



St. Matthias Parish Office:

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

Mass Schedule (in person):

Sat - 5 PM, Sun - 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM & 12 noon
M/T/W/Th/F at 8:00 AM
also on our YouTube channel
youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ

St. Matthias School (SMS):

170 JFK Blvd., Somerset, NJ 08873
www.stmatthias.info 732-828-1402
School Office Hours, Monday - Friday,
7:45 AM - 3:30 PM

For all Parish emails, add @stmatthias.net

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

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

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS

SUNDAY, JUNE 9, 2024

10th Sunday in Ordinary Time



**DOES YOUR
MARRIAGE
NEED SOME
SPRUCING
UP?**

**CONSIDER
DOING A
MARRIAGE
ENCOUNTER
WEEKEND.**

More
details on
page 10

“
Whoever does the
will of God is my
brother and sister
and mother.

Mark 3:35

SCAM ALERT

Like many pastors, I too have heard from our parishioners
who received emails or text messages,
seemingly from me, asking for donations.

Please exercise the utmost caution when receiving these
types of communications.

I have not asked nor will I solicit for donations.

Please be suspicious of any such communication.

Please call the parish office directly to verify its legitimacy.
Anyone who feels that they have been the victim of this type
of fraud is urged to contact the local police department.



**PLEASE COME JOIN THE MANY WHO SPEND SOME
QUIET TIME WITH THE EUCHARISTIC LORD.**

**OUR NEXT ADORATION WILL BE
MONDAY EVENING, JUNE 10, 2024**

**FROM
6 PM TO 8 PM.**

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

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

Sunday, Jun 9, 2024

8:00AM	Mass	Church
10:00AM	Mass—Interpreter	Church
12:00PM	Mass	Church

Monday, Jun 10, 2024 St. Gentilius & Co.—Proto-Martyrs of Sabina

8:00AM	Mass	Church
9:00AM	SMS—field Day Gr. 1-8	Outside
6:00PM	Eucharist Adoration	Church

Tuesday, Jun 11, 2024 St. Barnabas- Apostle

8:00AM	Mass	Church
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Wednesday, Jun 12, 2024 St. John of Sahagun - Priest

SMS LAST DAY OF SCHOOL— 12:15PM

8:00AM	Mass, St. Joseph Novena	Church
10:00AM	SMS—School Awards -	Outside if weather permits, or in Church
11:00AM	SMS - Prayer Service	Church
2:00PM	Alzheimer's Grp.	Parish Office
7:00PM	SMDP Mtg.	de Porres Rm
7:30PM	Folk Group Rehearsal	Church

Thursday, Jun 13, 2024 St. Anthony of Padua - Priest & Doctor

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

Friday, Jun 14, 2024 St. Joseph the Hymnographer-Monk

8:00AM	Mass	Church
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Saturday, Jun 15, 2024 St. Germaine Cousin

9:30AM	Secular Franciscans Mtg.	de Porres Rm
3:30PM	Reconciliation	Church
5:00PM	Vigil Mass	Church

Sunday, Jun 16, 2024

8:00AM	Mass	Church
10:00AM	Mass	Church
12:00PM	Mass	Church

Bulletin Article Requests:

If you would like to send information to be included in our bulletin, please email it to bulletin@stmatthias.net by 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,

We are in the month of June dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, a devotion that began in the 12th century, and gained popularity after Jesus appeared to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque in the 1670s. This month is an opportunity for us to deepen our devotion to Jesus Christ and reflect on His teachings through prayer, reflection, and acts of charity. One popular devotional practice is the daily recitation of the Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. This litany is a prayer of intercession that asks for the mercy, love, and protection of Jesus. Here at St. Matthias, we pray this Litany every First Friday of the month, during the Holy Hour after our 8 am Mass.

We all are familiar with the image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Have you wondered why it has flames, thorns, a cross, and open wounds?

Flames: In the Gospel, Jesus says that He has come to set fire on the earth—the fire that He longs to set is the fire of divine love, the fire of the Holy Spirit, in each human heart. In Jesus' first apparition to St. Margaret Mary, after revealing His Heart to her, he said to her, "My divine Heart is so passionately fond of the human race, and of you in particular, that it cannot keep back the pent-up flames of its burning charity any longer. They must burst out through you."

