divine role, feeding the people with eschatological plenty. The reaction of the people was immediate and unanimous; they interpreted the miracle as a messianic sign and gave Jesus two Messianic titles: "The prophet" and "the one who is to come." This miracle teaches us that God works marvels through ordinary people. Elisha's servant and Jesus' disciples distributed the bread, provided by God. Thus, God meets the needs of the people through the services provided by the members of His community.

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. If you know anyone who has not received these Sacraments of Initiation, kindly invite him/her to try this process. Please contact Parish Office at: 732-828-1400.

Happy Retirement

PLEASE JOIN US TO CELEBRATE DEE NANN ON HER RETIREMENT SUNDAY, AUGUST 4TH AT THE 12:00 PM MASS

The 12 noon Mass on Sunday, August 4th will be the farewell Mass for Dee Nann on her retirement after 27 years of ministry at St. Matthias. Following the Mass, we will have the opportunity to personally offer her well wishes in the cafeteria over some light refreshments.

All are welcome to join us, especially our GIFT families and members for our small faith groups, as we thank Dee for her many years of dedicated service to our faith community.

Connect



**ARE YOU DONE WITH THE HEAT? THINK COOL!
THINK SNOW! THINK CHRISTMAS!**

THINK CHRISTMAS IN JULY!!!

SPREAD THE LIGHT IS COMING!



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

www.stmatthias.net/trees

BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY

The Bereavement ministry of St. Matthias will be offering a 7 week session beginning on **Wednesday, October 7** to help anyone with support navigating the difficult time following the loss of a loved one. Many of us have, at one time or another, experienced the difficult transition to life after a person dear to us has died. The road ahead often feels unsafe and almost unmanageable. This program is designed to help participants navigate this uncertainty in a safe, non judgmental environment with others who share many of the same feelings. The program uses a guide to help foster discussion among the small group of participants.

Each session lasts about one hour. Meetings will be on Wednesdays gathering either in the afternoon or early evening depending on the schedule needed by those participating. If you or someone you know would like to join our group, please contact **Jo-Ann Piagentini** at mrspiag@aol.com or 908-256-5173 or **Linda Madison** at drlindamadison@gmail.com or 732-841-5402, to register or to get more information. All inquiries are welcome.



2024-2025 Registration
PREK3- OPEN SPOTS
PREK4- LIMITED AVAILABILITY

Make a
donation
from the
heart.

Need information on how to contribute to our Tuition Angels Fund?
Please contact:
Mrs. Jo-Ann Piagentini
mrspiag@aol.com or
Dr. Judy Marino
jdmario4@gmail.com

PLEASE CALL FOR AVAILABILITY IN GRADES K-8

St. Matthias School

170 John F. Kennedy Blvd., Somerset, NJ

732-828-1402



FAITH FORMATION REGISTRATIONS ARE OPEN!

2024-2025 **GIFT** for K-8 Religious Formation
<https://stmatthias.net/faith-formation/>



Attention 2nd Graders:

First Eucharist Preparation 2024-2025
<https://stmatthias.net/first-eucharist-first-reconciliation/>



Attention 7th & 8th Graders or older students who have NOT prepared for Confirmation
Confirmation Preparation 2024-2025
<https://stmatthias.net/confirmation/>

Questions? Please call the Parish Office, 732-828-1400 or email Dee Nann, dnann@stmatthias.net

UPDATE ABOUT OUR CHURCH MEDIA PROJECT

Many of you have probably noticed some changes on the wall behind the choir. We are making preparations for installation of our new projection and live stream system this summer. This plan was begun when Fr. Joe (Msgr. Curry) was with us. You may remember that we had focused on the Giving Tuesday contributions two years in a row for this media update. And we're very excited to finally be completing this important project!

