



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](mailto:abraham@stmatthias.net)
 Mary Pat Burke-Grospin, *Business Administrator*
[mpburke-grospin](mailto:mpburke-grospin@stmatthias.net)

Deacon Ron Caimi, *Senior Deacon*
 Kelly Counts, *Receptionist*, [kcounts](mailto:kcounts@stmatthias.net)
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Vinnie Natale, *Bookkeeper*, [vnatale](mailto:vnatale@stmatthias.net)
 Silvia Nizama, *Housekeeper*
 Deacon John Radvanski, [deaconjohn](mailto:deaconjohn@stmatthias.net)
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Sr. Marie Therese Sherwood, *OSF, Pastoral Assoc. for Social Concerns*, [msherwood](mailto:msherwood@stmatthias.net)

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

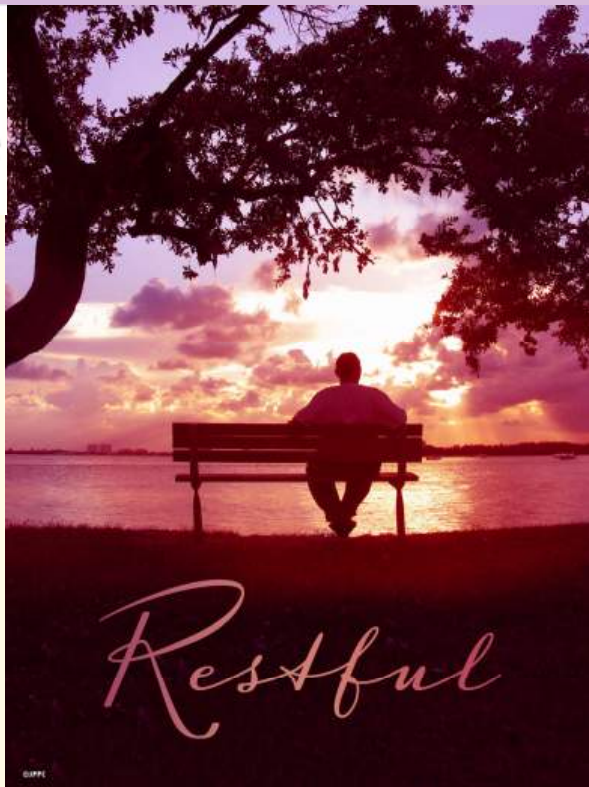
THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS
SUNDAY, JULY 9, 2023-
14th Sunday in Ordinary Time



NEW RCIA CLASS

Do you know any adults (among your family or friends) who needs to receive the Sacraments of Confirmation or Holy Communion?

Please visit page 7 for more information on our program and whom to contact.



Registrations for 2023-2024 GIFT for K-8 Religious Formation, First Eucharist, and Confirmation preparation, are now OPEN.
 Please see page 8 for more details.



Please come join the many who spend some quiet time with the Eucharistic Lord on **Monday evenings from 6 PM to 8 PM.**
 The next weekly Adoration will be on **Monday, July 10th from 6-8 pm.**

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 9, 2023

8:00AM Mass Church
 10:00AM Mass -ASL Interpreter Church
 12:00PM Mass Church

Monday, July 10, 2023 Seven Holy Brothers, Martyrs

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

Tuesday, July 11, 2023 Abbot of the Benedictine Monastery

8:00AM Mass Church
 6:15PM SVDP Off Site

Wednesday, July 12, 2023 St. John Gualbert, Abbot & Founder of Monastery

8:00AM Mass—St. Joseph Novena Church
 2:00PM Alzheimer’s Grp. Mtg. de Porres Rm

Thursday, July 13, 2023 Opt. Memorial— St. Henry III, Holy Roman Emperor

8:00AM Mass Church

Friday, July 14, 2023 Opt. Memorial, St. Camillus De Lellis, Priest

8:00AM Mass Church

Saturday, July 15, 2023 Memorial, St. Bonaventure, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

