



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

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

Mass Schedule (in person):

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

St. Matthias School (SMS):

170 JFK Blvd., Somerset, NJ 08873
www.stmatthias.info 732-828-1402
School Office Hours, Monday - Friday,
7:45 AM - 3:30 PM

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, rdemkovitz
Nathalie Godet, Website & Bulletin Editor,
ngodet

Leslie Guillen, Bulletin Coordinator, lguillen
Amy Hanna, Accountant/Databases, ahanna
Mike Lanyi, Sacristan

Sue Lenczewski, Youth Coordinator, SMYLE
Julio Montero, Maintenance Supervisor
Dolores R. Nann, Pastoral Associate for
Faith Formation, dnann

Vinnie Natale, Bookkeeper, vnatale
Silvia Nizama, Housekeeper

Deacon John Radvanski, deaconjohn
Joan Best Seamon, Pastoral Associate for
Music Ministry, jseamon

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, JUNE 16, 2024
11th Sunday in Ordinary Time

**THE KINGDOM OF GOD
IS TRANSFORMATIVE**



**PLEASE COME JOIN THE MANY WHO SPEND SOME
QUIET TIME WITH THE EUCHARISTIC LORD.
OUR NEXT ADORATION WILL BE
MONDAY EVENING, JUNE 17, 2024
FROM 6 PM TO 8 PM.**

This Week @ St. Matthias

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, Jun 16, 2024 Father's Day

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

Monday, Jun 17, 2024 St. Emily De Vialar, Founder of Sisters of St. Joseph of the Apparition Camp Invention Begins today

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

Tuesday, Jun 18, 2024 Sts. Marcus & Marcellianus, Martyrs

8:00AM	Mass	Church
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Wednesday, Jun 19, 2024 St. Juliana Falconieri, Founder of Servite Tertiary Juneteenth Day

8:00AM	Mass	St. Joseph Novena	Church
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Thursday, Jun 20, 2024 St. Silverius, Pope & Martyr

8:00AM	Mass	Church
10:00AM	Prayer Shawl Ministry	Ruiz Rm

Friday, Jun 21, 2024 St. Aloysius Gonzaga, Religious

8:00AM	Mass	Church
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Saturday, Jun 22, 2024 St. Paulinus, Bishop

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

Sunday, Jun 23, 2024

All Day- Service WorX Begins

8:00AM	Mass	Church
10:00AM	Mass -Interpreter	Church
12:00PM	Mass	Church
3:30PM	SMYLE Youth Group	Cafeteria



Bulletin Article Requests:

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

A Message From Our Pastor

Dear Friends,

After honoring mothers last month, today we honor fathers. For children, it is a day to show appreciation and gratitude for their fathers and father-figures. For adults, it is a day to recall and appreciate the hard work of the fathers and husbands in their lives. We offer our dads, living or dead, on the altar of God during the Holy Mass and invoke our heavenly Father's blessings on them. At a time when the Fathers' role in the family and in the society is not fully appreciated, it is good that today we can celebrate, congratulate and pray for the men who continue to reflect the Divine qualities of fatherhood as they lovingly establish, nourish and maintain their families.

Many studies have demonstrated how important a father is to his child's development. Children with fathers present have lower rates of delinquency, drug and alcohol use, teen pregnancy, and so on, than those with absent fathers. The father's presence is also a significant positive factor in children's getting a college education, finding a satisfying job, and making a lasting marriage. Psychotherapists today are saying that both parents are vitally important to the stable development of their children; the mother's input is invaluable in the formative pre-adolescent years but the father's most important influence is at adolescence. Most single mothers, who do an excellent job of parenting, say that it is very difficult to teach their children about the meaning of God the Father who seems so impersonal because their children have been abandoned by their natural fathers. Adolescent daughters long to hear from their fathers that they are beautiful and loved. In fact, a girl's choice of partner and satisfaction in marriage is often directly related to the relationship she has had with her father.

While we honor our earthly fathers, we, as Christians, look up to God as our model of fatherhood. So what does the Bible say about it? Check out these verses on the fatherhood of God: Matthew 5:45; 6:9, 32; Romans 1:7; 15:6; 1 Corinthians 8:6.

There are many instances that speak of Jesus Christ, the Son, honoring His Father and honoring the will of His Father (e.g., John 17:1 and John 17:5).

The apostle Paul taught that to honor one's earthly father is not only a commandment but the first commandment that, when obeyed, has a promise of things going well and living long on the earth. "Honor your father and mother—which is the first commandment with a promise—that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth" (Ephesians 6:2-3).