Though details of this project were published in the bulletin a few times, it is good to refresh our memory. The new livestream system includes two high definition remote-controlled cameras and a video and sound mixing system that will greatly improve the video and sound quality of our livestream. The projection system includes a 150" diagonal 16:9 screen and a 4K capable 8500 lumen laser projector. This will vastly improve image brightness and contrast, so the system will be useful not only for live-streaming our liturgy but also for faith formation, GIFT sessions, and other parish events. Mr. Jeff Beck and Mr. Joe Mancuso have been working tirelessly on this project. We hope to see a very much improved experience of the media use in our church.

CAN YOU HELP?



The Center for Great Expectations are running very low on baby wipes and Size 5 & 6 Huggies diapers. Please help if you can.
Parishioners are welcome to drop the items off at their convenience to:
The Center for Great Expectations, 19 B Dellwood Lane, Somerset, NJ 08873

Give (and Receive!)

Stewardship Totals for Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025				Last Year's Total
Current Month	In-Pew/Mail	Parish Giving	Weekly Total	Weekly Total
Week 1 - July 7, 2024	\$8,581.00	\$20,875.00	\$29,456.00	\$21,283.25
Week 2 - July 14, 2024	\$10,568.00	\$19,281.50	\$29,849.50	\$34,943.75
Week 3 - July 21, 2024	\$10,028.25	\$12,475.25	\$22,503.50	\$23,019.25
Week 4 - July 28, 2024			\$0.00	\$22,034.85
			\$0.00	\$18,828.75
			Month-to-date Total	June Total Last Year
			\$81,809.00	\$120,109.85
			Current Year-to-date Total	Year-to-date as of July 31, 2023
			\$81,809.00	\$120,109.85

Stewardship Reflection July 28, 2024 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 - 28de julio de 2024 17º Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario

“Aquí hay un muchacho que tiene cinco panes de cebada y dos pescados; pero ¿qué es esto para tantos?” Juan 6:9

El milagro de los Panes y los Peces lleva dos mensajes importantes. El primero, que no importa que tan poco tenemos, siempre tenemos suficiente para compartir. El segundo, Cristo puede tomar nuestros humildes dones y hacer grandes cosas con ellos, solo tenemos que estar dispuestos a permitirselo. Nada es imposible con Dios. Todos nuestros dones grandes o pequeños nos han sido dados por una razón. ¡Ningún don es demasiado pequeño o insignificante!



IF YOU HAVE NOT SIGNED UP WITH PARISH GIVING...

Parish Giving offers secure flexible online giving for our parishioners who would like to make their donations online using a credit card or bank transfer. You never have to bring cash or checks to church. Giving electronically also helps the church save money and plan the budget. If you want to simplify your life, go to our website,

www.stmatthias.net and click on the Parish Giving Link under 'Give'. Parish Giving offers you complete control over your account to change your giving as needed. You have the benefit to generate a giving report and easily choose the specific collections you wish to support. We thank you for your support which enables St. Matthias to minister to the community.

SUMMER CONTRIBUTIONS...?

We sincerely thank our parishioners who mail or deliver their weekly envelopes to the parish office while they are out of town on vacations this summer. Thanks to the majority of our parishioners who have signed up with Parish Giving to make the weekly contributions online at www.Parishgiving.org or go to: <https://stmatthias.net/give/>. This makes it easy for everyone. As many of you understand, our parish expenses and obligations do not take a vacation when you do, so it is very helpful to be able to rely on the continued support even when you cannot personally attend Mass here. May God bless you and your families. Have a safe and blessed summer.

Connecting to Our Local Community

Franciscan at Home Partnership Launch for Ministry Leaders

When: August 14, 8:00am(Mass) - 4:00 pm

Where: St. Magdalen de Pazzi Church, Flemington

Who: For PCLs, Youth Ministers, RCIA/OCIA Directors, Hispanic Ministry Leaders, Adult Faith Formation Leaders, Marriage Ministry Leaders, and Catholic School Principals

Join parish ministry leaders from around the Diocese of Metuchen in the launching of the diocesan partnership with Franciscan University's Catechetical Institute. This full day will begin with Mass and include an overview of Franciscan at Home, the unique formation platform that is being offered to all those in ministry in the Diocese of Metuchen **at no cost**. The principles behind this unique, accompaniment based, on-line formation platform will be explained and use of the platform will be demonstrated. Ministry leaders will leave with the ability to comfortably use this workshop based formation tool and accompany those in their ministries as the use of this formation tool spreads across parishes in the Diocese of Metuchen.