9:30AM Secular Franciscans de Porres Rm
 10:00AM Caregivers Support Grp. Off Site
 3:30PM Reconciliation Church
 5:00PM Vigil Mass Church

Sunday, July 16, 2023

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



Bulletin Article Requests:

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



Dear Friends,

Pride is a word that can be confusing. There is a positive sense in which we can be proud of many things. Last week we all celebrated July 4th with great pride. We can be proud of our parents, achievements, faith, friends etc. St. Paul could say: “I have reason to be proud of my work for God” (Rom. 15:17). But there is a negative sense in which some people can be “puffed up” or “full of themselves” exhibiting a haughty attitude. C.S. Lewis, whose influence on Christianity is long lasting, wrote: “According to Christian teachers, the essential vice, the utmost evil, is Pride. Unchastity, anger, greed, drunkenness, and all that, are mere flea bites in comparison: it was through Pride that the devil became the devil: Pride leads to every other vice: it is the complete anti-God state of mind... .. it is Pride which has been the chief cause of misery in every nation and every family since the world began” (Mere Christianity, p.111).

But our culture seems to celebrate pride as a virtue whereas humility is seen as a weakness! Thus we see pride and arrogance among many rich and powerful, celebrities and stars, and even among some religious leaders. What does Bible say? “Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.” (Proverbs 16:18). Pride leads to over-confidence and arrogance in one’s own abilities. But it will eventually backfire on the proud because they are unable to see fault in themselves. We all are familiar with stories of “fall from grace” of many contemporary famous personalities.

No wonder, Jesus condemns intellectual pride in today’s gospel and says that the mysteries of the Kingdom are “hidden from the wise and the understanding, but revealed to little children” (Matthew 11:26). He knows that ordinary people with large, sensitive hearts can accept the “Good News” he preaches, while proud intellectuals cannot. Even the learned rabbis of Jesus’ time recognized that the simplest people were often nearer to God than the wisest. They composed stories to show that ordinary people often practiced great love and compassion, for instance, the story of the man who lent his tools to someone in need, or the woman who helped her neighbors. Jesus says that such people will inherit Heaven rather than the learned and the wise who pride themselves on their intellectual achievements but do not love. This is why spiritual masters of all persuasions insist that pride is the devil’s most effective and destructive tool! Let us take to heart what Jesus tells us today: “learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls” (Matthew 11:29)

Our Monday adoration is an opportunity to learn many things from Jesus. One gift we can learn from him is silence. Jesus welcomes us with a listening heart. Prayer is a dialog of talking and listening. We can speak to him in silence. But he will talk to us only when we have quieted our hearts and are completely silent. The more time we spend being with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament in silence, the more we will begin to hear God’s voice. Let us use the Monday adoration for cultivating this gift of silence.

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Orapankal

Readings for the Week

Monday: Gn 28:10-22a; Ps 91:1-2, 3-4, 14-15ab; Mt 9:18-26

Tuesday: Gn 32:23-33; Ps 17:1b, 2-3, 6-7ab, 8b, 15; Mt 9:32-38

Wednesday: Gn 41:55-57; 42:5-7a, 17-24a; Ps 33:2-3, 10-11, 18-19; Mt 10:1-7

Thursday: Gn 44:18-21, 23b-29; 45:1-5; Ps 105:16-17, 18-19, 20-21; Mt 10:7-15

Friday: Gn 46:1-7, 28-30; Ps 37:3-4, 18-19, 27-28, 39-40; Mt 10:16-23

Saturday: Gn 49:29-32; 50:15-26a; Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7; Mt 10:24-33

Sunday: Is 55:10-11; Ps 65:10, 11, 12-13, 14; Rom 8:18-23; Mt 13:1-23 or Mt 13:1-9

