



THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS
SUNDAY, JUNE 23, 2024
 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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-Thursday 9AM-1PM, and Friday by appointment.

For all Parish emails, add @stmatthias.net

Pastor: Rev Abraham Orapankal, **Abraham**
 Fr. Lancelot McGrath, *Parochial Vicar* **lmcgrath**
 Mary Pat Burke-Grospin, *Business Administrator*
mpburke-grospin

Deacon Ron Caimi, *Senior Deacon*
 Kelly Counts, *Receptionist*, **kcounts**
 Deacon Russell Demkovitz, **rdemkovitz**
 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**



Congratulations to
St. Matthias School 2024 Graduates!

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 23, 2024

All Day– Service WorX Week Begins

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

Monday, Jun 24, 2024 Nativity of John the Baptist Service WorX

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

Tuesday, Jun 25, 2024 St. William of Montevergine, Abbot

Service WorX

8:00AM	Mass	Church
7:30PM	Handbell Choir Rehearsal	Church

Wednesday, Jun 26, 2024 St. Jose Maria Escriva, Priest

Service WorX

8:00AM	Mass St. Joseph Novena	Church
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Thursday, Jun 27, 2024 St. Cyril of Alexandria, Bishop & Doctor

Service WorX

8:00AM	Mass	Church
6:30PM	Social Ministry Gathering	Cafeteria

Friday, Jun 28, 2024 St. Irenaeus, Bishop & Martyr Service WorX

8:00AM	Mass	Church
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Saturday, Jun 29, 2024 Sts. Peter & Paul, Apostles

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

Sunday, Jun 30, 2024

8:00AM	Mass	Church
10:00AM	Mass	Church
12:00PM	Mass	Church
1:00PM	Retirement Celebration for Sr. Marie Therese	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.

Dear Friends,

Tomorrow, June 24, is the solemn feast in honor of the birth or nativity of John the Baptist. Usually, the feast days of the saints are celebrated on or around the date of their death. John the Baptist is an exception due to his uniqueness as the Forerunner, the Voice crying out in the Wilderness, in the history of salvation. At the same time, the Church wants to be more conscious of the witness of John’s character as a model for us to grow in holiness.



It is enlightening for us to know a little church history and tradition associated with the birthday celebrations of John the Baptist. This is one of the oldest feasts on the Church calendar. In the early Church, as in medieval times, this was one of the biggest feasts of the year. As was done on Christmas, three masses were offered, one at midnight, and two in the morning. All over Europe, fires were lit on mountains and hilltops on the eve of this feast. The people had parties and lit bonfires in honor of John because our Lord called him a “burning and shining lamp” (John 5:35). These fires, sometimes called St. John’s fires, were lit on St. John’s Eve and burned until at least midnight. These fires were also a sign of Christ the Light, and a reminder that we, too, are called to be a light for the world. In Catholic sections of Europe, people prayed together to Saint John for his intercession that the summer might be blessed in homes, fields, and country. Finally, they performed some of the traditional folk dances, usually accompanied by singing and music. In addition to celebrating around outdoor fires, other customs included decorating one’s home with flowers, making floral wreaths (which were sometimes sent down a river as a symbol of Jesus’ baptism), placing sprigs of St. Johnswort around the house much as we do Palm Sunday palms, and eating strawberries. This feast placed three months after the feast of the Annunciation, and six months before Christmas served the useful purpose of supplanting the immoral pagan feasts of the Summer Solstice. St. John the Baptist was highly honored throughout from the beginning. Proof of this is, among other things, the fact that fifteen churches were dedicated to him in the ancient imperial city of Constantinople.

