



#### 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](http://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](https://youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ)

#### St. Matthias School (SMS):

170 JFK Blvd., Somerset, NJ 08873  
[www.stmatthias.info](http://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**,

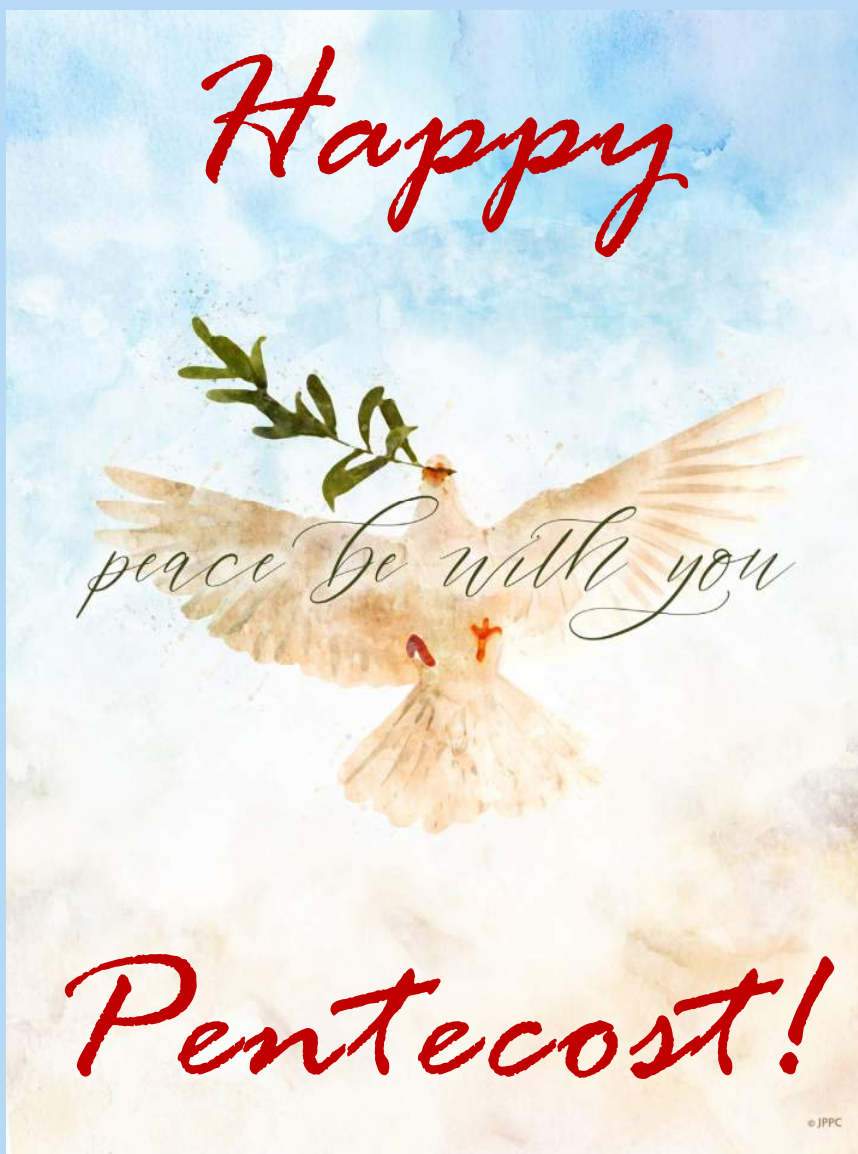
**dschurko**  
Vinnie Natale, **Bookkeeper**, **vnatale**  
Silvia Nizama, **Housekeeper**  
Deacon John Radvanski, **deaconjohn**  
Joan Best Seamon, **Pastoral Associate for**  
**Music Ministry**, **jseamon**

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

## THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS

### SUNDAY, JUNE 8, 2025

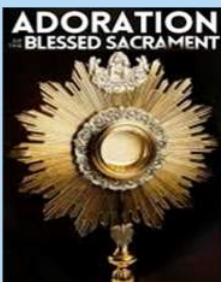
### Pentecost Sunday



## WE HAVE A NEW PRINCIPAL!



See page 7 for more details.



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

OUR NEXT ADORATION WILL BE  
JUNE 9, 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](https://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 8, 2025

### PENTECOST SUNDAY

8:00AM	Mass	Church
10:00AM	Mass (Interpreter)	Church
11:00AM	OCIA	de Porres Rm
12:00PM	Mass	Church
1:30PM	Baptisms	Church
3:00PM	Jesus Youth Gathering	Church & Cafeteria

### Monday, June 9, 2025 **Mary, Mother of the Church** **Technology Summer Project (June 2-31)** **Library**

8:00AM	Mass—Miraculous Medal Novena	Church
6:00PM	Eucharistic Adoration	Church
7:00PM	Cub Scout Pack 195 Mtg.	Cafeteria

### Tuesday, June 10, 2025

### St. Getulius & Comp., Protomartyrs of Sabina

8:00AM	Mass	Church
7:30PM	Handbell Rehearsal	Church

### Wednesday, June 11, 2025

### St. Barnabas, Apostle

8:00AM	Mass — St. Joseph Novena	Church
9:30AM	Holy Spirit Prayer Ministry	de Porres Rm
2:00PM	Alzheimer's Group Mtg.	de Porres Rm
7:30PM	Folk Group Rehearsal	Church

### Thursday, June 12, 2025

### Jesus Christ The Eternal High Priest

### School Early Dismissal/No ASP

8:00AM	Mass	Church
6:00PM	Social Ministry Dinner/Diocese	Cafeteria
7:30PM	Adult Choir Rehearsal	Church

