



**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](http://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](https://youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ)

**St. Matthias School (SMS):**

170 JFK Blvd., Somerset, NJ 08873  
[www.stmatthias.info](http://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**

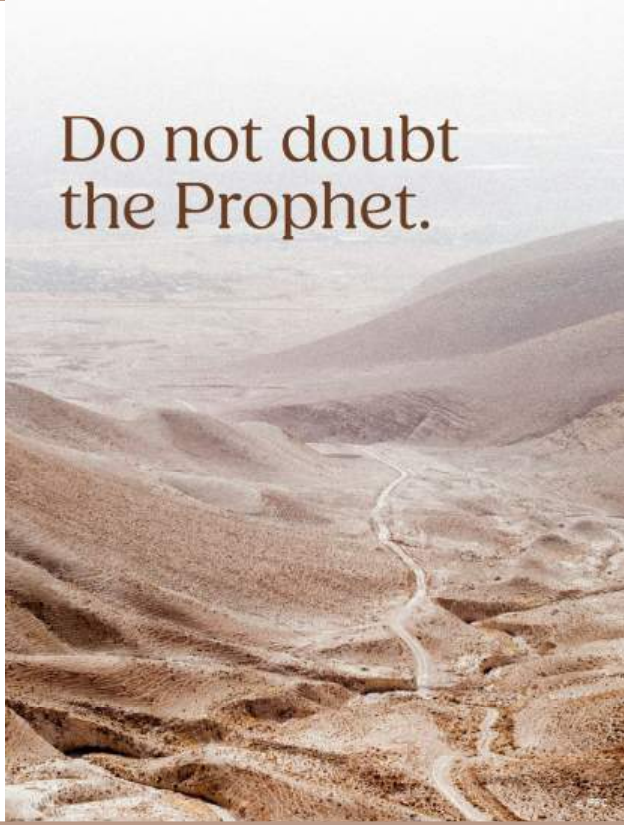
Leslie Guillen, Bulletin Coordinator, **lg Guillen**  
 Amy Hanna, Accountant/Databases, **ahanna**  
 Mike Lanyi, Sacristan  
 Sue Lenczewski, Youth Coordinator, **SMYLE**  
 Julio Montero, Maintenance Supervisor  
 Dolores R. Nann, Pastoral Associate for  
 Faith Formation, **dnann**  
 Vinnie Natale, 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**

**THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS**  
**SUNDAY, JULY 7, 2024**  
 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time



Please join us  
**TODAY, July 7th**  
 after the  
 10 AM Mass,  
 in front  
 of the Blessed  
 Virgin Mary  
 shrine to  
 recite the  
 rosary.



Do not doubt  
 the Prophet.



**ADORATION**  
 OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT



**PLEASE COME JOIN THE MANY WHO SPEND SOME  
 QUIET TIME WITH THE EUCHARISTIC LORD.  
 OUR NEXT ADORATION WILL BE  
 MONDAY EVENING, JULY 8, 2024  
 FROM 6 PM TO 8 PM.**

Masses are also livestreamed on our YouTube channel: [youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ](https://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 7, 2024**

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

**Monday, July 8, 2024 St. Raymond of Toulouse**

8:00AM Mass Church  
 6:00PM Eucharist Adoration Church

**Tuesday, July 9, 2024 St. Augustine Zhao & Co. Martyrs & Saints of China**

8:00AM Mass Church

**Wednesday, July 10, 2024 Seven Holy Brothers, Martyrs**

8:00AM Mass St. Joseph Novena Church

**Thursday, July 11, 2024 St. Benedict of Nursia, Abbot & Founder**

8:00AM Mass Church

**Friday, July 12, 2024 St. John Gaubert, Abbot & Founder**

8:00AM Mass Church

**Saturday, July 13, 2024 St. Henry II, Holy Roman Emperor**

10:30AM SMDP - Zumba Session Cafeteria  
 3:30PM Reconciliation Church  
 5:00PM Vigil Mass Church

