



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, **rdemkovitz**
 Nathalie Godet, *Website Coordinator*, **ngodet**
 Leslie Guillen, *Bulletin Editor*, **lguillen**

Amy Hanna, *Accountant/Databases*, **ahanna**
 Mike Lanyi, *Sacristan*
 Sue Lenczewski, *Youth Coordinator*, **SMYLE**
 Mary Jo Loboda, *Parish Staff, Development*,
mjloboda

Julio Montero, *Maintenance Supervisor*
 Dolores R. Nann, *Pastoral Associate for Faith*
Formation, **dnann**

Vinnie Natale, *Bookkeeper*, **vnatale**
 Silvia Nizama, *Housekeeper*
 Deacon John Radvanski, **deaconjohn**
 Joan Best Seamon, *Pastoral Associate for Music*
Ministry, **jseamon**

Sr. Marie Therese Sherwood, *OSF, Pastoral*
Assoc. for Social Concerns, **msherwood**

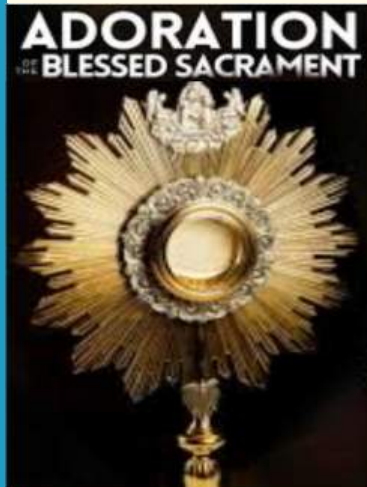
St. Matthias School (add @stmatthiasnj.org)
 Mary Lynch, *Principal*, **mlynch**

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS
SUNDAY, JULY 30, 2023-
17th Sunday in Ordinary Time



St. Ignatius of Loyola,
pictured on the left
 &
St. Alphonsus Liguori,
pictured on the right.

See Vocations Ministry
 article on page 9.



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 31st**
 from **6 PM to 8 PM.**

WORLD YOUTH DAY
BEGINS THIS
TUESDAY, AUGUST 1st
IN LISBON, PORTUGAL.
FOLLOW ALL THE
EXCITING EVENTS ON:

www.worldyouthday.com
www.lisboa2023.org/en



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

The Church is open for individual prayer

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

Sunday, Jul 30, 2023

8:00AM	Mass	Church
9:30AM	ServiceWorX - Week 2	Cafeteria
10:00AM	Mass	Church
12:00PM	Mass	Church

Monday, Jul 31, 2023 St. Ignatius of Loyola, Priest

8:00AM	Mass / Miraculous Medal Novena	Church
8:30AM	ServiceWorX - Week 2	Cafeteria
6:00PM	Eucharist Adoration	Church

Tuesday, Aug 1, 2023 St. Alphonsus Maria de' Liguori, Founder, Bishop & Doctor

8:00AM	Mass	Church
8:30AM	ServiceWorX - Week 2	Cafeteria
7:30PM	SVDP Mtg.	de Porres Rm

Wednesday, Aug 2, 2023 Opt. St. Eusebius of Vercelli, Bishop

8:00AM	Mass—St. Joseph Novena	Church
8:30AM	ServiceWorX - Week 2	Cafeteria

Thursday, Aug 3, 2023 St. Lydia—St. Paul's 1st Convert in Europe

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

Friday, Aug 4, 2023 St. John Maria Vianney, Patron of Parish Priests

8:00AM	Mass	Church
8:30AM	First Friday Holy Hour	Church
8:30AM	ServiceWorX - Week 2	Cafeteria
10:30AM	Spring Hills Mass	473 De Mott Ln

Saturday, Aug 5, 2023 OPT. Dedication of the Basilica of St. Mary Major

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

Sunday, Aug 6, 2023

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



Bulletin Article Requests:

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



Dear Friends,

Did you notice the refurbished Stations of the Cross around our church? Those who noticed spoke of their joy and appreciation. It was a worthy project that our Knights of Columbus undertook. Sam Fallivene, Frank Rees, Bill Isele, Dave Ryden, and Peter Kostik, with the engineering skills of Sean Smith, worked hard to repair the various stations and made them look beautiful and sturdy. I wish to thank the Knights in the name of our community of St. Matthias for volunteering to do this good work.

