



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 - 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, rdevkovitz
Nathalie Godet, Website & Bulletin Editor,
ngodet

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

Deacon John Radvanski, deaconjohn
Joan Best Seamon, Pastoral Associate for
Music Ministry, jseamon
Sr. Marie Therese Sherwood, OSF, Pastoral
Assoc. for Social Concerns, msherwood

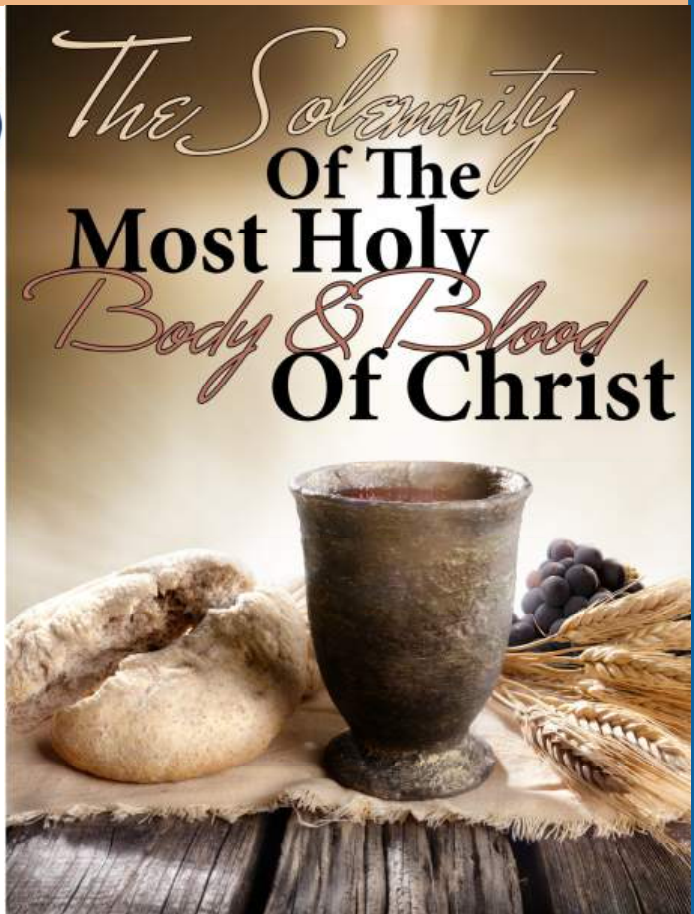
St. Matthias School (add @stmatthiasnj.org)
Mary Lynch, Principal, mlynch

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS
SUNDAY, JUNE 2, 2024
The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ



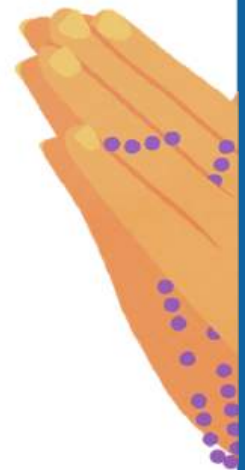
**Support the
Car Wash
Fundraiser
by our
Cub Scouts
&
Boy Scouts
this
Saturday,
June 8th**

Details on pg 8



**WHY NOT COME AND
SPEND A
MORNING OF PRAYER
AND REFLECTION
THIS SATURDAY, JUNE 8?**

Details on pg.7



**PLEASE COME JOIN THE MANY WHO SPEND SOME
QUIET TIME WITH THE EUCHARISTIC LORD.
OUR NEXT ADORATION WILL BE
MONDAY EVENING, JUNE 3, 2024
FROM
6 PM TO 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, Jun 2, 2024 The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi)

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

Monday, Jun 3, 2024 St. Charles Lwanga & Co., Martyrs

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

Tuesday, Jun 4, 2024 St. St. Francis Caracciola, Priest

8:00AM Mass Church
 9:00AM SMS: Field Day: Pre-K & K Outside
 7:30PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal Church
 7:30PM SVDP Mtg. de Porres Rm

Wednesday, Jun 5, 2024 St. Boniface, Bishop & Martyr

8:00AM Mass, St. Joseph Novena Church
 7:30PM Folk Group Rehearsal Church

Thursday, Jun 6, 2024 St. Norbert of Xanten, Bishop of Magdeburg

8:00AM Mass Church
 7:30PM Sunday 10AM Choir Rehearsal Church

Friday, Jun 7, 2024 The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

8:00AM Mass Church
 8:30AM 1st Friday Holy Hour/Benediction Church
 9:00AM Pre-K Moving Up Church
 11:00AM Kindergarten Fly-Up Church