William Shakespeare in his play Romeo and Juliet wrote, “What’s in a name? A rose by any other name would smell just as sweet.” Actually, Biblical names have often a rich meaning. When the time came to circumcise this child, neighbors and relatives expected him to be named after his father, Zechariah. But his mother insisted, “No, he is to be called John.” “The name, “John,” in Hebrew is “Yehohanan.” It means, “The Lord is gracious,” or maybe better, “The Lord shows favor.” The birthday of John Baptist relates to the birth of Jesus. The Church selected the time of the winter solstice to celebrate the birth of Jesus because from that time the days gradually grow longer; the amount of daylight increases. But the Church selected the time of the summer solstice to celebrate the birth of the Baptist because from this time the days gradually grow shorter; the amount of daylight diminishes. This symbolizes the words of the Baptist in speaking of Jesus, “He must increase while I must decrease.” (John 3:30)

May we too allow Jesus to increase in the way we witness to Him and His teachings.

Your brother in Christ,
 Fr. Abraham Orapankal

Readings for the Week

Monday Is 49:1-6 Ps 139:1b-3, 13-14ab, 14c-15 Acts 13:22-26 Lk 1:57-66, 80

Tuesday 2 Kgs 19:9B-11, 14-21, 31-35A, 36 Ps 48:2-3AB, 3CD-4, 10-11 Mt 7:6, 12-14

Wednesday 2 Kgs 22:8-13; 23:1-3 Ps 119:33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 40 Mt 7:15-20

Thursday 2 Kgs 24:8-17 Ps 79:1b-2, 3-5, 8, 9 Mt 7:21-29

Friday 2 Kgs 25:1-12 Ps 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6 Mt 8:1-4

Saturday Acts 12:1-11 Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 2 Tm 4:6-8, 17-18 Mt 16:13-19

Sunday Wis 1:13-15; 2:23-24 Ps 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11, 12, 13 2 Cor 8:7, 9, 13-15 Mk 5:21-43 or 5:21-24, 35b-43

Mass Intentions for the Week

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,
Monday, June 24	8:00AM	Doris Kempton, by Jeff Hentz
Tuesday, June 25	8:00AM	Deceased Members of the Kohler & Gatarz Families, by Claire
Wednesday, June 26	8:00AM	Enid Slutter, by Linda & Al Misuraca
Thursday, June 27	8:00AM	Everton Lewis, by St. Martin de Porres Group
Friday, June 28	8:00AM	Frank Pollak, by James & Mary Woods
Saturday, June 29	5:00PM	Frances De Franzo & Barbara Butler, By Frank & Joanne Inzano
	5:00PM	Dennis Stuewe, by Family
Sunday, June 30	8:00AM	Rafael Hernandez, by The Rasikiewicz Family
	10:00AM	Pat Leposa, by Holy Trinity Prayer Group
	12:00PM	Intention of Parishioners

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 Littrakis	Robert Pietrowiak	Anita Vance
Brandon Barbarite	Heinley Gaspard	John Littrakis	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*

Reflect



Smile with Your Family



Small plot and big plot of land: A Texan was visiting a friend who was a small Iowa farmer. "Is this all the land you have?" he asked. "Where I come from, I can get in my car at 6:00 a.m. and drive all day and never see the end of my land." "Is that right?" said the Iowa farmer. "I used to have a car like that too." 😊

He trusted his wife: A man and his wife were sitting in the living room and he said to her, "Just so you know, I never want to live in a vegetative state, dependent on some machine and fluids from a bottle. If that ever happens, just pull the plug." His wife got up, unplugged the TV and threw out all of his beer. 😊

Therapist to client: "Do any of your relatives suffer from mental illness?"
"No," the client answered, "they all seem to enjoy it!" 😊

MOMS WILL ALWAYS BE MOMS:

- *Issac Newton's mother: "But did you wash the apple before eating it?"* 😊
- *Thomas Edison's mother: Of course I am proud that you invented the electric bulb. Now turn it off and get to bed !!!* 😊
- *Archimedes's mother: "Didn't you have any shame running naked in the street? And, WHO is this girl Eureka???"* 😊



Parenting Tune-Up

Discipline does not mean punishment. The purpose of discipline is to help your child learn to become responsible. Allow your child to experience the consequences of their actions. If a child chooses not to study for a test, she will get a poor grade. If he leaves his bicycle out in the yard, it may get rusty or stolen. If she does not set her alarm, she may miss the school bus. These may seem like hard lessons, but better to learn them when the stakes are low than when losing a job or having an untimely pregnancy might be the consequence.