Speaking about volunteering, many of our parishioners do so much good in and around our church. The Statue of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel was given a thorough wash and the area was beautified – thanks to the goodwill of Alma and Jaime Valdez. The music ministers planted flower plants that you see blooming in front of the church. The bell that you hear rung before Mass was donated by Anne Marie Francis. Enhancing our worship environment is something that parishioners Claudette Gaspard, Emile Capuno, and others are doing in collaboration with our Sacristan Mike Lanyi. Every Monday, we have one of the two teams of committed volunteers counting the Sunday collections: Annie Dupras, Margaret Varela, Nancy Inzano, Marge Richards, Peg Joyce, John Galat, and Tom Fullerton, coordinated by Vinnie Natale. The regular live-streaming of the 10 AM Sunday Mass by Joe and Eileen Mancuso, bringing their own equipment, is another example for which they deserve our gratitude. Yanick Andre is to be commended for consistently sharing the sacristy duties for specific days of the week alternating with Deacon Ron. Last weekend you saw Pat Cullen and Jo-Ann Piagentini promoting our “Spread the Light Christmas Trees” with great enthusiasm.

The list is long and there are still many more names that could be mentioned if not for the space limit. But there are many other volunteers who work behind the scenes not receiving any applause. Those preparing the schedule for Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers and other liturgical ministers who help us all to have a smooth experience of the Holy Eucharist, dozens of ministries and committees that are actively giving of themselves for the good of our parish – all these faithful disciples of Jesus are what make our Catholic Community of St. Matthias very unique.

Like the numerous parishioners who volunteer, we all give our time off to our families and friends, to our work and duties, to school and scouts, to other institutions and good causes because of the “treasure” we have found in Jesus Christ (Matthew 13:44) – as Deacon Russ reminds us in his reflection elsewhere in this bulletin. May our hearts grow more into communion with Jesus our treasure, the “pearl of great price” (Matthew 13:45-46).

With a grateful heart, praying for God’s blessings upon all of us,

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; Mt 13:47-53

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: Dn 7:9-10, 13-14; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 9; 2 Pt 1:16-19; Mt 17:1-9

Mass Intentions for the Week

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
Monday, July 31	8:00AM	Deceased Members of Helen & John Dokak & Family, by daughter, Eileen King
Tuesday, Aug 1	8:00AM	Helen Mac Kenzie, by Kathy Twitchell
Wednesday, Aug 2	8:00AM	Melba Battin, by The Nepote Family
Thursday, Aug 3	8:00AM	John Petrine, by Mary & Family
Friday, Aug 4	8:00AM	Courtney & Dorothy Gonzalez, by Anne Marie Francis
Saturday, Aug 5	5:00PM	Mary Ellen Delaney, by Mom & Dad
Sunday, Aug 6	8:00AM	John Morrow, by John & Barbara Cooney
	10:00AM	Brian Schaar, by The Family
	12:00PM	Intention of Parishioners

Pray for those who are sick...

If you or a family member are sick, please call the Parish Office or **email Kelly Counts** at kcoun@stmatthias.net to add the name to this list. Names will be listed in the bulletin for **6 weeks**. Please let us know if this time period needs to be extended. We want to know how you are doing and want to offer you the support of our prayers. *New people on our prayer list are noted in blue.*

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

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



A woman was taking an afternoon nap. When she woke up, she told her husband, "I just dreamed that you gave me a pearl necklace. What do you think it means?" "You'll know tonight," he said. That evening, the man came home with a small package and gave it to his wife. Delighted, she opened it to find a book entitled "The Meaning of Dreams." 😊

Two older women, who were rivals in a social circle, met at a party. "My dear," said the first woman "Are those real pearls?" "They are," replied the second woman. "Of course the only way I could tell would be for me to bite them." Smiled the first. The second responded "Yes, but for that you would need real teeth." 😊

A tourist was admiring the necklace worn by a local Native American. "What is it made of?" she asked. "Alligator's

teeth," the man said. She replied patronizingly, "I suppose, that they mean as much to you as pearls do to us." "Oh no," he objected. "Anybody can open an oyster." 😊