Saturday, Jun 8, 2024 The Immaculate Heart of Mary

8:00 AM Boy Scout Car Wash Parking Lot
 9:30AM Vocation Morning of Reflection John XXIII
 3:30PM Reconciliation Church
 5:00PM Vigil Mass Church

Sunday, Jun 9, 2024

8:00AM Mass Church
 10:00AM Mass –Interpreter 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 9 AM, MONDAY, 5 business days before the needed bulletin date (earlier for holiday weekends). Approved content is published on a space-available basis.



Dear Friends,

Today we celebrate the solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ – the very presence of Christ that we are fortunate to have each time we gather to celebrate Mass. ‘Corpus Christi’ is the more popular Latin name, meaning the Body of Christ. We receive the Body of Christ in Holy Communion. That’s why we bow our heads and say Amen to the words of the Communion Minister: “The Body of Christ.” But receiving this body of Christ will not be meaningful unless we love and respect the larger body of Christ – the people of God, who are our brothers and sisters in the Lord.

This week has been very special for one group of this Body of Christ in our parish: our 8th Grade students who just had their graduation on Friday. It was an exciting day for them and their families as well as for the teachers and administration. In my message in the 2024 St. Matthias School Year Book, after my words of appreciation to Mrs. Mary Lynch, our Principal, all our teachers, staff, and most of all, parents and families who have guided them along the way, I wrote this to the students:

My dear Graduating Class,

While blessings and congratulations will be showered upon you, the question I wish to ask you is this: Are you prepared to face the challenges of life as you move on from our loving, protective and nurturing environment of St. Matthias? The challenges that teens face are many: anxiety, stress, depression, social media, bullying, cyber bullying, eating disorders, peer pressure, desensitization to violence, low motivation, temptation to drug, alcohol etc. It is only when you make the right choices, you will experience success, fulfillment and happiness, giving you good health in mind, body and soul.

We have tried our best to inculcate in you the values of discipleship in Christ Jesus to help you make the right choices. The regular sight of Fr. Lancelot McGrath in the school has given a much needed priestly presence both to the faculty and students. Attending Mass on a regular basis, holding prayer services on important occasions, highlighting the daily practice of prayer and other practices have given you a good spiritual foundation that should be of great help in dealing with difficult times ahead.

Be assured of our love, prayers and support, for “You are the Body of Christ,” as the Year Book theme reminds us. Do continue your friendship with Jesus and your association with this faith community of St. Matthias. Remember this message from the Bible: “Be strong! Be fearless! Don’t be afraid and don’t be scared by your enemies, because the Lord your God is the one who marches with you. He won’t let you down, and he won’t abandon you” (Deuteronomy 31:6)

As St. Matthias School is part and parcel of the Catholic Community of St. Matthias, I wish to thank the entire parish community for the constant support and encouragement to the school. Without your generous financial support, it would have been very difficult to run our school that has received lots of awards both as an institution and as individual students. God bless our parish and our school.

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Orapankal

Readings for the Week

Monday 2 Pt 1:2-7 Ps 91:1-2, 14-15b, 15c-16 Mk 12:1-12

Tuesday 2 Pt 3:12-15a, 17-18 Ps 90:2, 3-4, 10, 14 and 16 Mk 12:13-17

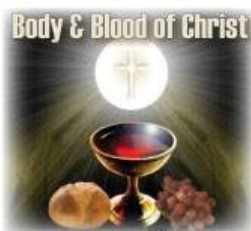
Wednesday 2 Tm 1:1-3, 6-12 Ps 123:1b-2ab, 2cdef Mk 12:18-27

Thursday 2 Tm 2:8-15 Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14 Mk 12:28-34

Friday Hos 11:1, 3-4, 8c-9 Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 Eph 3:8-12, 14-19 Jn 19:31-37

Saturday 2 Tm 4:1-8 Ps 71:8-9, 14-15ab, 16-17, 22 Lk 2:41-51

Sunday Gen 3:9-15 Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 2 Cor 4:13-5:1 Mk 3:20-35



Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, June 1	5:00PM	Birthday Blessings for Joseph A. Ramos, by Mom
Sunday, June 2	8:00AM	John Blum, by The Busono Family
	10:00AM	Intention of Parishioners
	12:00PM	Harto Sukendro & Ratna Sintawati Rahardja, by The Sukendro Family
Monday, June 3	8:00AM	Billy Boyd, by Daughter, Dolores
Tuesday, June 4	8:00AM	Gil Ossandon, by Linda & Al Misuraca
Wednesday, June 5	8:00AM	Tony Germano, by The Mazzeo Family
Thursday, June 6	8:00AM	Remia & Jose Alomia, by The Capuno Family
Friday, June 7	8:00AM	Mom & Dad, Grams & Gramps, by Trish, Sonny, Nick, Kelli & Lexi
Saturday, June 8	5:00PM	Will Cuddeback, by Mom & Dad
Sunday, June 9	8:00AM	Intention of Parishioners
	10:00AM	Ann & Michael Koruda, by The Aiello family
	12:00PM	Marty Slyman, by Stan & Maria Pozarycki

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

Pray for those who have died...

— "His mercy endures forever." Chronicles

Jeffrey F. Curran

Reflect



Smile with Your Family



Two elderly women were out driving in a large car, both could barely see over the dashboard. As they just went through a red light, the woman in the passenger seat thought to herself, "I must be losing my mind, I thought the light was red but may be it was not?" At the next intersection, the light was red again, but again they went right through. This time the woman in the passenger seat was almost sure that the light had been red, but thought that she might be mistaken. She was getting nervous and decided to pay very close attention to the road. At the next intersection, sure enough, the light was definitely red and they went right through. She turned to the woman driving and said, "Mildred! Did you know we just ran through three red lights in a row! You could have killed us!" Mildred turned to her and said, "Oh, Gosh! am I the one driving?" 😊

Two men are ice fishing on Sunday and feeling a bit guilty about not being in church. "I wouldn't have gone to church anyway," one man said to his friend, explaining, "my wife is sick in bed with the flu." J

Sign in front of a Church: "Jesus Saves." Sign directly across the street at a grocery store. "We Save You More." J

An announcement in the bulletin of a church read, "The eight-graders will present Shakespeare's Hamlet in the church auditorium on Friday at 7 P.M. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy." J

A Nebraska church listed the sermon topic as "Gossip." Immediately following the sermon, the choir sang: "I love to Tell the Story." 😊



Parenting Tune-Up

"He took bread, blessed it...and gave it to them." (Mark 14:22) Hopefully your family says a blessing before meals. Good. What we eat becomes part of our body. As your family eats together this weekend be mindful that God is in each of you. Together, we are the body of Christ.

Marriage Tune-Up

"Couples who are finding it hard to stay married deserve our prayers and assistance." (Follow the Way of Love, USCCB). Pray for a couple you know who is struggling in their marriage. Perhaps your prayer is for yourself. Consider trying 'Retrouvaille' or 'The Third Option.'



Shock of the Agnostic Lawyer!

Brennan Manning, an American Franciscan priest, tells this story of his mother, a woman in her mid-seventies in Brooklyn. Mrs. Manning's day centered on her daily Eucharist. Because she began her voluntary stint at a drug detoxification center each morning at 7.30 a.m., the only mass she could reach was at 5.30 a.m. Across the road from her lived a very successful lawyer, mid-thirties, married with two children. The man had no religion and was particularly critical of daily churchgoers. Driving home from a late party at 5 am one January morning, the roads glassy with ice, he said to his wife: "I bet that old hag won't be out this morning", referring to Mrs. Manning. However, to his shock, there she was on hands and knees negotiating the hill up to the church. He went home, tried to sleep, but could not. Around 9 am, he rose, went to the local presbytery and asked to see a priest. "Padre," he said, "I am not one of yours. I have no religion. But could you tell me what do you have there that can make an old woman crawl on hands and knees on an icy morning?" Thus began his conversion along with his wife and family.