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, July 8	5:00PM	Mary Gidaro, by Son, Joseph
Sunday, July 9	8:00AM	Gregory Dolphin, by Pat Dolphin
	10:00AM	Nicandro R. Ventura, by Menchie Ventura & Family
	12:00PM	Intention of Parishioners
Monday, July 10	8:00AM	Vincent DiNicola, by Rita DiNicola
Tuesday, July 11	8:00AM	Joseph Gidaro, by Mary, Doreen & Joseph
Wednesday, July 12	8:00AM	Anker Knudsen, by The Family
Thursday, July 13	8:00AM	Healing for Grace Del Rosario, by Espy
Friday, July 14	8:00AM	Patrizia Nesa, by Rita DiNicola
Saturday, July 15	5:00PM	Intention of Parishioners
Sunday, July 16	8:00AM	Memory of Louie D. Ramas, by Mom
	10:00AM	Martin Clemis, by Pat Dolphin
	12:00PM	Mary Martha Toczek, by The Enright Family

Pray for those who are sick...

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

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

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



An elderly woman at the nursing home received a visit from one of her fellow Church members. "How are you feeling?" the visitor asked. "Oh," said the lady, "I'm just worried sick!" "What are you worried about, dear?" her friend asked. "You look like you're in good health. They are taking care of you, aren't they?" "Yes, they are taking very good care of me." "Are you in any pain?" she asked. "No, I have never had a pain in my life." "Well, what are you worried about?" her friend asked again. The lady leaned back in her rocking chair and slowly explained her major worry. "Every close friend I ever had has already died and gone on to Heaven," she said. "I'm afraid they all may be wondering where I went." 😊

A farmer, who went to a big city to see the sights, asked the hotel's clerk about the time of meals. "Breakfast is served

from 7 to 11, lunch from 12 to 3, and dinner from 6 to 8," explained the clerk. "Look here," inquired the farmer in surprise, "when am I going to get time to see the city?" 😊

Doctor: Your husband needs rest and peace. Here are some sleeping pills. Wife: When must I give them to him? Doctor: No, they are for you 😊

My wife said to me "If I ever get Alzheimers I would commit suicide rather than burdening you with me" I said "Thats the fifth time you've said that today" 😊

Girl: 'When we get married, I want to share all your worries, troubles and lighten your burden.'

Boy: 'It's very kind of you, darling, but I don't have any worries or troubles.'

Girl: 'Well that's because we aren't married yet.' 😊



Parenting Tune-Up

"...all creation is groaning in labor pains even until now." (Romans 8:22) Indeed, we know that the natural world speaks to us of God's being and creative spirit. Choose one way to join with your child to respect creation this week - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.

Marriage Tune-Up



"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened..." (Mt.11:29) One grace of marriage is having a partner who is there for us when one of us feels burdened or discouraged. We may not always respond perfectly, but the opportunity is there. Is there anything burdening your beloved these days?

Work, Play, Love and Worship!

The Mayo Clinic announced a sure cure for getting rid of that tired feeling. Tests revealed that people are chronically tired because they live unbalanced lives. And so they took Dr. Richard Clark Cabot's famous formula for life - WORK, PLAY, LOVE and WORSHIP. These are the ultimate of life that must be held in proper balance - work, play, love and worship. The Mayo Clinic made them a symbol, four arms of equal length. They said that whenever one or more of those arms becomes a stub, then the result in unhappiness, and unhappiness is usually the forerunner of fatigue. Thus, a business man's arm may be long on work but short on play and worship. A debutante's arm may be long on play and short on work. A spinster may be long on work and worship and short on play and love. The old saying that "all work and no play make Jack a dull boy" is psychologically sound. And so, "all work and no worship" leads to chronic fatigue. It's a simple, psychological and physical fact.

Pope Francis' Words of Encouragement

Weep not for what you have lost, fight for what you have.

Weep not for what is dead, fight for what was born in you.

Weep not for the one who abandoned you, fight for who is with you.

Weep not for those who hate you, fight for those who want you.

Weep not for your past, fight for your present struggle.

Weep not for your suffering, fight for your happiness.

With things that are happening to us, we begin to learn that nothing is impossible to solve, just move forward.



“Lord, I've done the best I can.”