I invite us all to have a look at a few more Biblical references to fathers: Exodus 20:12, Sirach 3:1-16, Matthew 19:16-22, John 1:14, 2 Cor. 6:16-18, Ephesians 6: 1-4, 1 Thessalonians. 2:11 – 12.

The most important lesson that a father can inculcate in his children is to develop a loving relationship with God. All fathers can heed this advice of St. Paul: "Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord." (Ephesians 6:4). When fathers take this responsibility seriously, there will be more unity, love, peace and harmony in families.

Happy Father's Day!

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Orapankal



Readings for the Week

Monday 1 Kgs 21:1-16 Ps 5:2-3ab, 4b-6a, 6b-7 Mt 5:38-42

Tuesday 1 Kgs 21:17-29 Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 11 and 16 Mt 5:43-48

Wednesday 2 Kgs 2:1, 6-14 Ps 31:20, 21, 24 Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday Sir 48:1-14 Ps 97:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7 Mt 6:7-15

Friday 2 Kgs 11:1-4, 9-18, 20 Ps 132:11, 12, 13-14, 17-18 Mt 6:19-23

Saturday 2 Chr 24:17-25 Ps 89:4-5, 29-30, 31-32, 33-34 Mt 6:24-34

Sunday Jb 38:1, 8-11 Ps 107:23-24, 25-26, 28-29, 30-31 2 Cor 5:14-17 Mk 4:35-41

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, June 15	5:00PM	50th Anniversary Blessings for Bob & Joann Urban, by The Children & Grandchildren
Sunday, June 16	8:00AM	Intention of Parishioners
	10:00AM	Hugh Scott, by The Scott Family
	12:00PM	Theodora Woods, by Mary & Jim Woods
Monday, June 17	8:00AM	Sylvannus Ibe, by Ngozi
Tuesday, June 18	8:00AM	James Angolio, by Sharon & Tom Gleason
Wednesday, June 19	8:00AM	Gil Ossandon, by The Family
Thursday, June 20	8:00AM	Karen & Patrick on their Wedding Anniversary, by Anne Marie Francis
	8:00AM	Health & Blessings for Ysabel Godet, by Mom & Grandmére
Friday, June 21	8:00AM	Ephrem Eads, by The Family
Saturday, June 22	5:00PM	Ernesta Macri, by Julia Barbiero & Family
Sunday, June 23	8:00AM	Philip & Rose Gessner, by Eugene & Maryann Gessner
	10:00AM	Intention of Parishioners
	12:00PM	William Dolphin, by Wife & 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.

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

Pray for those who have died...

— “His mercy endures forever.” Chronicles

Eugene “Gene” Horan

Reflect



Smile with Your Family



Dad, you made me who I am today—sarcastic, hilarious and addicted to eating ice cream out of the tub at midnight.

(I am your kid!) 😊

A small boy was at the zoo with his father. At the tigers' cage, his father was telling him how ferocious they were. "Daddy, if the tigers got out and ate you up..." "Yes, son?" the father asked, ready to console him. And the son asked: "... Which bus would I take home?" 😊

One morning my neighbor's four-year-old asked him: "Why are you making Mommy breakfast? Is she sick?" "No, dear," replied her father, "it's Mother's Day." "Oh," she said, "then is every other day Father's Day?" 😊

Father to teenage son: "No, you can't use the car—but please feel free to use the lawnmower." 😊

Dad: "My doctor told me I've really grown as a person." Mom: Come on, what did the doctor really tell you?" Dad: "Well, her exact words were that I "gained excess weight." 😊

Where do daddy deer stop for coffee? Starbucks. 😊

After our dad's death, we opened his will. We were in for a shock as we read it: "Being of sound mind, I spent all the money." 😊

A Father's Day Card read: "Being a father can be expensive, time-consuming, frustrating, confusing and emotionally draining. Actually, it's a lot like golf." 😊



Parenting Tune-Up

"Our Father, who art in heaven..." Note that we say "Our" Father not "My" Father since God is father to all the children of the earth. Yes, remember your own father on June 17, but also remember those children whose father is absent, unemployed, deployed in a foreign land, abusive, or in some other way not present. Can you be like a father to someone who needs you?

Marriage Tune-Up



Summer is almost here. Traditionally this is a time of rest and vacations. Have you planned a get-away for just the two of you? Even if you can't take a "real" vacation fantasize together about a dream vacation either at home or away. A staycation counts.