Mrs. Manning was one of those people who never studied deep religious books, never knew the big theological words, but she knew what it is to meet Jesus in Holy Communion. She was a Christ-bearer. Jesus Christ is the bread of life. What more could we want? By receiving Holy Communion we become Christ-bearers as Mary was, with the duty of conveying Christ to others at home and in the workplace, as love, mercy, forgiveness and humble and sacrificial service. As we celebrate this great feast of faith, let us worship what St. Thomas Aquinas did not hesitate to call, "the greatest miracle that Christ ever worked on earth My Body My Blood". Before the greatness of this mystery, let us exclaim with St. Augustine, "O Sacrament of devotion! O Sign of unity! O Bond of charity!" Let us also repeat St. Thomas Aquinas' prayer of devotion in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament: "O Sacrament most holy! O Sacrament Divine! All praise and all thanksgiving be every moment Thine!"

Corpus Christi Feast: "A found Poem"

[Jesus] took bread, said the blessing, broke it, gave it to them and said, "Take it; this is my body." Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, and they all drank from it. He said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed for many." Mark 14: 12-16, 22-26

Seamus Heaney was one of the great Irish poets of our time. The Nobel laureate's work reflected the profound spiritual connection between God's creation and the Irish soul. A few years ago, Heaney was asked to contribute to a book on the spiritual lives of major figures in the arts and sciences. Heaney responded with a two-page FAX from his home in Dublin. He began by thanking the writer for her gracious invitation, and then apologized. Spirituality was the one part of his life, he replied, about which he felt he was "woefully inarticulate."

On the second page, he included a short poem. "Here," Heaney wrote. "Perhaps you can use it in some small fashion in your book." He titled it, "A Found Poem." Part of the poem was his memory of attending Mass in his village church:

**Like everybody else, I bowed my head
during the consecration of the bread and wine,
lifted my eyes to the raised host and raised chalice,
believed (whatever it means) that a change occurred.
I went to the altar rails and received the mystery
on my tongue, returned to my place, shut my eyes fast,
made
an act of thanksgiving, opened my eyes and felt
time starting up again.**

[Published in *The God Factor: Inside the Spiritual Lives of Public People* by Cathleen Falsani.]

The Real Presence: Biblical Basis:

Our belief in this Real Presence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist derives from the literal interpretation of the promise of Christ to give us his Body and Blood for our spiritual food and drink, as found in St. John's Gospel, Chapter 6, and also in the four independent accounts of the fulfillment of this promise at the Last Supper (Mt 26; Mk 14; Lk 22; 1 Cor 11). Eucharistic theologians explain the *Real Presence* by a process called *transubstantiation*: the entire *substance* of bread and wine is changed into the entire *substance* of the risen and glorified Body and Blood of Christ, retaining only the "accidents" (taste, color, shape) of bread and wine. Can there be a religion in which God is closer to man than our Catholic Christianity? Jesus does not believe that he is humiliating himself in coming to us and giving himself to us in his Flesh and Blood; rather, he is expressing his everlasting love for us.

Do We Prepare to Receive Holy Communion?

We are not perfect. We have our weaknesses and sinfulness. Hence, there is always need for repentance, and a need for the Sacramental confession of grave sins, before we receive Holy Communion. We should remember the warning given by St. Paul: "*Whoever, therefore, eats the Bread or drinks the Cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be answerable for the Body and Blood of the Lord. Examine yourselves, and only then eat of the Bread and drink of the Cup. For all who eat and drink without discerning the Body, eat and drink judgment against themselves.*" (1 Cor. 11:27-9). Hence, let us receive Holy Communion with fervent love and respect -- not merely as a matter of routine. St. Paul is speaking also of the Mystical Body of Christ, i.e., the people of God gathered at the altar. Such a union, plainly, means that our outward piety towards the consecrated Bread and Wine cannot coexist with rudeness, unkindness, slander, cruelty, gossiping or any other breach of charity toward our brothers and sisters.

St. Padre Pio's Prayer after Holy Communion

"Stay with me, Lord, for it is necessary to have You present so that I do not forget You. You know how easily I abandon You.
Stay with me, Lord, because I am weak and I need Your strength, that I may not fall so often.
Stay with me, Lord, for You are my life, and without You, I am without fervor.
Stay with me, Lord, for You are my light, and without You, I am in darkness.
Stay with me, Lord, to show me Your will.
Stay with me, Lord, so that I hear Your voice and follow You.
Stay with me, Lord, for I desire to love You very much, and always be in Your company.
Stay with me, Lord, if You wish me to be faithful to You.
Stay with me, Lord, for as poor as my soul is, I want it to be a place of consolation for You, a nest of love.
Stay with me, Jesus, for it is getting late and the day is coming to a close, and life passes; death, judgment, eternity approach. It is necessary to renew my strength.

