



St. Matthias Parish Office:

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

Mass Schedule (in person):

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

And also on our YouTube channel
youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ

St. Matthias School (SMS):

170 JFK Blvd., Somerset, NJ 08873
www.stmatthias.info 732-828-1402
 School Office Hours, Mon-Fri 8AM to 3PM.

For all Parish emails, add @stmatthias.net

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

Deacon Ron Caimi, *Senior Deacon*
 Kelly Counts, *Receptionist*, **kcounts**
 Deacon Russell Demkovitz, **rdemkovitz**
 Nathalie Godet, *Website Coordinator*, **ngodet**
 Leslie Guillen, *Bulletin Editor*, **lguillen**
 Amy Hanna, *Accountant/Databases*, **ahanna**
 Mike Lanyi, *Sacristan*
 Sue Lenczewski, *Youth Coordinator*, **SMYLE**
 Mary Jo Loboda, *Parish Staff, Development*,
mjoboda

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

Vinnie Natale, *Bookkeeper*, **vnatale**
 Silvia Nizama, *Housekeeper*
 Deacon John Radvanski, **deaconjohn**
 Joan Best Seamon, *Pastoral Associate for Music Ministry*, **jseamon**
 Sr. Marie Therese Sherwood, *OSF, Pastoral Assoc. for Social Concerns*, **msherwood**

St. Matthias School (add @stmatthiasnj.org)

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

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS
SUNDAY, JUNE 4, 2023-
The Most Holy Trinity



TODAY
 June 4th at
 12:00PM
 Last Meeting



Next Sa
Rosary Altar Society Meeting

The Rosary Altar Society will hold its next meeting **TODAY at 11:00AM** in the breezeway.



NATIONAL Eucharistic Revival

Inauguration of the Parish phase of the Eucharistic Revival is **next Sunday** in our Parish. Corpus Christi procession after the 5 PM Mass on **Saturday, June 10th.**
 See page 7 for more information.



A BOOK SIGNING BY ONE OF OUR OWN

TOMORROW JUNE 5, 2023 7 PM IN THE CHURCH

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS AFTER SIGNING Parishioner Jeanine Senerote Valenti's new book: 'Rise to the Occasion'.



Calling ALL SMS Alumni
 Please see article on page 9, for additional information.

This Week @ St. Matthias From Our Senior Pastor

Masses are also livestreamed on our YouTube channel: youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ

The Church is open for individual prayer

Mon-Fri: 7:30 am to dusk, Sat: 9 am to 6pm, and Sun: 7:30 am to 1 pm, unless another service is taking place.

Sunday, Jun 4, 2023 The Most Holy Trinity

Building Repair & Replacement Fund Collection

8:00AM	Mass	Church
10:00AM	Mass	Church
11:00AM	Rosary Altar Society mtg.	Breezeway
12:00PM	Mass	Church
12:00PM	SMYLE End of Year Mtg.	Church

Monday, Jun 5, 2023 Memorial– St. Boniface– Bishop & Martyr

8:00AM	Mass / Miraculous Medal Novena	Church
7:00PM	Jeanine Valenti—Book Signing	Church
8:00PM	Light snacks after book signing	John XXIII Rm

Tuesday, Jun 6, 2023 Opt. Memorial– St. Norbert of Xanten, Bishop

8:00AM	Mass	Church
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Wednesday, Jun 7, 2023 St. Robert of Newminster, Priest & Abbot

8:00AM	Mass—St. Joseph Novena	Church
9:30AM	Prayer Group 1 Holy Spirit	de Porres Rm
7:30PM	Folk Group Rehearsal	Church

Thursday, Jun 8, 2023 St. Mariam Theresa Chiramel, Mystic

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

Friday, Jun 9, 2023 Opt. Memorial—St. Ephrem the Syrian, Deacon & Doctor of the Church

8:00AM	Mass	Church
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Saturday, Jun 10, 2023 Gentilius & Co., Protomartyrs of Sabina

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

Sunday, Jun 11, 2023 Body & Blood of Christ

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

Dear Friends,

You have seen the change of colors in the church to green, reminding us that we are now in the “Ordinary Time” of the Liturgical Calendar. It is called “ordinary” simply because the weeks of Ordinary Time are numbered. It stems from the Latin word *ordo*, from which we get the English word *order*. Thus, the numbered weeks of Ordinary Time in fact represent the ordered life of the Church—the period in which we live our lives neither in feasting (as in the Christmas and Easter seasons) or in more severe penance (as in Advent and Lent). “*They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.*” (Acts 2:42). Not much drama here. The usual stuff of daily life. Worshiping together, eating together and learning together. Yes, a big segment of our life consists of the ordinary.