Pope St. John XXIII during the Second Vatican Council days used to submit all his anxieties to God by this prayer every night: “Lord, Jesus, I’m **going to bed. It’s your Church. Take care** of it!” The President Dwight David Eisenhower knew about that inner rest derived from submitting daily lives to God. He had it even while he was the leader of armed forces in World War II. His every decision during that awful conflict had monumental consequences. How did he deal with the pressure? Ike shared with his former pastor, Dean Miller that he didn't try to carry his burden alone. Some nights when the strain became too great, Eisenhower would simply pray, "Lord, with your grace I've done the best I can. You take over until morning." And he understood very well Jesus’ advice in today’s Gospel: **“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11: 28).**

We need to be freed from unnecessary burdens: Life's greatest burden is not having too much to do, nor having too much to care. Some of the happiest folk are the busiest and those who care the most. Rather, the greatest burden we have is our constant engagement with the trivial and the unimportant, with the temporary and the passing and with the ultimately uncontrollable and unpredictable. The issue in life is not whether we shall be burdened, but with what we shall be burdened. The question is not “Shall we be yoked?” but “To what and with whom shall we be yoked?” Jesus has no interest in unburdening us from our exaggerated self-esteem and from other modern infatuations (which are themselves debilitating burdens), in order to leave us with nothing to carry, no work to do. Instead, Jesus is interested in lifting off our backs the burdens that drain us and suck the life out of us, so that he can place around our necks his own yoke, his burden, that brings to us and to others through us, new life, new energy, new joy. God's incomparable, compassionate forgiveness is a gift that releases us into life with God as responsible human beings who want to grow deeper in love and joyful obedience. We are called not only to find peace, refreshment and rest for ourselves, but also to live the kind of life through which others, too, may find God's peace, God's refreshing grace, and the joy of placing their lives in God's hands.

Disturbing statistics on stress

A few years ago, The Comprehensive Care Corporation of Tampa, Florida published a booklet about stress in our modern world. The facts are disturbing. (1) One out of four (that’s 25% of Americans) suffers from mild to moderate depression, anxiety, loneliness and other painful symptoms which are attributed mainly to stress. (2) Four out of five

adult family members see a need for less stress in their daily lives. (3) Approximately half of all diseases can be linked to stress-related origins, including ulcers, colitis, bronchial asthma, high blood pressure and some forms of cancer. (4) Unmanaged stress is a leading factor in homicides, suicides, child abuse, spouse abuse and other aggravated assaults. (5) The problem of stress is taking a tremendous toll economically, also. Americans are now spending 64.9 billion dollars a year trying to deal with the issue of stress. That is why Jesus shared the “Good News” with us a long time ago when He said: **“Come to me all of you who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11: 28).**

We need to unload our burdens before the Lord. One of the effects of Worship for many of us is that it gives us a time for rest and refreshment when we let the overheated radiators of our hectic lives cool down before the Lord. This is especially true when we unload the burdens of our sins and worries on the altar and offer them to God during the Holy Mass. But whether we are in Church, alone in our quiet spot where we come before God each day, in our homes or in the homes of our friends and neighbors, we find that prayer and Christian fellowship bring us the rest and refreshment that we all need so much. There is nothing quite like coming to the Lord and setting aside our burdens for a while - nothing quite like having our batteries recharged, our radiators cooled down and our spirits lifted. Jesus promises rest from the burdens that we carry - rest from the burdens of sins, legalism and judgment, from the weight of anxiety and worry, from the yoke of unrewarding labor and from the endless labor for that which cannot satisfy. The absolution and forgiveness which we receive as repentant sinners take away our spiritual burden and enable us to share the joy of the Holy Spirit.

“If I keep my bow always stretched, it will break.”

