



St. Matthias Parish Office (Summer Hours)

Monday - Thursday, 8:30 am - 4:00 pm,
 Friday, 8:30 am - 1:00 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): (SUMMER HOURS)

170 JFK Blvd., Somerset, NJ 08873
www.stmatthias.info 732-828-1402
School Office Hours,
 Monday-Friday 7:45AM to 1:00PM

For all Parish emails, add @stmatthias.net

Pastor: Rev Abraham Orapankal, **Abraham**
 Fr. Lancelot McGrath, **Parochial Vicar Imcgrath**
 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

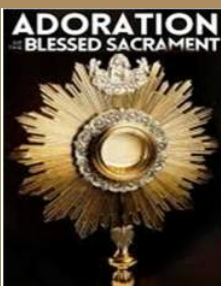
St. Matthias School (add @stmatthiasnj.org)
 Mary Lynch, **Principal, mlynch**

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS
SUNDAY, JUNE 29, 2025
The Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles



PETER'S PENCE COLLECTION IS TODAY

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



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

**OUR NEXT ADORATION WILL BE
 JUNE 30, 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 29, 2025 St. Peter & St. Paul, Apostles
PETER'S PENCE COLLECTION

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

Monday, June 30, 2025 First Martyrs of the Church of Rome

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

Tuesday, July 1, 2025 St. Juníperro Serra, O.F.M., Apostle of California

8:00AM	Mass	Church
7:30PM	SVDP Society Meeting	de Porres Rm.

Wednesday, July 2, 2025 St. Processus & St. Martinian, Martyrs

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

Thursday, July 3, 2025 St. Thomas, Apostle & Martyr

8:00AM	Mass	Church
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Friday, July 4, 2025 St. Elizabeth of Portugal Queen of Portugal

INDEPENDENCE DAY
PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

8:00AM	No Mass/No Holy Hour
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Saturday, July 5, 2025 St. Anthony Mary Zaccaria, Priest & Founder

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

Sunday, July 6, 2025 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00AM	Mass	Church
8:30AM	ServiceWorx Begins	Cafeteria
10:00AM	Mass	Church
11:00AM	Rosary Altar Ministry	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 we celebrate the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul. It is rare that the designated date of this feast - June 29- falls on a Sunday. Usually when a feast falls on a Sunday, the feast gets skipped. But not for Peter and Paul whose feast is taking precedence over a Sunday. By giving this feast such prominence the Church is telling us something about Peter and Paul and their importance in our lives and in the lives of the entire Church. Both Peter and Paul are considered apostles, Peter because he was called by Jesus at the Sea of Galilee (Mt 4:18-20; Mk 1:16-18; Lk 5:10) and commissioned with the keys to the kingdom (Mt 16:19) and as the shepherd of the sheep (John 21:15-17); and Paul because he was called by Jesus on the road to Damascus (Acts 9:4-6) and commissioned "to be an apostle and set apart to proclaim the gospel" (Rom 1:1). Peter is known as the "Prince of Apostles" and the first Pope, and Paul is known as the "Apostle to the Gentiles." Both are revered as the founders of the Church of Rome and are honored for their contributions to spreading the Christian faith. Both apostles were martyred in Rome, with Peter reportedly crucified upside down and Paul beheaded, symbolizing their ultimate sacrifice for their faith.

The feast emphasizes the unity of the Church despite the diverse backgrounds and experiences of its members, mirroring the unique roles and journeys of Peter and Paul. This diversity is very clear in the differing personalities of Peter and Paul. It may come as a surprise to many of us to know that Peter and Paul had quite a bit of conflict. The biggest conflict they had is narrated by St. Luke in the Acts of the Apostles. It revolved around whether or not people needed to convert to Judaism before they could become Christians. Becoming Jews first would mean that the men would have to be circumcised and they would have to follow the Jewish dietary laws, including not eating pork, among other things. Paul insisted that people could become Christian without becoming Jewish first; Peter and a whole group of traditionalist Jewish Christians disagreed.