The Church uses this time for a more vigorous understanding of our faith. Hence, today we celebrate the feast of the Holy Trinity. Our faith in the Triune God is a mystery that was revealed to us by Jesus himself. Trinity pervades our life – both internally and externally. When we were baptized, the triple pouring of the water on us is an external reminder of the internal transformation that took place in our soul. The signing of the cross is recognized as the universal symbol of Christian profession, reminding us that the Holy Trinity lives in us. Next Sunday is the Feast of Corpus Christi. Its liturgical title, “Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ,” shows its centrality in Christian life and worship. But, in the recent decades, faith in the Real Presence of Jesus has waned in the mind of Catholics in general. Studies and researches have shown a sad reality of only about 30% of Catholics believing that the bread and wine do transform into the body and blood of Christ. That is the reason for the US Bishops Conference to call for a National Eucharistic Congress. Its Diocesan phase is coming to an end and the Parish phase begins next Sunday with the Feast of Corpus Christi.

As announced, we have formed a Parish Eucharistic Revival Committee who will initiate and implement many ideas and plans to strengthen our faith in the Eucharist and to invite people back to church. Two ideas with which we will begin the Revival are:

1. To have the Eucharistic Procession around our campus following the 5 pm Mass next Saturday. Please come and be part of this important expression of our faith.
2. To have a Eucharistic Adoration every Monday from 6 – 8 pm. You have seen the sign up chart in the narthex. Try for a half-hour slot on one or more Monday evenings and see what a beautiful experience being in the presence of Jesus can be.

There will be other ideas that we will implement. Let us enter into this Year of Revival entrusting ourselves to Jesus Christ our Savior whose promise to be with us always is most tangibly realized in the Holy Eucharist.

Your brother in Christ,
Fr. Abraham Orapankal



Readings for the Week

Monday: Tb 1:3; 2:1a-8; Ps 112:1b-2, 3b-4, 5-6; Mk 12:1-12

Tuesday: Tb 2:9-14; Ps 112:1-2, 7-8, 9; Mk 12:13-17

Wednesday: Tb 3:1-11a, 16-17a; Ps 25:2-3, 4-5ab, 6, 7bc-9; Mk 12:18-27

Thursday: Tb 6:10-11; 7:1bcde, 9-17; 8:4-9a; Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5; Mk 12:28-34

Friday: Tb 11:5-17; Ps 146:1b-2, 6c-7, 8-9a, 9bc-10; Mk 12:35-37

Saturday: Tb 12:1, 5-15, 20; Tb 13:2, 6efgh, 7, 8; Mk 12:38-44

Sunday: Dt 8:2-3, 14b-16a; Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20; 1 Cor 10:16-17; Jn 6:51-58

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, June 3	5:00PM	Billy Boyd, by daughter, Dolores
Sunday, June 4	8:00AM	Sr. Irma Kessler, by Carol Milleman & Family
	10:00AM	Intention of Parishioners
	12:00PM	Harto Sukendro, by The Sukendro Family
Monday, Jun 5	8:00AM	In Memory of Adoracion De Guzman, by Alma Valdez
Tuesday, Jun 6	8:00AM	Jose Alomia, by the Capuno Family
Wednesday, Jun 7	8:00AM	Mom & Dad, by The Family
Thursday, Jun 8	8:00AM	Will Cuddeback, by Mom & Dad
Friday, Jun 9	8:00AM	William Engravalle, by The Falk Family
Saturday, Jun 10	5:00PM	Joseph Doyle, by Isabelle & John Baker
Sunday, Jun 11	8:00AM	Eulailia Villanueva, by The Tibay Family
	10:00AM	Health & Blessings for Moksha & The Nathan Families, by The Nathan Family
	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 kcunts@stmatthias.net to add the name to this list. Names will be listed in the bulletin for **6 weeks**. Please let us know if this time period needs to be extended. We want to know how you are doing and want to offer you the support of our prayers. *New people on our prayer list are noted in blue.*