Rays of Light: The Sacred Heart of Jesus is surrounded by rays of light, as if rays of light are emanating from it. In the Gospel of John, Jesus says He is the light of the world. Jesus brings the light of God's love into the darkness of our sin and suffering, our fear and doubt.

Crown of Thorns: In one of His revelations to St. Margaret Mary, Jesus told her that the crown of thorns symbolizes our individual sins, which prick His heart.

The Cross: In the image of the Sacred Heart, the Cross stands atop the Sacred Heart, as if to say that the Heart of Jesus is what supports the Cross and what supports us when we have to bear a cross. It is the Divine Love that transforms the Cross into the most powerful act of redemption.

The Open Wound: After Jesus died on the cross, a soldier pierced His Heart with a lance and blood and water flow out—the mercy of God floods the world. The open wound in the image of the Sacred Heart shows us that the Heart of Jesus is always open to us, His mercy is always available to us, and He never closes His Heart to us.

Such insights from these symbols make us realize the infinite love of Jesus for us. Pope Francis has said that it is easier for us to believe in our own love for God than it is for us to believe in God's love for us. In this month, the Church invites us to contemplate the Sacred Heart of Jesus and let ourselves be convinced of God's passionate love for us. One prayer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus we all can pray is: "Oh Heart of Jesus, burning with love for us, inflame our hearts with love for You." More and more people are attending our First Friday devotion to the Sacred Heart on every month. If you have not experienced it, why not try it once?

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Orapankal



Readings for the Week

Monday 1 Kgs 17:1-6 Ps 121:1bc-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 Mt 5:1-12

Tuesday Acts 11:21b-26; 12:1-3 Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4, 5-6 Mt 5:13-16

Wednesday 1 Kgs 18:20-39 Ps 16:1b-2ab, 4, 5ab and 8, 11 Mt 5:17-19

Thursday 1 Kgs 18:41-46 Ps 65:10, 11, 12-13 Mt 5:20-26

Friday 1 Kgs 19:9a, 11-16 Ps 27:7-8a, 8b-9abc, 13-14 Mt 5:27-32

Saturday 1 Kgs 19:19-21 Ps 16:1b-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10 Mt 5:33-37

Sunday Ez 17:22-24 Ps 92:2-3, 13-14, 15-16 2 Cor 5:6-10 Mk 4:26-34

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, June 8	5:00PM	Will Cuddeback, by Mom & Dad
Sunday, June 9	8:00AM	Intention of Parishioners
	10:00AM	Ann & Michael Koruda, by The Aiello family
	12:00PM	Marty Slyman, by Stan & Maria Pozarycki
Monday, June 10	8:00AM	Brian C.J. King, by Mom
Tuesday, June 11	8:00AM	Virginia Zyra, by Peter Dela Torre
Wednesday, June 12	8:00AM	Charles Coffaro, by The Coffaro Family
Thursday, June 13	8:00AM	Louis Nepote, by Mary
Friday, June 14	8:00AM	John & Helen Dolak, by Loving daughter Eileen & Grandchildren
Saturday, June 15	5:00PM	50th Anniversary Blessings for Bob & Joann Urban, by The Children & Grandchildren
Sunday, June 16	8:00AM	Intention of Parishioners
	10:00AM	Hugh Scott, by The Scott Family
	12:00PM	Theodora Woods, by Mary & Jim Woods

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

Pray for those who have died...

— “His mercy endures forever.” Chronicles

Reflect



Smile with Your Family



After dying in a car crash, three friends go to Heaven for an orientation session. They are all asked the same question: "When you are in your casket and family and friends are mourning over you, what would you like to hear them say about you?"

The first guy responds: "I would like to hear them say that I was one of the greatest doctors of my time and a great family man".

The second guy says: "I would like to hear that I was a wonderful husband and a school teacher who made a huge difference in the children of tomorrow".