Link To Register: <https://diometuchen.org/franciscan-at-home> **Flyer Link:** [Franciscan at Home Ministry Leader Flyer](#)

For more information contact: Jill Kerekes at jkerekes@diometuchen.org



Friday, August 2-9 WEEKLONG SILENT DIRECTED RETREAT

An experience of personal prayer based on scripture. Daily spiritual

direction. Atmosphere of prayerful quiet.

Begins 7 pm Friday and ends by 11am Friday

Weeklong: August 2-9 \$700/week; non-refundable deposit \$100

Proof of COVID vaccination is required at time of registration.

Thursday, August 15

SACRED TIME, SACRED SPACE

A personal, quiet day to enjoy god's presence. Day begins with communal prayer. Bring a bag lunch.

9:30am-3pm at the House of Prayer

\$20-\$30 as you are able



Fiat Day 2024 A Day of Discernment for Girls

**Saturday, August 10, 2024
10:00 AM-4:00 PM**

**St. Bartholomew Roman Catholic Church
470 Ryders Lane
East Brunswick, NJ 08816**

Register your daughter(s) and grand-daughter(s) for the Fiat Day, a special day to enjoy food, fun, friends, and Religious Sisters before your girls return to a full year of school. There is no cost!

Please have them bring friends. They will not be disappointed.

Sr. Anna Nguyen, SCC

(732) 529 - 7587 anguyendiometuchen.org

<https://diometuchen.org/fiatday>

Parish Leadership

Parish Pastoral Council:

Co-Chairs:

Frank Rees
Frees814@gmail.com

Marilyn Wegg
mcw-wam@comcast.net

Co-Secretaries:

Stephen Busono
sbusono@gmail.com

Bill Isele
t33sm@aol.com

Al Drabnis
Didi Molano

Sheila Tartaglia

Fr. Lancelot McGrath,
Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio

Trustees:

Pearl Scott
Marge Richards

Parish Finance Council:

Kester Hector, Chair
Finance Council
@stmatthias.net

Carmen Driz-Melilli
Barry Dusault
Joan Pritchard

Cory Panlilio

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.



ARE THESE YOUR SIZE?

MIDDLEBUSH VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT.
21 OLCOTT STREET
FIRE FIGHTERS NEEDED WE WILL TRAIN!

MIDDLEBUSH VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT
To Join Email...station44@middlebushfire.com



Complete Kitchen & Bathroom Remodeling
Porcelain Marble
Granite Countertops
Heated Floors
Backsplashes
Shower Doors
732-514-1500
Lic # 13VH00782600
(Parishioner)

EXCELLENCE GUARANTEED

Resta's Auto Care

AAA 732-873-8900   Trusted For 77 Years
Restas.com 1873 Amwell Road • Somerset

Morgan
basement waterproofing

In Our 4th Decade of Quality Service

French Drains • Foundation Repair • Mold Remediation
All Work Guaranteed
732-777-7888
www.morganbasementwaterproofing.com



Diocese of Metuchen
Catholic Cemeteries and Crematory
800-943-8400

Holy Cross Burial Park 840 Cranbury-South River Rd. Jamesburg, NJ 08831
Resurrection Burial Park Hoes Lane and Park Ave. Piscataway, NJ 08854

www.diometuchen.org/cemeteries

PROTECTIVE PAVING



DRIVEWAYS PARKING LOTS
FULLY INSURED
FREE ESTIMATES
732-828-4177
SOMERSET, NJ



RE-IMAGINE SENIOR LIVING

An Assisted Living and Memory Care Community in your neighborhood.

SCHEDULE A TOUR TODAY!