Carolyn Banghart
 Tammy Baskaran
 Arthur & Regina Berlowitz
 John Blum
 Bishop Paul Bootkowski
 Barbara Butler
 Bianca Canlas
 Tara Capatosto
 Ellen Catalina
 Kyle Davidson
 Lisa DeFeo
 William Dolphin
 Hattie Evans
 Josephine Geenty
 Claudia Gemgnani

Helen Geraghty
 Emma Gergely
 Marilyn Horvath
 Robert Kashinsky
 Kathleen Langenbacher
 Mary Lou Littrakis
 John Littrakis
 Joseph Lubrano
 Aries Magali
 Al Maglio
 Anne McElwee
 Margaret Menendez
 Carol Millemann
 Eleanor Nagy
 Danny Ongchango

Paul & Doris Paetow
 Robert Pellegrino
 Jim Pettit
 Randolph Pinard
 Valerie Polci
 Kim Price
 Doris Regan
 Gabriel Rivera
 Arina Robinson
 Arthur Robinson
 Maria Schwenzer
 Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF
 Sr. Bernadine Marie
 Stemnock
 Jeff Sullivan

Tom Szabo
 Nancy Whelan
 Mark Worthington
 Carl Wyopen
 Angie Yetyet

And for all who are ill, homebound, elderly, in nursing care, or living with chronic illness, we pray.

Pray for those who have died...

— “His mercy endures forever.” Chronicles

Michael DiMaggio, son of Marlene DiMaggio, Joseph DeFrancesco— husband of Judith

Reflect



Smile with Your Family



Zen Master Has A Hotdog: The Zen master steps up to the hot dog cart and says: "Make me one with everything." The hot dog vendor fixes a hot dog and hands it to the Zen master, who pays with a \$20 bill. The hot dog vendor puts the bill in the cash drawer and closes the drawer. "Where's my change?" asks the Zen master. The hot dog vendor responds: "Change must come from within." 😊

When the new patient was settled comfortably on the couch, the psychiatrist began his therapy session. "As you are a new patient with me, I do apologize, but I haven't had time to review your case file and I'm not really aware of your problem." The psychiatrist said, "So perhaps, you should start at the very beginning." "But of course." Replied the patient, "In the beginning, I created the Heavens and the Earth ..." 😊

Mechanic: "When were your tires last rotated?"

Me: "On the way here, silly." 😊

A boy is writing a paper on childbirth and asks his parents, "How was I born?" His mother awkwardly answers, "The stork brought you." "Oh," says the boy. "Well, how were you and Daddy born?" "Oh, the stork brought us, too, and Grandpa and Grandma." The boy begins his paper, "This report has been very difficult to write due to the fact that there hasn't been a natural childbirth in my family for three generations." 😊

A woman and her little girl were visiting the grave of the little girl's grandmother. On their way through the cemetery back to the car, the little girl asked, "Mummy, do they ever bury two people in the same grave?" "Of course not, dear," replied the mother. "Why would you think that?" "The tombstone back there said, 'Here lies a lawyer and an honest man.'" 😊



Parenting Tune-Up

We sacrifice our time, money, and ego for those we love. Which of these is easiest and hardest for you to sacrifice for your own child?

Marriage Tune-Up



Marriage is often made up of two "stiff-necked people." (Exodus 34-9) What are you most stubborn about in your relationship? It's natural to want to get one's way. However, sometimes it's better to give way as a sign of love.

God's Garden in Baltimore



" . . . God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.® John 3: 16-18

A group of high school students organized to clean up an abandoned park in a Baltimore neighborhood. They picked up trash, repaired fences and converted old bookcases into raised gardening beds. They built up soil, dug holes, and carefully planted impatiens and coleus.

Some days the kids became frustrated, because the broken bottles, syringes, and wrappers that they had picked up would reappear. They felt their work was being disrespected. But they persisted - and as the months passed, the students saw their work grow exponentially. The flowers bloomed, and people donated additional plants and pitched in to help water them. A steady stream of people told the students they were glad that the little park hadn't remained abandoned.

The community leader who organized the students says: "Planting flowers goes against the culture of death and violence. It pushes back against the corrosive effects of much of everyday life . . . [The students] began to think about how they could improve the quality of the neighborhood where they live. They took pride in it." The team pursued beauty in the midst of neglect. They became aware of God's kingdom on that small patch of land.

