



St. Matthias Parish Office:

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

Mass Schedule (in person):

Sat - 5PM, Sun - 8, 10 AM & 12 noon
 M/T/W/Th/F at 8:00AM

And 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 , Mon-Fri 8AM to 3PM.

For all Parish emails, add @stmatthias.net

Pastor: Rev Abraham Orapankal, **abraham**
Senior Priest: Msgr. Seamus Brennan, **sbrennan**
 Mary Pat Burke-Grospin, Business Administrator
mpburke-grospin

Deacon Ron Caimi, *Senior Deacon*
 Kelly Counts, *Receptionist*, **kcounts**
 Deacon Russell Demkovitz, **rdemkovitz**
 Nathalie Godet, *Website Coordinator*, **ngodet**
 Leslie Guillen, *Bulletin Editor*, **lguillen**
 Amy Hanna, *Accountant/Databases*, **ahanna**
 Mike Lanyi, *Sacristan*

Sue Lenczewski, *Youth Coordinator*, **SMYLE**
 Mary Jo Loboda, *Parish Staff, Development*,
mjloboda

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

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

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

St. Matthias School (add @stmatthiasnj.org)

Mary Lynch, Principal, **mlynch**
 Joseph Gidaro, Vice Principal, **jgidaro**

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS
SUNDAY, JUNE 18, 2023-
11th Sunday in Ordinary Time



**PLEASE JOIN THE
 MANY TO SPEND
 SOME QUIET TIME
 WITH THE
 EUCHARISTIC LORD
 ON EVERY MONDAY
 EVENING FROM
 6 PM TO 8 PM.**



What is Juneteenth?

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.

Juneteenth information continued on page 9

This Week @ St. Matthias From Our Senior Pastor

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, June 18, 2023** **Father's Day**
 - 8:00AM Mass Church
 - 10:00AM Mass Church
 - 12:00PM Mass Church

- Monday, June 19, 2023** **St. Juliana Falconieri, Foundress of The Servite Tertiaries**
 - 8:00AM Mass / Miraculous Medal Novena Church

- Tuesday, June 20, 2023** **St. Silverius, Pope & Martyr**
 - 8:00AM Mass Church
 - 7:30PM Pastoral Council Mtg. Zoom& de Porres Rm

- Wednesday, June 21, 2023** **Memorial- St. Aloysius Gonzaga, Confessor**
 - 8:00AM Mass—St. Joseph Novena Church
 - 9:30AM Prayer Group 1 Holy Spirit de Porres Rm
 - 6:30PM Catholic charities Volunteer Appreciation Cafeteria

- Thursday, June 22, 2023** **Opt. Memorial -St. Paulinus of Nola, Bishop**
 - 8:00AM Mass Church

- Friday, June 23, 2023** **St. Joseph Cafasso, Priest**
 - 8:00AM Mass Church

- Saturday, June 24, 2023** **Solemnity—Nativity of John the Baptist**
 - 11:00AM Boy Scout, Court of Honor Cafeteria
 - 3:30PM Reconciliation Church
 - 5:00PM Vigil Mass Church

- Sunday, June 25, 2023**
 - 8:00AM Mass Church
 - 9:30AM Service WorX #1 will attend 10AM Mass
 - 10:00AM 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,

The Eucharistic Procession last Saturday was a beautiful experience. The vast majority of those who attended the 5 pm Mass joined the procession and entered back in the church and attended the Benediction. We began the weekly adoration on Monday and the response was truly amazing. With 42 people praying silently before the Blessed Sacrament in the first half hour and then having an average of 30 people present for every half-hour slot of the rest of the time. I invite you all to sign up for one of those slots or simply drop in for whatever time you can between 6-8 pm on Mondays.

I am very grateful to Msgr. Brennan for setting this plan in motion with detailed instruction and training of the EMs about exposing and reposing the Blessed Sacrament. Please read his letter on page 8 about his retirement plans, as approved by the Bishop. He does not want a formal farewell but I know you will certainly express your gratitude to him for his presence and ministry with us. I have requested him to return and help us whenever possible.

