



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 7:45AM to 3:30PM

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

Anthony Baio, **Maintenance** **abaio**
Deacon Ron Caimi, **Senior Deacon**
Maria Cornier, **Parish Secretary** **mcornier**
Kelly Counts, **Receptionist**, **kcounts**
Deacon Russell Demkovitz, **rdemkovitz**
Nathalie Godet, **Website & Bulletin Editor**,
ngodet

Amy Hanna, **Accountant/Databases**, **ahanna**
Mike Lanyi, **Sacristan**, **mlanyi**
Sue Lenczewski, **Youth Coordinator**, **SMYLE**
Julio Montero, **Maintenance Supervisor**
Debra Schurko, **Director of Religious Education**,
dschurko

Vinnie Natale, **Bookkeeper**, **vnatale**
Silvia Nizama, **Housekeeper**
Deacon John Radvanski, **deaconjohn**
Joan Best Seamon, **Pastoral Associate for**
Music Ministry, **jseamon**

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

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS

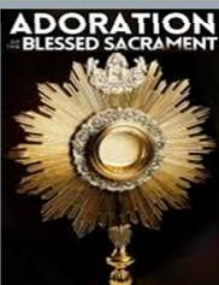
SUNDAY, JUNE 1, 2025

7th Sunday of Easter - Ascension

THAT THEY MAY BE ONE



Congratulations To Our Class of 2025 St. Matthias School Graduates!



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

OUR NEXT ADORATION WILL BE
JUNE 2, 2025 FROM 6 PM TO 8 PM.

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

This Week @ St. Matthias

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

The Church is open for individual prayer

Mon-Fri: 7:00 am to 7:00 pm, Sat: 9 am to 6pm, and Sun: 7:30 am to 1 pm, unless another service is taking place.

Sunday, June 1, 2025 **ASCENSION OF THE LORD**

CATHOLIC COMMUNICATIONS CAMPAIGN COLLECTION

8:00AM	Mass	Church
10:00AM	Mass	Church
11:00AM	OCIA	de Porres Room
11:00AM	First Sunday Rosary	Meet Outside
12:00PM	Mass	Church

Monday, June 2, 2025 **St. Peter & St. Marcellinus, Martyrs**

8:00AM	Mass	Church
5:30PM	Cursillo Meeting	de Porres Room
6:00PM	Eucharistic Adoration	Church
7:00PM	Cub Scout Pack 195 Mtg.	Cafeteria

Tuesday, June 3, 2025 **St. Charles Lwanga & Comp., Martyrs**

8:00AM	Mass	Church
12:00PM	Kindergarten Graduation Rehearsal	Church
7:30PM	SVDP Society Meeting	de Porres Room

Wednesday, June 4, 2025 **St. Francis Caracciolo, Priest**

8:00AM	Mass, St. Joseph Novena	Church
9:30AM	Holy Spirit Prayer Ministry	de Porres Rm
11:30AM	PreK / K Field Day	Parking Lot
7:30PM	Folk Group Rehearsal	Church

Thursday, June 5, 2025 **St. Boniface, Bishop & Martyr**

8:00AM	Mass	Church
9:00AM	Kindergarten Graduation	Church
7:00PM	Knights of Columbus Meeting	Cafeteria
7:30PM	Adult Choir Rehearsal	Church

Friday, June 6, 2025 **St. Norbert of Xanten, Bishop & Founder**

8:00AM	Mass	Church
8:30AM	First Friday Holy Hour w/benediction	Church
6:45PM	Boy Scout Troop 154 Mtg.	Cafeteria

Saturday, June 7, 2025 **St. Robert of Newminster, Priest**

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

Sunday, June 8, 2025 **PENTECOST SUNDAY**
BUILDING R&R COLLECTION FATHER'S DAY
REMEMBRANCE COLLECTION (ALL MONTH)

8:00AM	Mass	Church
10:00AM	Mass	Church
11:00AM	OCIA	de Porres Rm
11:00AM	First Sunday Rosary	Meet Outside
12:00PM	Mass	Church
1:30PM	Baptisms	Church
3:00PM	Jesus Youth' Gathering	Church & Cafeteria

BULLETIN ARTICLE REQUESTS:

If you would like to send information to be included in our bulletin, please email it to bulletin@stmatthias.net by **9 AM, MONDAY, 5 business days before the needed bulletin date** (earlier for holiday weekends). Approved content is published on a space-available basis.