God is present in the persistent, hard work of these students, in the beauty of the flowers that re-claims the barren park, in the Spirit of cooperation of the neighborhood to maintain the park. In today's Gospel, Jesus challenges Nicodemus to move beyond old, incomplete and "childlike" images of God in order to grow toward a more complete, "adult" faith that recognizes the God who works and moves from his Spirit of unfathomable love; the God who constantly takes the initiative to be reconciled with us, despite our failings; the God who is not removed from his creation but constantly present in every act of love and compassion and forgiveness.

St. Francis Xavier's Favorite Prayer

"Most Holy Trinity, Who lives in me, I praise You, I worship You, I adore You and I love You."
Let the Son lead us to the Father through the Spirit, to live with the Triune God forever and ever.
Amen.

"Trinity" is not in the Bible, but...

True, the term "Trinity is not in the Bible, but the doctrine of the Trinity is based fully in the Bible:

a) The Annunciation (Luke 1: 26-38), describes how God the Father sent the angel Gabriel to Mary to announce to her that God the Holy Spirit, would **come upon** her, that **"the power the Most High will overshadow"** her, that **the Son would be made flesh in her womb: "Therefore, the Child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God."**

b) During the baptism of Jesus (Matthew 3: 16-17), the Holy Spirit was shown descending on Jesus in the form of a Dove, while the Voice of God the Father was heard from the clouds, saying, **"You are My Beloved Son in Whom I am well pleased"** (Luke 4:22).

c) John (Chapters 15 through 18), presents the detailed teaching of Jesus on the Persons of the Holy Trinity.

d) In the preaching mission given by the risen Lord to the disciples, Jesus commanded them to baptize people **"in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."** (Confer also Matthew 28:19; John 10:30).

Trinity is God within Us

Today's feast invites us to live in the awareness of the presence of the Triune God within us: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. The mystery of the Holy Trinity, a doctrine enunciated by the ecumenical councils of Nicaea and Constantinople, is one of the fundamental doctrines of Christianity and the greatest mystery of our Faith, namely, that there are Three Divine Persons, sharing the same Divine nature in one God. **"There is one God, Who has three Persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Each Person is God, yet there is still only one God"** (CCC #234, #253-256). We have the Father Who is the Creator, the Son the Redeemer and the Holy Spirit the Sanctifier and the Counselor.

The doctrine of Three Persons in one God, co-equal and co-eternal in Divinity yet distinct in Person, is not explicitly spelt out in the Bible. Even the very word "Trinity" is not found in the Bible. But the doctrine of the Trinity underlies all major Christian feasts, including Christmas, the Epiphany, Good Friday, Easter, the Ascension and Pentecost. All the official prayers of the Church, including the Holy Mass and the Sacraments, begin with an address to the Holy Trinity: **"In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."** We are baptized, absolved of our sins and anointed in the name of the Blessed Trinity. Throughout the world, church

bells can ring three times a day inviting Christians to pray to God the Father (the Provider); God the Son (the Savior); and God the Holy Spirit (the Sanctifier), giving glory to the Triune God for the Incarnation of the Son and our Redemption. We bless ourselves with the Sign of the Cross, invoking the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and we conclude our prayers glorifying the Holy Trinity, saying **"Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit."** Today's readings convey the fundamental mystery that the Triune God reaches out to people with love, seeking the deepest communion with them.

A Scientist testifies to Trinity!

A good illustration of the Trinity comes from world-renowned scientist Dr. Henry Morris. He notes that the entire universe is Trinitarian by design. The universe consists of three things: matter, space, and time. Take away any one of those three and the universe would cease to exist. But each one of those is itself a trinity. **Matter** = mass + energy + motion. **Space** = length + height + breadth. **Time** = past + present + future. Thus the whole universe witnesses to the character of the God who made it (cf. Psalm 19:1).

Frank Shield's explanation of the Holy Trinity

The great apologist Frank Shield used to give a very interesting explanation of the Most Holy Trinity. He started by thinking about our own human nature. Each one of us exists, but since we are spiritual, we also have an idea of ourselves. We can think about ourselves, reflect on ourselves, and know ourselves. This is why human beings are the only animals on earth who write diaries. That's similar to what happens in the relationship between God the Father and God the Son. God the Father is spiritual, able to know himself. He has an idea of himself. But, since his knowledge is limitless, unlike ours, that idea of himself is perfect, perfectly complete. But to be perfect, it has to share in God's own existence; it has to actually be a divine person. And so, God the Father, from all eternity, knowing himself, engenders the Son, the perfect image of the Father.