732.873.4800
473 Demott Lane
Somerset, NJ 08873
www.springhills.com

ROOFING • CHIMNEY • MASONRY • DECKING
20+ Years in Business

WE FIND & FIX LEAKS



\$1,000 OFF ANY NEW PROJECTS
15% OFF ANY REPAIRS

FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED • LIC.# 13VH12761400
862-222-1016
SERVING ALL OF NEW JERSEY

ROOFING • CHIMNEY • MASONRY
GUTTERS • DECKING

WE FIND & FIX LEAKS



\$1,000 OFF ANY NEW PROJECTS
15% OFF ANY REPAIRS

FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED • LIC #13VH11202100
551-300-9611
SERVING ALL OF NEW JERSEY



732-565-1500
49 VERONICA AVE. SUITE #204
SOMERSET, NJ 08873



Comprehensive Cataract/Cornea Glaucoma/Retina Soft & Specialty Contact Lens Fitting

Roopinder K. Grewal, M.D. Francesca K. Lee, O.D.
www.edisonophthalmology.com

catholicmatch®
New Jersey



CatholicMatch.com/dateNJ

Rutgers Dining Services

NOW HIRING

Per Diem & Hourly Employees

Hiring events held Tuesday at 10am at 177 Ryders Lane, New Brunswick, NJ 08901. To register for an upcoming session, call 848-932-3602 or email us at edofficeadmin@dining.rutgers.edu.

Event Dates

July 9	July 23	August 6
July 16	July 30	August 13

APPLY ONLINE 

Apply prior to an event for on-the-spot interviews!



go.rutgers.edu/rudining



C & F Paint Hardware
Benjamin Moore Paints
1075 Easton Ave., Suite 12 A
Somerset, NJ 08873
732-764-8908
www.candfpaint.com
Frank Del Tufo - Owner

SUPERIOR HARDWOOD FLOORING
FREE ESTIMATES
SANDING | INSTALLS | REPAIRS | REFINISHING
Franco Oliveira 201.744.8883
superiorhardwoodflooring@hotmail.com

Steve's Pizza & Restaurant
900 Easton Ave. Somerset Village
732-247-0400
\$1.50 Off Large 18" Pie

Quantum Light WELLNESS CENTER
Featuring cutting-edge quantum technology using light & frequency to holistically improve healing & wellness
908-328-2112
QuantumLightWellness.com
Hillsborough, NJ
Jay Vince-Cruz & Dom Campbell

SOLD BARROOD
Selling, Buying or Renting Houses - Call us for help!
700 EASTON AVE., SOMERSET
732-846-1661
Good people, great service, since 1940
PARISHIONER

Waterstone WEALTH ADVISORS, LLC
John C. Moynihan, CFP®
Certified Financial Planner™, practitioner
Somerset, NJ
732.873.0433 • www.wwallc.net
Practical Solutions for Managing Wealth

Event Space Rental
Green Brook NJ 08812
908-532-3141
Birthday, Baby Shower, Meetings
grandcentraljerseyevents.com

BRIGHT VIEW POWERWASHING & PAINTING
Greg Dente, Owner/Operator
Somerset & surrounding areas
Friendly & Reliable Services
Free estimates • Guaranteed work
We keep our promises • No job too small
POWERWASHING & SMALL PAINTING WORK
908.812.2061

GLEASON FUNERAL HOME
AT NEED CARE • PRE-NEED • MONUMENTS
PARISHIONER OWNED
William K. Gleason, Mgr., N.J. Lic. No. 4489
1360 HAMILTON STREET • SOMERSET, NJ
732-545-0700
WWW.GLEASONFUNERALHOME.COM

Dolan since 1949
Kitchen & Bath Remodeling
American Standard HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING
Plumbing, Heating, Cooling, Electric
732-247-2763
696 Franklin Blvd., Somerset, NJ 08873
www.jackdolanandsons.com info@jackdolanandsons.com

SENIOR HOME AIDE
Trustworthy and reliable home aide available to assist in taking care of your home. Call or text (908) 544-6152 for details and to schedule help.