A Message From The Pastor

Dear Friends,

Heartly congratulations to our St. Matthias Graduates of the Class of 2025! Each year as we celebrate graduation, we all – parents, school administration, faculty, staff, the Principal and the priests - go through mixed feelings. Joy and pride at the successful school life completion of these young boys and girls whose holistic formation was entrusted to us. Sadness and even grief at missing their constant presence as they leave us for their next phase of life's journey. But we wish them God's blessings and pray that each of them will become the best version of what God wants them to be.

As we know, this is the graduation season for hundreds of thousands of students all over our country. But many of them will not have the unique way of celebrating graduation as our 8th graders had here at St. Matthias School: celebrating it with the Holy Mass, followed by the graduation ceremony. The involvement and participation of the graduates in reading, singing, and leading the prayer of petitions brought joy and pride to their families, the faculty and administration of the school. The Pre-K and Kindergarten graduation ceremonies also will have the unique Catholic touch – though without Mass. This way of celebrating the graduation gives a distinct identity and message to our children and parents. The catholic identity makes us realize that we continue to further the mission of Jesus Christ through Catholic education. St. Matthias School motto, "Faith, Caring and Excellence," puts our Catholic faith first without diminishing the importance given to caring for the person and striving for excellence in all aspects of school education. Many students received awards for academics and for various other achievements. St. John Paul II rightly said: "The mission of the Catholic school is the integral formation of students..."

We are also aware, as mentioned in earlier editions of the bulletin, that Mrs. Mary Lynch, our Principal, who has been nurturing these graduates as well as all the students of St. Matthias, will be leaving us. Though I had requested her to reconsider her decision to resign, I respect her decision and I wish to thank her, in the name of all, for her dedication to St. Matthias School. She has been associated with this school for over a decade in various capacities. After a beautiful surprise farewell party for her, she wrote to the faculty and parish staff: "The last 12 years being a part of St. Matthias has been a blessing for me. I will always attribute my life being changed by Sister Jean, when she called and asked if I wanted to be HSA president. Who would have thought that would have led to me subbing here, teaching here, and then becoming principal. I love giving my all to everyone here at St. Matthias School... I will definitely miss being here every day..." Thank you Mrs. Lynch, and may God's grace continue to accompany you.

It is also well known that my own transition was announced as I will take up my next assignment at Our Lady of Peace parish, Fords, on August 1st. Hence I too experience the mixed feelings of joy of fulfilment in the pastoral ministry, and sadness at leaving this beautiful community of St. Matthias. But no matter where we all will move to, we are all part of the People of God and so we will carry our Catholic faith and heritage as well as keep the flag of St. Matthias flying high.

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Orapankal



Readings for the Week

Monday Acts 19:1-8 Ps 68:2-3ab, 4-5acd, 6-7ab Jn 16:29-33

Tuesday Acts 20:17-27 Ps 68:10-11, 20-21 Jn 17:1-11a

Wednesday Acts 20:28-38 Ps 68:29-30, 33-35a, 35bc-36ab Jn 17:11b-19

Thursday Acts 22:30; 23:6-11 Ps 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11 Jn 17:20-26

Friday Acts 25:13b-21 Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20ab Jn 21:15-19

Saturday Acts 28:16-20, 30-31 Ps 11:4, 5 and 7 Jn 21:20-25

Sunday Vigil Gen 11:1-9 or Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b or Ez 37:1-14 or Jl 3:1-5 Ps 104:1-2, 24, 35, 27-28, 29, 30 Rom 8:22-27 Jn 7:37-39

Sunday Day Acts 2:1-11 Ps 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13 or Rom 8:8-17/ Jn 20:19-23 or Jn 14:15-16, 23b-26

