



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 22, 2025

The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

The Solemnity Of The Most Holy Body & Blood Of Christ



PETER'S PENCE COLLECTION IS NEXT SUNDAY

It is the annual Holy Father's Collection
and all proceeds are designated for
that singular purpose.



ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT



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

OUR NEXT ADORATION WILL BE
JUNE 23, 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 22, 2025

The Most Holy BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST (CORPUS CHRISTI)

8:00AM	Mass	Church
10:00AM	Mass (Interpreter)	Church
11:00AM	OCIA	de Porres Rm
12:00PM	Mass	Church
1:30PM	Baptisms	Church

Monday, June 23, 2025 **St. Joseph Cafasso, Priest**

8:00AM	Mass—Miraculous Medal Novena	Church
6:00PM	Eucharistic Adoration	Church

Tuesday, June 24, 2025 **Nativity of John the Baptist**

8:00AM	Mass	Church
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Wednesday, June 25, 2025 **William of Montevergine, Abbot & Founder**

8:00AM	Mass — St. Joseph Novena	Church
9:30AM	Holy Spirit Prayer Ministry	de Porres Rm

Thursday, June 26, 2025 **St. Jose Maria Escriva, Priest**

8:00AM	Mass	Church
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Friday, June 27, 2025 **Sacred Heart of Jesus**

8:00AM	Mass	Church
6:45PM	Boy Scout Troop 154 Mtg.	Cafeteria

Saturday, June 28, 2025 **The Immaculate Heart of Mary**

PETER'S PENCE COLLECTION

1:00PM	W/Alex Bui-Wanzhi (Visiting Priest)	
3:30PM	Reconciliation	Church
5:00PM	Sunday Vigil Mass —Body of Christ	Church

Sunday, June 29, 2025 **Saints Peter & Paul, Apostles**
PETER'S PENCE COLLECTION

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.

A Message From The Pastor

Dear Friends,

Today is the feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (more commonly known by its former name: Corpus Christi Feast). It is a powerful reminder of the why of our Sunday Eucharistic gathering: celebration of the Real Presence of Christ in our midst! It is very easy to think of the presence of Christ limiting it to Holy Communion primarily. But the Church teaches us clearly that **there are four ways in which Christ is present in the Eucharist. They are:**

- 1) **in the gathering of the people** because “where two or three are gathered in my name, I am in their midst;”
- 2) **in the presider of the Mass** because every priest is acting “in persona Christi” or in the person of Christ;
- 3) **in the Word proclaimed** during Mass because it is God speaking to us about His saving message;
- 4) **and in the Holy Communion** because it is the real Presence of Jesus in the sacred species of bread and wine.

May this Feast make us more conscious of His manifold Presence at every Eucharistic celebration and appreciate it more to participate more consciously.

Corpus Christi feast is also an invitation to reflect on the social dimensions of the Eucharist. It calls on the faithful to recognize Christ in the marginalized and needy and to be nourished by Christ’s body and blood to serve them effectively. This echoes the Vatican II document "Lumen Gentium," which describes the Eucharist as the "source and summit of the Christian life." Our Community of St. Matthias is particularly known for our attentiveness to this social dimension of the Eucharist. Our Vincent De Paul Society is the visible face of our commitment and concern for the less fortunate in our midst.

Last week, our parish hosted the annual gathering of all the Social Ministers of various parishes of our Diocese of Metuchen. Maria Hunter, the Diocesan Director of the Office of Parish Social Ministry, organized this as she has been doing for some 25 years. Social ministers from different parishes came for getting to know each other, sharing a meal and their experiences, and for exploring ways and means to help the poor more easily and efficiently. I found that this gathering provided “nourishment” for mind, body, spirit, and ministry!

Bishop Checchio and Mr. Tony Kearns, the Chancellor of the Diocese, were with us to share their thoughts and give us encouragement. **It was very encouraging for us all to hear the stories that many social ministers shared about so many individuals receiving help during challenging circumstances in their lives.** Our own Vincent De Paul Society leaders shared very touching stories of helping those in need in our area. I wish to thank our Vincent De Paul Society for their very hard work to care for those in desperate need for our help. Thanks to our parishioners who give so generously to this important ministry of social concerns. We are truly living out the social dimension of the Holy Eucharist. We become the Body of Christ, not only when we say Amen while receiving Holy Communion, but also when we accept and care for the larger Body of Christ – the least of our brothers and sisters around us.