And then, of course, since both the Father and the Son are infinitely good and beautiful, as soon as they know each other, they also love each other. Even we, when we think about ourselves, love ourselves. We want the best for ourselves. We are glad that we exist. But God's love, like his knowledge, is unlimited, and so it too has to be so intense and so full that it shares fully in the divine existence; it is a

Reflect

Frank Shield's explanation (Continued)

divine person - the Holy Spirit. This is the mystery we profess each week when we affirm our belief in the Son of God, who is "one in being with the Father, God from God, light from light" and in the Holy Spirit, who "with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified."

You don't need to understand God for Him to take over your life

Thomas Edison, the inventor, once remarked: "We don't know what water is. We don't know what light is. We don't know what electricity is. We don't know what heat is. We have a lot of hypotheses about these things, but that is all. But we don't let our ignorance about these things deprive us of their use." The truth of that statement is real. Most of us do not know how an electric light works, how a telephone or a TV works, but this does not prevent us from using them. Let us try to apply the same common sense to our faith in the doctrine of the Trinity.

We need to see the Trinity as the model for our Christian families. We are created in love -- to be a community of loving persons, just as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are united in love. From the day of our Baptism, we have belonged to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. How privileged we are to grow up in such a beautiful family! Hence, let us turn to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit in prayer every day. We belong to the family of the Triune God. The love, unity and joy in the relationship among the Father, Son and Holy Spirit should be the supreme model of our relationships within our Christian families. Our families become truly Christian when we live in a relationship of love with God and with others.

The Sundial

A missionary from Africa, on his home-leave, came across a beautiful sundial. He thought to himself, "That sundial would be ideal for my villagers in Africa. I could use it to teach them to tell the time of the day." The missionary bought the sundial, crated it and took it back to Africa. When the village chief saw it, he insisted that it be set up in the centre of the village. The villagers were thrilled with the sundial. They had never seen something so beautiful in their lives. They were even more thrilled when they learned how it worked. The missionary was delighted by everyone's response to his sundial. He was totally unprepared for what happened a few days later. The people of the village got together and built a roof over the sundial to protect it from the rain and the sun!

Well, I think the sundial is a lot like the Holy Trinity, and we Christians are a lot like the African villagers. The most beautiful revelation of our faith is the teaching about the Holy Trinity, namely, the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit. But instead of putting the teaching to work in our daily lives, we

have built a roof over it, just as the villagers did over their sundial. For many of us the Trinity seems of little practical value, when it comes to our daily lives. We treat it more like an ornament of our Faith.

"I'm surprised at you:"

An English teacher of a 21-sophomore high school class put a small chalk dot on the blackboard. He then asked the class what it was. A few seconds passed and then someone said, "That is a chalk dot on the blackboard." The rest of the class seemed relieved that the obvious had been stated, and no one else had anything to say. "I'm surprised at you," the teacher told the class. "I did the same exercise yesterday with a group of kindergartners and they thought of 50 different things the chalk mark could be: an owl's eye, a cigar butt, the top of a telephone pole, a star, a pebble, a squashed bug, a rotten egg, a bird's eye, and so on."

The older students had learned how to find a right answer, but had lost the ability to look for more than one right answer. The Holy Spirit helps us, in his wonderful Wisdom, to see more than we might have seen by ourselves. The Spirit's vision allows us wonderful options for expansion and new possibilities. It is the Spirit's Wisdom that reveals the Word to us. It is the Wisdom of the Spirit that shows us our sin, which guides us, which instructs us, which leads us in the way to Life Everlasting.

A Note of Thanks

From the Archdiocese of Military Services

Dear Father Orpankal,

Thank you and the faithful of Church of St. Matthias for your recent gift to the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA (AMS). Your gift of \$2,392.50 was received on 22 March 2023.

This Archdiocese relies on private donations to minister to the Catholic military men and women, and their families – *faithful and families from your diocese* – while they serve our Country, attend one of the U.S. Military Academies, or are cared for during injury or illness in a Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

Please continue to pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and the religious life. With more than 300,000 Catholics between the ages of 18-29 on active duty, the U.S. military provides the Church with a substantial pool of priestly vocations.