Mass Intentions for the Week

Sat., May 31	5:00 PM	Russell & Hedwig Demkovitz by Russell & Monica Demkovitz
Sun., June 1	8:00 AM	Intention of Parishioners
	10:00 AM	Birthday Blessings Joseph A. Ramos by Mom
	12:00 PM	Jean Elguicze by Joseph Gidaro
Mon., June 2	8:00 AM	Rose Marie Caputo by Richard & Sandy
Tues., June 3	8:00 AM	Billie Boyd by Daughter Dolores
Wed., June 4	8:00 AM	Gil Ossandon by the Ossandon Children
Thurs., June 5	8:00 AM	Happy Heavenly Birthday Joseph D. Dupont, Jr. by The Madison Family
Fri., June 6	8:00 AM	Billy Merrill by Linda Madison
Sat., June 7	5:00 PM	Will Cuddeback by Mom & Dad
Sun., June 8	8:00 AM	Wedding Anniversary Arie Sukendro & Susy by Arie Sukendro
	10:00 AM	Intention of Parishioners
	12:00 PM	Joseph Dupont by the Shaw Family

Pray for those who are sick...

If you or a family member are sick, please call the Parish Office or [email prayer@stmatthias.net](mailto:prayer@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.

Connie Adams	Vivian Dong	Marilyn Jensen	Joan Mazzacco	Patricia Shea
Beth, Jim & Jay Adams	Sanora Doyen	Jean Alix Jolly	Ann McElwee	Amy Shepp
Suzanne Adams	Andrea Dubuisson	Marie Claude Jolly	Jessica Marie Merrick	Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF
Sue Alese	Barry Dusault	Donna Kahora	Gail Miranda	Catherine Steele
Marie Arroyo	Hattie Evans	Patty Kerekes	Catalina Moran	Richard Sury
Robert Baker	Adam Figueriedo	Betsy Kondrat	Sarah Braun Morini	Jacqueline Taylor
Edgar Banaag	Margaret Ann Cichon	Kim Krikorian	John Mulholland	Anita Vance
Carolyn Banghart	Ford	Kathy Langenbacher	Raoul Nuguid	Minda Villarica
Ghislaine Baron	Sharon Gadomski	Rose Larangeira	Celia Palacio	Gayle Vosseler
Carmen Bender	Gerard Giordano	Linda Leone	Dr. Jean Patrick	Eileen Weber
Mary Bostrom	Claude Godet	Henrietta Lesiak	Robert Pellegrino	Nancy Whelan
Robert Brisson	Marie Godet	John Litrakis	Robert Pierro	Bill Wellman
Patricia Burke	Fr. Ben Gomez OMI	Mary Lou Litrakis	Robert Pietrowiak	Richard Zagurek
Karin Cabezas	Shelly Greene	Aries Magali	Valerie Polci	Mike Zambri
Ben Campbell	Joan Harris	Cynthia Magat	Kim Price	GINETTE ZAMOR
Tara Capatosto	Linda Hartong	Kenneth & Kelly Magat	Joan Pritchard	Anne Zando
Rustico Castellano	Jeff Hentz	Bobby Manansala	Frank Rispoli	Celia M. Zelinski
Marty Collins	Sloopy & JP Hoffman	Susan, King & Tosh	Gabriel Rivera	
Pierre Celestin	Marilyn Horvath	Manansala	Bob Rotz	
Lisa DeFeo	Jerry & Donna Hucul	Colleen Maniscalco	Marisa Ruppel	
Derowitsch Family	Nicole Cherill Hynes	Alexandra Marquez	Gloria Santos	
Patrick Dolphin	Rafael Jara	Christine Matthews	Maria Schwenzer	

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*

Reflect



Smile with Your Family



Sit back and enjoy a fine game: Just before the football game started, both teams gathered together and prayed briefly. A fan seated next to a rabbi asked what he thought would happen if both teams prayed with equal Faith and fervor. "In that event," replied the rabbi, "I imagine the Lord would simply sit back and enjoy one fine game of football." 😊

A minister delivered a sermon in ten minutes one Sunday morning, ...which was about one-third the usual length of his sermons. He explained, "I regret to inform you that my dog, who is very fond of eating paper, ate that portion of my sermon which I was unable to deliver this morning". After the service, a visitor from another church shook hands with the preacher and said, "Pastor, if that dog of yours has any pups, I want to get one to give to my minister." 😊

The ascension mission to preach the gospel: After attending a convention led by Billy Graham a woman wrote to him. "Dear Sir, I feel that God is calling me to preach the gospel. But the trouble is that I have twelve children. What shall I do?" The televangelist replied: "Dear Madam, I am delighted to hear that God has called you to preach the Gospel. I am even more delighted to hear that He has already provided you with a congregation in your own home." 😊