Paul seems to have had a stronger personality. He publicly confronted Peter on this matter. Listen to Paul's own words in Galatians 2:11-15: *"When Cephas (Peter) came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. For before certain men came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back and separate himself from the Gentiles because he was afraid of those who belonged to the circumcision group. The other Jews joined him in his hypocrisy, so that by their hypocrisy even Barnabas was led astray. When I saw that they were not acting in line with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas in front of them all, 'You are a Jew, yet you live like a Gentile and not like a Jew. How is it, then, that you force Gentiles to follow Jewish customs?'"*

In the end, Luke describes, in Acts 15, the Jerusalem Council where Peter, listening to the elders and to the Holy Spirit, decided that the non-Jews could become Christians simply by being baptized and not by following Jewish laws.

The great lesson we can all take from these great pillars of the Church is that no matter how different we may be in personalities, ideologies or ethnicity, we can work together for the Kingdom of God as long as we know that the gospel of Jesus Christ is to live in charity and fellowship with all.

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Orapankal



Readings for the Week

Monday Gen 18:16-33 Ps 103:1b-2, 3-4, 8-9, 10-11 Mt 8:18-22

Tuesday Gen 19:15-29 Ps 26:2-3, 9-10, 11-12 Mt 8:23-27

Wednesday Gen 21:5, 8-20a Ps 34:7-8, 10-11, 12-13 Mt 8:28-34

Thursday Eph 2:19-22 Ps 117:1bc-2 Jn 20:24-29

Friday Gen 23:1-4, 19; 24:1-8, 62-67 Ps 106:1b-2, 3-4a, 4b-5 Mt 9:9-13

Saturday Gen 27:1-5, 15-29 Ps 135:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6 Mt 9:14-17

Sunday Day Is 66:10-14c Ps 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16, 20 Gal 6:14-18 Lk 10:1-12, 17-20 or 10:1-9

Mass Intentions for the Week

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
Mon., June 30	8:00 AM	Joan Leonard by Kathaleen Stuve
Tues., July 1	8:00 AM	Cristina Galang Paiso by Bombita Family
Wed., July 2	8:00 AM	Marty Slyman by The Family
Thurs., July 3	8:00 AM	Gabriel Jayanthakumar by Mercy Gabriel
Fri., July 4	8:00 AM	NO MASS - PARISH OFFICE CLOSED
Sat., July 5	5:00 PM	Frances DeFranzio by Frank & Joanne Inzano
Sun., July 6	8:00 AM	Santina C. Spinella by Family
	10:00 AM	Intention of Parishioners
	12:00 PM	Ramonita Melendez by Loving 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	Patrick Dolphin	Rafael Jara	Christine Matthews	Maria Schwenzer
Beth, Jim & Jay Adams	Vivian Dong	Marilyn Jensen	Joan Mazzacco	Patricia Shea
Suzanne Adams	Sanora Doyen	Jean Alix Jolly	Ann McElwee	Amy Shepp
Sue Alese	Andrea Dubuisson	Marie Claude Jolly	Jessica Marie Merrick	Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF
Marie Arroyo	Barry Dusault	Donna Kahora	Gail Miranda	Richard Sury
Robert Baker	Hattie Evans	Patty Kerekes	Catalina Moran	Jacqueline Taylor
Edgar Banaag	Adam Figueriedo	Betsy Kondrat	Orietta Morin	Anita Vance
Carolyn Banghart	Margaret Ann Cichon	Kim Krikorian	Sarah Braun Morini	Minda Villarica
Ghislaine Baron	Ford	Kathy Langenbacher	John Mulholland	Gayle Vosseler
Carmen Bender	Sharon Gadowski	Rose Larangeira	Raoul Nuguid	Eileen Weber
Andrea Emilia Bernabey	Felicia Gelinas	Linda Leone	Celia Palacio	Nancy Whelan
Mary Bostrom	Gerard Giordano	Henrietta Lesiak	Dr. Jean Patrick	Richard Zagurek
Robert Brisson	Claude Godet	John Litakis	Robert Pellegrino	Mike Zambri
Patricia Burke	Marie Godet	Mary Lou Litakis	Robert Pierro	Ginette Zamor
Karin Cabezas	Fr. Ben Gomez OMI	Aries Magali	Robert Pietrowiak	Anne Zando
Ben Campbell	Shelly Greene	Cynthia Magat	Valerie Polci	Celia M. Zelinski
Tara Capatosto	Joan Harris	Kenneth & Kelly Magat	Kim Price	
Rustico Castellano	Linda Hartong	Bobby Manansala	Frank Rispoli	And for all who are ill, homebound, elderly, in nursing care, or living with chronic illness, we pray.
Marty Collins	Jeff Hentz	Susan, King & Tosh Manansala	Gabriel Rivera	
Pierre Celestin	Sloopy & JP Hoffman	Colleen Maniscalco	Bob Rotz	
Lisa DeFeo	Marilyn Horvath	Alexandra Marquez	Marisa Ruppel	
Derowitsch Family	Jerry & Donna Hucul		Gloria Santos	
	Nicole Cherill Hynes		Nick Schurko	

