



**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](http://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](https://youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ)

**St. Matthias School (SMS):**

170 JFK Blvd., Somerset, NJ 08873  
[www.stmatthias.info](http://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*, **lguillen**  
 Amy Hanna, *Accountant/Databases*, **ahanna**  
 Mike Lanyi, *Sacristan*

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

Vinnie Natale, *Bookkeeper*, **vnatale**  
 Silvia Nizama, *Housekeeper*

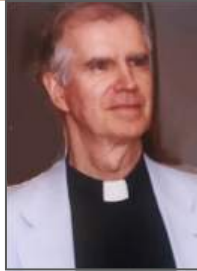
Deacon John Radvanski, **deaconjohn**  
 Joan Best Seamon, *Pastoral Associate for*  
*Music Ministry*, **jseamon**

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

**St. Matthias School (add @stmatthiasnj.org)**

Mary Lynch, *Principal*, **mlynch**

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS  
 SUNDAY, JUNE 30, 2024  
 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time



We are sad to announce the passing of **Reverend Henry L. Hemmerling**.

Fr. Henry served our parish as weekend associate for a few years.

My God our heavenly Father welcome him, a good & faithful servant of the Lord, into His eternal kingdom.

Rest in peace.



Thank You  
 Sr. Marie Therese  
 for Your 17 Years  
 of Service!



We wish you well on  
 your new chapter.



PLEASE COME JOIN THE MANY WHO SPEND SOME QUIET TIME WITH THE EUCHARISTIC LORD. OUR NEXT ADORATION WILL BE MONDAY EVENING, JULY 1, 2024 FROM 6 PM TO 8 PM.

WHEN THE DEACON IS AVAILABLE, WE CONCLUDE ADORATION WITH A BENEDICTION.

Masses are also livestreamed on our YouTube channel: [youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ](https://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 30, 2024**

8:00AM	Mass	Church
10:00AM	Mass	Church
12:00PM	Mass	Church
1:00PM	<b>Retirement Celebration for Sr. Marie Theresa</b>	<b>Cafeteria</b>

**Monday, July 1, 2024** **Junipero Serra, O.F.M. Apostle of California**

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

**Tuesday, July 2, 2024** **St. Processus & St. Martinian, Martyrs**

8:00AM	Mass	Church
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**Wednesday, July 3, 2024** **St. Thomas, Apostle & Martyr , Apostle of India**

8:00AM	Mass	St. Joseph Novena	Church
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**Parish Office Closed- Independence Day Holiday**  
**Thursday, July 4, 2024** **St. Elizabeth of Portugal, Queen of Portugal**

8:00AM	No Mass	
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**Parish Office Closed- Independence Day Holiday**  
**Friday, July 5, 2024** **St. Anthony Mary Zaccaria, Priest & Founder**

8:00AM	Mass /1st Friday Holy Hour	Church
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**Saturday, July 6, 2024** **St. Maria Goretti, Martyr**

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

**Sunday, July 7, 2024**

8:00AM	Mass	Church
10:00AM	Mass	Church
11:00AM	Rosary Altar Society Mtg.	John XXIII Rm
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](mailto: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,

During our 60th Anniversary, we had conducted a parish survey. You may remember the findings published in our bulletin. There was an overwhelming desire from our parishioners to renovate and repair specific areas of our church building including the need for constructing a new bathroom. To fund these projects, we launched the “In Celebration of 60 Years, A Fundraiser for the Future of Our Church” on March 6, 2023, with the modest goal to raise \$125,000, which was revised to \$200,000. Months prior to that, a Fundraising Core Committee was formed with Joan Pritchard, Dolores Christmas, Edna Arguello- Hitchner as Co-Chairs, and Laura Beck, Santina Spinella and Joe Porter as members while Msgr. Seamus Brennan and Mary Pat Burke-Grospin were the staff representatives.