Ascension walk-out: There was a long-winded pastor who preached salvation history from Genesis to Revelation in every sermon. On the feast of Ascension as he reached Isaiah, he remarked that the prophet said nothing about the ascension of Our Lord. He asked his audience, "What shall we do with him?" One old man in the front seat said, "He can have my seat, Father, I am leaving." 😊



Parenting Tune-Up

How was the Memorial Day? Have a chat with children about the significance of the Memorial Day of mourning and honoring the U.S. service men and women who died. Instill in them a sense of gratitude to those who protect our country and our freedom.

Marriage Tune-Up

Memorial Day is over. To serve country, spouse, or God is to give your life because of your love. Dying for a good cause is a great sacrifice, but sacrificing time and spending energy in the service of your beloved counts too. Serve your spouse in an unexpected way today.



GREAT COMMISSIONS



Actually there have been many persons given exciting commissions in their lifetimes. There was Michelangelo's commission to paint the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, Sir Christopher Wren's commission to build St. Paul's Cathedral in London, Walter Reed's assignment to stop yellow fever at the "Big Ditch" in Panama, Chamberlain's orders to stop the Confederates at Little Roundtop in Gettysburg and most recently the mission of the U.S. Navy Seals to get the terrorist master-mind, Bin Laden, dead or alive. But I tell you, in my life and yours, there is an even greater commission. It is found here in Matthew 28:18-20 where Jesus Christ turns to his disciples and says, "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you."

How do we do this mission? Where do we get the strength for this? The ascended Jesus is our source of strength and encouragement. Perhaps some of the nagging doubts which inevitably accompany the journey of Faith could be lessened by our meditating on the Ascension and its implications. When we are too far from Faith to pray on our own, let us remember that we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, the righteous, praying for us. When the trials of life feel too heavy to bear, we must remember that Christ will come again in glory, the same glory in which he arose from the tomb, the same glory to which he ascended, and the same glory in which he currently abides. Though our limited perception might find him absent, he is fully present, participating in every moment of our lives. By His Ascension, Christ has not deserted us but has made it possible for the Holy Spirit to enter all times and places. In this way it is possible for each of us to be transformed by the power of the Spirit into agents or instruments of Christ. We become enlivened, and our actions become animated in a new way by the Spirit of the God we love and serve. We have become other Christs in the world.

THE "VIGIL" IN MILWAUKEE



"... I am with you always, until the end of the age..." Matthew 28: 16-20

It's 2:30 in the morning. A police officer sees a light in the window of a Milwaukee church hall. He knocks on the door and a parishioner answers. "Everything OK?" "Yes, officer we're just having our usual prayer vigil."

That's not exactly true. The small church wanted to provide a warm, safe place for homeless people to stay on Milwaukee's cold winter nights, but there was no way the parish could afford to meet city code. So they decided to hold an "all-night prayer vigil" to which all were welcome. The vigil is now greatly appreciated by local police and neighbors as well as the homeless who take advantage of the "warm" vigil.

The genius of the ministry is that the guests have taken on the major role in managing the program. Parish "prayer leaders" have witnessed the amazing transformation of seemingly helpless people into competent managers of their own situation. They turn away people who are intoxicated or otherwise unable to cooperate. They determine the timing of smoking breaks. They keep the church clean. They "have each other's backs" as a community.

One volunteer believes, "I think this is what Jesus had in mind when he called together the most unlikely people to be his disciples and support community - in other words, church." Maybe "prayer vigil" isn't such a stretch, after all.


We celebrate the Ascension of the Lord today. Ascension is not the marking of a departure but the realization of a presence. Matthew's Gospel begins with the dawning of Emmanuel: "God is with us"; it concludes with Emmanuel's promise: "I am with you always, even to the end of time." It is not an abstract or distant presence; Christ is the center of our Church in word, in sacrament, in every moment of generosity and every act of compassion we perform and experience. Christ is in our midst in everything we do in his name: our Sunday Eucharist, a group of children learning the Lord's Prayer, a gathering of knitters each week to make prayer shawls for the sick, a legally-sanctioned "prayer vigil" for the homeless on a frigid winter night. The charge Jesus leaves to his disciples on the mountain of the Ascension is left to all of us two millennia later: we are called to teach, to witness and to heal in our own small corners of the world, from our kitchen tables to our church hall.