**Sunday, July 14, 2024**

8:00AM Mass Church  
 9:30AM ServiceWorX- 10AM Mass Cafeteria  
 10:00AM Mass Church  
 12:00PM Mass Church  
 3:00PM Gold Award - Emily Chavez Church  
 With Deacon John



**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 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,

Happy July 4th to all! Our country was founded as one nation under God, in God we trust. John Quincy Adams, the 6th US president noted: *“The highest glory of the American Revolution was this: It connected in one indissoluble bond the principles of civil government with the principles of Christianity.”* Sadly, today we don’t hear much about the spiritual foundation of our nation. It is not taught in many of our public schools anymore. As Christians, we need to be concerned about the efforts of militant secularists to take out any reference to God in American history and the erosion of Christian values in public life. It is important for us all to remember that our Capitol abounds with Christian symbols and images.

Did you know:

- Within the Capitol there are statues of Catholic priests and nuns, and medallions of Pope Innocent III and Pope Gregory IX.
- On the first floor of the main Reading Room in the Library of Congress there is a statue of St. Paul.
- In that Library there is a quote from the Book of Proverbs and a reference to God from Shakespeare.
- There is a chapel in the U.S. Capitol. Prayer meetings for Senators and Congressmen are commonplace throughout.
- Crucifixes abound in the Capitol.
- On the front doors of the Capitol are pictures of Franciscans with rosaries.
- There is a painting in the dome of the burial scene of Hernando De Soto depicting a Mass being celebrated; a priest is shown holding a crucifix during burial prayers.
- In front of the Federal District Court, across from the National Gallery of Art, there is a depiction of pilgrims praying before a cross – a splendid recognition of religious liberty.
- On the corner of Pennsylvania Avenue and 7th St. N.W. is the *Temperance Fountain* with the inscription of Temperance, Charity, Hope and Faith. Nearby is a quote from St. Paul.
- Near the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, engraved on the sidewalk, there is the *12 Signers of the Declaration of Independence Memorial* with an inscription referencing *“our firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence.”*
- There is a frieze on the Supreme Court Building that depicts Moses.
- The entrance court to the Supreme Court, made of oak, have the Ten Commandments engraved on each lower portion of each door.
- Inside the Supreme Court, right above where the Justices sit, there is a display of Moses and the Ten Commandments.

If you wish to read more about these symbols, see *‘One Nation Under God: Religious Symbols, Quotes, and Images in Our Nation’s Capitol,’* by Fr. Eugene F. Hemrick. While we look with gratitude to the past to the freedom and liberties fought and won by the first generation Americans, may this July 4th be an occasion for us to look in faith to the future, and commit it and our lives to God and His will. The ancient words of the Psalmist are still true: *“Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord”* (Psalm 33:12).