Though changes are part of life, it is painful to accept. On the last day of our school, there was a lovely prayer service with all the students gathered in the parking lot. It was moving to see Mr. Joe Gidaro sprinkling holy water on the students and the teachers blessing the students with the sign of the cross. When Mrs. Mary Lynch announced the names of those teachers and staff not returning after the summer, there were expressions of sadness from the students. Those expressions were very palpable when the names of Mr. Gidaro and Mrs. Josephine Pugnet were announced. Both of them touched the students with their caring and loving service: Mr. Gidaro faithfully served as Vice Principal and Mrs. Pugnet as the Cafeteria Manager, overseeing the lunch program and providing the students with choice meals. Both will be missed in the school and their services are gratefully remembered.

Graduation itself is another change, but a happy one, as you can see in that lovely picture of the class of 2023 on page 7. The 32 young men and women have completed their ACADEMIC life with us as they move on to the next level of their life's journey, but we hope they will continue their spiritual life with us as we strive for a solid faith formation through Catholic education". As the Catholic Community of St. Matthias, we, together with their parents and school faculty and staff, are very proud of them. We will continue our mission of Catholic education to the best of our ability.

Happy Feast to all Fathers! Having a good father is a gift of God's grace. A good father is not afraid to show love, is patient, forgiving, joyful, and believes in his children. A good father leads by example and is present to help rear his offspring. In Scripture and in church, God is often called Father. Why? Is it so we can bring God down to our level of understanding, or is it to encourage our earthly fathers to live up to a higher standard? If it is the latter, men have some really big shoes to fill! Of course, the Catechism teaches that God is neither male nor female (CCC no.239), and God's grace and mercy go way beyond the goodness that any of our fathers can exhibit. Yet, let us be aware of and practice our need to thank God daily for our fathers, uncles, brothers, sons, and men friends.

Your brother in Christ,
Fr. Abraham Orapankal

Readings for the Week

Monday: 2 Cor 6:1-10; Ps 98:1, 2b, 3ab, 3cd-4; Mt 5:38-42

Tuesday: 2 Cor 8:1-9; Ps 146:2, 5-6ab, 6c-7, 8-9a; Mt 5:43-48

Wednesday: 2 Cor 9:6-11; Ps 112:1bc-2, 3-4, 9; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday: 2 Cor 11:1-11; Ps 111:1b-2, 3-4, 7-8; Mt 6:7-15

Friday: 2 Cor 11:18, 21-30; Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7; Mt 6:19-23

Saturday: Vigil: Jer 1:4-10; Ps 71:1-2, 3-4a, 5-6ab, 15ab, 17; 1 Pt 1:8-12; Lk 1:5-17
Day: Is 49:1-6; Ps 139:1b-3, 13-14ab, 14c-15; Acts 13:22-26; Lk 1:57-66, 80

Sunday: Jer 20:10-13; Ps 69:8-10, 14, 17, 33-35; Rom 5:12-15; Mt 10:26-33

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, June 17	5:00PM	Intention of Parishioners
Sunday, June 18	8:00AM	Hugh Scott, by Wife, Pearl
	10:00AM	All Fathers, Living & Deceased
	12:00PM	Maurice (Max) Regan, by The Family
Monday, June 19	8:00AM	Remia Alomia, by The Capuna Family
Tuesday, June 20	8:00AM	Anniversary Blessings for Karen & Patrick, by Anne Marie
Wednesday, June 21	8:00AM	Brother Ephrem Eads, by The Family
Thursday, June 22	8:00AM	Sister Amata, by The Tibay Family
Friday, June 23	8:00AM	John Blum, By Georgia
Saturday, June 24	5:00PM	Frieda Emmer, by The Walter Family
Sunday, June 25	8:00AM	Intention of Parishioners
	10:00AM	Tom Healy, by Joyce & Family
	12:00PM	John Bingham, by Ellin & Gil Ossandon

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

John Blum

Reflect



Smile with Your Family



Manny: How do you like the drum set you got for your birthday? **Theo:** I love it! **Manny:** Why? **Theo:** Whenever I don't play it, my dad gives me 10 bucks! 😊

While having their evening dinner together, a little girl looked up at her father and asked, "Daddy, you're the boss in our family, right?" The father was very pleased to hear it and confidently replied, "Yes my little princess." The girl then continued, "That's because mommy put you in charge, right?" 😊

Dad: Son, if you keep pulling my hair, you will have to get off my shoulders.