THE UNFINISHED PAINTING

Leonardo da Vinci had started to work on a large canvas in his studio. For a while he worked at it – choosing the subject, planning the perspective, sketching the outline, applying the colors, with his own inimitable genius. Then suddenly he stopped working on it. Summoning one of his talented students, the master invited him to complete the work. The horrified student protested that he was both unworthy and unable of completing the great painting which his master had begun. But da Vinci silenced him. "Will not what I have done inspire you to do your best?"



Jesus our Master began to spread the Good News two thousand years ago, by what he said and did, and supremely by what he suffered. He illustrated his message and he has left us to finish the picture. Will his life not inspire us to finish the picture? Jesus taught us lessons of faith, hope, forgiveness, mercy, redemption and love. We cannot put these lessons on a shelf and ignore them. They stand before us in the person of Jesus. Although no longer visibly present in the world, He is present in his words. We must make his words real in our lives and in the lives of others. Christianity was meant to be a faith in which Jesus' followers would help and care for others, just as Jesus had done. But the spreading of the Good News to all nations is not a goal that can be attained by human might and craft. This is why Jesus promises to empower his messengers with His abiding presence and that of the Holy Spirit. The challenge of sharing the Good News with all mankind should, therefore, begin with our admission that we have often been arrogant and overbearing. We must learn to be humble and let the Holy Spirit lead the way. This is the message of the Ascension.



DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO THE NATIONAL SHRINE IN WASHINGTON D.C.

As announced, the Diocesan Pilgrimage to the National Shrine in Washington D.C. is on **September 20, 2025.**

If there are many parishioners planning to join, we could hire a bus for us. A sign up genius has been set up on our parish website for those interested to sign up.

www.stmatthias.net/jubilee-pilgrimage

PASSING THE BATON



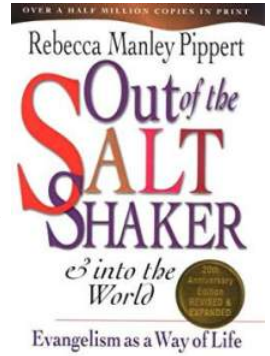
The critical moment in a relay race is the passing of the baton from one runner to another. More relays are won or lost at that moment than at any other.

The feast of the ascension might be compared to the passing of the baton in a relay race. On this day over 2,000 years ago, Jesus passed the baton of responsibility for the Kingdom of God to his followers. Jesus commissioned them to complete the work he had begun. Practically, what does this mean? How do you and I, in the 20th century, carry out Jesus' commission to be his witnesses to the world and his teachers to the nations? There are as many ways to do this as there are Christians. We can do what two 25-year-old university graduates did recently. After completing their degrees, one from Georgetown and the other from Marquette, they entered the Seminary. We can do what Albert Schweitzer did. At the age of 30 he abandoned his music career in Europe to study medicine and became a missionary doctor in Africa. We can do what the baseball coach of Spring Hill College, Alabama, did a few years back. At the age of 35 he resigned his position and began his studies for the priesthood. We can do what a Visitation nun Mother Angelica did. In her 50s she began a Catholic religious television channel, EWTN, which has become the largest Catholic network in the world today.

We have a teaching mission. Jesus taught us lessons of Faith, Hope, forgiveness, mercy, redemption and Love. We cannot put these lessons on a shelf and ignore them. They stand before us in the person of Jesus. Although no longer visibly present in the world, He is present in his words. We must make his words real in our lives and in the lives of others. Christianity was meant to be a Faith in which Jesus' followers would help and care for others, just as Jesus had done. But the spreading of the Good News to all nations is not a goal that can be attained by human might and craft. This is why Jesus promises to empower his messengers with His abiding presence and that of the Holy Spirit. The challenge of sharing the Good News with all mankind should, therefore, begin with our admission that we have often been arrogant and overbearing. We must learn to be humble and let the Holy Spirit lead the way.

NO TORPEDO EVANGELISM, PLEASE!