Once, St. Anthony the hermit was relaxing with his disciples outside his hut when a hunter came by. The hunter was surprised and mildly shocked to see the saint taking it easy. This was not his idea of what a monk should be doing, and he rebuked the saint. But Anthony said, "Bend your bow and shoot an arrow." The hunter did so. "Bend it again and shoot another," said Anthony. The hunter did so— again and again. At last the hunter said, "Father Anthony, if I keep my bow always stretched, it will break." "So it is with a monk," replied Anthony. "If we push ourselves beyond measure, we will break; it is right from time to time to relax our efforts." Jesus gives us the same message in today’s Gospel.

Accept the light burden of Jesus’ teaching: "My burden is light" (11:30). Jesus does not mean that the burden is easy to carry, but that it is laid on us in love. This burden is meant to be carried in love, and love makes even the heaviest burden light. When we remember the love of God, when we know

Continued

Reflect

“If I keep my bow always stretched (cont’d)

that our burden is to love, both directly and by loving men, the God Who loves us, then the burden becomes easy. Jesus is returning to the simplicity of God's original Covenant and Law, giving people what they need to guide them on their path easily. By following Jesus, a man will find peace, rest, and refreshment. Although we are not overburdened by the Jewish laws, we are burdened by many other things: business, concerns about jobs, marriage, money, health, children, security, old age and a thousand other things. Jesus' concern for our burdens is as real as his concern for the law-burdened Jews of his day. "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens and I will give you rest" (11: 28). Jesus still gives us rest! Is Jesus calling on those who are carrying heavy loads to come and add a yoke to their burden? Doesn't that sound like adding affliction to the afflicted? No; Jesus is asking us to cast away our burdens and take on his yoke. This is because, unlike the burdens we bear, his yoke is easy and his burden light. The yoke of Jesus is the love of God. By telling us: "Take my yoke . . . and you will find rest" (11:29), Christ is asking us to do things the Christian way. When we center in God, when we follow God's commandments, we have no heavy burdens.

Worriers or Warriors?

Author Stephanie Stokes Oliver in her book, *Daily Cornbread*, asks whether we are worriers or warriors. Chronic worriers let their anxiety and fear interfere with living their life to the fullest. They manifest their worry in physical symptoms like headaches and knotted muscles. Worriers seem unable to take control of their situation and make a positive change for themselves. Warriors, on the other hand, find healthy ways to deal with their fears. They don't automatically shut down and go into crisis mode. They trust that God will sustain them. Warriors take positive action to change a negative situation. (Stephanie Stokes Oliver, New York: Doubleday, 1999). Astronaut Jim Lovell is a warrior. In a news conference, he was asked about Apollo 13. He was in command of that spacecraft when it experienced an explosion on its way to the moon. With their oxygen almost gone, their electrical system out, their spaceship plunging toward lunar orbit, it appeared Lovell and his crew would be marooned hundreds of thousands of miles from Earth. Lovell was asked, "Were you worried?" Such as obvious question drew snickers. But then Lovell gave a surprising answer. "No, not really." he said. "You see, worry is a useless emotion. I was too busy fixing the problem to worry about it. As long as I had one card left to play, I played it." [*Second Thoughts--One Hundred Upbeat Messages for Beat-up Americans* by Mort Crim (Health Communication, Inc., Deerfield Beach, Florida, 1997), p. 154]. Jim Lovell is a warrior.

“Veni, vidi, dormivi”

National Public Radio had a story about a club that has been formed at a high school in Greenwich, Connecticut. The club is called the Power Nap Club! A group of students go to a room at the end of the school day where they turn off the lights, put their heads on their desks, plug in a tape of quiet classical music, and take what they call a “power nap” for about a half hour. “Their club tee-shirts are decorated with a cardinal (the school mascot), wearing a little nightcap on his head. Inscribed on the tee-shirt is a new version of an old Latin motto, ‘Veni, vidi, dormivi: I came, I saw, I slept!’ The club was formed not because these are lazy high school students, but exactly the reverse. These kids are going to school all day, participating in sports, volunteering in the community, going to church or mosque or synagogue, and holding down part-time jobs. They’re exhausted. And they’ve learned that just a little nap makes all the difference in the world” (Carlton Young).