Your brother in Christ,  
 Fr. Abraham Orapankal

## Readings for the Week

**Monday** Hos 2:16, 17c-18, 21-22 Ps 145:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 Mt 9:18-26

**Tuesday** Hos 8:4-7, 11-13 Ps 115:3-4, 5-6, 7ab-8, 9-10 Mt 9:32-38

**Wednesday** Hos 10:1-3, 7-8, 12 Ps 105:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 Mt 10:1-7

**Thursday** Hos 11:1-4, 8e-9 Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16 Mt 10:7-15

**Friday** Hos 14:2-10 Ps 51:3-4, 8-9, 12-13, 14 and 17 Mt 10:16-23

**Saturday** Is 6:1-8 Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5 Mt 10:24-33

**Sunday** Am 7:12-15 Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 Eph 1:3-14 or 1:3-10 Mk 6:7-13

## Mass Intentions for the Week

<b>Saturday, July 6</b>	5:00PM	Intention of Parishioners
<b>Sunday, July 7</b>	8:00AM	Santina C. Spinella, by The Family
	10:00AM	Joshua & Jaimer Valdez, by Alma Valdez
	12:00PM	Ronald Biancini, by John Gault
<b>Monday, July 8</b>	8:00AM	Cynthia Reimer, by The Mazzeo Family
<b>Tuesday, July 9</b>	8:00AM	Nicandro Ventura, by The Ventura Family
	8:00AM	Gregory Dolphin, by Mom, Pat
<b>Wednesday, July 10</b>	8:00AM	Carmen Bustos, by Lily Panaligan
<b>Thursday, July 11</b>	8:00AM	Giuseppe Alfredo Grazioso, by The Surot Family
<b>Friday, July 12</b>	8:00AM	John & Helen Dolak, by Eileen King
<b>Saturday, July 13</b>	5:00PM	Martin Slyman, by Vince & Dee Dee Martell
<b>Sunday, July 14</b>	8:00AM	Intention of Parishioners
	10:00AM	Pax Valdez, by Alma Valdez
	12:00PM	Angela Rosanes Tuyay, by The Nonaillada Family

## Pray for those who are sick...

If you or a family member are sick, please call the Parish Office or **email Kelly Counts** at [kccounts@stmatthias.net](mailto:kccounts@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.**

Kristin Baio	Andrea Dubuisson	Rose Larangeira	Robert Pellegrino	Sr. Bernadine Marie
Olga Marie Bando	Hattie Evans	Armando D. Liban	Robert Pietrowiak	Stemnock
Carolyn Banghart	Sharon Gadomski	Mary Lou Litrakis	Randolff Pinard	Anita Vance
Brandon Barbarite	Heinley Gaspard	John Litrakis	Valerie Polci	Leticia Veridiano
Ghislaine Baron	Claudia Gemgnani	Denis Loboda	Prasek/Scarpa Family	Eileen Weber
Helen Bell	Emma Gergely	Aries Magali	Kim Price	Nancy Whelan
Samantha Bellouny	Claude Godet	Kenneth & Kelly	Nina Ripley	Theresa Sau-Ling Yung
Carmen Bender	Marie Godet	Magat	Frank Rispoli	Ginette Zamor
Mary Bostrom	Shelly Greene	Susan, King & Tosh	Gabriel Rivera	Anne Zando
Robert Brisson	Linda Hartong	Manansala	Arina Robinson	
Tara Capatosto	Jeff Hentz	Alexandra Marquez	Bob Rotz	<b>And for all who are ill,</b>
Elizabeth Card	Marilyn Horvath	Christine Matthews	Marisa Ruppel	<b>homebound, elderly,</b>
Rustico Castellano, Jr.	Jerry & Donna Hucul	Ann McElwee	Maria Schwenzer	<b>in nursing care, or</b>
Lisa DeFeo	Jean Alix Jolly	Jessica Marie Merrick	Amy Shepp	<b>living with chronic</b>
Zenon DeGuzman	Renée Jolly	Gail Miranda	Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF	<b>illness, we pray.</b>
Pat Dolphin	Donna Kahora	Menchie Molano-	Timothy Siclari	
Vivian Dong	Betsy Kondrat	Sotelo	Catherine Steele	
Sanora Doyen	Kathy Langenbacher	Danny Ongchango		

## Pray for those who have died...

— “His mercy endures forever.” Chronicles

Anthony Rubino

## Reflect



### Smile with Your Family



Wife: Look at that drunk guy. Husband: Who is he? Wife: 10 years back he proposed to me and I rejected him. Husband: Oh my God! He's still celebrating? 😊

A husband is someone who, after taking the trash out, gives the impression he just cleaned the whole house 😊  
Have you ever noticed that woman's "I'll be ready in 5 minutes" and a man's "I'll be home in 5 minutes" are exactly the same? 😊

If you see me talking to myself, just ignore; I'm self employed, and we're having a staff meeting. 😊

I'm the type of husband that helps his wife look for her missing chocolate that I ate. 😊

I don't understand how the cemetery owners can raise its funeral prices and blame it on the cost of living 😊

#### MOMS WILL ALWAYS BE MOMS:

Galileo Galilei's mother: "What use is seeing that goddamn moon with your telescope if it does not help me to see my mother in Milano." 😊

Samuel Morse's mother: "Make sure your school report card doesn't have only dashes and dots." 😊

Mona Lisa's mother: "After all that money your father and I spent on your braces, is that the best smile you can give us?" 😊



### Parenting Tune-Up

*"Is he [Jesus] not the carpenter; the son of Mary...?" (Mark 6:3)*

We inherit both physical and personality traits from our parents. It can be a source of parental pride, but also consternation.