Rebecca Pippert, the author of *Out of the Salt Shaker: Into the World*, tells of a time she was sitting in her car at a traffic light with her window rolled down. As the light turned green a car drove by and its occupant threw something into her car hitting her on the cheek. It didn't hurt but she was so startled that she pulled over immediately. When she unrolled the paper, she discovered it was a gospel tract. She says she was the apparent victim of what she refers to as "torpedo evangelism." I'm sure the torpedoer meant well. At least I hope so, but he or she did the wrong thing for the right reason in the wrong way. We can engage people in conversation about their faith and their relationship with God in a non-judgmental manner. We can encourage. We can invite. We can offer counsel. But we leave the hard work, the heart work, up to Jesus and the Holy Spirit. You see, we are not on some sort of spiritual mugging mission.



We are called to be proclaimers and evangelizers: In today's gospel, Jesus gives his mission to all the believers: *"Go out to the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature."* This mission is not given to a select few but to all believers. To be a Christian is to be a proclaimer and an evangelizer. There is a difference between preaching and proclaiming. "We preach with words but we proclaim with our lives." As we celebrate the Lord's return to His Father in heaven – His Ascension – we are being commissioned to go forth and proclaim the Gospel of life and love, of hope and peace, by the witness of our lives. On this day of hope, encouragement and commissioning, let us renew our commitment to be true disciples everywhere we go, beginning with our family and our parish, *"living in a manner worthy of the call [we] have received."*



Learn



CAMP INVENTION AT ST. MATTHIAS SCHOOL!

JUNE 23-27, 2025 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM



Camp Invention®

Thanks to rave reviews from campers, parents, and teachers, we're bringing **Camp Invention** back for its 8th year at St. Matthias School!

Even better, our 2025 program is full of all-new, hands-on STEM fun! Don't miss out — register students going into grades Kindergarten through 6th grade at invent.org/camp until camp starts.

Register by May 15th 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.

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!

GIFT REGISTRATION OPEN FOR 2025-2026



Religious Education includes the **G.I.F.T. (Growing in Faith Together)** program, which is for families with children in grades K-Grade 8 or for anyone who wishes to grow in faith. GIFT is an intergenerational faith formation process that recognizes that faith formation is life-long. All public school children in grades K-8 must be registered in this program to be eligible to enter immediate sacramental preparation programs.

To register for 2025-2026 please visit: www.stmatthias.net/faith-formation

Connect

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP MEETS ON ZOOM, ON JUNE 11TH AT 2 PM

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 11th**, from **2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Zoom**.

To register and receive the link, call 800-272-3900 and mention the St. Matthias group. For more information, visit alz.org/NJ.



HOMESCHOOLING MOMS RETREAT



The Office of Homeschool Ministry and the Office of Discipleship Formation for Children are hosting a retreat for Homeschooling Moms on **Saturday, June 14th** at the St. John Neumann Pastoral Center, located at 146 Metlars Lane in Piscataway. The retreat will feature veteran Catholic Homeschooling Mom Jenny Bales, founder of Heart of a Mother, a Catholic homeschool consulting company. The \$20 fee for the event includes a continental breakfast. The retreat begins with 9am Mass in the Pastoral Center chapel celebrated by Fr. Gilbert Starcher and will conclude by 12:30 pm.

For More Information Contact:

Jill Kerekes, jkerekes@diometuchen.org

To register: www.diometuchen.org/homeschool-ministry-1

QUO VADIS? DISCERNMENT RETREAT FOR YOUNG MEN

An invitation for young men (High School Students) ages 14-17 to attend our Quo Vadis Adventure Retreat 2025! This is an opportunity to have fun, grow in your faith, and begin to think/pray about where God may be calling you in life.

Where: Camp Shiloh, 753 Burnt Meadow Road, Hewitt, NJ, 07421

When: **Tuesday, July 29- 31, 10 AM arrival.**

To register, and for more information, please go to: www.diometuchen.org/quovadis



Pray



COME PRAY THE ROSARY WITH US

The Rosary Altar Society meets every
first Sunday of each month
after the 10 am Mass to pray the rosary.
ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN.



CATHOLIC UNDERSTANDING & BIBLICAL DEFENSE

Catholicism is rich with 2000 years of tradition, the sacraments, the Mass, the saints, and Scripture. And although about 25% of the bible is covered during the 3-year cycle of Mass readings, there's much more; and every story or message has layers of information waiting to be peeled away. Kind of like a spiritual-archeological dig!