Pray for those who have died...

— “His mercy endures forever.” Chronicles

Andrew Dinardi

Reflect



Smile with Your Family



Very encouraging & scientific message from a Senior citizen: Brains of older people are slow because they know so much. People do not decline mentally with age; it just takes them longer to recall facts because they have more information in their brains, scientists believe. Much like a computer struggles as the hard drive gets full, so, too, do humans take longer to access information when their brains are full. Researchers say this slowing-down process is not the same as cognitive decline. The human brain works slower in old age, said Dr. Michael Ramscar, but only because we have stored more information over time. The brains of older people do not get weak. On the contrary, they simply know more. Also, older people often go to another room to get something, and when they get there, they stand there wondering what they came for. It is NOT a memory problem; it is nature's way of making older people do more exercise.

SO THERE! Now, when I reach for a word or a name, I won't excuse myself by saying "I'm having a senior moment". Now, I'll say, "My disk is full!" (And I have more friends I should send this to, but right now I can't remember their names.) 😊

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

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?" 😊

I was out on a walk when I saw a sign that said, "Man wanted for robbery." So I went in and applied for the job. 😊

I remember my first crush. It hurt ... a lot. But what else should I expect from a 40-pound boulder on my foot? 😊

Parenting Tune-Up



When I started having kids, I didn't exactly have a handbook to follow, but I did have a mental list of actions I wouldn't stand for: lying, spitting, watching TV shows that employed a laugh track—to name a few. But I simply hadn't planned for my children to call me out on my hypocrisy. I expected defiance, of course. I just hadn't accounted for the holes that my children would constantly poke in my logic.

Marriage Tune-Up

"I will follow you" (Luke 9:57).

In couple dancing, more often the man is the lead.

Marriage, however, is more than a dance. It works best when both are adept at both leading and following as circumstances and talents dictate. How do you balance this in your marriage?



THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP

Albert Einstein, the German-born mathematician, slowly watched his homeland give in to Adolf Hitler's Fascist dictatorship. Einstein wondered if any were going to stand up and oppose Hitler. He said, and I quote, "When Hitlerism came to Germany, I expected the Universities to oppose it. Instead, they embraced it. I hoped for the press to denounce it, but instead, they propagated its teachings. One by one the leaders and institutions which should have opposed the Nazi philosophy bowed meekly to its authority. Only one institution met it with vigorous opposition, and that was the Christian Church." Einstein confessed, "That which I once despised, I now love with a passion I cannot describe." The commitment of the Church in standing against evil made a profound impression upon Einstein. Those individuals in the 1930s understood the cost associated with their actions, and they did not back down.

Today's feast of Saints Peter and Paul is a testimony to this cost of discipleship. It is very amazing to anyone how Paul shared the gospel, seemingly unafraid of the persecution he would endure. He was stoned and beaten to the point where they thought he was dead. He knew this would happen, and he was willing to pay the cost. And so he rose, walked away, and preached some more. He never let it stop him.

WHAT DO WE KNOW OF ST. PETER?

Peter was the son of Jona and brother of Andrew. He was a professional fisherman from Bethsaida, a fishing town on the Lake of Galilee or Gennesaret. He might have been a follower of John the Baptist. It was his brother Andrew who introduced him to Jesus, and Jesus who changed his name from Simon to Cephas or Peter. Jesus made him the leader of his apostles. At Caesarea Philippi, Jesus promised to make him the head of his Church, and the risen Jesus confirmed Peter's precedence. It was Peter's speech on the day of Pentecost that inaugurated the Church. He made missionary journeys to Lydda, Joppa, and Caesarea and convened the first Council in Jerusalem. He wrote two epistles, and he was martyred by crucifixion under the emperor Nero.