Know that your intentions will be remembered at the altar. With sentiments of unwavering gratitude, I remain Fraternal in Christ, (The Most Reverend) Timothy P. Broglio Archbishop for the Military Services, USA

Parish News



NATIONAL Eucharistic Revival

In 2019, the US Conference of Catholic bishops decided to launch a program of National Eucharistic Revival. The goal is to try to have a deeper understanding and love of the Eucharist, and to intensify our commitment to the mission of Jesus through the celebration of the Eucharist. The Eucharist is the source and the summit of our Christian life. How do we help everyone – those who attend the church and those who do not – to have this experience?

The strategy proposed by the bishops for this revival includes three phases: The Diocesan phase was launched on the feast of Corpus Christi in June of 2022. The second phase, the Parish Phase, will be launched on the feast of Corpus Christi, June 11, 2023. The third and final phases will be launched at a National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis in July 2023 and from this celebration, Catholics will be sent on a mission to live a renewed and vibrant Eucharistic Life.

Here at St. Matthias, we have formed a Eucharistic Revival Committee. In their first meeting held last month, many suggestions and ideas were proposed. These will be spread throughout the year. Two ideas to implement with the inauguration are: Hold a Eucharistic Procession after the 5 pm Mass on the Feast of Corpus Christi – which is next week. Second is to have a Eucharistic Adoration on Mondays from 6 – 8 pm in the evening. Those who wish to sign up for a 30-minute slot are welcome to do so. Other ideas and plans will be communicated and implemented.

Pray



Life in the Spirit Seminar, June 9th

The *Family of Faith Community* invites you to a *Life in the Spirit Seminar* to be renewed, refreshed and empowered by the Holy Spirit. This is an ongoing seminar. The next one is on **June 9, Friday from 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm at St. Cecelia parish basement at 10 Kingston Lane, Monmouth Junction, NJ.** And the theme is “Christian Growth and Transformation in Christ.” For more info: please contact Noel Beltran: 732-649-9733, or Ivan Totoy: 732-618-6087



ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD

On behalf of Bishop James F. Checchio, all are invited to attend a Eucharistic Holy Hour for Vocations and the Sanctification of Priests on **Friday, June 23, 2023, at 5 p.m.** at the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi, Metuchen. Included in the intentions of this Holy Hour are Deacon Jose Lim, who will be ordained a priest the following day, and the sanctification of all priests of our diocese. All are also invited to the Priesthood Ordination, which will take place on Saturday, June 24, 2023, at 10:30 a.m. at the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi, Metuchen.

On this day, Bishop Checchio will ordain Deacon Jose Lim as a priest for service in the Diocese of Metuchen.

Access to the live-stream and updates about the ordination can be found on the diocesan website:

diometuchen.org/ordinations.



Part-Time General Maintenance Person

St. Matthias is looking for a **part-time general maintenance person**.

This employee will be responsible for maintaining the safety and cleanliness of the church/school.

Please contact **Mary Pat Burke-Grospin** at: mpburke-grospin@stmatthias.net or (732) 828-1400 ext.121.

From the Pastoral Staff

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of the Holy Trinity. This is one of two Sundays of solemnities before we transition back into ordinary time. Next Sunday we will celebrate the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ.

So exactly what are solemnities... and why do we have them? A solemnity holds the highest rank among church celebrations. There are 24 days so marked on the church calendar. It is a day that recalls and glorifies an important event in the life of Jesus and the most significant mysteries of the Catholic Christian faith: Christmas, Epiphany, Easter (the Easter octaves including Divine Mercy Sunday, Pentecost, Holy Trinity, Ascension, Corpus Christi, Sacred Heart and Christ the King.

So too honored as a solemnity are the days associated with the Blessed Mother: The Immaculate conception, the Assumption, the Annunciation, and Mary Mother Of God. Some saints are acknowledged with a solemnity: St. Joseph, the Nativity of John the Baptist, Saints Peter and Paul and All Saints Day.

So most of us categorize all Church celebrations as feast days. But as I've just discussed feast days are only one of three categories of such Celebrations in the Church calendar year ... the other two are solemnities and Memorials.



So this brings us back to today's Solemnity the Holy Trinity. As I said a solemnity recalls and glorifies an event in Christ's life. Today it's the celebration of One God ... three persons ... the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

The Trinity is probably one of the most difficult concepts for us to understand.