Son: But, Dad, I'm just trying to get my gum back! 😊

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!" 😊

Our Gen-X daughter, Cristie, made my husband a Father's Day card entitled "Things My Dad Would Never Say." Such as: "Can you turn up that music?" "Go ahead and take my truck. Here's 50 bucks for gas." "I LOVE your tattoo. We should both get new ones." "Here, you take the remote." 😊

Parenting Tune-Up



"The grass is always greener over the septic tank." (Erma Bombeck) Sometimes what looks like a parenting disaster can turn into a long remembered life lesson for your child. Share with your child a mistake you made in childhood that you learned from.

Marriage Tune-Up



(Father's Day) Think of how your life honors your father. Also acknowledge the fathers who come by their role indirectly (foster and adoptive fathers, fathers-in-law, stepfathers, and those who have been like a father to you.) Honor an honorary father this week.



Dads, Here's a way to say NO to your Kids!

Dear Dad, school is great. I'm making lots of friends and studying hard. I simply can't think of anything I need, so just send me a card, as I would love to hear from you. Love, Your son

Dear Son, I know astronomy, economics and oceanography are enough to keep even an honor student busy. Do not forget that the pursuit of knowledge is a noble task, and you can never study enough. Love, Dad

Tribute to a Big-hearted Dad

You have a big heart And you're quick to forgive
Always thinking of others And always willing to give
How lucky I am to Have a dad like you
Someone who takes an Interest in all that I do
You're always there To lend an ear
Really dad You're such a dear



"I Never Hugged my Dad!"

In his book *My Father, My Son*, Dr. Lee Salk describes a moving interview with Mark Chapman, the convicted murderer of Beatle John Lennon. At one point in the interview, Chapman says: "I don't think I ever hugged my father [David Curtis Chapman, who was a staff sergeant in the U. S. Air Force]. He never told me he loved me... I needed emotional love and support. I never got that." Chapman's description of how he would treat a son if he had one is especially tragic, because he will probably never get out of prison and have a family of his own. He says: "I would hug my son and kiss him... and just let him know... he could trust me and come to me... and (I would) tell him that I loved him." Dr. Salk ends his book with this advice to fathers and sons (which applies equally well to mothers and daughters): "Don't be afraid of your emotions, of telling your father or your son that you love him and that you care. Don't be afraid to hug and kiss him. Don't wait until the death bed to realize what you've missed."

"Friend of the bride or the groom?"

At a formal wedding, an usher usually asks, "Friend of the bride or the groom?" Then he seats the party on the appropriate side of the church. An usher once asked a lady, "Friend of the bride or the groom?" She replied, "Both."

He explained, "I am sorry, lady. They did not tell me where to seat neutrals!" That is the way it is with Christ. There are no neutrals. If you make an affirmative decision, your life is radically changed. "He rose and followed 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:

"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."

Assignment to smile at three People!

A young mother was taking a course in sociology. The class was assigned to go out and smile at three people and document their reaction. The next day she and her family were in a McDonald's on a cold, clear morning.