Talk with your child about what strengths and weaknesses they might have received from you.

### Marriage Tune-Up

In a healthy marriage both spouses strive to be good and strong. But, sometimes it is through recognizing our weakness that we can grow stronger. What a mystery!

*"...for when I am weak, then I am strong." (2 Corinthians 12:10)* Can you identify a weakness in yourself that has punctured your pride and made you a better spouse?



## The Decision to Hope

God knows, these days there are reasons enough for cynicism. Many of us feel let down by the institutions we thought we could trust. We have been betrayed, disappointed and outraged too many times to simply hope. Jim Wallis is a theologian and founder of **Sojourners**, a Christian-based social justice advocacy group. He writes in his best-selling book **God's Politics** that the obstacle of faith is the fundamental choice between cynicism and hope. "First, let's be fair to the cynics. Cynicism is the place of retreat for the smart, critical, dissenting, and formerly idealistic people who are now trying to protect themselves. They are not naive. They tend to see things as they are, they know what is wrong, and they are generally opposed to what they see . . . They know what is going on, and at one point, they might even have tried for a time to change it. But they didn't succeed; things got worse, and they got weary. Their activism, and the commitments and hopes that implied, made them feel vulnerable. So they retreated to cynicism as the refuge from commitment . . .

"Cynicism does protect you in many ways. It protects you from seeming foolish to believe that things could and will

change. It protects you from disappointment. It protects you from insecurity because now you are free to pursue your own security instead of sacrificing it for a social engagement that won't work anyway. Ultimately, cynicism protects you from commitment. If things are not really going to change, why try so hard to make a difference? Why become and stay so involved? Why take the risks, make the sacrifices, open yourself to the vulnerabilities? "Perhaps the only people who view the world realistically are the cynics and the saints. Everybody else may be living in some kind of denial about what is really going on and how things really are. And the only difference between the cynics and the saints is the presence, power, and possibility of hope . . .

"More than just a moral issue, hope is a spiritual and even religious choice. Hope is not a feeling; it is a decision. And the decision for hope is based on what you believe at the deepest levels - what your most basic convictions are about the world and what the future holds - all based on your faith. You choose hope, not as a naive wish, but as a choice, with your eyes wide open to the reality of the world - just like the cynics who have not made the decision for hope."

continued

## The Decision to Hope (Continued)

In today's Gospel, Jesus' hearers cannot believe that such "wisdom" can exist in their midst, that the justice and peace Jesus envisions are simply not possible. They are isolated by their cynicism; hope is beyond their reach, and so they reject Jesus with scorn and ridicule. Jesus calls us - dares us - to embrace "prophetic" hope: to change our perspective, our belief systems, and ourselves in order to realize the possibilities we have for creating God's kingdom of peace and compassion for all his sons and daughters in this time and place of ours.

### "No" to God due to Fear of Rejection



John Quincy Adams, the sixth president of the United States and the son of a former President, reportedly said that he would rather clean filth from the street than become the President. The Old Testament tells us that most of the prophets shared John Quincy Adams' hesitation about their

calling, probably for fear of rejection or failure. **Moses** tried to convince God that he stammered and, hence, could not become Israel's leader. **Jeremiah** complained to God that he was too young. The prophets trembled at the trials ahead of them and that with good reason. (II Chr 36:16, Jer 2: 30, Am 2:12, Mt 23:37, Lk 13:34, I Thes 2: 15, Heb 11: 32 ff.). Jeremiah was threatened with death several times, thrown into a dry cistern, imprisoned, dragged off to exile in Egypt, and, perhaps most painful of all, was forced to watch the destruction of Jerusalem, because its inhabitants would not listen to his message.