"Impossible is not in God's Dictionary

You remember David, a pre-teen shepherd boy, taking down the mighty soldier Goliath? You remember Moses, the stuttering herdsman who, in a personal interview with God, was directed to liberate his nation from a two-thousand-year-old nation? As a boy, Thomas Edison was informed by a teacher that he was too stupid to learn anything. His teacher advised his mother to take him out of school. Albert Einstein seemed so slow and dull that his parents feared that he was mentally deficient. Winston Churchill was admitted to school in the lowest level classes and never moved out of the lowest group in all the years he attended Harrow. But the word "impossible" is not in God's dictionary. Eighty percent of success is perseverance. How do you think Michelangelo got the angel out of the rock? The most successful salespersons are those who try and try again. Walt Disney was fired from his first job because he didn't have any good ideas. Abraham Lincoln entered the Black Hawk War as a captain and came out a private. George Washington Carver, a little known Afro-American agricultural scientist, revolutionized the agriculture of the Southern United States with the peanut and the sweet potato.

Today's Gospel teaches us how God causes His Kingdom to grow in human hearts and communities in a slow but steady way. We need not get discouraged: Since the acceptance God's rule by human beings is a very slow process, there is the danger of discouragement and hopelessness among preachers, evangelizers and believers. The conviction that growth of the Kingdom of God is the work of the Holy Spirit with our humble cooperation should make us optimistic in continuing our work of bearing witness to Him. We can all plant tiny seeds in the form of words of love, acts of encouragement, and deeds of charity, mercy and forgiveness. Parents and teachers can plant a lot of seeds in the minds of their children and students. The Holy Spirit will touch the hearts of the recipients of these seeds sown by us and will effect growth of the kingdom in their souls and lives. As the apostle Paul once said of his ministry, *Neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth*. (1 Corinthians 3:7)

A Bowl of the Seasons

"[The kingdom of God] is like a mustard seed . . . the smallest of all the seeds on earth [but] springs up and becomes the largest of plants and puts forth large branches, so the birds of the sky can dwell in its shade." Mark 4: 26-34

The bowl sat on the piano in the center of their farmhouse. Their mother had placed a large fluted glass vase in the center; the vase was large enough to hold entire branches. The bowl reflected the unfolding of each season: silver pussy willows in March, apple blossoms in May, ivory dogwood and magnolia branches in the summer, oak leaves in the fall, holly and red berries at Christmas. The bowl was her pride and the seasonal centerpiece of the house - but she insisted that the bowl hold only what she and her children cut and gathered from the land around them. Gifts of flowers from family and friends would be placed elsewhere in the house; the bowl in the heart of their home was reserved for the beauty around them.

Filling the bowl during the year was a family adventure. Writing in *The Boston Globe* [March 28, 2018], Leila Philip of the College of the Holy Cross, remembers those walks with her mother and siblings:

"Like most things in a large family, getting out of the house involved a great deal of bustle and excitement, and hullabaloo - the finding of socks and boots, hats and lost mittens, the calling of the dogs, does someone have clippers? - Then off we'd go.

"When I was younger, I thought my mother's insistence of never buying cut flowers was another facet of her inherited thrift. A child in the Depression, a teenager at the outbreak of World War II, a professor's daughter, my mother was generous, but rarely bought luxuries. It wasn't until she died that I realized that her bowl and our seasonal walks through the farm were her way of teaching us how to have a connection to the natural world around us, and an awareness of the seasons, our planet's movement, and ours, through time. "It's been a year since my mother died, and I'm nowhere near ready to let her go. I walk down our road to a neighbor's farm, looking for glimmers of silver pussy willows in the swamp, the way my mother taught me."

A mother teaches her children to appreciate the gifts of God in their midst in their walks on their farm and through the woods and pond near their home. The bowl and its contents reflected the spirit of gratitude for the lives each member of the family had been given by God and the bounty of the earth to sustain their lives. Jesus calls us to embrace the joy of such gratitude: though we "know not how" God makes the grain grow and the sun rise and the rain fall, we do know *why*: all of creation, the perfect and complete love that is and of God that compels God to set

all of creation into motion and to breathe that love into our souls and set us on this life of ours.

A Parable of Encouragement

The parable of the mustard seed is a word of encouragement for us. Things might not be what you and I want them to be, but there is still hope. God works in mysterious ways. God is still with us even when our efforts are frustrated, because He is the source of growth. Growth often starts out small like a mustard seed and then blossoms into something huge.