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Orapankal



Readings for the Week

Monday Gen 12:1-9 Ps 33:12-13, 18-19, 20 and 22 Mt 7:1-5

Tuesday Vigil Jer 1:4-10 Ps 139:1b-3, 13-14ab, 14c-15 1 Pt 1:8-12 Lk 1:5-17

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

Wednesday Gen 15:1-12, 17-18 Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9 Mt 7:15-20

Thursday Gen 16:1-12, 15-16 or 16:6b-12, 15-16 Ps 106:1b-2, 3-4a, 4b-5 Mt 7:21-29

Friday Ez 34:11-16 Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 Rom 5:5b-11 Lk 15:3-7

Saturday Gen 18:1-15 Lk 1:46-47, 48-49, 50 and 53, 54-55 Mt 8:5-17

Sunday Vigil Acts 3:1-10 Ps 19:2-3, 4-5 Gal 1:11-20 Jn 21:15-19

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

Mass Intentions for the Week

Sat., June 21	5:00 PM	Brother Efrem Eads by Cook & Eads Families
Sun., June 22	8:00 AM	Harto Sukendro and Ratna Sintawati Raharoja by Arie Sukendro
	10:00 AM	Al Maglio by Maglio Family
	12:00 PM	Onofre G. Garlitos Jr. by Nora & Paul Szabo
Mon., June 23	8:00 AM	Gary Johnson by Johnson/Laine Families
Tues., June 24	8:00 AM	Nellie A. Bathan by The Bathan Family
Wed., June 25	8:00 AM	Hildegard Scheurle by The Altar Service Ministry
Thurs., June 26	8:00 AM	Maria & Nicolino Nese by Daughter, Rose
Fri., June 27	8:00 AM	Sharon Taylor by Laurie & John Crowley
Sat., June 28	5:00 PM	Claudia Gemgnani by Lanyi & Kantor Families
Sun., June 29	8:00 AM	Intention of Parishioners Dennis Stuewe by Stuewe Family
	10:00 AM	Valentinus Yap by Busono Family
	12:00 PM	Albert Maglio by David & Elizabeth Zawacki

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

Pray for those who have died...

— “His mercy endures forever.” *Chronicles*

William C. Sharp

Reflect



Smile with Your Family



While shopping in a food store, two nuns happened to pass by the beer, wine, and liquor section. One asked the other if she would like a beer. The second nun answered that, indeed, it would be very nice to have one, but that she would feel uncomfortable purchasing it. The first nun replied that she would handle it without a problem. She picked up a six-pack and took it to the cashier. The cashier was surprised, so the nun said, "This is for washing our hair." Without blinking an eye, the cashier reached under the counter and put a package of pretzel sticks in the bag with the beer, saying, "The curlers are on me." 😊

Bidding at a local auction is interrupted when the auctioneer's clerk hands him a note. "A gentleman has lost a wallet containing \$5,000 in cash," says the auctioneer. "If it is returned, he will pay a reward of \$100." There is a moment's silence, then someone in the crowd shouts: "One hundred and fifty!" 😊

On a T-shirt: "I don't know how to act my age. I've never been this age before." 😊

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." 😊

New Patient history: *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 ..."* 😊

My fitness coach told me to bend down and touch my toes. I said, "I don't have that kind of relationship with my feet. Can I just wave?" 😊



Parenting Tune-Up

The end of the school year can bring lots of banquets and ceremonies. Inevitably, some kids get more awards than others. Help your child recognize that his/her internal worth goes beyond trophies.

Marriage Tune-Up

"Do this in remembrance of me." (1 Cor. 11:24)
Jesus used these words when sharing bread and wine with the apostles at the Last Supper. When we consume food and drink, it becomes part of our body and blood. Be mindful of Jesus' presence in the next meal you eat together.



PADRE PIO'S PRAYER AFTER HOLY COMMUNION

"Stay with me, Lord, for it is necessary to have You present so that I do not forget You. You know how easily I abandon You.

Stay with me, Lord, because I am weak and I need Your strength, that I may not fall so often.

Stay with me, Lord, for You are my life, and without You, I am without fervor.

Stay with me, Lord, for You are my light, and without You, I am in darkness.

Stay with me, Lord, to show me Your will.

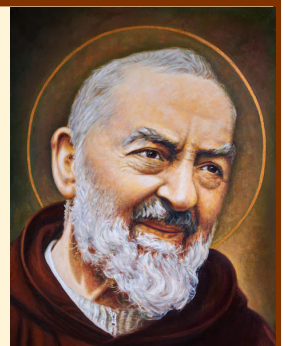
Stay with me, Lord, so that I hear Your voice and follow You.