She writes, "We were standing in line, waiting to be served, when all of a sudden everyone around us began to back away, and then even my husband did. I did not move an inch. As I turned around I smelled a horrible 'dirty body' smell, and there standing behind me were two poor, homeless men. One of them smiled up at me, looking for acceptance. The second man fumbled with his hands, obviously mentally deficient and totally dependent on his friend. They had a handful of coins and bought only coffee because that was all they could afford. They had to buy something in order to sit down where it was warm. Acting on impulse, I bought two extra breakfasts and took them to the table where the men sat. I put the tray on the table and laid my hand on the blue-eyed gentleman's cold hand. He looked up at me with tears in his eyes and said, 'Thank you.' I leaned over, began to pat his hand and said, 'I did not do this for you; God is here working through me to give you hope.'" (Coy Wylie, "Stewardship ... Laborers or Loafers?").

Here is a Christian lady commissioned by Christ to reach out "the sheep without shepherds" as Jesus sent his apostles to the shepherdless sheep with teaching and healing authority as described in today's gospel. Jesus told the Apostles: "You received without payment; give without payment." Everything we have is a gift of God. God's gifts to us are literally priceless. They are meant to be used freely and liberally for the benefit of all. We are not in the business of sharing our faith for the money or the admiration it brings. To paraphrase President John Kennedy: "Ask not what others can do for you; but what you can do for others." But God's freely given gifts must be used with care, with responsibility. Exercised wisely, they can bring great joy and peace in life. They can be a means to care for others. We must always remember that our good works, the things in which we take pride, ultimately find their source in Christ, not in us. What gifts, both material and spiritual, have we received from God? How have we passed those gifts onto others? How have we thanked God and given him the credit for those gifts? The passages from Matthew's gospel present us with a challenge, to pass along grace. Jesus gave his followers this key to evangelization. (For details confer CCC 2006-2011)

"Association of Lincoln Presenters."

Sewell was given the "Lincoln of the Year" award in April of 1999. His full name is Homer Sewell, but total strangers tend to call him "Abe" because he bears a spooky resemblance to Abraham Lincoln in his appearance, dress, beard and speech. This all started about 30 years ago in Orlando, Florida, when Sewell grew a beard and schoolchildren suddenly began to call him "Abe." He completed the effect by adding a black suit and stovepipe, and hat, and developed a show called *Abe Lincoln's America*. Sewell has already made over 6,944 appearances as the 16th president, performing live before more than two million people. "As soon as I get my suit on and my hat," he explains, "I become Abraham Lincoln." Even without makeup you've got to admire his attention to details. The car he drives is a Lincoln, of course. Sewell is part of a group called the "Association of Lincoln Presenters," a union of men and women dedicated to bringing Abraham and Mary Lincoln to life. There are currently 117 Abes and 32 Marys across the U.S. Together they form a group of passionate Lincoln-lovers committed to presenting the former president and his wife to the world in costume and in words. In today's lesson from the gospel of Matthew, it certainly seems that Jesus is laying the foundation for an "Association of Jesus Presenters" by choosing his apostles and training them in their preaching and healing mission.

Continued

Reflect

“Association of Lincoln Presenters.” (continued)

Like Homer Sewell who presents Abraham Lincoln, we also have an “association,” an association of Jesus Presenters which we call the Church. From this body we get guidance, encouragement, discipline and inspiration, to project the same person- Christ Jesus and his “Good News.” Jesus continues to be active in our lives through the Bible and the sacraments. He has promised that he will do whatever we ask in his name, meaning that he will answer us when we ask for help in revealing the power and character of God. In addition, the Lord God gives us the Holy Spirit, the one who teaches us, and reminds us of all that Jesus has said to us. We are invited to become one with God and Jesus, and to let the Holy Spirit work through us. We are asked to perform the works of Jesus, and through these works to reveal the power and character of God to the world. If we accept this invitation, people will look at us and say, “Jesus”

Why commission the Twelve?

Today's lesson marks a turning point in the establishment of the Christian Church as presented in the gospels. Up to this point in the story, Jesus himself was the focus of the healing, teaching and controversy. With the commissioning of his disciples, others began to assume some of the responsibility for the new movement that heralded the kingdom of God. That new movement was destined to grow later, with increasing diversity, as it extended beyond the borders of Galilee, into the Christian Church. Jesus commissioned them for a two-fold mission:

1) The preaching mission: “As you go, make this proclamation: ***The kingdom of heaven is at hand.***” The Kingdom of God is a society on earth, where God's will is as perfectly done as it is in heaven. Since Jesus was, and is, the only person who ever perfectly did, and obeyed, and fulfilled God's will as it is done in heaven, the apostles were to invite people to see how their long expected “kingdom of God” was verified in Jesus of Nazareth.