At least twice in his lifetime, the prophet **Elijah** gave the warning of God to King Ahab concerning the king's promotion of idolatry. As a result, Elijah was forced to flee into the wilderness where he suffered great privation (I Kg 16: 29- 17: 3; I Kg 18: 16 – 19: 4).

Today's Gospel gives another example of why the prophets did not jump for joy at their career prospects. It describes in five sentences how the people of Nazareth turned from amazement to furious indignation at Jesus' statement of the truth hinting that he was the promised Messiah. Speaking God's truth is a risky business even today. It results in arrests and persecution in Communist and Islamic countries. Insulting the religious beliefs and practices of Christians is perpetrated in developed countries in the name of the freedom of speech.

## Have You Experienced Rejection?

The book *Crossing Over* is the story of the rejection one woman faced when she fell in love with a person outside the Amish Community and ran away to marry him. Ruth Garrett had always been a little rebellious, but not even she could imagine the pain she was about to experience from being shunned by her family and community. Rejection – even the word, has a foreboding sound. Yet, it is an experience with which most, if not all of us, are familiar. Everybody experiences rejection sometime. It may come from a boss, from a peer, from a lover, from a Church, even from strangers who communicate clearly that you are not welcome in certain circles.

*Today's Gospel (Mark 6:1-6), explains how Jesus experienced rejection from his own people. Many people of Jesus' hometown Nazareth did not accept him as a prophet because they knew him and his family. They knew that he was a carpenter with no schooling in Mosaic Law and that he could not be the promised Messiah who would come from Bethlehem as a descendant of David's royal family. Besides, they were angry when Jesus did not work any miracles in Nazareth, chided them with prophetic courage for their lack of faith and warned that he would go to other people to do his preaching and healing ministry.*

### Can Good come out of Tragedy?



A young boy of 9 was sitting in his father's workshop watching his dad work on a harness. "Someday Father," said Louis, "I want to be a harness-maker, just like you." "Why not start now?" said the father. He took a piece of leather and drew a design on it. "Now" he said, "take the hole-punch and hammer out this design, but be careful that you don't hit your hand." Excited, the boy began to work, but when he hit the hole-punch, it flew out of his hand and pierced his eye! He lost his sight in that eye. Later, as fate would have it, sight in the other eye failed. Louis was now totally blind. A few years later, Louis was sitting in the family garden when a friend handed him a pine cone. As he ran his sensitive fingers over the cone, an idea came to him. He became enthusiastic and began to create an alphabet of raised dots on paper so that the blind could feel and interpret. Thus, Louis Braille in 1818 opened up a whole new world for the blind.

What is it that Jesus intends to do during his three years of ministry? It is this: To open up a whole new world for you and for me. To bring us out of our poverty that has long held us down and to restore vision that you and I have long since lost.

## Rejected Politicians who never Gave Up!



**Winston Churchill:** This Nobel Prize-winning, twice-elected Prime Minister of the United Kingdom wasn't always as well regarded as he is today. Churchill struggled in school and failed the sixth grade. In 1894, the rhetoric teacher at

Harrow in England wrote on a 16-year old's grade card: "A conspicuous lack of success." The name on the top of the card was that of young Winston Churchill. After school he faced many years of political failures, as he was defeated in every election for public office until he finally became the Prime Minister at the ripe old age of 62.



**Abraham Lincoln:** While today he is remembered as one of the greatest leaders of our nation, Lincoln's life wasn't so easy. He received no more than 5 years of formal education throughout his lifetime. In his youth he went to war as

captain and returned as the lowest rank of a private! Lincoln joined politics and had 12 major failures before he was elected the 16th President of the United States of America.