WHAT DO WE KNOW OF ST. PAUL?

Paul, the "Apostle of the Gentiles" and the greatest missionary, was a Roman citizen by birth as he was born in Tarsus of Cilicia. His original name was Saul. As a Pharisee, he was sent to Jerusalem by his parents to study the Mosaic Law under the great rabbi Gamaliel. As a student, he learned the trade of tent-making. He was actively present at the stoning of Stephen. But he was miraculously converted on his way to Damascus to arrest the Christians. He made several missionary journeys, converted hundreds of Jews and Gentiles, and established Church communities. He wrote 14 epistles. He was arrested and kept in prison for two years in Caesarea and two more years in Rome. Finally, he was martyred by beheading at Tre Fontane in Rome.

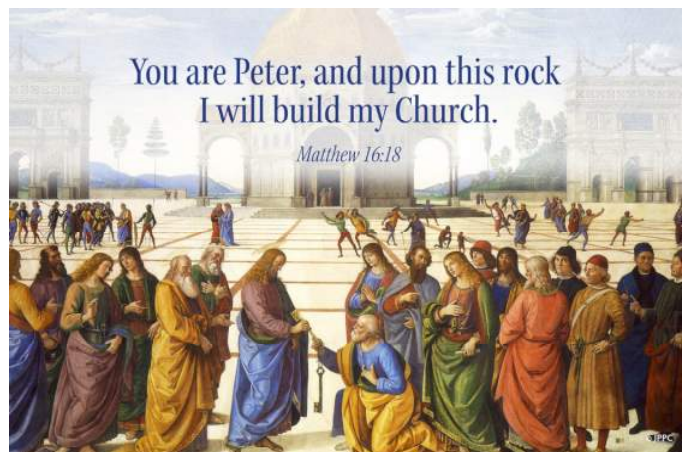
JESUS AS CHRIST, OUR LORD AND SAVIOR

Today's gospel explains the basis of our faith as the acceptance of Jesus as the Christ, our Lord and Savior. It also tells us that Christ Jesus became our Savior by his suffering and death, and resurrection. This famous profession of faith by Peter took place at Caesarea Philippi, at present called Banias, twenty-five miles northeast of the Sea of Galilee. Jesus realized that if his disciples did not know who he really was, then his entire ministry, suffering, and death would be useless. Hence, he decided to ask a question in two parts. 1) "What is the public opinion about me? 2) "What is your personal opinion? Their answer to the first question was: "Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." Peter volunteered to answer the second question, saying: "You are the Christ (Messiah), the Son of the living God." Jesus confirmed Peter's insight as a special revelation from God. "No mere man has revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father."

COMMITMENT OF MORMON MISSIONARIES!

Many of us have seen Mormon missionaries riding their bicycles, wearing dark pants, white shirts, and ties. Let me tell you more about their lifestyle. They do not see their families during the two years of their mission service. They are allowed to call home only on Christmas and Mother's Day. Their day begins at 6:30 AM with an hour of Bible study and prayer. Then they work until 9:30 PM. They have about an hour to do laundry and study Scripture before lights out. This is their schedule six days per week. No TV or movies, or dates for two years. We have seen young men with multi-million-dollar pro-basketball contracts put all that on hold until they fulfill their mission obligation. Although I have some serious and fundamental theological differences with the Mormons, I can't deny the commitment of their young missionaries. Perhaps that commitment is a key reason why their numbers are growing so rapidly in the United States. Today's readings are about God's call and the commitment expected from us to answer that call.

At times we hear that Christianity is a weak and dying reality in the 21st century. But the truth is the opposite. The strongest sign of this is the witness of martyrs. Pope Francis often explained why the martyrs are a sign of hope for the growth and continuity of Christianity when he once said: **"There are more martyrs today than there were at the beginning of the life of the Church; Martyrs are everywhere."** Citing the Church Father Tertullian, he said, **"The blood of Christians is seed, and ensures the growth and fruitfulness of the People of God."** This is a mystical reality — the sacrifice of the martyrs calls down grace, which benefits the Church. But it is also true in very practical ways. Not only does the witness of martyrs convince non-believers and inspire believers, but the persecution of Christians causes the faith's most ardent believers to leave their homes and spread their faith worldwide.