Stay with me, Lord, for I desire to love You very much, and always be in Your company.

Stay with me, Lord, if You wish me to be faithful to You.

Stay with me, Lord, for as poor as my soul is, I want it to be a place of consolation for You, a nest of love.

Stay with me, Jesus, for it is getting late, the day is coming to a close, and life passes; death, judgment, eternity approach. It is necessary to renew my strength.



TRADE RUMORS

Jesus feeds the crowd with the five loaves of bread and two fish. Luke 9: 11b-17

An eight-year-old returned home from playing baseball. From the look on his face, it was clear that it had not been a good afternoon. His dad asked what was wrong. "I was traded today," he said sadly. "Well, that's not so bad," his dad said, as upbeat as he could manage. "The pro players get traded all the time." "I know," his dejected son said. "But I got traded for a glove!"

Too often, we forget that the people we meet and deal with every day are more than just metrics and statistics, more than just market shares, more than just "human resources" whose only value is in their production or buying power. We can be too quick to label and slot people in broad terms based on nationality, race, culture, or religion. Today's readings challenge us to look beyond demographics and statistical profiles to see individual human beings, men and women, and children made in the image of God. May God open our hearts and spirits to see every human being as mirroring the grace of God and afford them the dignity that is all of ours by being created in his likeness and image.

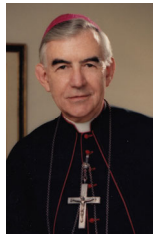


EUCCHARISTIC DEVOTION CONVERTED ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON!

Two hundred years ago, a beautiful, young, Episcopalian woman accompanied her husband, a merchant, to Italy, leaving four of their five children at home with family members. They had sailed for Italy, hoping that the change in climate might help her husband, whose failing business had eventually affected his health adversely. Tragically, he died in Livorno. The grieving young woman was warmly received by an Italian family, business acquaintances of her deceased husband. She stayed with them for three months before she could arrange to return to America. The young widow was very impressed by the Catholic faith of her host family, especially their devotion to the Holy Eucharist: their frequent attendance at Mass, the reverence with which they received Holy Communion, the awe they showed toward the Blessed Sacrament on feast days when the Eucharist was carried in procession. She found her broken heart healed by a hunger for this mysterious presence of the Lord, and, upon returning home, requested instruction in Catholic Faith. Soon after being received into the Church, she described her first reception of the Lord in the Eucharist as the happiest moment of her life. It was in St. Peter's Square on September 14, 1975, that Pope Paul VI canonized this woman, Elizabeth Ann Seton, as the first native-born saint of the United States. The Eucharist for her was a sign and cause of union with God and the Church.

"ALL WE REALLY NEED IN OUR CONVENT IS THE TABERNACLE."

The former archbishop of San Francisco, John Quinn, loves to tell the story of the arrival of Mother Teresa and her Missionaries of Charity to open their house in the city. Poor Archbishop Quinn had gone to great efforts to make sure that their convent was, while hardly opulent, quite comfortable. He recalls how Mother Teresa arrived and immediately ordered the carpets removed, the telephones, except for one, pulled out of the wall, the beds, except for the mattresses taken away, and on and on. Explained Mother Teresa to the baffled archbishop, "All we really need in our convent is the tabernacle."



Our belief in this Real Presence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist derives from the literal interpretation of the promise of Christ to give us his Body and Blood for our spiritual food and drink, as found in St. John's Gospel, Chapter 6, and also in the four independent accounts of the fulfillment of this promise at the Last Supper (Mt. 26; Mk. 14; Lk. 22; 1 Cor. 11). Eucharistic theologians explain the Real Presence by a process called transubstantiation: the entire substance of bread and wine is changed into the entire substance of the risen and glorified Body and Blood of Christ, retaining only the "accidents" (taste, color, shape) of bread and wine. Can there be a religion in which God is closer to man than our Catholic Christianity? Jesus does not believe that he is humiliating himself in coming to us and giving himself to us in his Flesh and Blood to be our spiritual Food.

BODY OF CHRIST, REALLY?