The Core Committee worked very hard and carried out all details of the fundraising, supported by the parish staff, especially Nathalie Godet, Vinnie Natale, Amy Hanna, and Mary Jo Loboda. The Committee created the fundraiser letters and donor contribution envelopes, planned and organized the major donor luncheon, prepared and followed up with a list of tasks to be initiated and completed, regularly updated the status of the contributions on the thermometer chart in the narthex, and held regular meetings for evaluations, updates and strategic planning. The Committee asked for a final wrap up and review meeting and it was held on February 8, 2024. They made a very professional evaluation. There was much satisfaction for the way the Committee did their job for the good of the parish, though they felt that some of the best practices they had recommended to me were not followed to their satisfaction. Though I had thanked them in that final meeting, I wish to place on record our sincere gratitude to the Core Committee for their commitment, enthusiasm and passion in fulfilling their role “In Celebration of 60 Years, A Fundraiser for the Future of Our Church.”

I am very happy to share with you all that the total contributions received as of June 2024 add up to \$152,850.00, and the total invoices of projects cost add up to \$86,937.00. As contributions are still trickling in, the final income and expense report will be shared later. We are happy that the following projects are already completed: Refinishing of the church pews, Construction of a new bathroom, Installation of church front entrance ramp, Renovation of the small bathroom, Installing two Adoring Angels, Installing two wood stands built with marble, Replacing sink in new bathroom with fabricated granite countertop, Diaper change station and switch change, and Installing rolling sun shades in the loft. There are more projects yet to be completed, including the following: Cleaning of the church walls and stations of the cross, Steam cleaning of all fabric covered church chairs and all carpet covered church floors, and Painting of aluminum front entrance ramp to reduce blinding glare.

As I express my gratitude once more to the Core Committee, our parishioners who contributed so generously to this effort deserve a very special thanks. I also wish to express my gratitude to Alma and Jaime Valdez, of JM Valdez Construction company, who not only constructed and renovated the bathrooms, but also generously donated their time and resources in this parish endeavor. The effect of everyone’s sacrificial giving is seen in the projects already completed as listed above. May the Lord who sees the generosity of the participants, bless them abundantly.

Your brother in Christ,  
 Fr. Abraham Orapankal

## Readings for the Week

**Monday** Am 2:6-10, 13-16 Ps 50:16bc-17, 18-19, 20-21, 22-23 Mt 8:18-22

**Tuesday** Am 3:1-8; 4:11-12 Ps 5:4B-6A, 6B-7, 8 Mt 8:23-27

**Wednesday** Eph 2:19-22 Ps 117:1BC, 2 Jn 20:24-29

**Thursday** Am 7:10-17 Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 Mt 9:1-8

**Friday** Am 8:4-6, 9-12 Ps 119:2, 10, 20, 30, 40, 131 Mt 9:9-13

**Saturday** Am 9:11-15 Ps 85:9AB and 10, 11-12, 13-14 Mt 9:14-17

**Sunday** Ez 2:2-5 Ps 123:1-2, 2, 3-4 2 Cor 12:7-10 Mk 6:1-6

## Mass Intentions for the Week

<b>Saturday, June 29</b>	5:00PM	Frances De Franzo & Barbara Butler, by Frank & Joanne Inzano
	5:00PM	Dennis Stuewe, by Family
<b>Sunday, June 30</b>	8:00AM	Rafael Hernandez, by The Rasikiewicz Family
	10:00AM	Pat Leposa, by Holy Trinity Prayer Group
	12:00PM	Intention of Parishioners
<b>Monday, July 1</b>	8:00AM	Dr. Proceso Villarica, by Minda
<b>Tuesday, July 2</b>	8:00AM	Gabriel Jayanthakumar, by Mercy Gabriel
<b>Wednesday, July 3</b>	8:00AM	James Vance, by Julie Vitelli
<b>Thursday, July 4</b>	8:00AM	<b>No Mass, Independence Day</b>
<b>Friday, July 5</b>	8:00AM	Health & Blessings for Marie Godet, by Nath & Ysa
<b>Saturday, July 6</b>	5:00PM	Intention of Parishioners
<b>Sunday, July 7</b>	8:00AM	Santina C. Spinella, by The Family
	10:00AM	Joshua & Jaimer Valdez, by Alma Valdez
	12:00PM	Ronald Biancini, by John Gault