In the Gospel today, Jesus offers rest to those “who labor and are burdened” if they will accept his “easy yoke and light burden.” By declaring that his “yoke is light,” Jesus means that whatever God sends us is made to fit our needs and our abilities exactly. The second part of Jesus’ claim is: “My burden is light.” Jesus does not mean that the burden is easy to carry, but that it is laid on us in love and is meant to be carried in love, and that love makes even the heaviest burden light.

Parish News/Updates



Part-Time General Maintenance Person

St. Matthias is looking for a **part-time general maintenance person.**

This employee will be responsible for maintaining the safety and cleanliness of the church/school.

Please contact **Mary Pat Burke-Grospin** at:
mpburke-grospin@stmatthias.net

or

(732) 828-1400 ext.121.

From the Pastoral Staff

Our Responsorial Psalm today, Psalm 89, is one of my favorites, of course - "Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord."

Our Sunday 10:00 Choir, our Folk Group, our Children's Choir and Handbell Choirs are on a short summer break after "singing the goodness of the Lord" together since September.

I am proud of how we ministered together this past year as St. Matthias Music Ministry. A highlight of our year was our 60th Anniversary Concert in November at which we premiered a new composition RISE by our Compose-in-Residence and Assistant Conductor **Chris Rath**. We are so privileged to have the opportunity to sing original compositions- there are not many music ministries in the diocese who have that privilege.

We sang Chris' anthem RISE again at the Easter Vigil with energy and spirit. His lyrics soared and his wonderful melody helped us celebrate the Resurrection in a whole new way.

Our Children's Choir sang many times throughout the year, blessing our liturgies with their exuberant voices. Our Handbell Choir, under the direction of **Sandy Hayes Licitra** played most beautifully on Easter Sunday, ringing three solo pieces at the 12:00 Mass- a new record! And our Umoja Imani Gospel Choir Director **Aaron Brown** helped us celebrate in authentic Gospel style at our Masses for

St. Martin de Porres , Black History Month and Confirmation .

So it is indeed a time for a little rest- although we are fully aware that the work of the Lord is not on an academic calendar!

But now we get to enjoy our most favorite sound of all - YOUR sound- the sound of our assembly "singing the goodness of the Lord" at Mass each week. Every week during the summer, our faithful, dedicated cantors will lead us in prayer and song. Summer is the time for familiar music like what we sang today- All Are Welcome All Belong and 10,000 Reasons, which were, by the way, among the most popular choices for our "Favorite Song" survey that we took at the Ministry Fair in May.

It's also a good time for you readers who are musicians but have not joined us yet, to consider how much better we would sound if YOU were a member of one of our choirs, or volunteered YOUR service as a cantor or instrumentalist.

Want to talk about music and how/where you are your skills would fit in best? I'm here just waiting for your call or email...

Joan Best Seamon, Pastoral Associate for Liturgical Music, St. Matthias Church; 732-828-1400, ext.107; jseamon@stmnatthias.net.



Pray



QUO VADIS SUMMER CAMP

Dear Parents of Teen Boys,

July 11-14 is our High School Quo Vadis summer camp for boys. We

have changed the venue to Camp Shiloh in Hewitt, NJ. This will provide fun activities like rock climbing, hiking, swimming, volleyball, basketball, etc., in addition to prayer, fellowship, and witness.

Please consider encouraging your son to attend our annual Quo Vadis summer camp in July, it is free!

This is a great opportunity for young men to have fun with their friends and develop the tools to be able to think/pray about where God may be calling them in their life, particularly major life decisions, like college choices, career paths, etc. Please register ASAP.

Quo Vadis 2023 <https://diometuchen.org/quovadis>



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

Connect



“Save the Date”! DANIEL LIVE ON STAGE

The Senior Ministry and St. Martin DePorres Society will be hosting a trip to Lancaster, PA to see: “DANIEL LIVE ON STAGE” at the Sight & Sound Theater on Saturday, 4/20/2024.