Sometime ago, I was in Washington, D.C., in the National Shrine. A dozen or so pilgrims came out of the grandiose basilica. They had participated in a Mass, they had received Holy Communion, forming with Him, His Body and Blood. I saw them, and I even saw a blind man who had received Communion with them. They came out of the Church together with him. He walked among them, tapping the pavement in front of himself with his stick. He did not see them since he was blind, but he must have been aware of them all talking excitedly, feeling a bit lost in a strange place. They did not see him, either, though they were not blind. He ended up in the midst of them. Someone stepped on his cane, bending it, while he was pushed on. They left him alone, trying to straighten his cane. They had all been to Holy Communion together in Jesus, who said of all of them: "This is my Body, this is my Blood!" Yet, when it came to everyday life, that reality got lost; the Body did not seem to have been formed. They were not really in communion. They did not really form His Body, our Body. Did they? Do we?



HOW CAN GOD BE PRESENT IN A TINY HOST?

Some time ago, a street-corner preacher who knew how to make religious truths come to life was faced by a hostile crowd. "How," one of them demanded, "is it possible for bread and wine to become the Body and Blood of Christ?" The preacher looked calmly at the stout questioner for a moment and answered, "You have grown somewhat since you were a child and have more flesh and blood than you had then. Surely, if a human body can change food and drink into flesh and blood, God can do it too." "But how," countered the heckler, "is it possible for Christ to be present in his entirety in a small host?" The preacher glanced up at the sky and down at the street before them and answered, "This city scene and the sky above it is something immense, while your eye is very small. Yet your eye in itself contains the whole picture. When you consider this, it won't seem impossible for Christ to be present in his entirety in a little piece of bread." Once more the heckler attacked. "How, then, is it possible for the same Body of Christ to be present in all your churches at the same time?" The preacher's answer: "In a large mirror you see your image reflected but once. When you break the mirror into a thousand pieces, you see the same image of yourself in each of the thousand fragments. If such things occur in everyday life, why should it be impossible for the Body of Christ to be present in many places at once? Just tell me, what isn't possible for God?"

"WHAT KIND OF JOKE IS THIS?"

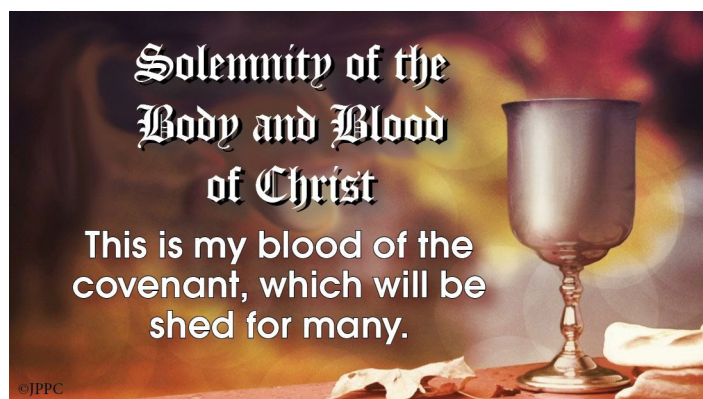
A priest I heard of, if he sees people leave early, stops them and reminds them that only one person left the Last Supper early! Well, what St. Philip Neri did sends a strong message on the truth of what we receive in Holy Communion. He saw someone leaving church right after Communion and he sent servers with candles and bells to accompany the man. The guy stormed back into the church and confronted the priest. "What kind of joke is this?" he demanded. St. Philip Neri said, "It's no joke. The rules of the liturgy say the Blessed Sacrament should be treated with reverence. You left the Church immediately with no prayer of thanksgiving. You were carrying the Blessed Sacrament within you. So I asked the boys to accompany you to honor Him."

After Communion you and I are tabernacles - the physical presence of Jesus continues in us for a brief time. That's why we have the Communion hymn, a time of silence, the Communion Prayer - and even the announcements - to build up the Body of Christ in practical ways. I encourage you to use well the time after Communion to say thanks, to express your gratitude. The General Instruction of the Roman Missal states the need for silence after the reception of Holy Communion: [A]fter this, the priest may return to the chair, a sacred silence may now be observed for some time ... after communion, they praise God in their hearts and pray to him. (GIRM, 164, 45.)

SOURCE OF CHRISTIAN HEROISM

Once, Mahatma Gandhi asked a question regarding Fr. Damien: "The political and journalistic world can boast of very few heroes who compare with Father Damien of Molokai. The Catholic Church, on the contrary, counts by the thousands those who after the example of Damien. have devoted themselves to the victims of leprosy. It is worthwhile to look for the sources of such heroism." That's a great question: What is the source of the heroism of people like St. Damien Veuster of Molokai and his successor, St. Marianne Cope? We get the answer this Sunday. In today's readings, St. Paul tells how Jesus took bread and said, "This is my Body that is for you," and with the chalice of wine, "This Cup is the New covenant in My Blood." Then St. Paul concludes, "As often as you eat this Bread and drink this Cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes." When we receive Communion - the Body and Blood of Jesus - we mystically enter his death and Resurrection. That should give us strength - strength to spend our lives in service. Now, you and I are not St. Damien or St. Marianne, but the Eucharist calls us - like them - to give our lives for others.