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

## Pray for those who have died...

— “His mercy endures forever.” Chronicles

John "Jack" Shafranski,

Al Maglio,

Reverend Henry L. Hemmerling



# Reflect



## Smile with Your Family



**Head on a platter:** The bishop who was presiding at the pastor's golden jubilee Mass was not pleased that the pastor allowed a liturgical innovation by having a young lady dance the offertory procession in 'attractive' costumes and playing the banjo. As the "dancer" approached the altar the bishop whispered to the pastor: "If she asked for your head on a platter, she'll have it!" 😊

**Who disturbs whom:** One Sunday at Mass as the priest was giving his homily, a little baby in the front row suddenly started crying loudly. The mother did her best to pacify the child, but nothing worked. So finally, she got up and started to walk down the aisle to take the baby into the cry room. The priest stopped his preaching, and very compassionately called out to the mother, "That's OK! You

don't have to leave. The child isn't disturbing me." The young woman turned around and said, "No, pardon me Father, but you're disturbing my child!" 😊

### **MOMS WILL ALWAYS BE MOMS:**

Abraham Lincoln's mother: "Now that you have become President for heaven's sake get rid of that shabby tailcoat and stovepipe hat, and buy yourself a decent outfit." 😊

James Watt's mother: "If you just keep watching that damn lid lifting and dropping, rice will be burnt. Turn off the stove now." 😊

Alexander Graham Bell's mother: "You have installed this new silly thing in the house alright, but I do not want girls calling you at odd hours." 😊



### Parenting Tune-Up

In reflecting back on parenting your children, remember that "You are responsible for the process in raising your children, not the outcome." (*Parenting Your Adult Child*).

Your success or failure does not depend on theirs. Don't beat yourself up or take undue pride.

### Marriage Tune-Up

Complaining can poison your marriage. Sure, there are times when your spouse does something you don't like and you should honestly share that. Other times you may just want to vent. Occasional complaining is OK, but repetitive or more than once a day makes you a sourpuss. It's hard to love a sourpuss.



## Jarius' Children

### **The healings of Jairus' daughter and the hemorrhaging woman. Mark 5: 21-43**

She's up at 4 a.m. and at her computer before the boys are up. She works a couple of hours before she gets them off to school. Then it's off to the day's appointments and meetings and back before they get home; then homework, dinner and bedtime. She hits her laptop for an hour or two before going to bed herself to get a head start on the next day. She works to bring in extra money to pay the tuition for her ten-year-old at a special school for the autistic. It's a strain on her and the family budget, but this school is her son's best chance - and that's all that matters.

Another student found her unconscious in the field near the school parking lot - and just in time, the EMTs said. Now her parents sit by her bedside, praying as they never have before that she will wake up. They hadn't an inkling that she was addicted. But they are resolved that their daughter will not be just another nameless statistic in the opioid epidemic. Regardless of the time and cost, they will get her the help she needs - and they'll walk with her every step of the way on the long road to recovery.

Their weekends are spent at ball fields and hockey rinks; during the week, they shuttle their young musicians to lessons and practices. The schedule can be a grind, but the children's love of playing - whether it be with a puck or an oboe - is their joy, too. Watching their children learn what it means to be part of something bigger than themselves, and, maybe, begin to realize a dream, is at the heart of being a parent.

**What will we not do for our children? What dragon will not slay to protect them? What chasm will we not cross to bring them to the Promised Land? For many moms and dads, their joys and dreams are inextricably linked to their children's. Jairus, in today's Gospel, is just such a dad: to save his beloved daughter, Jairus does not hesitate to risk his standing in the community and career to approach the controversial rabbi reputed to work wonders. A parent's complete and unconditional love is the very reflection of the love of God in our midst. Whether a parent or friend, a neighbor or mentor, we can mirror that same love in our own generosity of heart, in our own resolve to lift up the fallen, to bring healing to the suffering, to restore life to the dead.**



## July 3: Feast of St. Thomas, the Apostle

We may know him better as the “doubting Thomas” and he evangelized southern India. Many parishioners have asked me if I was converted or my parents were converted to Christianity.