What did the treasure hunter say when he finally found the map of the Golden City? Atlas! 😊

I just bought an antique clock with missing hands. I think it's a timeless treasure. 😊

Why won't the shrimp share its treasure? Because it's shellfish. 😊

My family is like a treasure to me... You need a shovel and a map to find them 😊

Why didn't Noah do much fishing on the ark? He had only two worms. 😊



Parenting Tune-Up

Solomon asked God for an understanding heart. Surely this is the attitude we want to take toward our own children. Yet children test us. They do dumb, crazy, and selfish things. They need to be corrected and disciplined. An understanding heart does not mean ignoring bad behavior but rather loving our child through it.

Marriage Tune-Up



One version of the wedding vows states: "I will love and honor you all the days of my life." But what does honor mean? Consider these guidelines: When talking give your undivided attention (make eye contact, don't interrupt. Listen closely). Back your beloved up in front of other people, Show your support. Be selfless.

Three Great Saints we Honor this Week!



St. Ignatius of Loyola was born in 1491, one of 13 children of a family of minor nobility in north-ern Spain. As a young man Ignatius was inflamed by the ideals of courtly love and knighthood and dreamed

of doing great deeds. But in 1521 Ignatius was gravely wounded in a battle with the French. To pass the time while recuperating, Ignatius requested a book of chivalric romances. But there were only two books in the castle where he was recuperating: *Life of Christ* and *The Golden Legend* which was a book on the lives of the saints. The spiritual satisfaction and peace provided by these works gradually changed his outlook; visions of knightly glory were now replaced by the desire to do great deeds just as the saints had for the love of God. Ignatius realized that these feelings were clues to God's direction for him.

St. Ignatius is the founder of the Society of Jesus and his *Spiritual Exercises* is one of the most influential books on the spiritual life ever written. Many people do not know that Ignatius did this as a layman, and not as a priest! He did this apostolate for 15 years before he was ordained. His

Exercises were not a series of pious sermons but prescriptions that were meant to put a person in direct communication with God. It is used for and by lay people, thus bringing spirituality into the marketplace.



St. Alphonsus Liguori is a doctor of the Church who is widely known for his contribution to moral theology and his great kindness. He was born in 1696 in Naples to a well-respected family. He was very intelligent, even as a young boy, and he became a doctor of civil law at age 17. He resigned from a brilliant career as a lawyer in 1723 when he lost a case because he overlooked a small, but important, piece of evidence. His resignation, however, proved profitable for the Church. He entered the seminary and was ordained three years later in 1726. He soon became a sought-after preacher and confessor in Naples. His so sermons were simple and well organized that they appealed to all people, both learned and uneducated. However, his time as a diocesan priest was short-lived: in 1732, he went to Scala

Reflect

Three Great Saints we Honor this Week! (Continued)

and founded the Redemptorists, a preaching order. He was a great moral theologian and his famous book, "Moral Theology", was published in 1748. Thirty years later, he was appointed bishop, and he retired in 1775. He died just over 10 years later in 1787, and was canonized in 1839.



St. John Marie Vianney, popularly known as Curé of Ars, was born in 1786. He wanted to become a priest. His failure to comprehend Latin lectures was a serious problem. After a lengthy battle with the books, John was ordained on the strength of his devotion to Mother Mary! Situations calling for "impossible" deeds followed him everywhere. As pastor of a near-extinct parish at Ars, John encountered people who were indifferent and quite comfortable with their style of living. His vision led him through severe fasts and short nights of sleep. Among his pastoral ministry, direction of souls as a confessor is John Vianney's most remarkable accomplishment. In the winter months he was to spend 11 to 12 hours daily reconciling people with God. In the summer months this time was increased to 16 hours. Crowds came daily; miracles began to occur; conversions happened galore. In 1929, Pope Pius XI named him the patron of parish priests worldwide.