**Let us face rejection with prophetic courage and optimism. The story of Jesus' rejection in his own town is a story that we can identify with, because it is a story that has happened to most of us. We might have experienced the pain of rejection caused by hurts, wounds, betrayal, divorce, abandonment, violated trust, trauma, neglect or various forms of abuse. What about rejection by those closest to us? Often our friends, families, or childhood companions fail to listen to, and refuse to accept, the words of grace, love and encouragement that we offer to them, because they are too familiar with us. Hence, they are unable to see us as God's appointed instruments, the agents of God's healing and saving grace. Let us check also the other side of the coin. How often do we discount God's agents through prejudice? How often do we fail to see God's image in them because of our own hardheartedness? We must realize that God's power is always available to transform even the most unlikely people.**

### July 4<sup>th</sup> – Prayer for our Leaders

There are many ways to uphold this gift of freedom. One way is to pray for our leaders. St. Paul urged Timothy "to pray for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity" (2:2).

Here's a prayer that we all can pray today:

*"I thank you Gracious God, for all the ways you have blessed us through the United States. Though our nation is far from*

*perfect, nevertheless, it has been the source of much goodness, both for American citizens and for the world. In particular, I thank you today for the freedom we have to worship you and live out our faith without fear. In today's world, this is nothing to take for granted . . . even though I do so often take it for granted.*

*I pray for our leaders today. I pray for our President and his administration, for those who serve in the House of Representatives and in the Senate, for members of the Supreme Court and the federal courts, for the leaders of the U.S. Military and for all who serve in the federal government. I pray for our State leaders: the Governor, the legislators and the judges. I pray for leaders of our town and county and for all school board members. Grant to all of these and other leaders your wisdom. Give them hearts that seek you and your truth. Guide them in your ways."*

### Michael Jordan was rejected, but ...

**Michael Jordan** is arguably the greatest basketball player of all time. A phenomenal athlete with a unique combination of grace, speed, power, artistry, improvisational ability and an unquenchable competitive desire, Jordan single-handedly redefined the NBA superstar. Before joining the NBA, Jordan was just an ordinary person, so ordinary that he was cut from his high school basketball team because of his "lack of skill." Luckily, Jordan didn't let this setback stop him from playing the game, and he has stated, "I have missed more than 9,000 shots in my career. I have lost almost 300 games. On 26 occasions I have been entrusted to take the game winning shot, and I missed. I have failed over and over and over again in my life. And that is why I succeed."

**We need to handle rejection in the right spirit:** a) **We can handle rejection with respect – respect for ourselves and respect for others. Our first reaction to rejection is often anger – anger at ourselves for assuming we deserve what we got and bitterness toward others who perpetuate the rejection. In the face of rejection, we will be wise to follow the advice of St. Paul who said, "Be angry and sin not. Let not the sun go down on your anger."** b) **We need to avoid self-defeating assumptions. One rejection need not be an indictment on one's life. Rejection is not synonymous with continuous failure. c) We need to avoid magnifying the rejection. Rejection need not be a forecast of our future, and it must not become a self-fulfilling prophecy. Rejection in the past need not be a predictor of rejection in the future. d) We need to avoid allowing rejection to derail our dreams and instead to keep coming back. e) We need to learn from our rejections. We are not perfect, and we do not always get it right, but we need to keep coming back until we do get it right. Every rejection can be a lesson if we stay open to new possibilities and new opportunities. What can I do differently? How can I improve? What needs can I meet? These are the questions we need to ask if we are to prevent a trouble from going to waste.**

## Learn



**2024-2025 Registration**  
**PREK3- OPEN SPOTS**  
**PREK4- LIMITED AVAILABILITY**  
**PLEASE CALL FOR AVAILABILITY IN GRADES K-8**

**St. Matthias School**  
**170 John F. Kennedy Blvd., Somerset, NJ**  
**732-828-1402**

Make a  
donation  
from the  
heart.

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



## 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](mailto:dnann@stmatthias.net)

## TWENTY THREE ST. MATTHIAS SCHOOL FAMILIES PROVIDED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.



The Tuition Angels Committee has wrapped up another year of tuition award assistance for students attending St. Matthias School. For the school year beginning September 2024, twenty-three families will benefit from tuition assistance via this fund. The Tuition Angels Committee provides confidential assistance to parents who are struggling with tuition payments for their child/children to attend St. Matthias School. Many factors lead parents to seek financial assistance, such as loss of jobs, reduced work hours, medical concerns.