The truth is that I am proud to belong to the “St. Thomas Christian Community” that traces its origin to St. Thomas himself. How could Thomas, one of the 12 Apostles, have reached India? Merchants from the Middle East used to go to India to buy spices and so Thomas reached India in one of their ships in the year 52 AD. He converted several Hindu families and established seven churches. He was martyred near Chennai and his tomb is in the Cathedral of San Thom. In fact it is interesting for us to know that there are only three Cathedrals in the world, built over the tomb of an apostle: St. Peter’s in Rome, St. James in Campostella (Spain) and St. Thomas in Chennai (India).

The Bible presents St. Thomas as 1) A model of courage and dedicated love for his master: John 11: 16: *“We too shall go and die with Him.”* 2) A genuine seeker of truth: Jesus’ reply to Thomas’ question: John 20: 24-29: *“I am the way, the truth and the life.”* 3) A disciple who progressed from doubts to conviction and from conviction to total surrender and dedication of life to his Lord and Savior. 4) An apostle who gave the strongest proof of Christ’s resurrection by his profession of faith: *“My Lord and my God.”* As we rightly celebrate our political freedom this July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend, let us not forget that the good news of freedom in Jesus that St. Thomas proclaimed will be ours always.



### **“Do not be Afraid; Just have Faith!”**

Ann Jillian, a three-time *Emmy* and *Golden Globe Award*-winning actress and singer, is an American actress born to Roman Catholic Lithuanian immigrant parents. Since 1985, she has added motivational speaking to her

impressive list of credits, addressing business, medical, professional and women's groups with her own unique blend of humor and inspiration. Her prowess extends from the world’s concert halls, to feature film and the Broadway stage. She has starred in over 25 TV movies and made hundreds of other TV appearances. Her TV movie, *The Ann Jillian Story*, which recounts her victory over breast cancer, was the #1 film of that TV season, but, more important, it delivered Ann’s message about the hopeful side of breast cancer to its millions of viewers. It was in 1985 that the then 35-year-old actress made headlines when she was diagnosed with breast cancer. On her way to the hospital to check the nature of the growth which she had noticed, she stopped at

St. Francis de Sales Church and read the inscription on the door. *“The same everlasting Father who cares for you today will take care of you tomorrow and every day. Either He will shield you from suffering or He will give you unfailing strength to bear it. Be at peace then and put aside all anxious thoughts and imaginations.”* She went into the Church and prayed for the strength to accept her ordeal.

**The radiant trust in God and peace of mind she maintained before and after the surgery (double mastectomy), was big news in the media and a great inspiration for all cancer patients. She trusted in Jesus’ words given in today’s Gospel, “Do not be afraid; just have Faith.” Actually, this phrase is repeated in the Bible 365 times.**

### **Physical Touch can be Healing**

Studies at the University of California-Los Angeles Medical Center; Menninger Foundation, Topeka, Kansas; and Scott and White Clinic, Temple, Texas, have shown that hugging communicates tenderness, gentleness, caring-ness – all those characteristics that are essential for healing both body and soul. Hugging, they say, relieves many physical and emotional problems, helps people live longer, maintains health, relieves stress and promotes sleep. The studies also show that hemoglobin, the portion of blood that carries oxygen, increases significantly when people are touched. There's your answer for those who say the Peace Exchange is artificial! And it certainly gives husbands and wives, parents and children, and significant others good reason to hug and hug and hug! Jesus believed in the touch.

**Jesus practiced the sacrament of touching with his hands. He even says that when someone touched him, believing, he knew power and virtue went out of him. Let's remember that. It's a good reason to keep human touch on a high level. As members of the Church, we are not excused from our vocation to be healers. When a friend of ours is terminally ill, the skill of the doctors and their advanced medical tools often become powerless. What the patient needs in such a situation is our care, concern and prayerful presence, enabling them to experience through us the love, compassion and mercy of Jesus. We do our share of Christ's healing mission by visiting the sick, by praying for their healing and by boosting their morale through our loving presence, encouragement and inspiration. Holding hands and praying can bring about a very calming effect on the patient. There is healing in the touch!**





## “We are “Wounded Healers!”

Perhaps Henri Nouwen, the Catholic theologian, has said this better than anyone else. The author of many books, Nouwen speaks of Christians as "wounded healers" who have compassion. Compassion is not pity. Pity lets us stay at a distance. It is condescending. Compassion is not sympathy. Sympathy is for superiors over inferiors. Compassion is not charity. Charity is for the rich to continue in their status over the poor. Compassion is born of God. It means entering into the other person's problems. It means taking on the burdens of the other. It means standing in the other person's shoes. It is the opposite of professionalism. It is the humanizing way to deal with people. "Just as bread without love can bring war instead of peace, professionalism without compassion will turn forgiveness into a gimmick."