- ♦ Did you know that Mary is the fulfillment of the Old Testament's Ark of the Covenant?
- ♦ Did you know that when Jesus cried out on the cross, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" he was fulfilling Psalm 22?

We spend one hour each week on select readings or topics.

No bible experience necessary.

No verbal participation required.

Zoom meeting every Tuesday, 7 pm - 8 pm (EST).

Join us at: [Meetup.com/CatholicBibleStudy](https://www.meetup.com/CatholicBibleStudy)

Ron Hallagan, Content Organizer/Presenter

Taylor Maley, Event Organizer, taylor.hallagan@gmail.com



Peregrinación
HISPANA
at SANTUARIO NACIONAL BLUE ARMY

Pilgrimage to the National Blue Army Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima. 'Hispanic Families, Pilgrims of Hope'.

Join us on **June 14, 2025** from 9:30 am to 3:00 pm, at the Blue Army National Shrine, where we will be able to receive the jubilee indulgence. All are invited to participate in the adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, confessions, prayer of the Rosary and Angelus, and closing Mass. The event is free and prior registration is not required. Please bring your lunch.

More information? please visit diometuchen.org/peregrinacion-hispana or contact us 732-243-4573 or at Lescobar@diometuchen.org

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EDISON CHAPTER

13TH THANKSGIVING ANNIVERSARY

"When he comes, the Spirit of truth, He will guide you to all truth"

John 16:13

June 14, 2025 Saturday 9:00 - 4:00 pm
Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church Auditorium
285 Hamilton St. Somerset NJ 08873

Rev. Fr. Robert Lamirez
Mass Celebrant
St Ann Catholic Church
Spiritual Adviser Edison Chapter

Bro. Alvin Marcelino
Healing Message
Disciple Preacher, Chicago Chapter

Faith, Love Unity



LIVE YOUR FAITH
JOIN THE FAASM REVIVAL
(Filipino-American
Association of St. Matthias)

Come join us celebrate our Philippine Independence on **Sunday, June 15th** from **4 pm - 7 pm** at **St. Matthias Church**.
Fr. Larrydom Magdasoc, Parochial Vicar of St. Bernard Clairvaux, will be the celebrant.
Fellowship will follow in the cafeteria.

For more information contact:

Lorna JaoJaco at 732.619.9896
or
Pam Yanogacio at 609.858.1342

Give (and Receive!)

Stewardship Totals for Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025				Last Year's Total
Current Month	In-Pew/Mail	Parish Giving	Weekly Total	Weekly Total
Week 44 - May 4, 2025	\$13,700.00	\$14,136.50	\$27,836.50	\$27,521.50
Week 45 - May 11, 2025	\$9,543.20	\$25,459.00	\$35,002.20	\$33,448.00
Week 46 - May 18, 2025	\$19,212.00	\$11,984.50	\$31,196.50	\$21,443.65
Week 47 - May 26, 2025				\$22,094.60
Development of People Collection: \$3,117.05			Month-to-date Total	May Total Last Year
*Due to the accelerated schedule of the bulletin publishers, the stewardship information will be updated in the next bulletin.			\$94,035.20	\$104,507.75
			Current Year-to-date Total	Year-to-date as of May 31, 2024
			\$1,227,264.05	\$1,163,455.70

REMINDER!

When we contribute via check, the Chase Bank requires that the checks must be made out to **"Church of St. Matthias."**
No other variation of this designation will be acceptable due to greater security controls.

Stewardship Reflection June 1, 2025 The Ascension of the Lord

"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end." (Revelations 22:13)

This is a reminder of how we should live our lives 24 hours a day, 7 days a week – putting God first in all that we do. Not only when I am at Mass and parish activities, but when I am in the world, at work, or at school. Living gratefully and generously is an intentional lifestyle. Every decision you make either moves you closer to God or farther away. Choose wisely!