The third guy thinks for a while and then replies: "I guess I'd like to hear them say 'Look - he's moving!'" 😊

What four letters of the alphabet would scare off a burglar?
= O, I C U 😊

A bus station is where a bus stops. A train station is where a train stops. So how should I think of this: On my desk, I have a work station. 😊

A young monk joined a quiet order in a remote monastery. He was permitted to speak only two words every year. When the first year was over, he went to the Abbot and said, "Food bad." The Abbot nodded. At the end of the second year, he went to the Abbot again and said, "Bed hard." The Abbot nodded. When the third year was completed, the monk went to the Abbot and said, "I quit." And the Abbot's reply was: "I am not surprised; You've been only complaining since you got here." 😊

Mom to her friend: "My son is at the university. He's very bright. Every time we get a letter from him, we have to go to the dictionary!" Friend: "You are lucky. Every time we hear from our son, we have to go to the bank!" 😊



Parenting Tune-Up

"For whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother." (Mk 3:35)

Family matters, but perhaps our definition of "family" is too small. Try to identify someone outside of your immediate family who did the will of God this past week. Tell them you noticed.

Marriage Tune-Up



"Love does not consist in gazing at each other but in looking outward together in the same direction." (Antoine De Saint-Exupery) The little prince knew something of marriage. Look out over your life and see beyond the crabgrass. What is your most cherished common goal?

Symphonic Hope

"How can Satan drive out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand . . ."
"Mark 3: 20-35

A renowned symphony conductor reflects on the dynamic of making music: "A symphony orchestra is an amazing organism: so many different instruments and musicians playing together to create a single work of music. "The aim of the orchestra is not to win; the aim is to make sure that every voice is heard. If both the trumpet and the viola are going to be heard, the trumpet has to listen to the viola because the trumpet is much louder than the viola. This requires great discipline. An orchestra is a conversation about we.

"So wouldn't it be great if, instead of only talking about adding more, more and more to the bottom line, companies started a new conversation: We have enough of this; now, let's have more of that or let's build this. Today we live in a world where if one country goes down, we all go down. We need to understand that we all need to flourish in order for all of us to grow. That's the symphony orchestra model. And

that model can only be built by intelligent optimists who master the art of possibility for themselves and for everyone around them."

Sometimes we act out of a self-centeredness that is of "Satan" and not out of the compassionate spirit of the Gospel we profess: without fail, the "house" we build out of arrogance and greed collapses in anger and hurt; the "symphony" we try to orchestrate from our own wants and interests disintegrates into a noisy tangle of out-of-sync instruments. If a house that is a real home is to stand, it must be constructed of forgiveness, humility, and generosity; if we are to play the music that God places in every human heart, we must welcome and encourage everyone to raise their voices and contribute the sound and skill of their instruments. Jesus' life testifies to the reality that the "power" of "Beelzebub" cannot heal or restore or re-create - only the Spirit of God can bring about such transformation. Let the reconciling and loving Spirit of God be the architect of the "houses" we seek to make for ourselves and families, the conductor of creation's song of peace and healing sung by every human life and heart.

Did Jesus have Brothers and Sisters?

Some answer 'yes' to this question basing on today's Gospel passage from Mark about the crowd asking, *Isn't this the carpenter, the son of Mary, a brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? Aren't his sisters our neighbors here?*" (Mk 6:3). A similar reference occurs earlier in Mk 3:31 — *"His mother and brothers arrived...."*®At first hearing, the words seem to state that Jesus did indeed have blood brothers and sisters. But Mark himself clarifies this confusion. Towards the end of his Gospel (the same can be seen in the other Gospels too) by showing whose children these four brothers are: James the Less and Joses were the sons of Mary the wife of Clopas (Mk 15:40, Jn 19:25), and James the Less was also identified as "the son of Alphaeus" (Lk 6:15), a synonym of "Clopas." James the Greater and John were the sons of Zebedee with a mother other than our Blessed Mother Mary (Mt 20:20ff). After the birth of our Lord, although the Gospels do not give us many details of Jesus' childhood, no mention is made of Mary and Joseph ever having other children. Never does it refer to the "sons of Mary" or "a son of Mary," but only *the son of Mary*. By this time, St. Joseph has died. Since Jesus, the first-born, had no "blood brother," when He was hanging on the cross, He entrusted Mary to the care of St. John, the Beloved Disciple.