2) The healing mission: “Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, and drive out demons.” The Apostles have to convince the people that Christ came to give physical healing of bodies from diseases and spiritual healing of souls from sins. The spiritually dead are resurrected and revitalized by the good news preached to them. Cleansing the lepers includes the actual healing of leprosy as well as the cleansing the polluting influence of sins from minds and heart. Casting out demons also included liberating people from their evil habits and addictions which led them to sin.

Being healers in the modern world

People are sick in body as well as mind. As Christian's sharing Jesus' mission, we can bring healing and wholeness to people with whom we come into contact. Although we cannot raise the dead, we can help people to recover interest and a zest for living. People can be physically alive but dead in many other respects. Cleansing the lepers means rehabilitating and bringing back fully into our communities all those who, for one reason or another, are marginalized, rejected, despised, ostracized on the basis of race, nationality, marital status, religion, gender or sexual orientation. In our day, demons are all those suffocating and enslaving forces which dominate, manipulate and restrict our freedom to live in truth and love. They include many elements of our contemporary society, the pressures to conform to what is in fashion, whether it be in clothes, food or drugs of all kinds - prescribed and non-prescribed, the tendencies to hedonism, extreme individualism and violence of all kinds. Our abortion culture is simply one of the symptoms and effects of all this. We have to start by casting out these demons from our own hearts first before helping others to true liberation.

Why a Special Instruction to exclude the Gentiles?

One could be confused by a strange instruction from Jesus to the Twelve: “Do not go out on the road to the Gentiles, and do not enter into any city of the Samaritans.” This meant that they could not go north into Syria, east into the largely gentile Decapolis, or to south into Samaria. God wanted His Chosen people to hear the gospel first. Besides, the apostles were not well-trained for preaching to the Gentiles. Thirdly, as a wise commander Jesus limited his objectives and refused to diffuse and dissipate his forces.

Connect

Quo Vadis Retreat

Please consider joining our annual Diocesan **Quo Vadis retreat** in July, it is free!

It is a great opportunity to have fun with your friends, play sports, share meals, grow in your faith, and continue to process where God may be calling you in your life. This is a chance for young men to think/pray about where God may be calling them in their life.

Congratulations to the Saint Matthias School Class of 2023



Wishing all of our students, faculty, and staff a blessed and fun-filled summer!



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

Announcement from Msgr. Brennan

Dear Parishioners of Saint Matthias,

On March 7th, 2023 I celebrated my 75th birthday and on March 23rd I wrote a letter to Bishop Checchio requesting his approval and blessing on my retirement from active priestly ministry effective July 1st, 2023. Bishop Checchio has approved my decision and so June 30th will be my last day serving as Senior Priest at Saint Matthias. On July 1st I will enter into full retirement and will move to Saint James Church in Basking Ridge. The pastor, Msgr. Sylvester Cronin has extended an invitation to me for the last two years letting me know I was welcome to live with him in retirement. In addition to the pastor, there is an associate, a retired priest from Newark, and a seminarian living at the rectory. So we will be a small community of five people living at the parish.

In retirement I will still continue some priestly ministry, but on a limited basis. If requested I will assist with some weekend Masses, funerals, or even some weekday Masses.

I am deeply grateful to Father Abraham and the people of Saint Matthias, for the welcome you have given me over the past two years. I moved into Saint Matthias in February 2021, though I did not begin ministry officially until July 1, 2021. So it will be exactly 2 years I have

served here as Senior Priest and I have enjoyed my time here and the people I have met. Father Abraham has been most thoughtful and a joy to live with. I am grateful to the deacons and the staff of the parish who have shown such kindness and consideration to me and my needs. I am also thankful to Bishop Checchio for allowing me to serve here as Senior Priest.