The second thing these words of Jesus do is to remind us that while we are called to do something, we are not called to do everything. We scatter the seed, but the growth is up to God. The same process works in the Christian life. We practice daily prayer and Bible reading. We find ways to be of service to others. We pledge money and time to the Church and charitable purposes. We join the people of God at the altar regularly. These are some of the seeds that God uses to mold and shape our lives in love, peace and hope. But the shaping happens at God's own pace and as we are able to cooperate with Him.

The Father's Blessing


Gary Smalley, popular author and psychologist, asked 100 people, "What is one specific way you knew that you had received your parents' blessing?" Here are some of those answers:

1. "My father would put his arm around me at church and let me lay my head on his shoulder."
2. "When my father was facing being transferred at work, he purposely took another job so that I could finish my senior year in high school at the same school."
3. "When I wrecked my parent's car, my father's first reaction was to hug me and let me cry instead of yelling at me."
4. "When I was thirteen, my dad trusted me to use his favorite hunting rifle when I was invited to go hunting with a friend and his father."
5. "My father went with me when I had to take back an ugly dress a saleswoman had talked me into buying."
6. "My father would let me practice pitching to him for a long time when he got home from work."
7. "Even though I had never seen him cry before, my father cried during my wedding because he was going to miss me no longer being at home."

"Don't ever stop; it means a lot to those around you!"

In a restaurant, a family of five bowed their heads in prayer before beginning to eat. One of the children, a girl of about ten, expressed thanks for the entire family in a hushed voice, her head bobbing expressively. A few moments later a couple, on their way to pay their check, paused at the family's table. "It's been a long time since we've seen anyone do that," said the man, extending his hand to the father. The father smiled and replied, "It was strange at first, but we always express thanks at home before we eat. The children continued it when we went to restaurants, so we just went along with it, and now it's our way." The woman who had come up to the table patted the little girl on the shoulder and, obviously touched, looked at the mother and said, "Don't ever stop. It means a lot to those around you."

It seems like such a little thing, but it was a witness. The seeds of the Kingdom are little, and we are called to scatter them. We need to cooperate in the growth of God's Kingdom: The Kingdom of God is the growth of God's rule in human hearts that occurs when man does the will of God and surrenders his life to God. The seed of Faith lies dormant within each of us. When we permit the Holy Spirit to nurture it with TLC (tender loving care), it grows miraculously into gigantic proportions. The growth is slow and microscopic in the beginning. But this seed grows by using the power of the Holy Spirit, given to us through the word of God, the Mass, the Sacraments and prayer. As we learn God's will from His words and try to put these words into practice, we participate in the growth of God's Kingdom on earth, a growth which will be completed in our Heavenly life. But since we need the special anointing of the Holy Spirit to be doers of the word of God, let us offer our lives before God every day, asking for this special anointing.



BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

**STAY WITH US, LORD:
RENEW OUR HEARTS AND SEND US ON
MISSION.**

As of June 7, 2024, the Diocesan Development Office has received pledges totaling **\$168,042.85** from parishioners of St. Matthias. This represents 96.02% of our \$175,000.00 goal.

Thank you to all of our parishioners who already contributed and to others who are thinking of contributing.

Seeds of Love and Prayers made the Difference!

Clarence and his wife adopted a daughter who, they were told, had emotional problems. The administrator at the orphanage told Clarence frankly that the child would be better off staying there. But Clarence and his wife said Faith and love would conquer any problems, and they adopted the child. It didn't take too long, however, before they realized they had made a mistake. As year after impossible year passed, they consulted with principals, counselors, and teachers. Terms such as "character disorder," "sociopath," and "psychopathic personality" were used to describe their daughter's behavior. The experts all agreed that there was no hope for improvement. Over the years Clarence and his wife prayed, prayed long and hard, with no observable results. Eventually the girl ran away. A short time later she was caught and placed in a detention center, and later into half-way houses and foster homes. Clarence and his wife lost track of her, and they lost all hope of ever seeing her again. However, years later they did manage to reestablish contact with their daughter. They discovered, much to their amazement, that she had finished high school, attended college, married, and was raising two well-adjusted children. "We lost faith," Clarence says, "but God was faithful. God never stopped answering our prayers."

["Faithful When We Are Faithless." Clarence E. Drumheller. Upper Room (January/February 5338), p. 66.]

Whoever would have thought their daughter could have changed so much? It must have been the seeds of love that they planted and their prayers that made the difference. God works in ways we do not understand. God's ways are not our ways, and He works slowly but surely to achieve His will in this world

Four Fathers from the Bible

Enoch, a father who walked with God as a great man of Faith.