[More details to follow...](#)



Learn



2023-2024 GIFT for K-8 Religious Formation

<https://forms.gle/hgirKfxZYp7hMFGj6>

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 at 2023-2024 GIFT for K-8 Religious Formation. www.stmatthias.net/faith-formation/

Please register your family/children in grades K-8. This year we are planning to offer 2 sessions each month: on Tuesday evening's at 6:30PM; and on Sunday afternoons at 2PM. You choose which one of the two sessions to attend.

The fees for the program are noted on the parish website page. Please register online; the fee can also be paid online.

Please note: *GIFT is required for all children in grades 1-8 who are not attending a Catholic school; it is optional for kindergarten students. It is required also during the sacramental prep years.*



Communion

Attention 2nd Graders:

First Eucharist Preparation 2023-2024

<https://forms.gle/K4jTK2GeD56jY7uWg>

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. Typically, classes are held for all children and at least one parent on certain Sunday mornings in the St. John XXIII room [school building] and certain classrooms following the 10AM Mass (required) for families in church. First Reconciliation is celebrated in January 2024 and there will also be a retreat for parents and child in the spring. Be sure to register early.

The sacramental preparation fee for this program is \$80. The 2023-2024 Registration for First Eucharist/First Reconciliation is available online at <https://www.stmatthias.net/first-eucharist-first-reconciliation/> Questions? Please email Dee Nann at dnann@stmatthias.net or call the Parish Office, 732-828-1400.



Confirmation

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

Confirmation Preparation 2023-2024

<https://forms.gle/dkFT9GsdmxR4EDjZA>

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 <https://www.stmatthias.net/confirmation/>.

A parent meeting for 7th grade (or year one) parents will be held in November for all registered 7th graders-or those in Year 1 of Confirmation Preparation who may be a bit older. **Questions?** Please email Dee Nann at dnann@stmatthias.net

Learn

BEFORE and AFTER SCHOOL DIRECTOR POSITION AVAILABLE

Saint Matthias School is looking for a director for our before and after school program for the 2022-2023 school year. This is a part-time position for an individual who enjoys working with children and who has some managerial experience. The hours are 2:00-6:00, Monday to Friday. If you are interested, please phone the school at 732-828-1402, extension 144 or send an email to mlynch@stmatthiasnj.org.

School Advisory Council is Looking for New Members



The School Advisor Council (SAC) is looking for new members. St. Matthias Parish members, who would want to contribute some of their time and expertise to help advise the Pastor and the Principal in making

St. Matthias School better today, and well prepared for the future, are welcome. The individuals could be past, or current SMS parents or grandparents, who care deeply about the elementary and middle school Catholic education. Experience in education, finance, accounting, technology, engineering, property management, healthcare, procurement, or human resources is welcome.

The council generally meets once a month (6-7 times a year), in person and/or via zoom. The principal, the vice-principal and the pastor report on the current status and challenges. The council discusses the current issues and the

ways to position the school in a better place for the future. The topics like academics, marketing, enrollment, technology and grounds improvements, giving (Tuition Angels, The Annual Fund) and others are discussed. The council member term is 3 years. As we currently have a few members close to the end of their term, we are looking to fill multiple positions.

Interested individuals can contact current interim chair Peter Kostik (peter.kostik@gmail.com) who will then present the candidates to Fr. Abraham and Principal Mrs. Lynch for approval. If you feel, you would be a good contributor, please pray about it, and reach out to us, as we strive to be a diverse team of advisors (in culture and experience) who use their time and talent to assist the school administration in making SMS the best it can be.

SAC website - <https://stmatthias.info/school-advisory-council>

Give (and Receive!)

Stewardship Reflection July 9, 2023 114th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“For my yoke is easy, and my burden light.”-Matthew 11:30

When we think of being good stewards, we may think that God is asking too much of us when He calls us to generously share our time, talent and treasure. However, we must remember that we are not “owners” of anything, we are merely “stewards” of the gifts God has given us. All He is asking is that we give back a small portion, in gratitude, of what He has already given to us.