Reflect

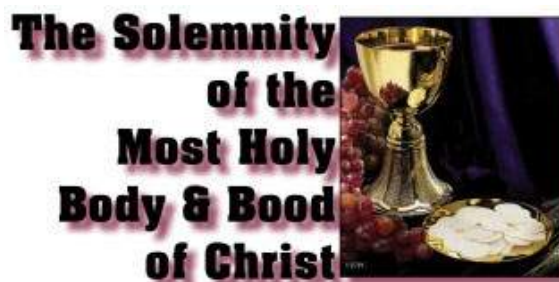
Re-Telling the Story, not an Empty Ritual

On a hill near Cape Town, South Africa, just below the famed Table Mountain, a gun is fired every day at noon. The hill is known as Signal Hill. The firing of the gun once served a beautiful purpose. It signaled that a ship, on its way to or from India, had arrived in the harbor with a cargo of goods, and was in need of supplies of food and fresh water. A beautiful exchange resulted. There was receiving and giving. However, that was a long time ago. The purpose no longer exists. Yet the gun is still fired dutifully every day. However, the firing is now little more than an empty ritual. Once it had a beautiful meaning. Now the meaning has gone out of it. Most of the local people ignore it. Visitors are told, 'If you hear a loud bang at mid-day, don't worry. It's only the gun going off.' However, the ritual still has one thing going for it. Most people know the story behind it. If that story were to be lost, then the ritual would become poorer still. The Eucharist celebrates a wonderful event - the gift that Jesus made of his life on our behalf. Every time we celebrate the Eucharist, we tell that story again.

However, like anything that is repeated over and over again, there is a danger that it may become just a ritual. Hence, let us receive Holy Communion with fervent love and respect – not merely as a matter of routine. St. Paul is speaking also of the Mystical Body of Christ, i.e., the people of God gathered at the altar. Such a union, plainly, means that our outward piety towards the consecrated Bread and Wine cannot coexist with rudeness, unkindness, slander, cruelty, gossiping or any other breach of charity toward our brothers and sisters.

What are they really Hungry For?

An American priest was invited to take part in a youth rally in Canada. About 700 young people were camping out in a large park for the weekend. Their program included workshops on such topics as dating, sexual morality, drugs, peer pressure and meditation. The organizers felt that the least popular workshop would be the one on meditation. They were in for a big surprise. It was the best-attended workshop of the weekend. At one point in that workshop, the priest giving it sensed a profound presence of the Holy Spirit and invited the 200 participants to pray together. The response was amazing. Afterwards the priest said, "It was one of the most moving experiences in all my years of priestly ministry." Then alluding to the image in today's Gospel he said: "There's a whole mountain-side full of young people out there who want to eat, but there's no one to feed them. There's a whole mountain-side full of young people out there who want to pray but there's no one to teach them." The priest's remark merely paraphrases what Jesus said in Matthew's Gospel.



Pray

EXPERIENCING THE DIOCESAN YOUTH DAY

Hi, my name is Abigail Joseph, I am in 8th grade and I am part of SMYLE (St. Matthias Youth Living Evangelization.)

Thanks to Father Abraham and Deacon John, I got the opportunity to go to the annual Diocesan Youth Day hosted by St. Thomas Aquinas High School, on April 20th. When I reached there, I had a mixed feeling of excitement and I was a little nervous too because I really did not know anyone there.

There were more than 10 parishes and schools with their large groups of kids. They started with a Human bingo game where I got to walk around and ask people questions, which was fun and put me at ease. The whole event was planned out very well and they continued with many more fun games. Though I did not win any, I still enjoyed playing each one of them. I was able to make new friends and it was an awesome opportunity to learn about other teens from our nearby parish and schools.

Some of the games I loved were "Guess what year the song was released!" In another fun game, they divided us into groups, and then would say things like, "Bring your farthest," or "Bring your slowest." It was a group activity and it was so much fun to be a part of a group and cheer each other.

Pray

EXPERIENCING THE DIOCESAN YOUTH DAY CONTINUED

After the games, a youth speaker named Chika Anyanwu, gave us an inspirational talk. She was really funny and nice. She talked about her encounter with Christ and she emphasized how “the journey is just as important as the destination.” During lunch, we got to meet our dear Bishop Checchio. He gave several birthday blessings to teens who were celebrating their birthday and even told us his birthday was the next day.