The Parable of the Fishing Net



In Palestine, there were two main ways of fishing. The first was with the casting-net, which required a keen eye and great skill in throwing the net at the correct moment. The second was with a dragnet or seine, as it is sometimes called. Galilean seine-nets were tied to two boats and drawn through the water. The catch was sorted only afterwards, with edible or kosher fish going to market and the unacceptable fish being thrown away. Just as a dragnet collects good and bad fish indiscriminately, so the Church is a mixture of all kinds of people, good and bad, useful and useless, saints and sinners. Like the *wheat and weeds* parable, this parable is a warning against premature judgment, but also a warning which tells us judgment will take place. This parable encourages the Church to adopt an open approach to evangelism, by accepting "the poor, the crippled, the blind, the lame" (Luke 5:4-11) and by leading them to the treasure and the pearl of great price. It instructs us to be tolerant, compassionate and understanding of those who seem to fall far below the requirements of the Gospel and the Kingdom. Through this parable of the dragnet, Jesus calls us to embrace the vision of God that seeks out the good and

nurturing, the right and just in all things, amid the "junk" of life. The parable also teaches that a time of separation will come when the good and the bad will be sent to their respective destinies. This parable pictures that separation as happening in the final judgment. This parable is thus a counterpart to the parable of the weeds and the wheat.

CEO or Gas Station Attendant?

There's a charming story that Thomas Wheeler, CEO of the Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company, tells on himself: He and his wife were driving along an Interstate highway when he noticed that their car was low on gas. Wheeler got off the highway at the next exit and soon found a rundown gas station with just one gas pump. He asked the lone attendant to fill the tank and check the oil; then went for a little walk around the station to stretch his legs. As he was returning to the car, he noticed that the attendant and his wife were engaged in an animated conversation. The conversation stopped as he paid the attendant. But as he was getting back into the car, he saw the attendant wave and heard him say, "It was great talking to you." As they drove out of the station, Wheeler asked his wife if she knew the man. She readily admitted she did. They had gone to high school together and had dated steadily for about a year. "Boy, were you lucky that I came along," bragged Wheeler. "If you had married him, you'd be the wife of a gas station attendant instead of the wife of a chief executive officer." "My dear," replied his wife, "if I had married him, he'd be the chief executive officer, and you'd be the gas station attendant!"



Yes, we often think we have the proper perspective on an issue, when in fact we are way off. Jesus understood this propensity for us humans to get it wrong, especially when it comes to things spiritual. That is why Jesus taught the parable of different types of fish caught in the net as a lesson in tolerance and compassionate understanding. The lesson of this parable is that the kingdom is a mixed body of saints and sinners (good and bad fish). There will be always a temptation for those who feel they are more "faithful" to separate themselves from the "weeds"/"bad fish." But Jesus reminds us that the final judgment resulting in reward or punishment is God's work. Thus, we must learn to be patient, compassionate and understanding with those who seem to fall far below the requirements of the Gospel and the Kingdom. Let us humbly admit the fact that there are only a very few of us who are not a mixture of good and evil. Let us admit as St. Paul did, "I am what I am with the grace of God."

Reflect

Exegesis of the parable of the treasure hunter

Frequent battles and foreign invasions encouraged the people of Palestine to bury their treasures like money and jewelry in their fields.

For example, the great religious treasure – the “Dead Sea Scrolls,” discovered in the caves at Qumran in 1947 – was hidden there over 2,000 years ago. Sometimes unclaimed and forgotten, the hidden treasures awaited some lucky finder. Jesus tells the story of one such lucky treasure-finder who sold everything he had in order to get ownership of the field. According to the Palestinian laws of that time, the mere finding of buried treasure did not entitle the finder to possession unless he also owned the property in which it was found. In the parable of the treasure in the field and in the parable of the merchant who sought fine pearls, we see the image of one who recognizes the value of the kingdom of God and gives everything to possess it. Matthew, a tax-collector, might have experienced something like this when he discovered the eternal value of the kingdom preached by Jesus of Nazareth. When he discovered Jesus and his vision of life everything else became secondary. Having a personal relationship with Christ and to have made his view of life one's own, is the most beautiful, the most precious thing in the world. But most of the time, we are chasing false treasures like money, social status and pleasure. Jesus our true treasure may come to our lives unexpectedly through some daily experience as he did with Mathew.