Marriage Tune-Up

Think of the worst storm you had to deal with in your married life. How did you navigate that crisis? What was the role of God or religion in resolving that storm? What lessons did you learn from it? Share with your spouse.



The Edmund Fitzgerald buried in Lake Superior



In 1976, the songwriter Gordon Lightfoot recorded a haunting ballad in honor of, and as a tribute to, a ship and its crew members who lost their lives. He called it "The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald." The *Edmund Fitzgerald* was a giant ore-freighter, 729 feet in length. It was the largest carrier on the Great Lakes from 1958 until 1971. The *Fitzgerald* was labeled "the pride of the American Flag." On November 10, 1975, the *Fitzgerald* was hauling a heavy load of ore to Detroit, Michigan, when it ran into a severe storm. This storm generated 27-30-foot waves. During the evening hours the ship disappeared from radar screens; apparently it sank in a matter of minutes. It now rests on the bottom of Lake Superior, broken in two with the bow upright and the stern upside down, still loaded with its cargo of ore and all 29 hands.

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Why did these innocents have to die under such tragic situation? Our First Reading today tries to answer this age-old question of humanity. The *Book of Job* was probably written by a Jewish sage sometime around the time of the Exile. It addresses the problem of human suffering but does not solve it. The book is a kind of folktale and the central character, Job, represents a good person who must deal with the agony of undeserved suffering. In this week's text, God addresses Job for the first time, questioning his right to challenge God's authority and leading Job deeper and deeper into the mystery of creation. God tells Job that He is the Creator and Lord of the sea and the waters, and only He can control the wind and the sea and the other elements. "I set limits for the sea and fastened the bar of its door." The *Book of Job*, taken in its totality, teaches the lesson that God has plans and purposes which mortal men cannot grasp. It also states that, although the wicked prosper and the innocent suffer for a time, YAHWEH finally redresses the wrongs suffered by the innocent!



Fourteen people in the boat?

In the Gardiner Museum in Boston there is a painting by Rembrandt entitled "The Storm on the Sea of Galilee." It is Rembrandt's interpretation of this scene. It shows panic etched on the faces of the disciples, as their small vessel is being raised up on a high wave, about to be crashed down. Two of the disciples are attempting to rouse Jesus who is asleep in the stern of the boat. But if you look more closely, you will discover that there is something that is not quite right. There are too many people in the picture. So you count them. There are fourteen. There should only be thirteen (twelve disciples and Jesus). But instead there are fourteen. It is then that you notice that one of the men in the boat is Rembrandt. He has painted himself into the picture. He has placed himself in the same boat. Which is precisely what we should do. It is the way that we are supposed to interpret this passage. We are in the boat with Jesus, faithful but frightened. There is no immunity for any of us. We are caught up in the same fix. I suspect most of us would rather be numbered with the exceptions. Either we would like to believe that storms will never strike us or that Faith will never fail us.

We need to accommodate Jesus in the boat of our life. All of us are making a journey across the sea of time to the shore of eternity. Hence, it is natural that, occasionally, we all experience different types of violent storms in our lives: physical storms, emotional storms, and spiritual storms. We face storms of sorrow, doubt, anxiety, worry, temptation and passion. The storms we encounter in life are often what make us or break us. These storms can either bring us closer to God and one another or alienate us from God and others. And it is only Jesus who can still these storms for us. Jesus can give us real peace in the storm of sorrow. When we are totally depressed with sorrow Jesus assures us of the glory of the life to come. Jesus consoles us at the loss of our dear ones with the assurance of eternal life for them in the Heavenly home of God the Father where we, too, will live one day. When the storms of doubt seek to uproot the very foundations of our Faith, Jesus is there to still that storm, revealing to us his Divinity and the authority behind the words of the Holy Scripture. Jesus gives us peace in a tempest of doubt, tension and uncertainty, provided we humbly submit to Jesus' guidance. He gives us peace in the storms of anxiety and worry about ourselves, about the unknown future and about those we love. Jesus calms the storms of passion in people who have hot hearts and blazing tempers. Jesus is the captain of the boats of our souls. He won't stop all the storms of our souls, but he will see to it that we do not sink, if we keep our Faith and keep calling for his help.