The best part was towards the end of the day, which started with adoration. The team led us in a beautiful praise and worship in front of the blessed sacrament. I could never imagine adoration in front of the blessed sacrament was such a special time. It even made many kids open their hearts with tears in their eyes. During adoration, they let us go to confession. In my heart, I wanted to go but was not sure if anyone else would. Then I saw someone get up, and it gave me the courage to go as well. We were all given a paper with the examination of conscience that helped to do a good confession. I felt amazing after the beautiful confession I did that day. In fact, almost everyone went to confession that day, even the adults. Then we had a beautiful Mass, which concluded the fun and spirit filled day. This year I was the only one from St. Matthias, but I hope next year we will have a big group to represent our church and to have fun along with experiencing the love of Christ.

Come and See!

HOW CAN YOU MINISTER TO THOSE CALLED TO THE ORDAINED AND CONSECRATED LIFE?

A VOCATION TO THE ORDAINED AND CONSECRATED LIFE IS GOD'S INVITATION TO LOVE AND SERVE GOD AND HIS PEOPLE IN A PARTICULAR STATE OR WAY OF LIFE.

JOIN US FOR A MORNING OF PRAYER AND REFLECTION WHERE WE, AS A FAMILY, WILL DEEPEN OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THIS WAY OF LIFE, AS WELL AS INTERCEDE FOR AN INCREASE OF VOCATIONS TO THE ORDAINED AND CONSECRATED LIFE.

Saturday, June 8th 2024
9:30 am to noon
St. Matthias School
John XXIII ROOM



This coming **Friday, June 7th**, on the Solemnity of The Sacred Heart of Jesus, we celebrate World Day for the Sanctification of Priests. Established by Pope John

Paul II, this day is dedicated to fostering the spiritual renewal and holiness of Catholic priests. It underscores the essential role of priests in the Church and the need for their ongoing personal and spiritual development.

On this special day, our priests are encouraged to reflect on the importance and dignity of their vocation. All of us are invited to support our priests through prayer and expressions of gratitude for their service and sacrifices. We pray for Father Abraham's and Father Lancelot's spiritual well-being as we ask God to grant them the strength, courage, and wisdom needed to fulfill their priestly duties.

Related to The World Day for the Sanctification of Priests is our upcoming **Morning of Prayer for Vocations to the Ordained & Consecrated Life** to be held on **Saturday, June 8th from 9:30 to Noon** in the John XXIII room here at St. Matthias. All are welcome! Please join us as we pray for our priests – current and future!

Until then we can pray: *O Jesus, eternal High Priest, who, in your incomparable love for humanity, allowed Catholic priesthood to issue from your sacred heart, continue to pour out on your priests the life-giving streams of your infinite love. Live and act in them so that they may perform in your name and by the strength of your Spirit the works which you have accomplished for the salvation of this world.*

For more information on the St. Matthias Vocations Ministry feel free to email Joe Percoco at percoco@rutgers.edu

Learn



Camp Invention®

CAMP INVENTION AT ST. MATTHIAS SCHOOL!

June 17-21, 2024

Thanks to rave reviews from campers, parents, and teachers, we're bringing **Camp Invention** back for its 7th year at St. Matthias School!

Even better, our 2024 program is full of all-new, hands-on STEM fun!

Don't miss out—register students going into grades Kindergarten - 6th grade at invent.org/mylocalcamp until camp starts. Register by **March 27th** using **FUN25** to **save \$25** or by **May 16th** using **FUN15** to **save \$15!** If you have multiple children use **SIBLOVE30** to **save \$30** for 2 siblings and **SIBLOVE40** to **save \$40** for 3 or more siblings!

Contact Camp Director, **Christine Taylor** at ctaylor@stmatthiasnj.org for any questions.

Camp Week: June 17-21, 2024

For students 7th grade to 9th grade, you can register as Leaders-in-Training to help support the teachers at a discounted registration fee and for students 10th grade and up you can get 40 volunteer hours by registering and helping that week!