Hidden treasure of a bankrupt rancher



In west Texas, there is a famous oil field known as the Yates Pool. During the depression, this field was a sheep ranch owned by a man named Yates. Yates was not able to make enough money on his ranching operation to pay the principal and interest on his mortgage, so he was in danger of losing his ranch. With little money for clothes or food, his family, like many others, had to live on a government subsidy. Day after day, as he grazed his sheep over those rolling west Texas hills, he was no doubt greatly troubled about how he would be able to pay his bills. Then a crew from an oil company came into the area and told Mr. Yates that there might be oil on this land. They asked permission to drill a wildcat well, and he signed a lease. At a little more than a thousand feet, they struck a huge oil reserve, giving eighty thousand barrels a day. In fact, thirty years after the discovery, a government test of one of Mr. Yates' wells showed that it still could produce more than a hundred

thousand barrels of oil a day. And Mr. Yates owned it all. The day he had purchased the land, he received the oil and mineral rights. And yet, he had been living on relief - a multimillionaire living in poverty. What had been the problem? He did not know the oil was there. He owned it, but he did not possess it.

In today's Gospel Jesus compares the Kingdom of God to a treasure hidden in a field. We need to take all precautions to keep our greatest treasure safe: We will be able to keep our treasure of personal relationship to Jesus by accepting him every day as our God and Savior, by allowing him to have total control over our lives by doing his will, by asking for the daily strengthening and guidance of his Holy Spirit, by talking to him daily in prayer, by listening to him by meditative reading of the Bible, by getting reconciled to him and others every day asking pardon and forgiveness for our sins, by offering our lives on the altar during the Holy Mass and by nourishing our souls receiving Jesus in Holy Communion.

Commitment of Olympic trainees

Some time ago a magazine ran a story about teenagers who belong to the Santa Clara Swimming Club. Every morning they get up at 5:30 and hurry through the chilly air to an outdoor pool. There they swim for two solid hours. After a shower and a quick bite to eat, they hurry off to school. After school they return to the pool to swim for two more hours. At 5:00 they hurry home, hit the schoolbooks, eat a late supper, and fall into bed exhausted. The next morning the alarm rings at 5:30 and they start the whole thing all over again. When asked why they should follow such a disciplined schedule, one girl said, “My only goal is to make the Olympic team. If going to parties hurts that, then why go? There is no such thing as too much work. The more miles I swim, the better, Sacrifice is the thing.”

Today's gospel challenges us to show such whole hearted commitment to keep the most valuable treasure of intimate relationship with Jesus, accepting him as Lord and Savior and doing his will. We should live every moment in view of our precious goal. Most of the time, we are chasing false treasures such as money, status or pleasure. Often we are locked into regrets over the past, or focused too much on the future. As a result, the enriching present passes us by, and the treasure is never discovered. Thus, the really valuable pearl of sharing in God's life through Jesus here on earth and later in Heaven is never found. Let us always remember that Heaven is within the reach of all of us who try to do the will of God, following the ordinary vocations of life and enjoying this world's joys and pleasures within the framework of God's Commandments.



From the Pastoral Staff

If we look up the word “treasure” in the dictionary we would see it means something of great wealth or value. Pirates would search for sunken or buried treasures.

Over the years there have been treasure hunts done for fun ... and to find the hidden treasure at the end. When we define stewardship we say it's the giving of our time, talent and “treasure.”

It is said where your treasure is so will your heart be. In today's Gospel Jesus says “The Kingdom of Heaven is like a treasure buried in a field, which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

What is this Gospel telling us? Jesus Christ is to be our true treasure. In Him are found the fullness of all the Riches, knowledge, wisdom, power, mercy and grace.

He is of unspeakable value and worth and in having Him our cups are not only filled, they run over. It is said Jesus is the pearl of great price in whom all other worldly

things. That men desire are worthless. Without Him we are poor but if we have Found him we are in possession of a treasure that makes us rich.

We know that God wants us to be happy here on earth. But we can't lose sight that all our earthly possessions are Temporary.. There an old saying That you don't see a U-Haul being pulled behind the hearse.

Jesus is the one true lasting treasure. Where our treasure is so will our heart be.