## Johnny Carson, Walter Cronkite & Johnny Cash

There was a television program hosted by Barbara Walters sometime back, on which she interviewed three celebrities: Johnny Carson, Johnny Cash, and Walter Cronkite. According to one viewer, Johnny Carson came across as the typical jaded playboy hedonist. Everything he said telegraphed the fact that he was living for pleasure, but, having tried everything and been everywhere he was fed up with the whole thing. Walter Cronkite was the suave humanist, the worldly philosopher. Now retired and wealthy, he was enjoying life as best he could. He was looking at life rather philosophically, but all he really was saying was, "That's the way it is!" Johnny Cash, on the other hand, admitted his background of alcoholism and drug addiction and the fact that he had virtually destroyed a marriage and wrecked his life. But he openly said he had found Jesus. There was peace in his eyes and contentment in his voice. He spoke of a hope for the future which neither of the others had.

<http://www.pbc.org/dp/stedman/john/3848.html>).

**No doctor could have healed Johnny Cash. Only Christ could do that. Only Christ can heal a broken marriage. Only Christ can heal broken relationships within a family. Only Christ can give us hope when everyone else is telling us that there is no hope to be found. Only Christ can deliver us from sin.**



## What is the healthiest hour of the week?

Dr. Granger Westberg, the founder of Wholistic Medicine, Inc., Chicago, Illinois, asks this question when he talks to nurses, doctors, and pastors: "What is the healthiest hour of the week?" How would you answer that question? Dr. Westberg surprises many people by answering, "The hour of worship on Sunday morning." Why is that true? In order to answer that question we need to consider two other questions which Dr. Westberg often puts to his audiences: (1) What is the major factor in sickness? and (2) What is the major factor in health?

**How would you answer those questions? One medical study shows that the major cause of sickness is desiring revenge. Dr. Westberg quotes a survey of stroke patients most of whom admitted that there was someone against whom they felt a significant desire for revenge. In many cases, that desire for revenge is a repressed feeling, an attitude instead of an expressed action. That same medical study shows that the major factor in staying healthy is gratitude. The ancient psalmists had the right idea: "Praise is comely for the upright." Worship at its best offers the opportunity to resolve conflict through forgiveness and to express feelings of gratitude through praising God for His acts of grace and mercy. At its best, the Church is a healing community. The Church can only be at its best when the members center on and conform themselves to Jesus, the Healer as described in today's healing stories.**

## Today's gospel is a “Markan Sandwich”!!

In today's Gospel we have what is often called a "Markan sandwich": one story is encased or sandwiched between the beginning and end of another. Here, we have an unusual combination of two miracle stories, one contained within the other – a healing, and a restoration of life. The story of the woman with the flow of blood interrupts and is sandwiched in between the two parts of the account of Jairus and his daughter. These miracles were worked by Jesus as rewards for the trusting Faith of a synagogue ruler and of a woman with a hemorrhage. Though the ruler may have trusted Jesus out of desperation and the woman's Faith may have been a bit superstitious, even their perhaps defective Faith was amply rewarded.







2024-2025 Registration  
PREK3- OPEN SPOTS  
PREK4- LIMITED AVAILABILITY  
PLEASE CALL FOR AVAILABILITY IN GRADES K-8

St. Matthias School  
170 John F. Kennedy Blvd., Somerset, NJ  
732-828-1402

Make a donation from the heart.

Need information on how to contribute to our Tuition Angels Fund?  
Please contact:  
Mrs. JoAnn Paparini  
mispap@aol.com or  
Dr. Judy Marro  
jmarroa@gmail.com



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/](http://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](mailto: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 7<sup>th</sup> graders-or those in Year 1 of Confirmation Preparation who may be a bit older.

Questions? Please email Dee Nann at [dnann@stmatthias.net](mailto:dnann@stmatthias.net)  
Register for Confirmation Preparation as soon as possible!