All donations to Tuition Angels are provided by the generosity of our St. Matthias parishioners.

Currently, Tuition Angels funds are running low, and we ask for your prayerful consideration of donating to the Tuition Angels fund. If you, or your family, or your children have benefited from Catholic education, at any level, you understand the lasting and positive effects of this experience. If you are the parent of a SMS graduate, please contact them, and ask them to donate, if they are able.

Graduates, parents of graduates, or parishioners who are able to, please donate to this parish managed, confidential fund. Your gift helps a family to continue to provide a strong, Catholic, Christ-centered education to a child.

You may donate through Parish Giving, online, with a check in the donation basket, or a donation mailed to the Parish Office. Simply indicate on the envelope that the donation is for "TUITION ASSISTANCE" and kindly make a note on the check memo line". You may make a one-time donation, or an ongoing regular contribution to the fund.

The school remains alive, and solid, with many new enrollees each year. We want to keep it that way. Our school continues to be a nurturing, vibrant and essential part of our parish community. Your donations will help to assist this critical component.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration of the Tuition Angels fund.



## Pray

### PRAYER FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY

God, source of all freedom, this day is bright with the memory of those that declared that life and liberty are your gift to every human being. Help us to continue the good work begun long ago. Make our vision clear and our will strong; that only in human solidarity will we find liberty, and justice only in the honor that belongs to every life on earth. Turn our hearts towards the family of nations: to understand the ways of others, to offer friendship, and to find safety in the common good for all. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

## Connect

### St. Matthias Church is Looking to Hire a Part-Time Parish Associate for Faith Formation.

The responsibilities include Coordinate religious formation program for families with children K-8. Manage preparation for Baptism, First Reconciliation/First Eucharist and Confirmation. Adult faith formation through parish small groups.

The candidate must be a practicing Catholic, with excellent communication and organizational skills. Computer proficiency especially in Microsoft Office, Google Suite and other digital tools employed in catechetical ministry.

Experience in parish or related pastoral ministry. A degree in Theology, Catechetics, or Religious Education is preferred.

Please send your resume to: Mary Pat Burke-Grospin, Business Admin. at [mpburke-grospin@stmatthias.net](mailto:mpburke-grospin@stmatthias.net)



### Catholic Charities, Diocese of Metuchen launches Mental Health Navigator

This innovative from our Diocese of Metuchen, “Mental Health Navigator program,” is rooted in the principles of Catholic social teaching and it marks a significant step towards providing essential mental health support and resources to those in need.



Funded by the Bishop’s Annual Appeal, the Mental Health Navigator is a free service available to all residents within the four counties of the Diocese of Metuchen (Middlesex, Somerset, Hunterdon, and Warren), regardless of faith or background, to empower individuals to navigate the complexities of common barriers to care.

Since the pandemic, the demand for mental health services has surged. The Mental Health Navigator is designed to offer a lifeline to those within our community who are struggling and need support. Whether people are facing depression, isolation, loss of employment, substance abuse history, or a state of desperation, this initiative of the Catholic Charities is there to help.

The program's design goes beyond mere assistance, offering vital resources and advocacy to ensure individuals receive the care they deserve. Mental Health Navigators will aid residents in determining insurance coverage, provide recommendations for nearby resources, and offer guidance on what to expect when seeking assistance.

With services provided in both English and Spanish, residents in Middlesex County seeking support through the Mental Health Navigator can access the program by calling 732-857-3811 or 908-333-2822 for those residents of Somerset, Hunterdon, and Warren counties. Participants are encouraged to leave a message on a confidential voicemail line, ensuring prompt assistance within 24 hours.