A fishing ship in a perfect storm!

October 1991, the *Andrea Gail*, a seventy-two foot long fishing boat, with a 365 horsepower turbo-charged diesel engine, left a New England port headed for the Atlantic Ocean. She was going on what was supposed to be another routine fishing trip. But it was to be her last voyage. Why? Because she ran into the most powerful and dangerous force on earth - a full-blown hurricane on the open seas. An ocean hurricane is so powerful that the combined nuclear arsenals of the United States and the former Soviet Union, do not contain enough energy to keep that hurricane going for one day. One average hurricane encompasses a million cubic miles of atmosphere, and could provide all of the electrical power needed by the United States for up to four years. Winds can be so high that when they hit the coast, people have been sandblasted to death. So much rain can fall - up to 5 inches per hour - birds have been known to drown in mid-flight as the water clogs their upward-facing nostrils. The *Andrea Gail* had the misfortune of running into of all things a storm called "Hurricane Grace." It was a storm so powerful that it had the highest significant wave heights ever measured or calculated from 1899 to 1991. In fact, this storm has been given the nickname "The Perfect Storm." This storm brought waves ten stories high with pressure of up to six tons per square foot of water. The winds were measured at 120 miles an hour. The *Andrea Gail* never had a chance because she had encountered the "perfect storm."

Well 2,000 years ago there occurred in the Sea of Galilee the first "perfect storm." It was perfect for this reason: not because it was as violent, but it was far more important. Because this storm taught twelve disciples then, and hopefully will teach us today, how to navigate the ship of our life through the stormiest of seas. Just as the disciples had accused Jesus of abandoning them during the tumult, Jesus now turns to his followers and scolds them for abandoning their faith in him and in their mission. Mark's miracle story asks us to consider two questions. First, who is Jesus? (v.41) Second, will you trust this Jesus? The disciples fail on both counts on this occasion. Even though they don't suspect Jesus' true identity, they accept Him with joy as their Master, but they are incapable of trusting in his love and care for them. Fear, doubt and insecurity overwhelm the disciples on this stormy voyage. Jesus stills the storm as if exorcising a demon in much the same way as he did in many of Mark's miracle stories. That is the whole point of the story: nothing could harm the disciples while he was with them. Many people have found great comfort in sensing Jesus' constant presence in the most difficult and dangerous crises.

Storms of divorce devastating families!

Some marriages don't make it through the storm, and the wreckage can be devastating. Especially for women. A recent study showed that women and children experience a 73% decline in their standard of living the year of their divorce. Just as important is the fact that more and more couples find that divorce is no real solution to their problems. In her book, *Second Chances: Men, Women and Children a Decade after Divorce*, Judith Wallerstein writes, "Divorce is deceptive. Legally it is a simple event, but psychologically it is a chain, sometimes a never-ending chain, of events, relocations and radically shifting relationships strung through time." [Wallerstein's quote is taken from Patricia Hersch, "Ten Years After: A Sobering Report on Divorce," *Psychology Today* (July, 1989), p. 78.] Marriage counselors who a decade ago were advising couples to go ahead and part are now recommending couples hang in there and try to make it through the storm. Of course, that has been God's plan all along. Marriage problems are a storm many people are going through.

Today's Gospel tells us that when the storms of life are raging, Jesus does care. When it seems you cannot hold on a moment longer, God does care. When the waters threaten to engulf, He does care. "Lord, don't you care about us?" Sure, He does! Is Christ asleep? We might often be tempted to think so when we sit by, helplessly watching the sufferings of a loved one, or in the face of personal tragedy, or in times of depression or natural disaster. In such moments we instinctively turn to God and yet sometimes we don't find Him or He seems far away, apparently busy with other matters. But in our Gospel passage today, Jesus does calm the storm. And that's just it. Jesus does calm the storm -- not all storms forever, but each storm individually at the right moment, just when calming is needed. In AA (Alcoholics Anonymous, and in all the dependency groups based on the AA Model), there is a slogan which says "Let Go - and Let God." It is a marvelously liberating thing to let go, and to let God -- to trust God to make things come out right instead of worrying about how we are going to make this happen ourselves, to decide to act in His will instead of worrying about how to do what we want to do, instead of trying to fix everything on our own.