THREE MARRIAGES, ONE SPOUSE ...

"Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." Matthew 10: 37-42.

We've heard all the reasons: *He's not the man I married . . . She didn't change, but I did . . . We grew apart.* Why do most relationships end? Change - specifically, how to accept change in another. At some point in any long-term relationship, each partner is likely to evolve from the person we fell in love with into something new, and not always into something cuter or smarter or more fun. The same for our children. Spouses go from rock climber to couch potato, from rebel to middle manager, from incurable romantic to sleep-obsessed. Sons and daughters, overnight it seems, devolve from their angelic First Communion photos into sullen, self-absorbed teenagers, who just as quickly blossom into responsible young adults. Writer Ada Calhoun, in her forthcoming memoir **Wedding Toasts I'll Never Give**, writes:

"A year and a half ago, Neal and I bought a place in the country. We hadn't been in the market for a house, but our city apartment is only 500 square feet, and we kept admiring this lovely blue house we drove by every time we visited my parents. It turned out to be shockingly affordable. So now we own a house. We bought furniture, framed pictures, and put up a badminton net. We marveled at the change that had come over us. Who were these backyard-grilling, property-tax-paying, shuttlecock-batting people we had become? "When we met in our 20s, Neal wasn't a man who would delight in lawn care, and I wasn't a woman who would find such a man appealing. And yet here we were, avidly refilling our bird feeder and remarking on all the cardinals.

"Neal, who hadn't hammered a nail in all the years I'd known him, now had opinions on bookshelves and curtains, and loved going to the hardware store. He whistled while he mowed. He was like an alien. But in this new situation, I was an alien, too - one who knew when to plant bulbs and how to use a Crock-Pot, and who, newly armed with CPR and first aid certification, volunteered at a local camp. Our alien selves were remarkably compatible . . . Several long-married people I know have said this exact line: I've had at least three marriages. They've just all been with the same person. I'd say Neal and I have had at least three marriages: our partying 20s, child-centric 30s, and home-owning 40s."

Our lives change over the years - the challenge is to continue to grow, to continue to love, to continue to be there for one another as we change. Today's feast of Saints Peter and Paul reminds us that we find our true lives in the lives we "lose," we discover our true selves in the persons we become over time. In God's wisdom and grace, we can transform such change from a "cross" into an experience of resurrection in which we discover the love of God in our midst and become the means for revealing that love to those we love and who love us.

PERSECUTION OF CHRISTIANS IN 2025

We know that Christians were persecuted in the early centuries. But the sad truth is that Christian persecution took place throughout human history of the past centuries. It might be shocking to hear that persecution of Christians is taking place right now, in many parts of the world. Several reports indicate that millions of Christians face high levels of persecution and discrimination for their faith. This includes violence, discrimination, and restrictions on religious freedom

There is an organization called "Open Doors" that tracks Christian persecution globally. It is a global membership organization with 25 national bases. They share one mission, to support persecuted Christians worldwide and strengthen what remains.

According to their latest "World Watch List" annual ranking, there are 50 countries where Christians face the most extreme persecution. According to their statistics,

- 1 in 7 Christians are persecuted worldwide
- 1 in 5 Christians are persecuted in Africa
- 2 in 5 Christians are persecuted in Asia.

This organization reports that last year, 4,476 Christians were murdered; 7,679 Churches and Christian properties were attacked. 4,744 Christians were imprisoned.

These are astounding figures. To know more about this sad reality, go to: www.opendoors.org/en-US

Those interested can explore each country profile and download the detailed dossiers for in-depth information about following Jesus in the most dangerous places. We'll learn more about Christian persecution and discover how to stand with our brothers and sisters in prayer and action.



Pray



COME PRAY THE ROSARY WITH US NEXT WEEKEND

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.