WE'RE HIRING!
Substitute Teachers & Support Staff throughout New Jersey
Apply today at SOURCE4TEACHERS.com

BRUNSWICK FURNITURE OUTLET, LLC
330 Townsend St., New Brunswick, NJ
Rafael Se Habla Español
732-354-4420

AJS PAINTING
TONY SCHINELLA, PARISHIONER
Friendly, Courteous Service
Owner Operated, Free Proposals
Meticulous, Guaranteed Work
Highest Quality, Affordable Price
No Job Too Small • Since 2001
732-873-8477

April Tarantino
Broker Associate
Direct: (732) 735-3511
apriltarantino@hotmail.com
www.apriltarantino.com
31 Years Experience - Somerset Specialist

Home Helpers® Your Trusted Home Care Provider!
Making Like Easier® Personal & Companion Care
(732) 873-9063 Meal Preparation, Shopping And Much More!
www.HomeHelpersHomeCare.com/Somerset

D'Angiolillo Chiropractic Center
Find out more about us and how we can help you!
Visit Our Website @
www.DrJoeD.com
(732) 873-2222

RAIKE'S Home Improvement LLC
732-249-7113
Fully Insured Lic. 13VH06498900 www.raikeshomeimprovement.com
We Install & Construct
• Windows • Finished Basements • Siding
• Doors • Kitchens • Roofing
• Decks • Baths • Custom Interior Woodwork
Power Washing
Homes • Decks • Sidewalks • Driveways • Stoops • Etc.
No Job Too Small! Cabinet Refacing Parishioner

PA FINANCIAL, CPA
Professional Tax, Accounting, Bookkeeping, Payroll
www.pafinancials.com
Email: philip@pafinancials.com • Parishioner
732-325-3157 • Somerset, NJ 08873

PROFESSIONAL CENTER AT SOMERSET
11 Clyde Road, Suite 103
Somerset, NJ 08873
Serving Our Community Since 1985

Put Your Home in My Hands
KATHLEEN FARAH SPERO
Realtor®, Broker, SRS, SRES
C 908.331.0859 • O 908.879.4900
Kathleen.Spero@CBRealty.com
SperoSellsNJ.com
Owned by a subsidiary of Anywhere Advisors LLC

star22home Angie's List Award Winner 2015-2023
Showroom & Design Center by Appointment
www.star22home.com
KITCHENS • BATHROOMS
22 Plainfield Ave., Piscataway, NJ
\$10,000 Complete Bathroom Remodel.
Labor /Materials
www.my5DB.com
O: 732-369-6387
M: 732-343-5450

DALTON QUALITY PROFESSIONAL SERVICE
Serving Central NJ Since 1986
RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL SALES/SERVICE
All Major Credit Cards Accepted
P. Lic. #12425 • E. Lic. #9526
NJ Reg #13VH02047500 • HVAC Lic. 1510
ELECTRIC, PLUMBING HEATING & COOLING
NOW HIRING QUALIFIED TEAM MEMBERS
1186 LIVINGSTON AVENUE, NORTH BRUNSWICK, NJ
732-247-7390 • www.DaltonElectricCo.com

FARAH TURF MANAGEMENT
Fertilizer • Weed Control
Seeding & Grading
908-809-8366
www.farahlandscapedesign.com

FIND YOUR NEW BEST FRIEND.
\$60 adoption fee | animals are spayed/neutered, micro-chipped & up-to-date on shots
Franklin Township Animal Shelter
475 DeMott Lane, Somerset, NJ 08873
732.873.2500 x6255 | Tue-Fri 12-3 & Sat 12-6
Ad sponsored by Second Chance For Animals

BOYLAN Funeral Home
188 Easton Avenue
New Brunswick, NJ 08901
732-545-4040

Robert Fox, Manager
N.J. License No. 4371
www.BoylanFH.com
Family owned and operated since 1958
10 Wooding Avenue
Edison, NJ 08817
732-572-0076