We need to become Christ-bearers and conveyers: By receiving Holy Communion we become Christ-bearers as Mary was, with the duty of conveying Christ to others at home and in the workplace, as love, mercy, forgiveness and humble and sacrificial service. As we celebrate this great feast of faith, let us worship what St. Thomas Aquinas did not hesitate to call, *the greatest miracle that Christ ever worked on earth My Body My Blood*. *Before the greatness of this mystery, let us exclaim with St. Augustine, "O Sacrament of devotion! O Sign of unity! O Bond of charity!" Let us also repeat St. Thomas Aquinas' prayer of devotion in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament: "O Sacrament most holy! O Sacrament Divine! All praise and all thanksgiving be every moment Thine!"*



Learn



OUR SCHOOL IS OPEN FOR ADMISSIONS

Welcome to Admissions at St. Matthias School.

We are excited to share with you all that makes St. Matthias School an excellent choice for your child. With our challenging academics, outstanding teachers and engaging learning environment your child will have a school experience that will provide the opportunity to grow and mature to their utmost potential.

Please visit our website at www.stmatthias.info or contact the school office at 732-828-1402

Pray

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



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

Pope Leo XIV is a Cursillista!!

Are you a baptized Catholic, able to receive the Sacraments of the Church?
Are you Catholic, but are not involved in the Church?
Are you interested in exploring what it means to live a Christian life in a natural way?
Have you left the Church, but are beginning to come back?
Then the Women's Weekend is for you!

October 23rd - 26th, 2025

**BLUE ARMY SHRINE
Asbury, NJ**



For more information: www.metcursillo.org Questions? Email: contact@metcursillo.org

Serve



ALTAR SERVERS WANTED!

We are looking for students in grades 4-12 to help during the Masses by volunteering as Altar Servers in the Fall. Training sessions will be held for anyone that is interested in joining this ministry.

If your child is interested in becoming an altar server or you have any questions, please contact our sacristan, Mike Lanyi at mlanyi@stmatthias.net. Thank you.



A LETTER TO THE PARISH COMMUNITY FROM THE INCOMING PASTOR

Dear St. Matthias Parish and School Community,

Grace and peace to you!

It is with great joy that I introduce myself to you as the new pastor of St. Matthias Parish and School, *beginning on August 1, 2025*. My name is Fr. Tom Lanza, and I am incredibly honored to be joining this vibrant and faith-filled community.

When the diocese announced that St. Matthias was going to be in need of a new pastor, I immediately felt in my heart that this would be a good fit. Most of my childhood I spent as your neighbor. I grew up in Kendall Park and went to church at St. Augustine's. Upon finishing High School, I went to Ramapo College for my undergraduate studies in business and sociology. During my early 20's I worked for a few different companies, mostly in sales, management, and logistics. Prior to entering the seminary, I taught middle-school religion for a year at St. Augustine's School. When I applied to the Priestly Formation Program for the Diocese of Metuchen in my late 20's, I was sent to do my philosophy and theology studies at St. Mary's Seminary and University, Roland Park, Baltimore, MD.

Unfortunately, the COVID pandemic was roaring when I finished seminary, so my ordination was postponed from June to August 2020. During my priestly ministry, I have had so many great opportunities. My first assignment sent me to OLPH in Bernardsville to minister to both the Spanish and English-speaking communities. During which I taught theology at Immaculata High School as well. After two years, Bishop sent me to serve as Chaplain at Rutgers University, while Chaplain to St. Joe's HS, and Vocations Director for the Diocese of Metuchen.

From the moment I learned I would be coming to St. Matthias, I began praying for each of you and the diverse community that has been cultivated. I believe that God has called us together for a purpose, and I am eager to walk this journey of faith with you, as we strive to grow in love, service, and holiness.

As your new pastor, my deepest desire is to be a shepherd who listens, encourages, and builds connections. Whether you are a longtime member of the parish or a new face in the school hallways, know that you are valued and appreciated. I look forward to getting to know you all—hearing your stories, celebrating the sacraments together, and continuing the beautiful work that has been done here for generations.