Noah, who was concerned about saving his children; he taught them about righteousness. He also walked with God, leaving a great example to follow.

Abraham, who was given the title "Father of all of them that believe". He trained them as mentioned in Genesis 18:19.

Joshua, who trusted God when others would not. Joshua didn't care what other fathers were doing; he and his family were going to serve the Lord!



From Our Pastoral Staff



From the tiniest seed we can grow something HUGE and MAGNIFICENT - Are you in?

In today's readings from Sacred Scripture Jesus compares the Reign of God to the way a tiny mustard seed grows. It's hard to comprehend how anything small and unassuming could possess the power and force to grow into something huge and magnificent. Jesus' three years of ministry with a dozen or so committed followers is a tiny seed that led to the explosion of Christianity. It was a way of life that basically sold itself. Unfortunately, the Christian way of life isn't as strong a living example as it was in the early church. But we now have an opportunity to begin in small ways to do magnificent things at St. Matthias.

A few months ago, I had shared exciting news that St. Matthias is among 43 parishes from across the United States – one of two in New Jersey – which were awarded an opportunity by the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry to participate in a 3-year opportunity to learn and implement Accompaniment strategies that would benefit our entire community – people of ALL ages.

Pope Francis has spoken again and again about our need to meet people in whatever circumstances life has given them and to walk with them in compassion and love. Accompaniment means to exist in association with, or to join with others. We are now forming a team of adults and teens. We still have room for a few more teens, young adults, and parents of grade-school children to lead our accompaniment initiatives at St. Matthias. We desire to build a diverse team to effectively foster accompaniment strategies to ensure the future of our church by providing opportunities to allow Christ's presence to be revealed in all our relationships.

The Accompaniment project sounds very promising because it's promoting an inter-generational aspect of ministerial engagement among a diverse community. We have a long tradition of community engagement and outreach and eagerness to embrace new models and methods of faith and parish formation. So we can do this!

In terms of accompaniment, we hope to have significantly greater involvement of the parish community with our youth spanning all facets of parish life - rather than Youth Ministry being regarded as separated and isolated from the community. We're continuing to grow youth presence ministering alongside adults during our Sunday Liturgies as youth cantors and lectors. A question would be what other opportunities shall we create to plant more seeds of faith and accompaniment wherever you find yourself?

Our hope is that the young people will believe they genuinely belong and their presence is valuable and a blessing to the faith community where our youth are known by name, accepted, and nonjudgmentally listened to and their voices heard, and their life-experiences embraced. The youth will be accompanied by adults who authentically accept them, and are willing to journey with them in faith during moments of doubts as they struggle to find meaning, purpose, and identity in the midst of their challenges and struggles - just like you and me!

In upcoming months we'll be inviting you to help us rethink the policies, the communities, the practices, the challenges, and the tensions within our parish which should change to better accompany youth in faith. And to identify our current resources to accompany and integrate our youth. An example is the Family Matters program which we're also now launching. Stay tuned to learn more!

If you're interested in learning more about this exciting project, either contact me via email at deaconjohn@stmatthias.net, or feel free to join us during a kickoff Zoom meeting scheduled for **Monday, June 24th at 7:30pm**. This link is an open invitation to anyone who wants to plant seeds to grow -something HUGE and MAGNIFICENT - Are you in?

<https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/86830096020?pwd=ontJgLBXdYrHC1GbNuFnLRudyhLaxb.1>

Happy Summer!
Deacon John

What is Your Gift or Talent?

"There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone."
1 CORINTHIANS 12:4-6

All of us are blessed, regardless of our own individual circumstances; God has given each of us many gifts. How we use those gifts is our gift back to God. For God's plan to work each must do what we are called to do and guess what – we are not all called to do the same thing! That's why our parish has so many options for you to serve! Visit our parish website to see what ministry suits you: <https://stmatthias.net/serve/#>

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



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.

Learn



What is Juneteenth?

June 19 is this Wednesday. The Emancipation Proclamation, which granted freedom to all enslaved persons, took effect on January 1, 1863. However, some Confederate states refused to abide by this Executive Order; in fact, over two years passed before Union troops were able to reach all the Confederate states and enforce the new law. As a result, the last quarter of a million enslaved people were finally set free by Union troops in Galveston Bay, Texas on June 19, 1865. This triumphant day became known as “Juneteenth” by the freed people of Texas. Juneteenth marks our country’s second Independence Day. Although it has long been celebrated in the African-American community, this event remains largely unknown to most Americans. The historical legacy of Juneteenth shows the value of never giving up hope in uncertain times. Just as we praise and thank God for the emancipation of the enslaved Israelites during the Exodus, we raise our hands in prayers of gratitude for the freedom of our formerly enslaved Black Brothers and Sisters!