Interestingly, the Orthodox Churches solve this problem over brothers and sisters by speculating that St. Joseph was an elderly widower who had other children before he married Mary. The earliest explanation of who the brothers and sisters were, found in the second-century document known as *The Protoevangelium of James*, is that they were stepbrothers through Joseph. According to this document, Joseph was an elderly widower who agreed to become the guardian of Mary, a consecrated virgin. Being elderly and already having children, he was not seeking to raise a new family and so was an appropriate guardian for a virgin. This theory is consistent with Joseph's apparent death before the ministry of Jesus. It is the standard explanation in Eastern Christendom of who the brethren of Christ are.

Shortly before the year 400, St. Jerome began to popularize the view that the brethren of Christ were cousins, and this view became common in the West. Because the Greek word *adelphos*, was used to describe brothers not born of the same parents, like a half-brother or step-brother. It was also to describe other relationships like cousins, nephews, etc. For example, in Genesis 13:8 and 14:14-16, the word *adelphos* was used to describe the relationship between Abraham and his nephew Lot and the relation between Laban and his nephew Jacob. In the Gospel, Mary of Clopas is called "the sister" of Mary, the Mother of Jesus where sister means only a cousin. In Hebrew and Aramaic languages, no special word existed for cousin, nephew, half-brother, or step-brother. So, they used the word *brother* in all these cases. The Greek translation of the Hebrew texts used the word *adelphos*.

When we consider all the above evidences, we understand why the Catholic Church has faithfully taught that Mary gave birth only to Jesus, whom she had conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Don't allow Rejection to derail your Dreams

Brilliant British theologian G.K. Chesterton could not read until he was eight years old. A teacher said if his head were opened they would probably find a lump of fat where there was supposed to be a brain. That teacher was wrong. A teacher informed Einstein's parents that he would never amount to anything. Beatrix Potter's *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*, was rejected by seven publishers. Richard Bach got twenty rejection slips before *Jonathan Livingston Seagull* was published. Dr. Seuss, one of the most popular children's authors of all time, got more than two dozen rejection slips before *The Cat in the Hat* made it to print. Ruth Graham felt an uncontrollable urge to run out of the meeting the first time she heard Billy Graham preach. She was not convinced of his preaching ability. She was put off by his preaching style. Billy had to improve his preaching before Ruth would become his wife.

Today's Gospel tells us how Jesus encountered rejection with prophetic courage. Very often our friends, families, or childhood companions fail to listen to us and refuse to accept the words of grace, love, and encouragement that we offer to them because they know so much about us and are so used to us, they disregard what we have to say, if they even hear it! But we have to face such rejection with prophetic courage because by our Baptism we are called to be prophets like Jesus, sharing his prophetic mission. As prophets, our task is to speak the truth in love and oppose the evils in our society, refusing to condone or encourage sinful behavior even in our dear ones, though we do not "excommunicate" them from our lives, but continue to love them while we pray for them.

“United We Stand, Divided We Fall”

“I read about a Church that had grown to the point of needing a new building. After the building was completed, a disagreement arose about which side of the auditorium they should put the piano. Words were exchanged, tempers flared, and the Church ultimately split. The side that “won” kept the building, but they no longer needed the extra seating and could not afford to pay the mortgage ... so they had to sell it. And I have read about another Church down in Texas where folks go so mad at each other that the Church split, and then they fought over the property. Each group filed lawsuits against the other group. During a hearing, it was discovered that the conflict had begun years before at a church dinner (pause) when an elder was served a smaller piece of ham than the child seated next to him.” (Tim Seevers, in *The Pleasant Viewer*, June 2000)

We need to live as members of God’s family. Let us remember that by Baptism we become the children of God, brothers and sisters of Jesus, and members of the Heavenly family of the Triune God. Hence, let us observe our obligations of treating others with love and respect and of sharing our love with them in corporal and spiritual works of mercy. We are also His disciples, and so are obliged to be hearers as well as doers of the word of God. Let us keep our souls daily cleansed and filled with the Spirit of God, leaving no space for the evil spirit to enter our souls.