## 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 Parish Office at: 732-828-1400.

## Connect

### St. Matthias Church is Looking to Hire a Part-Time Parish Associate for Faith Formation.

The responsibilities include Coordinate religious formation program for families with children K-8. Manage preparation for Baptism, First Reconciliation/First Eucharist and Confirmation. Adult faith formation through parish small groups.

The candidate must be a practicing Catholic, with excellent communication and organizational skills. Computer proficiency especially in Microsoft Office, Google Suite and other digital tools employed in catechetical ministry.

Experience in parish or related pastoral ministry. A degree in Theology, Catechetics, or Religious Education is preferred.

Please send your resume to: Mary Pat Burke-Grospin, Business Admin. at [mpburke-grospin@stmatthias.net](mailto:mpburke-grospin@stmatthias.net)

## Give (and Receive!)

### TWENTY THREE ST. MATTHIAS SCHOOL FAMILIES PROVIDED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.



The Tuition Angels Committee has wrapped up another year of tuition award assistance for students attending St. Matthias School. For the school year beginning September 2024, twenty-three families will benefit from tuition assistance via this fund. The Tuition Angels Committee provides confidential assistance to parents who are struggling with tuition payments for their child/children to attend St. Matthias School. Many factors lead parents to seek financial assistance, such as loss of jobs, reduced work hours, medical concerns.

All donations to Tuition Angels are provided by the generosity of our St. Matthias parishioners.

Currently, Tuition Angels funds are running low, and we ask for your prayerful consideration of donating to the Tuition Angels fund. If you, or your family, or your children have benefited from Catholic education, at any level, you understand the lasting and positive effects of this experience. If you are the parent of a SMS graduate, please contact them, and ask them to donate, if they are able.

Graduates, parents of graduates, or parishioners who are able to, please donate to this parish managed, confidential fund. Your gift helps a family to continue to provide a strong, Catholic, Christ-centered education to a child.

You may donate through Parish Giving, online, with a check in the donation basket, or a donation mailed to the Parish Office. Simply indicate on the envelope that the donation is for "TUITION ASSISTANCE" and kindly make a note on the check memo line". You may make a one-time donation, or an ongoing regular contribution to the fund.

The school remains alive, and solid, with many new enrollees each year. We want to keep it that way. Our school continues to be a nurturing, vibrant and essential part of our parish community. Your donations will help to assist this critical component.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration of the Tuition Angels fund.





# 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	<b>\$19,798.18</b>	\$23,540.25
Week 50 - June 9, 2024	\$11,730.00	\$26,120.00	<b>\$37,850.00</b>	\$34,618.75
Week 51 - June 16, 2024	\$13,137.50	\$14,481.50	<b>\$27,619.00</b>	\$22,281.25
Week 52 - June 23, 2024	\$11,390.00	\$12,065.50	<b>\$23,455.50</b>	\$20,215.25
Week 53 - June 30, 2024			<b>\$0.00</b>	
			<b>Month-to-date Total</b>	<b>June Total Last Year</b>
			<b>\$108,722.68</b>	\$100,655.50
			<b>Current Year-to-date</b>	<b>Year-to-date as of Jun 30, 2023</b>
			<b>\$1,377,483.73</b>	\$1,394,975.73

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

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

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

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

¿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](http://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](http://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](http://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

<b>Parish Pastoral Council:</b> <b>Co-Chairs:</b> Frank Rees <a href="mailto:Frees814@gmail.com">Frees814@gmail.com</a> Marilyn Wegg <a href="mailto:mcw-wam@comcast.net">mcw-wam@comcast.net</a>	<b>Co-Secretaries:</b> Stephen Busono <a href="mailto:sbusono@gmail.com">sbusono@gmail.com</a> Bill Isele <a href="mailto:t33sm@aol.com">t33sm@aol.com</a> Al Drabnis Didi Molano	Sheila Tartaglia Fr. Lancelot McGrath, Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio <b>Trustees:</b> Pearl Scott Marge Richards	<b>Parish Finance Council:</b> Kester Hector, Chair <b>Finance Council</b> <a href="mailto:@stmatthias.net">@stmatthias.net</a> 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](http://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 8<sup>th</sup> 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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