Reflexiónese 9 de julio de 2023 14º domingo del Tiempo Ordinario

“Porque Mi yugo es fácil y Mi carga ligera.”- Mateo 11:30

Cuando pensamos que debemos ser buenos administradores, podemos pensar que Dios está pidiendo demasiado de nosotros cuando nos llama generosamente a compartir nuestro tiempo, talento y tesoro. Sin embargo, debemos recordar que no somos “propietarios” de nada, somos simples “administradores” de los dones que Dios nos ha otorgado. Todo lo que Él nos pide es que, en gratitud, devolvamos una pequeña parte de lo que Él nos ha dado.

Stewardship Totals for Fiscal Year July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023				Last Year's Total
Current Month	In-Pew/Mail	Parish Giving	Weekly Total	Weekly Total
Week 49 - June 4, 2023	\$9,285.00	\$14,255.25	\$23,540.25	\$36,320.75
Week 50 - June 11, 2023	\$9,270.00	\$25,348.75	\$34,618.75	\$29,165.25
Week 51 - June 18, 2023	\$10,173.00	\$12,108.25	\$22,281.25	
Week 52 - June 25, 2023	\$8,865.00	\$11,350.25	\$20,215.25	
			Month-to-date Total	June Total Last Yr
			\$100,655.50	\$65,486.00
Building R & R Collection: \$2,304.00			Current Year-to-date	Year-to-date as of
			\$1,394,975.73	\$1,322,499.06

Connect with Our Local Community



ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP MEETS IN PERSON, ON 7/12 AT 2 PM!

LET'S CELEBRATE SUMMER AND ENJOY EACH OTHER'S COMPANY AND SOME FOOD!

The Alzheimer's Association and Saint Matthias Catholic Church are co-hosting a monthly Support Group for people living with Alzheimer's and Dementia and their care partners. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, July 12th, from 2 pm-3:30 pm in the dePorres room in the Parish Office building at St. Matthias Church in Somerset. Registration is required. To register, call 800-272-3900 and mention the St. Matthias group. The Group provides a safe and supportive environment and offers dementia-related education, emotional support, and connections with resources so that the group members may enhance their lives in the midst of the journey.

For more information, visit alz.org/NJ.



1. SACRED TIME, SACRED SPACE Thursday, July 12 from 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Also on August 3

A personal, quiet day to enjoy God's presence. Day begins with communal prayer. Bring a bag lunch. (\$20-\$30 as you are able)

2. WOMEN'S SPIRITUAL SPA DAY Saturday, July 22 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. In person program.

This nourishing retreat day will include various forms of prayer and mindfulness meditation.

We will come together to practice breathing techniques, gentle movement, eating, walking, art and journaling. Lunch is included. (\$50-\$60 as you are able)



Consider joining Sr. Marie O'Hagan, SSJ, our beloved former St. Matthias staff member for one or both of these most interesting spiritual offerings!

The Beauty of Grace

You are invited to a spiritual book club exploring Russ Ramsey's book, **Rembrandt is in the Wind**. Ramsey introduces us to nine artists whose artistic gifts, as well as their own life experiences, have created entry points for God's grace. Club meetings are: **on ZOOM**, from 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM on Wednesdays: 9/13, 9/27, 10/11, 10/25, 11/15 and 11/29. Cost is \$60.00.

If interested, contact **Sister Marie O'Hagan, SSJ** at, plaidmoh@gmail.com.

A Heart-Centered Life

You are invited to a spiritual book club exploring Kevin O'Brien, S.J.'s newest book, **Seeing with the Heart**. Not one of us takes our vision for granted. Where would we be if we could not see? Through O'Brien's writings we have the opportunity of learning ways to use our heart's vision, to see God, to see life, to see others and to see ourselves ever more clearly!

If interested, contact **Sister Marie O'Hagan, SSJ** at, plaidmoh@gmail.com.

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, 10/25

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Tuesday, 11/08

Tuesday, 11/15

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