“What’s in a Name?” and “Whatever became of Sin?”

Among William Shakespeare’s prolific contributions to English literature, there are literally thousands of memorable lines that continue to be quoted because of their eloquence and timeless significance. One of these is the famous line, “*What’s in a name? That which we call a rose, by any other name would smell as sweet*” (*Romeo and Juliet*, act 6, sc.6, l.87).

I would paraphrase it, **what’s in a name? That which we call sin, by any other name would still be sin!** There appears to be a tendency in contemporary society to disregard or minimize sin or to call it by another name. Similarly, there is a tendency to ignore evil.

The sense of shame regarding sin was renamed and the so-called “guilt complex” have become public enemy number one. In today’s readings, Yahweh God in Genesis, St. Paul, and Jesus call sin a sin.

In describing Adam and Eve’s first sin, disobedience, our first reading, taken from Genesis, shows us the beginning of evil in the world with its destructive results. The loving relationship joining man to God was destroyed, and the relationship of mutual love between Adam and Eve was weakened. Their default to a “blame game” allowed each to avoid taking personal responsibility for their joint choice.

“The World’s Strongest Man”

Macho men always want to brag about how strong they are. Some boys on a school playground were bragging. Johnny said, “My dad has a list of all the men he can beat up—and all your dads are on his list!” Later that afternoon a knock came on Johnny’s house and his dad answered the door. A big angry man said, “Are you Johnny’s dad?” He said, “I am.” “Well Johnny told my son said you have a list of men you think you can beat up, and my name is on it.” Johnny’s dad said, “That’s right.” The big guy started rolling up his sleeves and said, “Well, I don’t think you can beat me up. What are you going to do about it?” Johnny’s dad said, “I’ll mark you off my list!” Guys are always bragging about who’s the strongest. Since 1977 there has been a televised event called “**The World’s Strongest Man.**” Most of the winners have come from Finland, Iceland, and Eastern Europe. These guys are required to perform amazing feats of strength like pulling a Boeing 747 with their teeth. These aren’t body-builders; they are bulked up dudes. One of the competitors from Iceland, who is nicknamed Thor, stands 6’9” and weighs 435 pounds. No six-pack abs on these guys, they go for the full keg! — So, who do you think was the strongest man in the Bible? Are you thinking of the book of Judges and the guy with long hair who could kill a lion with his bare hands? Samson was pretty strong, but after he got a haircut in the devil’s barbershop, he lost his strength.

In our passage today, Jesus is going to talk about a strong man; then He’s going to mention a stronger man. Jesus claims that God his Father is “**The World’s Strongest Man**” who would protect us from the evil one.

From The Pastoral Council

Dear St. Matthias Family,

The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) has launched a *Suggestion Box* initiative to give you the opportunity to share with us your suggestions, thoughts and ideas. Your feedback is important to us, and we will routinely collect your suggestions and determine how we may best serve you, our St. Matthias Family.

Our Suggestion Box is installed in the narthex (entrance area) of our church. Paper and pencils are provided for your convenience. If you would like a response from us, please include your contact information; if you are more comfortable remaining anonymous, that is acceptable, too, but we won't be able to respond to you.

Thank you in advance for your generous participation! Together, we can reach new goals, and provide an open form of communication, which will benefit us all.

In Christ's Peace,

The PPC

Pastoral Council Seeks New Members

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

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

Learn



CAMP INVENTION AT ST. MATTHIAS SCHOOL!

June 17-21, 2024

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



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

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

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

Camp Week: June 17-21, 2024

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



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

The Alzheimer's Association and Saint Matthias Catholic Church are co-hosting a monthly Support Group for individuals living with Alzheimer's or Dementia, their care partners, and others dealing with the disease. Our next meeting will be **Wednesday, June 12th, from 2:00 pm-3:30 pm in the Parish Office at St. Matthias**. To register, call 800-272-3900 and mention the St. Matthias group.

The Group provides a safe and supportive environment and offers dementia-related education, emotional support, and connections with resources so that the group members may enhance their lives in the midst of the journey. For more information, visit alz.org/NJ.



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.