This is why it is referred to as a mystery.

Regardless of whether we truly grasp the concept of the Trinity or not ... We know that in our journey to our heavenly home we have the Father, The Son and the Holy Spirit the help and guide us on the way.

Peace of Christ

Deacon Russ

Learn

SAINT MATTHIAS VOCATIONS MINISTRY – ALIVE AND KICKING!



After a brief hiatus the Saint Matthias Vocations Ministry team is coming back together to once again serve our parish community. You might recall that the Vocations Ministry was founded back in 2021 in order to help

foster awareness of vocations and help parishioners discern God's call to particular vocations. We use the word vocation in a general sense. We see vocations as a way in which God calls each of us to serve God and one another in particular ways, according to one's personal gifts, so that we can help bring about God's Kingdom here on earth and help build a world that reflects the love of God. Vocations can be realized in one's chosen profession, a church ministry, and involvement in charitable or justice-based organizations, parenthood, the priestly and religious life, and so many other activities. The Vocations Ministry mission is informed by our understanding that God calls each and every one of us to holiness and vocation, and that the duty of fostering vocations rests within our Catholic community.

You might also recall that, among other activities, the Vocations team hosted two successful parish events – a Morning of Reflection titled “Called to Holiness: Discovering Who I Am Meant To Be” and the “Healthy Minds, Healthy Futures” seminar series. We look to sponsor more of these types of events.

The Vocations Ministry Team is currently planning future activities and events. Consideration is being given to special Masses that would celebrate specific vocations, and events/activities focused on our call to worship and evangelize. Another idea being discussed is an event hosted in partnership between the Vocations Ministry and our Youth Ministry. In addition to these potential events, you will be seeing vocation-themed inspirational messages in our bulletin. Each month we will look to highlight a particular individual who is an exemplar of vocational living.

So, stay tuned! The Vocations Ministry is alive and kicking! If you'd like additional information, have additional ideas, or like to get involved in the Vocations Ministry free to email Joe Percoco at percoco@rutgers.edu.

Learn



BEFORE and AFTER SCHOOL DIRECTOR POSITION AVAILABLE

Saint Matthias School is looking for a director for our before and after school program for the 2022-2023 school year. This is a part-time position for an individual who enjoys working with children and who has some managerial experience. The hours are 2:00-6:00, Monday to Friday. If you are interested, please phone the school at 732-828-1402, extension 144 or send an email to jgidaro@stmatthiasnj.org.

CALLING ALL SMS ALUMNI

With summer within view, it is a good time for our Saint Matthias School alumni to let us know what they have been up to. We love knowing how our school may have helped you achieve your goals in furthering your education and/or with your career. Would you please share this news with us? We would like to acknowledge your accomplishments in our church bulletin so that your story gets known to all of our community. Did you recently graduate high school, college, or graduate school? Have you entered an engaging profession?

Did you get married? Are you living out of state due to a job offer you just could not refuse? Have you recently become the proud mother or father of a special bundle of joy? Will you be running for President in 2024? Please take a few moments to tell us about yourself. Inquiring eyes and ears want to know. Send your information to Joseph Gidaro, Director of Development and Marketing at jgidaro@stmatthiasnj.org or you can mail your information to the school, 170 John F Kennedy Boulevard, Somerset, NJ 08873.

Give (and Receive!)

Stewardship Reflection June 4, 2023 The Most Holy Trinity

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son..." (John 3:16)

Is your love conditional? Is there a price others have to pay to receive your love and forgiveness? Are you generous with your time, skills, money, and possessions? If you give someone something, do you expect something in return? Do you give your time freely or do you "fit it in" when it's convenient for you? God desires a personal relationship with us so much that He gave us His Son, unconditionally! Pray for a grateful and generous heart.

Reflexiónese 4 de junio de 2023 * Santísima Trinidad

"Porque tanto amó Dios al mundo que le dio a su único Hijo ..." (JUAN 3:16)

¿Es tu amor condicional? ¿Hay algún precio que otros tengan que pagar para recibir tu amor y perdón? ¿Eres generoso con tu tiempo, habilidades, dinero y posesiones? Si le das algo a alguien, ¿esperas algo a cambio? ¿Dedicas tu tiempo libremente o lo "encajas" cuando es conveniente para ti? ¿Dios desea tanto una relación personal con nosotros que nos dio a su Hijo incondicionalmente! Ora por un corazón agradecido y generoso.