Cub Scout Pack 195 / Boy Scout Troop 154

CAR WASH FUNDRAISER

All proceeds from the event will help fund Pack 195 and Troop 154 Scout Activity Program

THANK YOU

SATURDAY JUNE 8th, 2024
10AM-3PM

ST. MATTHIAS CHURCH
168 JFK BLVD, SOMERSET

Suggested Donation (cash or check):
Car - \$10, Minivan/SUV - \$15
More info: www.scoutpack195nj.com

Connect



Alzheimer's Support Group Meets in Person on June 12, at 2:00PM

The Alzheimer's Association and Saint Matthias Catholic Church are co-hosting a monthly Support Group for individuals living with Alzheimer's or Dementia, their care partners, and others dealing with the disease. Our next meeting will be **Wednesday, June 12th, from 2:00 pm-3:30 pm in the Parish Office at St. Matthias.** 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.

Pastoral Council Seeks New Members

The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) is the primary advisory body for the Pastor. As we continue to recruit new members, we would like to invite everyone in our parish to help make this leadership body more representative of our entire parish community. What does this mean for you? Do you know a fellow parishioner who you think would be great to have on the Pastoral Council? Speak with that person and ask them to contact the Council's Co-Chairs:

Marilyn Wegg, maw-wam@comcast.net or Frank Rees, Frees814@gmail.com. If you have been considering joining this ministry, don't be shy. Contact the co-chairs. Everyone is invited to observe a Pastoral Council meeting.

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. If you know anyone who has not received these Sacraments of Initiation, kindly invite him/her to try this process. Please contact Parish Office at: 732-828-1400.

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 45 - May 5, 2024	\$9,672.50	\$17,849.00	\$27,521.50	\$32,720.75
Week 46 - May 12, 2024	\$9,859.00	\$23,589.00	\$33,448.00	\$25,629.25
Week 47 - May 19, 2024	\$8,451.15	\$12,992.50	\$21,443.65	\$19,720.25
Week 48 - May 26, 2024	\$12,402.00	\$9,692.60	\$22,094.60	\$19,260.42
			Month-to-date Total	May Total Last Year
			\$104,507.75	\$97,330.67
			Current Year-to-date	Year-to-date as of May 31, 2023
			\$1,268,761.05	\$1,279,928.71

Stewardship Reflection June 2, 2024 Feast of Corpus Christi

“Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them and they all drank from it.” - Mark 14:23

Jesus, the perfect steward, gave thanks, just before He gave Himself up for us, completely for our salvation. He offers us the same chance to drink from His cup. In the bread and wine, we meet Christ personally. If we follow Him, drinking from His cup means we offer our own self-sacrifice, using all of our gifts to do His work on earth for the benefit of others.

Reflexiónese - 2 de junio de 2024 Fiesta de Corpus Christi

“Y tomando una copa, después de dar gracias, se la dio a ellos, y todos bebieron de ella.” - Marcos 14:23

Jesús, el perfecto administrador, dio gracias, justo antes de entregarse a Sí mismo por nosotros, por nuestra completa salvación. Él nos ofrece la misma oportunidad de beber de Su copa. En el pan y el vino, nos encontramos personalmente con Cristo. Si lo seguimos, tomar de Su copa significa que ofrecemos nuestro propio sacrificio, utilizando todos nuestros dones para beneficio de los demás y para hacer Sus obras en la tierra.



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

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

Please apply ASAP as space is limited.

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

Visit us at: www.wwme.org for more information.



Registration for all offerings is required 10 days in advance to avoid the program being cancelled. You can register and pay for any program at www.msmhope.org.

Tuesday, June 18 SACRED TIME, SACRED SPACE

A personal, quiet day to enjoy God's presence. Day begins with communal prayer. Bring a bag lunch.

Tuesday, 9:30am-3pm at the House of Prayer \$20-\$30 as you are able

Tuesday, June 18 MAN TO MAN

Men have unique roles in life... husbands, fathers, grandfathers, the single life and religious life... We're pushed and pulled in a thousand directions by responsibilities, stress, loss and by joys. Where can we find time to reflect on the loss and gain of our lives? For all men—young, old and in between. Join our group over coffee or tea for life affirming discussions and prayer to find God in our lives and to make a difference in our own worlds.

4th Tuesday of the Month

July 23, Aug. 27 from 7-8:30 both at the House of Prayer and on Zoom Freewill offering

Thursday, June 20 VIRTUAL COMFORTABLE CUP OF TEA

Join us on Zoom for an hour of lectio divina, prayer, conversation and small group sharing.

First and Third Thursdays of each month from 3-4pm on Zoom Freewill offering



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Parish Leadership

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