### *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](mailto:jkerekes@diometuchen.org)



# 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 49 - June 2, 2024	\$9,932.68	\$9,865.50	<b>\$19,798.18</b>	\$23,540.25
Week 50 - June 9, 2024	\$11,730.00	\$26,120.00	<b>\$37,850.00</b>	\$34,618.75
Week 51 - June 16, 2024	\$13,137.50	\$14,481.50	<b>\$27,619.00</b>	\$22,281.25
Week 52 - June 23, 2024	\$11,390.00	\$12,065.50	<b>\$23,455.50</b>	\$20,215.25
Week 53 - June 30, 2024			<b>\$0.00</b>	
<b>**The bulletin was in production before the collections were collected due to the 4th of July holiday. An update will be printed in next week's bulletin.</b>			Month-to-date Total	June Total Last Year
			<b>\$108,722.68</b>	\$100,655.50
			Current Year-to-date	Year-to-date as of Jun 30, 2023
			<b>\$1,377,483.73</b>	\$1,394,975.73

**We Crossed Our Goal**

Good news! We have reached 100% of our goal of the Bishop's Annual Appeal. Sincere thanks to our parishioners that made this happen.

**Stewardship Reflection July 7, 2024  
14th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*“As the Lord spoke to me, the spirit entered me and set me on my feet, and I heard the one who was speaking say to me, ‘Son of man, I am sending you...’” Ezequiel 2:2-3*

God has a plan for each of us. He calls us to do something for Him. But, He doesn't leave us on our own to figure it out. He gives us the resources we need to do His work. Are you listening for God's call? When you hear it, do you get on your feet and do the work He asks of you? Do not be afraid. God doesn't call the equipped, he equips the called. Answer His call.

**Reflexiónese - 7 de julio de 2024  
14º Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario**

*Cuando me habló, el Espíritu entró en mí y me mantuvo de pie para que pudiera escuchar al que me hablaba. Me dijo: “Hijo del hombre, yo te envío...” Ezequiel 2:2-3*

Dios tiene un plan para cada uno de nosotros. Nos llama a hacer algo por Él. Sin embargo, no nos deja de nuestra cuenta para resolverlo. Él nos da los recursos que necesitamos para hacer Su obra. ¿Estás escuchando el llamado de Dios? Cuando lo escuchas, ¿te levantas y vas a hacer el trabajo que Él te ha pedido? No tengas miedo, Dios no llama a los que están equipados, Él equipa a los que llama. Responde a su llamado.



**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](http://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](http://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



## Marriage Encounter Weekend - July 19-21, 2024

A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend gives you the time and tools to revitalize romance, deepen communication, and nourish the spirituality in your marriage.

Please apply ASAP as space is limited.

Phone 1-732-904-9636 for application and information (Tom & Ruth DeFalco).

Visit us at: [www.wwme.org](http://www.wwme.org) for more information.



### Wednesday, July 24 SACRED TIME, SACRED SPACE

A personal, quiet day to enjoy God's presence.

Day begins with communal prayer.

Bring a bag lunch.

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

\$20-\$30 as you are able

### Saturday, July 27 A HEART OF COMPASSION

9am-2pm at the House of Prayer

\$50-\$60 as you are able

"As God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion..." Col.3:12

Please come for a gentle journey into the heart of compassion. This day together will explore our human calling to "clothe" ourselves with the virtue of self-compassion and extend that compassion toward all who long for the touch of compassion. Lunch is included.

Presenter: Joan M. Doherty

Joan is a Boundless Compassion Facilitator from Bethlehem, PA trained in 2018 by S. Joyce Rupp based on her teachings and book, Boundless Compassion and has been privileged to offer reflections and retreats on various aspects of compassion.

## Parish Leadership

### Parish Pastoral Council:

#### Co-Chairs:

Frank Rees  
[Frees814@gmail.com](mailto:Frees814@gmail.com)

Marilyn Wegg  
[mcw-wam@comcast.net](mailto:mcw-wam@comcast.net)

### Co-Secretaries:

Stephen Busono  
[sbusono@gmail.com](mailto:sbusono@gmail.com)

Bill Isele  
[t33sm@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto:@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](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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