To the faculty, staff, students, and families of St. Matthias School: I am especially excited to support you in forming young hearts and minds rooted in Christ. Catholic education is a precious gift, and I am committed to helping our children grow, not only in knowledge but also in faith, compassion, and character.

Let us move forward together, trusting in the guidance of the Holy Spirit. May this new chapter be marked by renewal, unity, and a deepening of our shared mission to proclaim the Good News and make disciples of all people we encounter!

Please pray for me, I look forward to meeting all of you.

In Christ's love,
Fr. Tom Lanza

Pastor-elect (term begins Aug 1, 2025)
St. Matthias Parish and School



Fr. Abraham's Farewell Reception
July 27, 2025
1:00 pm
St. Matthias School Cafeteria

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 48 - June 1, 2025	\$10,288.25	\$9,892.50	\$20,180.75	\$19,798.18
Week 40 - June 8, 2025	\$8,937.50	\$25,105.00	\$34,042.50	\$37,850.00
Week 50 - June 15, 2025	\$8,009.00	\$15,449.50	\$23,458.50	\$27,619.00
Week 51 - June 22, 2025			\$0.00	\$23,455.50
Week 52 - June 29, 2025			\$0.00	\$17,065.50
			Month-to-date Total	June Total Last Year
Catholic Communications Campaign: \$2,073.85			\$77,681.75	\$125,788.18
Building R & R Collection: \$3,371.00			Current Year-to-date Total	Year-to-date as of June 30, 2024
			\$1,324,815.30	\$1,289,243.88

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 22, 2025 The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi)

"They all ate and were satisfied. And when the leftover fragments were picked up, they filled twelve wicker baskets." (Luke 9:17)

The story of the Loaves and Fishes shows us that when you share what you have, even if it doesn't seem like that much, miracles can happen! Do not think that your gift is too small or insignificant! Each of us has a role in God's plan; you just need to place your trust in the Lord. Nothing is impossible with God. You just may be the answer to someone else's prayer.

Reflexiónese – 22 de Junio de 2025

El Santísimo Cuerpo y Sangre de Cristo (Corpus Christi)

"Todos comieron y se saciaron; y se recogieron doce cestas llenas con los pedazos que sobraron." (Lucas 9:17)

La historia de los Panes y los Peces nos muestra que cuando compartimos lo que tenemos, aunque no parezca mucho, ¡los milagros suceden! ¡No piense que su don es demasiado pequeño o insignificante! Cada uno de nosotros tiene un rol en el plan de Dios; ¡usted solo necesita poner su confianza en el Señor! Nada es imposible con Dios. Usted puede ser la respuesta a las oraciones de alguien más.



WHY DO OUR PARISHIONERS GIVE ONLINE?

Majority of our parishioners are giving their offerings to the church via online. Why is that? Between demanding schedules, traveling, or just trying to get out the door on time for Mass, it can be challenging to tithe on a regular basis as God calls us to do. Plus, for many families, the parish is one of the last places where you still have to use a checkbook or cash.

Signing up with "Parish Giving" has made the regular weekly contributions easy and beneficial for parishioners to know that their weekly contributions reach the parish without fail and thus their steady support is guaranteed. It also helped the parish to reduce substantially the cost of mailing the envelopes, as well as save time for posting, counting, calculating, etc. It is also beneficial for them to receive the Tax contribution letter without any delay.

If you have not signed up, it is easy. Please go to www.stmatthias.net/give

Connecting to Our Local Community

ROME/ITALY, POLAND AND CZECH REPUBLIC SEPTEMBER 15TH-28TH

This pilgrimage was planned with Fr. Tom Lanza as the chaplain. Now that Fr. Lanza is appointed to St. Matthias, he is unable to lead this pilgrimage. Hence there is a change: Fr. Antony from Philipsburg and Fr. Abraham from Somerset are the chaplains for this pilgrimage for which a good

number of people have signed up.

R/T Airfare from Newark Int'l. Deluxe Hotels.

Daily Breakfast/ Dinner. Modern Coach.

Spiritual nourishment. Guided Tours,

Medical Travel Insurance & more.

QUESTIONS? Call or email **JULIET HOBSON**

732-439-2835, Yetjcb@icloud.com

The full brochure is on our parish website at this link:

www.stmatthias.net/nativitypilgrimage

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

Parish Leadership

Parish Pastoral Council:

Co-Chairs:

Stephen Busono
sbusono@gmail.com

Bill Isele
t33sm@aol.com

Secretary:

Sheila Tartaglia

Members:

Teresa Yannotta
Joe Percoco
Miles London

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

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.