PLEASE COME JOIN THE MANY WHO SPEND SOME QUIET TIME WITH THE EUCHARISTIC LORD. OUR NEXT ADORATION WILL BE MONDAY EVENING, JUNE 24, 2024 FROM 6 PM TO 8 PM.

Alligator in the pond!

The Jones family moved to a new house in south Florida near a pond. There were two other houses on the pond, one owned by a doctor. One day, shortly after they moved in, the Jones' three children went swimming in the pond. Suddenly, out of nowhere a four-hundred pound alligator appeared. The doctor happened to be out and saw the alligator. He yelled to the children. Two of them heard the cry and headed for shore. The third child, Mike, was under the water using his diving gear to look beneath the surface. The other two children got near the shore, looked back, and saw the alligator bearing down like a torpedo on their brother. One of them started back to warn Mike, but it was too late. The alligator was upon the boy. He was about to swallow him whole, but when the alligator chomped down on the boy's head, he found the diving gear distasteful and spit him out. Now Mike swam as fast as he could underwater toward the shore. The alligator swam round and round in circles trying to find the boy. When Mike surfaced, the alligator located him and headed toward him again. Mike was about twenty feet from shore when the alligator caught him, this time by the feet. By this time, Mike's mother, who was on shore, had waded out to where the boy was. She grabbed his extended hands and started to pull. It was a four-hundred pound alligator pulling in one direction and a one-hundred pound mother pulling in the other. The flippers which were distasteful to the alligator caused him to let go. The mother won the tug of war. Today, Mike's only evidence of the horrifying event is scars on his head and feet from the alligator bites and scars on his wrists where his mother's nails had dug in when she pulled him to safety.

Life seemed good to the Joneses. The family had moved to a new home. The children went swimming in a pond. Then wham, slam -- a monster appeared on the scene. How can this happen? How can life be so good one moment and so filled with horror the next? Yet it happens and we feel that we cannot handle it. Sometimes tragedy strikes suddenly and we feel abandoned and unable to handle what life brings us. God is there, but we do not feel His presence at the time. Today's Gospel describes how Jesus saved his apostles from a possible wreck in the Sea of Galilee. Many of the Fathers of the Church consider this miracle story as an allegory of the early Church. The boat in the stormy lake is a symbol of the Church facing challenges from inside and various forms of suppression and persecution from outside. The faithful in such situations wondered if Jesus had deserted his Church. But in their desperate cry for help they were able to experience the inner peace and strength of Jesus. Very often the Church and the faithful have no control over the political and social developments of our society. But, no matter what we are experiencing, we can -- with the help of Jesus -- find peace. It is the peace which only He can give. And it is a peace which no person and nothing can take away from us.

Pray



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 the Parish Office at: 732-828-1400.

Learn



2024-2025 GIFT for K-8 Religious Formation

<https://stmatthias.net/faith-formation/>

We are happy to invite all parents/families with children in K-8, who are NOT attending a Catholic school, to register their children for our religious education/formation program (GIFT) for 2024-2025. **Grade One participation in GIFT is required prior to the typical 2nd Grade participation in First Communion preparation for non-Catholic school students.**

The 2024-2025 registration form for our K-8 family-based parish program of religious formation, G.I.F.T. [Growing In Faith Together], is currently available to complete online at 2024-2025 GIFT for K-8 Religious Formation. www.stmatthias.net/faith-formation/. Please register your family/children in grades K-8. This year we are planning to offer 2 sessions each month: on Tuesday evening's at 6:30PM; and on Sunday afternoons at 2PM. You choose which one of the two sessions to attend.