SING A SONG OF FREEDOM! GOD HAS WON THE VICTORY!

(Adapted from a webpage of the National Museum of African-American History and Culture at the Smithsonian.

<https://nmaahc.si.edu/blog-post/historical-legacyjuneteenth>)

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	\$19,798.18	\$23,540.25
Week 50 - June 9, 2024	\$11,730.00	\$26,120.00	\$37,850.00	\$34,618.75
Week 51 - June 16, 2024			\$0.00	\$22,281.25
Week 52 - June 23, 2024			\$0.00	\$20,215.25
Week 53 - June 30, 2024			\$0.00	
			Month-to-date Total	June Total Last Year
			\$31,528.18	\$100,655.50
			Current Year-to-date	Year-to-date as of Jun 30, 2023
			\$1,300,289.23	\$1,394,975.73

Stewardship Reflection June 16, 2024 11th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive recompense, according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil." - 2 Corinthians 5:10

We are all accountable for all of the gifts God has given us – our time, our talent and our treasure; everything we have and everything we are. Each of us is accountable not only for our own life but for the lives of others as well. One day God will ask each of us what did we do with the gifts we were given. How will you respond?

Reflexiónese - 16 de junio de 2024 11º Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario

"Porque todos nosotros debemos comparecer ante el tribunal de Cristo, para que cada uno sea recompensado por sus hechos estando en el cuerpo, de acuerdo con lo que hizo, sea bueno o sea malo." - 2 Corintios 5:10

Todos debemos responder por todos los dones que hemos recibido de Dios- nuestro tiempo, nuestro talento y nuestros tesoros; todo lo que tenemos y todo lo que somos. Cada uno de nosotros es responsable no solo de nuestra propia vida sino también de las vidas de otros. Un día Dios nos preguntará a cada uno de nosotros lo que hicimos con los dones que recibimos. ¿Cómo responderá usted?



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

Parish Giving offers secure flexible online giving for our parishioners who would like to make their donations online using a credit card or bank transfer. You never have to bring cash or checks to church. Giving electronically also helps the church save money and plan the budget. If you want to simplify your life, go to our website, www.stmatthias.net and click on the Parish Giving Link under 'Give'. Parish Giving offers you complete control over your account to change your giving as needed. You have the benefit to generate a giving report and easily choose the specific collections you wish to support. We thank you for your support which enables St. Matthias to minister to the community.

Why more parishes switch to Online Giving?

For years, the traditional check or cash in a weekly offertory envelope has been the preferred method of giving in parishes across the country. However, most recently, we've witnessed a significant increase in online giving. There are many advantages. Here's just one: **It saves your parish staff and counting volunteers loads of time and resources.**

Online giving offers a much welcome relief by reducing the time spent each week counting offertories, manually entering contributions into the church management software, and managing secure bank deposits. Instead, with online payment processing, you can bypass the time-consuming work while reaping all the benefits as funds flow straight into your account. Thanks to many of you who have already switched to online giving.

Connecting to Our Local Community



Marriage Encounter Weekend - July 19-21, 2024

FATHER'S DAY GIFT

As a Father's Day gift, why not give your husband and yourself the special gift of a Marriage Encounter Weekend? Such a 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.

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Tuesday, July 9
9:30am – 11 am

IN PERSON ONLY
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This reflective morning for teachers will bring a Christian perspective to the topic of "time" and present it as a precious gift of God that is unique to each person. The morning will include presentations, prayer, and faith sharing. Come and enjoy some "time" with us!

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Parish Leadership

Parish Pastoral Council: Co-Chairs: Frank Rees Frees814@gmail.com Marilyn Wegg mcw-wam@comcast.net	Co-Secretaries: Stephen Busono sbusono@gmail.com Bill Isele t33sm@aol.com Al Drabnis Didi Molano	Sheila Tartaglia Fr. Lancelot McGrath, Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio Trustees: Pearl Scott Marge Richards	Parish Finance Council: Kester Hector, Chair Finance Council @stmatthias.net Carmen Driz-Melilli Barry Dusault Joan Pritchard	Cory Panlilio Mary Pat Burke-Grospin, Ex-Officio Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio
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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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