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



JUBILEE YEAR PILGRIMAGE SITES IN OUR DIOCESE

This is a reminder about the sites designated as Sacred Places for the Jubilee Indulgence. Now that we are in summer, many of us might have more time to travel. Here are the list of those sites that our Bishop has designated:

- ♦ Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi, Metuchen, NJ
- ♦ Shrine Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament, Raritan, NJ
- ♦ National Blue Army Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima, Washington, NJ
- ♦ National Shrine of St. Lucy Filippini (inside St. Mary of Mt. Virgin Church), New Brunswick, NJ

Connect



GRANDPARENTS AND SENIORS DAY

A Morning for Grandparents and Seniors (55+) The Diocese of Metuchen is pleased to host a Celebrate Life Event - A Morning for Grandparents and Seniors on **Thursday, July 24, 2025 from 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM** at the **St. John Neumann Pastoral Center**, Piscataway, NJ. The morning will include breakfast and fellowship, a presentation on

"The Spiritual Gifts of Aging: Wisdom, Patience & Grace" by guest speaker Keaton Douglas, followed by Eucharistic Adoration and Holy Mass. This event is an outreach to our aging Catholic community and promises to be an upbeat day! There is no fee to attend, but registration is required.

For questions or concerns, please email amarshall@diometuchen.org or call 732-562-1543.



Fr. Abraham's Farewell Reception

July 27, 2025

1:00 pm

St. Matthias School Cafeteria

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

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



SERVICEWORX

This July, our Grade 7, Level 1 Confirmation Group will participate in ServiceworX. ServiceWorX is offered through Goodfaith. They are an independent, non-

profit Catholic apostolate based in New Jersey. Its mission is to cultivate a vibrant community of faith in action through transformative experiences of missionary discipleship rooted in Catholic social tradition.

The organization has long been recognized for its “WorX” programs, inspired by the scripture passage: “Faith without works is dead” (James 2:26). More than 7,500 individuals have participated in these experiences, representing over 500,000 combined hours of direct service and social justice education. We currently have 32 young people who will be participating this July. Let us remember them in our prayers as they embark on this phase of preparation and service.

“Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me,” Matthew 25:40

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.

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	\$10,233.50	\$11,654.50	\$21,888.00	\$23,455.50
Week 52 - June 29, 2025			\$0.00	\$17,065.50
			Month-to-date Total	June Total Last Year
<i>Catholic Communications Campaign: \$2,073.85</i>			\$99,569.75	\$125,788.18
<i>Building R & R Collection: \$3,371.00</i>			Current Year-to-date Total	Year-to-date as of June 30, 2024
			\$1,346,703.30	\$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 29, 2025 Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles

“I have competed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith.” (2 timothy 4:7)

How many of us can say this? St. Teresa of Calcutta said, “God doesn’t call us to be successful, he calls us to be faithful.” How many times have we been blinded by the success of the world at the expense of our faith? Matthew Kelly says, “Take one minute each day to remind yourself that you are just passing through this life and will die one day; you will live more intentionally with a passion and purpose.”

Reflexiónese – 29 de Junio de 2025 Apóstoles, San Pedro y San Pablo

“He peleado la buena batalla, he terminado la carrera, me he mantenido en la fe.” (2 Timoteo 4:7)

¿Cuántos de nosotros podemos decir eso? Santa Teresa de Calcuta dijo. “Dios no nos llama a ser exitosos, él nos llama a ser fieles”. ¿Cuántas veces nos hemos cegado por el éxito del mundo a expensas de nuestra fe? Matthew Kelly dice, “Tomate un minuto cada día para recordarte a ti mismo que solo estas de paso por esta vida, y que un día morirás; vivirás más intencionalmente con una pasión y un propósito”.



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

Cathedral Summer Choir Camp

The Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi in Metuchen is hosting their 3rd annual Summer Choir Camp for all rising 3rd to 8th grade students. Students will get to spend a week practicing their singing in a choir, learn from amazing music teachers, outdoor activities, play games, and other exciting opportunities (even play the Cathedral's Pipe Organ!). The camp will take place from August 11th to 15th at the Cathedral with one more opportunity to sing for the 12 Noon Mass on the 17th. For those interested in registering, please see the flyer/registration form.



For additional information, please contact:

Christopher M.C. Deibert, Director of the Cathedral's Sacred Music Ministry
music@stfranciscathedral.org



SACRED TIME, SACRED SPACE

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

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
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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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