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.



St. Martin de Porres Society Provides Sponsorship for Haiti Non-Profit

Recently the SMDP Society partnered with the Friends of Montfort, Inc. to sponsor the education of a deaf student at the Institut Montfort in Port-Au-Prince, Haiti. Some of the members of the Society, Jocelyne Nau, Yanick Andr , and Claudette Gaspard, have known of the organization's work as they have sponsored children for many years. For the next year, education funding for the student, Dachecar Antoine (pictured), will come from the Society's support. Since the discontinuance of the Hands Together Haiti/St. Matthias partnership, the SMDP Society had been seeking a partnership with another Haiti organization.

If you are interested in sponsoring a child or supporting the organization, you can find more information by visiting the Friends of Montfort, Inc. website at www.friendsofmontfort.org

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			\$0.00	\$34,618.75
Week 51 - June 16, 2024			\$0.00	\$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
			\$19,798.18	\$100,655.50
			Current Year-to-date Total	Year-to-date as of Jun 30, 2023
			\$1,288,559.23	\$1,394,975.73

Stewardship Reflection June 9, 2024 10th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand." - Mark 3:24

Within your parish community, do your ministries collaborate with each other or do they compete against each other? Do your parish ministries work for the greater glory of God or do they work for the glory of the people running them? The primary goal of parish ministry is not to increase Mass attendance, increase the number of volunteers or increase offertory. The primary goal is to be one Body of Christ that helps people take one step closer to Jesus. If it's not doing that, it's not worth doing.

Reflexiónese - 9 de junio de 2024 10º Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario

"Si un Reino está dividido contra sí mismo, ese reino no puede perdurar." - Marcos 3:24

¿Dentro de su comunidad parroquial, los ministerios colaboran entre sí o compiten unos contra otros? ¿Los ministerios de su parroquia trabajan para la mayor gloria de Dios o trabajan para la gloria de las personas que los dirigen? La meta principal de un ministerio parroquial no es incrementar la asistencia a la Misa, o aumentar el número de voluntarios o las ofrendas. La meta principal es ser uno en el Cuerpo de Cristo que ayude a la gente a estar un paso más cerca de Jesús. Si no lo está haciendo así, entonces no vale nada.



IF YOU HAVE NOT SIGNED UP WITH PARISH GIVING...

Parish Giving offers secure flexible online giving for our parishioners who would like to make their donations online using a credit card or bank transfer. You never have to bring cash or checks to church. Giving electronically also helps the church save money and plan the budget. If you want to simplify your life, go to our website, www.stmatthias.net and click on the Parish Giving Link under 'Give'. Parish Giving offers you complete control over your account to change your giving as needed. You have the benefit to generate a giving report and easily choose the specific collections you wish to support. We thank you for your support which enables St. Matthias to minister to the community.

Why more parishes switch to Online Giving?

For years, the traditional check or cash in a weekly offertory envelope has been the preferred method of giving in parishes across the country. However, most recently, we've witnessed a significant increase in online giving. There are many advantages. Here's just one: **It saves your parish staff and counting volunteers loads of time and resources.**

Online giving offers a much welcome relief by reducing the time spent each week counting offertories, manually entering contributions into the church management software, and managing secure bank deposits. Instead, with online payment processing, you can bypass the time-consuming work while reaping all the benefits as funds flow straight into your account. Thanks to many of you who have already switched to online giving.

Connecting to Our Local Community



Marriage Encounter Weekend - July 19-21, 2024

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

Please apply ASAP as space is limited.

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

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



Thursday, June 20 VIRTUAL COMFORTABLE CUP OF TEA

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

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

Friday, June 21-28 WEEK-LONG SILENT DIRECTED RETREAT

An experience of personal prayer based on scripture. Daily spiritual direction.

Atmosphere of prayerful quiet. Begins 7 p.m. Friday and ends by 11am on Friday Week-

long: June 21-28, August 2-9 \$700/week; non-refundable deposit \$100 Proof of COVID vaccination is required at time of registration.

Tuesday, July 9 TO EVERYTHING A SEASON: THE SPIRITUALITY OF TIME

9:30 – 11 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.

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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