We have Eucharistic adoration on Monday's from 6PM to 8PM. I encourage you to take some time to be with Him ... and let Him know he is the true treasure of your life.

Peace of Christ
Deacon Russ



Pray



June Baptisms

The Catholic Community of St. Matthias welcomes the following children who were baptized in June. We support them with prayers and ask their parents to nurture them so they can grow to be faith-filled people of God and our parish community.

Camila Blake Bigos

Riley Leila Esquifin

Jackson Gray Rossback

Penelope Brooke Zavodnick



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.

SAINT MATTHIAS SCHOOL IS LOOKING FOR A PART-TIME BOOKKEEPER



Responsibilities include processing invoices, purchasing, recording payments, and performing clerical duties. Previous experience using the FACTS Tuition Mgt. system is a plus. Please send your resume to mpburke-grospin@stmattias.net.

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@stmattiasnj.org.



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@stmattias.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@stmattias.net





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/tree

Vocations Ministry

Saints Ignatius and Alphonso: Discerning One's Vocation

This upcoming week we celebrate the feasts of two great Saints of our Church - Saint Ignatius of Loyola and Saint Alphonso Liguori.

Saint Ignatius of Loyola, born at the close of the fifteenth century, was a Spanish priest and theologian who founded the Jesuit order. One of Saint Ignatius' greatest contributions to our Church is his “Spiritual Exercises” which provide a framework and guide for spiritual formation and discernment - the process by which God helps us come to know his will for us. Ultimately, the spiritual growth and enlightenment results in knowledge of one's personal vocation which leads to a life of loving service to God and neighbor. We celebrate the Feast of

Saint Ignatius of Loyola on July 31st each year.

St Alphonso Liguori, born at the close of the seventeenth century, founded the Redemptorists and is one of the Patron Saints of Vocations. Saint Alphonso established the Redemptorist community with the aim of ministering to the poor and the spiritually impoverished. Saint Alphonso saw his Redemptorist companions as itinerant preachers called to follow the example of Jesus in preaching the word of God to the poor and inviting them to a deeper love of God. The Redemptorist “missionary” vocation is Saint Alphonso's legacy. We celebrate the Feast of Saint Alphonso Liguori on August 1st

each year.

We can pray to Saints Ignatius and Alphonso as each of us continues to discern God's plan and our personal vocation. We can ask these great Saints to assist us as we seek to know who God is calling us to be and what God is calling us to do to help build his Kingdom of love, peace, and justice here on earth.

For more on Saint Ignatius see: <https://www.ignatianspirituality.com/ignatian-voices/st-ignatius-loyola/>

For more on Saint Alphonso see: <https://saintalphonso.org/who-was-saint-alphonso-liguori>

Joe Percoco,
percoco@rutgers.edu

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	\$22,576.25
Week 2 - July 9, 2023	\$10,009.00	\$24,934.75	\$34,943.75	\$33,857.28
Week 3 - July 16, 2023	\$9,256.00	\$13,763.25	\$23,019.25	\$22,864.25
Week 4 - July 23, 2023	\$9,921.60	\$12,113.25	\$22,034.85	\$21,278.66
Week 5- July 30, 2023				\$21,517.25
			Month-to-date Total	July Total Last Year
			\$101,281.10	\$122,093.69
			Current Year-to-date	Year-to-date as of July
			\$100,655.50	\$122,093.69

Give (and Receive!)

Stewardship Reflection July 30, 2023 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose."-Romans 8:28

Do you really trust God? Do you really believe that God will provide all that you need? Faith is a challenge for everyone at times. Putting our trust in God, in everything we do, in good times and in bad, means that God's plan for our lives may be quite different than what we planned. When one door closes, another one opens. Trust in God, His plan is always better.

Reflexiónese 30 de julio de 2023 17º 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!

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 Brennen,
Ex-Officio
Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio

Trustees:

Pearl Scott
Marge Richards

Parish Finance Council:

Kester Hector, Chair
Finance Council
@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

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

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

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

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

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



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



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event dates

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Tuesday, 10/11

Tuesday, 10/18

Tuesday, 10/25

November 2022

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Tuesday, 11/15

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go.rutgers.edu/rudining

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