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

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

Attention 2nd Graders:

First Eucharist Preparation 2024-2025

<https://stmatthias.net/first-eucharist-first-reconciliation/>



For all families in GIFT and for those who are students at St. Matthias School who have (baptized) children who are in 2nd grade [fall 2024] or older who desire to receive the Sacraments of First Reconciliation/First Eucharist in 2025, sacramental preparation is required through the parish-you must register online. Typically, classes are held for all children and at least one parent on certain Sunday mornings in the St. John XXIII room [school building] and certain classrooms following the 10AM Mass (required) for families in church. First Reconciliation is celebrated in January 2025 and there will also be a retreat for parents and child in the spring. Be sure to register early. The sacramental preparation fee for this program is \$80. The 2024-2025 Registration for First Eucharist/First Reconciliation is available online at <https://www.stmatthias.net/first-eucharist-first-reconciliation/> Questions? Please call the Parish Office, 732-828-1400 or email Dee Nann, dnann@stmatthias.net.

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

Confirmation Preparation 2024-2025

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



Confirmation

Families who have a 7th or 8th grader in either St. Matthias School or the GIFT program and desire to have their child prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation need to complete the 2024-2025 Confirmation registration form online, available at <https://www.stmatthias.net/confirmation/>. A parent meeting for 7th grade or year one) parents will be held in November for all registered 7th graders-or those in Year 1 of Confirmation Preparation who may be a bit older. Questions? Please email Dee Nann at dnann@stmatthias.net Register for Confirmation Preparation as soon as possible!

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

A SPECIAL NOTE OF THANKS



Dear St. Matthias Parish Community,

I wanted to express gratitude for the incredible kindness that my family and I received this school year. The prayers and support were truly such a light during a difficult time in our lives. I am so blessed to be a part of such a warm, loving parish family. May everyone have a healthy and happy summer!

*Samantha Bellouny
Middle School Teacher*



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.

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.

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	\$13,137.50	\$14,481.50	\$27,619.00	\$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
			\$85,267.18	\$100,655.50
			Current Year-to-date Total	Year-to-date as of Jun 30, 2023
			\$1,354,028.23	\$1,394,975.73

Stewardship Reflection June 23, 2024 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Reflexiónese - 23 de junio de 2024 12º Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario

“The he asked them, ‘Why are you terrified? Do you not yet have faith?’” – Mark 4:40

“Entonces Él les preguntó, ¿Por qué están tan asustados? ¿Todavía no tienen fe?”- Marcos 4:40

Do you really trust God? Is God your first choice or last resort? Is your faith something you just do on Sunday or do you live the Gospel message every day of the week? Many of us know about God. How many of us have a personal relationship with Him? Start now, open your heart to receive our Lord. Talk and listen to Him every day. Move your discipleship from head knowledge to heart knowledge.

¿Realmente confía en Dios? ¿Es Dios su primera opción o su último recurso? ¿Su fe es algo que solo practica los Domingos o vive el mensaje del Evangelio cada día de la semana? Muchos de nosotros conocemos acerca de Dios. ¿Cuántos de nosotros tenemos una relación personal con Él? Comience ahora, abra su corazón para recibir al Señor. Hable con Él y escúchelo cada día. Mude su discipulado de conocimiento de la cabeza a conocimiento del corazón.



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

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



TO EVERYTHING A SEASON: THE SPIRITUALITY OF TIME Tuesday, July 9, 9:30am – 11 am

IN PERSON ONLY

\$20-\$30 as you are able

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!

Guest Presenter: Sr. Eileen Smith, RSM

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.

Wednesday, July 24 SACRED TIME, SACRED SPACE

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

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

\$20-\$30 as you are able

Saturday, July 27 A HEART OF COMPASSION

9am-2pm at the House of Prayer

\$50-\$60 as you are able

“As God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion...” Col.3:12

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

Presenter: Joan M. Doherty

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

Parish Leadership

Parish Pastoral Council: Co-Chairs: Frank Rees Frees814@gmail.com 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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