Stewardship Totals for Fiscal Year July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023				Last Year's Total
Current Month	In-Pew/Mail	Parish Giving	Weekly Total	Weekly Total
Week 45 - May 7, 2023	\$10,205.91	\$23,631.75	\$33,837.66	\$32,720.75
Week 46 - May 14, 2023	\$10,860.50	\$17,729.25	\$28,589.75	\$25,629.25
Week 47 - May 21, 2023	\$8,129.00	\$13,547.25	\$21,676.25	\$19,720.25
Week 48 - May 28, 2023	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$19,260.42
			Month-to-date	May Total Last Yr
			\$84,103.66	\$97,330.67
			Current Year-to-	Year-to-date as of
			\$1,284,819.98	\$1,257,013.06

Senior Ministry Retreat



On May 13, Sr. Marie Therese and 10 members of our St. Matthias Senior Ministry carpooled to St. Francis Center for Renewal in Bethlehem, PA, to attend the Retreat for Seniors: *The Gift of Years*. Our presenter, Sister Marguerite Steward, OSF, a member of the retreat team, welcomed us and led us in prayer, and offered a presentation on the challenges and blessings that come with aging.

Afterward, we were given time for personal reflection on the following: “The Spiritual journey of aging emphasizes BEING more than doing. This requires some letting go: physical and spiritual...letting go of fears and regrets.” Group sharing was followed by a delicious lunch which nourished us in body and spirit, allowing the opportunity to meet other participants and enjoy each other’s company. Here are some of the participants’ comments:

The commonality of shared experience, guided by Sr. Marguerite’s powerful reflections make this retreat a gem for us, gifted with years! The letting go and acceptance of our new-found realities become bearable knowing God is ever present.

A GRATEFUL SENIOR

I really enjoyed Saturday’s Retreat Day. It was so nice to have the opportunity to be with so many lovely ladies, and Sr. Marguerite gave a wonderful presentation. What I took away from the day was the importance of focusing on the many blessings of this stage of life, rather than focusing on the challenges. There is so much richness in being a “Senior”, but it often gets overlooked. With God’s help there is so much more life to be lived.

MARGE RICHARDS

I enjoyed the Senior Retreat---The Gift of Years. There was time for prayer, quiet reflection and sharing. There was also the opportunity to make new friends. Below are a few of the topics presented by Sr. Marguerite that meant a lot to me: Blessings, gratitude, self-love, live life to the fullest, relationships, history, and curiosity. Sister did a wonderful job discussing these topics and many others. I agree with Sr. Marguerite that Seniors are very wise and we should share our wisdom with younger people. Among other things, she said that we should not be thinking that “it’s the end of the road” for us. Instead, we should be thinking of learning something new, sharing our talents, volunteering, writing our life story, and staying connected to family and friends I look

forward to attending the next Senior Retreat. In the meantime, I will continue to live my life to the fullest.

PEARL SCOTT

It was a lovely day, so great to be with friends from Saint Matthias.

Sr. Marguerite was inspiring, reminding us to appreciate the present moment.

PEGGY JOYCE

The Gift of Years Retreat refreshed my memory and reminded me that my “work” is not done! So much wisdom was shared, not only by Sr. Marguerite, but by each of the ladies present. Several important blessings to be celebrated each day include: Be present in the moment, Listening wholeheartedly, Relationships sustain us, Declutter: let go of material things, fear, regrets.

I will continue my journey realizing I am a work in progress and God can use me to accomplish His plan exactly where I am.

MARILYN WEGG

It was a day to learn how to accept and appreciate our years and how blessed we are to have them.

JODY MARTIELLI

Parish Leadership

Parish Pastoral Council:

Co-Chairs:

Rose Peng, rosepeng@optonline.net
John Taylor, jptaylor1068@yahoo.com

Co-Secretaries:

Frank Rees
Marilyn Wegg
Stephan Busono
Anne Marie Francis
Bill Isele

Msgr. Seamus Brennen,
Ex-Officio
Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio

Trustees:

Pearl Scott
Marge Richards

Parish Finance Council:

Kester Hector, Chair
Finance Council
[@stmatthias.net](http://stmatthias.net)
Carmen Driz-Melilli
Barry Dusault
Gwen Orłowski

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

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

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

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

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

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



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



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