Reflexiónese – 1 de Junio de 2025 La Ascensión del Señor

"Yo soy el Alfa y la Omega, el primero y el último, el principio y el fin." (Apocalipsis 22:13)

Eso es un recordatorio de cómo debemos vivir nuestras vidas las 24 horas del día, 7 días a la semana - poniendo a Dios en primer lugar en todo lo que hacemos. No solo cuando estamos en Misa y en las actividades parroquiales, sino cuando estoy en el mundo, en el trabajo o en la escuela. Vivir una vida agradecida y generosa es un estilo de vida intencional. Cada decisión que usted toma lo acerca más a Dios o lo aparta de Él. ¡Escoja sabiamente!



DIOCESE OF
METUCHEN

2025 BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

Theme: PILGRIMS OF HOPE: JOURNEYING TOGETHER IN FAITH, HOPE AND CHARITY

All our parishioners must have received a letter about the Annual Bishop's Annual Appeal. Parishes throughout the Diocese of Metuchen are given a specific amount to raise. The 2025 BAA goal for St. Matthias is \$175,000. Our parish has already pledged **\$166,406.97 (95.09%)** of this goal - thanks to the good will and generosity of our parishioners. The goal is for every family to participate. Every gift, no matter the size, is important and greatly appreciated. Together, we are keeping Christ's presence alive in the world today. Thank you for actively participating in this mission by your financial support.

Connecting to Our Local Community



39TH ANNUAL LEBANESE FESTIVAL

June 6, 7, & 8, 2025

ST. SHARBEL MARONITE CATHOLIC CHURCH

526 Easton Ave, Somerset, NJ (Corner of Franklin Boulevard),
Friday 5-10 p.m., Saturday noon -11 p.m., Sunday noon – 10 p.m.

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Lebanese Food & Pastries • Vegan & Gluten free options available

Magician – Saturday 2-4:00pm

Bar, Games & Souvenirs

www.saintsharbelnj.org

FESTA DI SAN ANTONIO

Good Shepherd Parish at Most Holy Rosary Church, 625 Florida Grove Road, in the Hopelawn section of Woodbridge will once again be hosting the Festa di San Antonio on **Saturday, June 7 from Noon to 7 PM** in Msgr. Gambino Hall. The day will include Italian food and desserts (eat in/take out), raffles, activities and games for children and more. Elevator service is available. In addition, a classic car show hosted by the Raritan Bay Cruisers will be taking place in the church parking lot from 11:30am-3:30pm (rain or shine).

For information on the Festa, call (732) 826-4859 or visit our website

at goodshepherdpanj.org. You can also find us on FaceBook, X, and Instagram.

Whether you call it sauce or gravy come on by and enjoy some food, fun and fellowship.

Festa di San Antonio

GOOD SHEPHERD PARISH
@ MOST HOLY ROSARY CHURCH
625 FLORIDA GROVE RD., HOPELAWN, NJ



June 7
12 - 7 pm



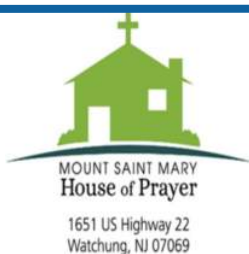
Info: (732) 826-4859 or www.goodshepherdpanj.org

Italian Food & Desserts (Eat In/Take Out) | Raffles | Games/Activities For Kids

Msgr. Gambino Hall - Elevator Service Available



Classic Car Show
11:30am-3:30pm
Church Parking Lot
Hosted by Raritan Bay Cruisers
Rain or Shine



SACRED TIME, SACRED SPACE

Wednesday, June 18 from 9:30am-3pm

A personal, quiet day to meet God in silence and rest in God's love. The day begins with communal prayer and then you are free to pray and reflect within the House of Prayer and the grounds. Linger for as long as you like until 3pm.

Bring bag lunch.

In Person Program.

\$20-\$30 as you are able.

Parish Leadership

Parish Pastoral Council:	Secretary:	Fr. Lancelot McGrath	Parish Finance Council:	Mary Pat Burke-Grospin, Ex-Officio
Co-Chairs:	Sheila Tartaglia	Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio	Kester Hector, Chair	
Stephen Busono			Finance Council	
sbusono@gmail.com	Members:	Trustees:	@stmatthias.net	Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio
Bill Isele	Teresa Yannotta	Pearl Scott	Carmen Driz-Melilli	
t33sm@aol.com	Joe Percoco	Marge Richards	Barry Dusault	
	Miles London		Joan Pritchard	

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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