I must confess I am looking forward to retirement as my energy level has certainly begun to wane. I hope to be able to play some golf (though even that has to be limited to allow time for recovery), and perhaps a little travel, especially back to Ireland to visit family and friends. I already have plans to visit Ireland in July.

I have assured Father Abraham that he can call me if he needs some help from time to time and I will do all in my power to assist, if possible. Please be assured of a remembrance in my prayers and masses and I ask the same of you. We are one in Christ and especially in the Eucharist. During this year of Eucharistic Revival let us pray for each other and our church that we may truly become one in Christ.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Msgr. Seamus F Brennan

Learn

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>

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.



What is Juneteenth?

(Continued from the cover page)

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 Reflection June 18, 2023 11th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Everyone who acknowledges me before others I will acknowledge before my heavenly Father.” (Matthew 10:32)

Would others know that you are Catholic by the way you act and speak? Do you share your Catholic faith with others? Do you defend your Catholic faith when the situation arises or do you remain silent? Do you pray in public before meals? Pray for the strength and courage to be a joyful witness of our Catholic faith when the opportunity presents itself. Let us become the radiant light and bold witness that we are called to be!

Reflexiónese 18 de junio de 2023 11° domingo del Tiempo Ordinario

"Al que me reconozca delante de los demás, lo reconoceré ante mi Padre celestial". (MATEO 10:32)

¿Sabrían otros que eres católico por la forma en que actúas y hablas? ¿Compartes tu fe católica con los demás? ¿Defiendes tu fe católica cuando surge la situación o permaneces en silencio? ¿Oras en público antes de las comidas? Ora por la fuerza y el coraje para ser un testigo alegre de nuestra fe católica cuando se presente la oportunidad. ¿Convirtámonos en la luz radiante y el audaz testigo que estamos llamados a ser!

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	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Week 52 - June 25, 2023	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
			Month-to-date	June Total Last
			\$58,159.00	\$65,486.00
Building R & R Collection: \$2,304.00			Current Year-to-	Year-to-date as
			\$1,352,479.23	\$1,322,499.06



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 54 months. Our next process will begin in September. There are weekly gatherings where people come together to share, grow, and understand the Catholic faith. These are not classes but a faith-sharing group. If you know anyone who has not received these Sacraments of Initiation, kindly invite him/her to try this process.

Please contact Anne Marie Francis at alfrancis.30@gmail.com or Mary Frances Reavey at mfreavey@gmail.com

Connect with Our Local Community

New Jersey Right to Life Advocates

With the one-year anniversary of the *Dobbs* decision fast -approaching on June 24, we can anticipate abortion and women's health being in the news. So please consider sharing this resource in your parishes .

This one-page resource dispels the many myths which claim restrictions on abortion will limit women's access to life-saving care. This resource can be printed in parish bulletins, included in newsletters, shared on social media, and more in order to help educate Catholics about these false claims.

[The Truth About Abortion and Women's Health](#)
[The Truth About Abortion and Women's Health \(Spanish\)](#)

Day for Grandparents and Seniors July 26, 2023



The Diocese of Metuchen is pleased to host a Celebrate Life Event - A Day for Grandparents & Seniors (55+) on Wednesday, **July 26, 2023 from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm at the St. John Neumann Pastoral Center, Piscataway.** The morning will include, breakfast, fellowship, and a guest speaker presentation followed by Eucharist Adoration and Holy Mass. This event is an outreach to our aging Catholic community and promises to be an upbeat day! There is no fee but registration is required. For more information or to register, visit:

<https://www.diometuchen.org/humanlifeanddignity>

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 Orlovski

Audrey Francis
 Joe Porter
 Joan Pritchard
 Mary Pat Burke-Grospin,
 Ex-Officio
 Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio

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

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

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

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

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



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



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event dates

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Tuesday, 10/11

Tuesday, 10/18

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