### Friday, June 13, 2025

### St. Anthony of Padua Priest & Doctor

### OFFICIAL LAST DAY OF SCHOOL/EARLY DISMISSAL

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

### Saturday, June 14, 2025 **St. Joseph the Hymnographer**

11:00AM	Private Baptism	Church
3:30PM	Reconciliation	Church
5:00PM	Sunday Vigil Mass	Church

### Sunday, June 15, 2025

### Most Holy Trinity Sunday

### FATHER'S DAY

8:00AM	Mass	Church
10:00AM	Mass	Church
11:00AM	OCIA	de Porres Rm
12:00PM	Mass	Church
4:00PM	FASSM 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](mailto: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,

**Happy Feast of Pentecost!** Pentecost is considered the watershed event in Christianity. The Acts of the Apostles recounts the story of the original Pentecost when the Apostles and the Blessed Virgin Mary, gathered in the Upper Room, were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak in different tongues (Acts 2). Peter's speech that day brought about three thousand people to the way of Jesus. (Acts 2:41). A small body of believers was empowered to be evangelizers as the Holy Spirit filled them. And the Church began to grow.

During my homily last Sunday, I mentioned a group of Jesus Youth who had asked me permission to use our Church today for prayer & worship time to celebrate Pentecost. Some of our parishioners asked me about this group. So I thought of writing briefly about them.

**"Jesus Youth" (JY) is an international Catholic movement that challenges young people to live a meaningful, creative and fulfilling life.** This life begins with a personal, loving encounter with Jesus and continues as they grow in a joyful spirituality within a community of like-minded friends. It had its beginnings in Kerala, India, and evolved as an active part of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of the state in the late 1970s. In 1985, the International Year of Youth, a number of youth groups came together under a single name, Jesus Youth. Jesus Youth is approved by the Vatican and is present in over 40 countries.

JY is known for its spirituality that promotes an active Catholic lifestyle that is relevant to a young layperson facing the challenges of life. The movement follows a lifestyle modelled on the life of Jesus Christ, based on the Six Pillars of Spirituality:

- **Prayer:** At the heart of the movement is a daily 'quiet time' with the Lord that leads to an experience of a loving friendship with Jesus and fosters a joyful attitude to life.
- **Word of God:** A regular time for a meditative reading of the Sacred Scripture helps to shape one's life according to God's will.
- **Sacramental Life:** Frequent and active participation in the seven Sacraments, with emphasis on the Eucharist and Confession
- **Fellowship:** Christian life is a call to live the life of the Trinity in communion with one's brothers and sisters in Christ through mutual support, encouragement and gentle correction.
- **Evangelization:** Fruit of an active life with Jesus is a joyful commitment to witnessing, sharing the person and message of Jesus with others. This commitment to evangelization is central to the life of every member of Jesus Youth.
- **Option for the Poor:** Willingness to serve those in need and a preferential option for the poor are the signs of a true disciple of Jesus Christ.

I have personally known many JY members some of whom are members of our own parish. They are like leaven in the bread that Jesus spoke of in Matthew 13:33 and Luke 13:20-21. I have always been edified by these youth and young adults who live a life of discipleship in their families and work place. In the name of the parish community of St. Matthias, I'm very happy to welcome the Jesus Youth of New Jersey to use our church for their Pentecost celebration of prayer, praise and fellowship.

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Orapankal



## Readings for the Week

**Monday** Gen 3:9-15, 20 or Acts 1:12-14 Ps 87:1-2, 3 and 5, 6-7 Jn 19:25-34

**Tuesday** 2 Cor 1:18-22 Ps 119:129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 135 Mt 5:13-16

**Wednesday** Acts 11:21b-26; 13:1-3 Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4, 5-6 Mt 5:17-19

**Thursday** 2 Cor 3:15—4:1, 3-6 Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 Mt 5:20-26

**Friday** 2 Cor 4:7-15 Ps 116:10-11, 15-16, 17-18 Mt 5:27-32

**Saturday** 2 Cor 5:14-21 Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12 Mt 5:33-37

**Sunday** Prv 8:22-31 Ps 8:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 Rom 5:1-5 Jn 16:12-15



## Mass Intentions for the Week

<b>Sat., June 7</b>	5:00 PM	Will Cuddeback by Mom & Dad
<b>Sun., June 8</b>	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
<b>Mon., June 9</b>	8:00 AM	James Pettit by Janie Dong
<b>Tues., June 10</b>	8:00 AM	Primitiva Trinidad by Gerry & Joy Canatol
<b>Wed., June 11</b>	8:00 AM	Irene Nugent by Mary Spozdzial
<b>Thurs., June 12</b>	8:00 AM	Charles Caffaro by The Caffaro Family
<b>Fri., June 13</b>	8:00 AM	Dominic Fama by Family
<b>Sat., June 14</b>	5:00 PM	William Kelleher by Pat Kelleher
<b>Sun., June 15</b>	8:00 AM	Tita Rahuyu Disposuhardjo and Erlina Liem by Arie Sukendro
	10:00 AM	All Father's Living & Deceased
	12:00 PM	Intention of Parishioners

## 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	Sarah Braun Morini	Anita Vance
Robert Baker	Margaret Ann Cichon	Kim Krikorian	John Mulholland	Minda Villarica
Edgar Banaag	Ford	Kathy Langenbacher	Raoul Nuguid	Gayle Vosseler
Carolyn Banghart	Sharon Gadowski	Rose Larangeira	Celia Palacio	Eileen Weber
Ghislaine Baron	<b>Felicia Gelinis</b>	Linda Leone	Dr. Jean Patrick	Nancy Whelan
Carmen Bender	Gerard Giordano	Henrietta Lesiak	Robert Pellegrino	Bill Wellman
Mary Bostrom	Claude Godet	John Litakis	Robert Pierro	Richard Zagurek
Robert Brisson	Marie Godet	Mary Lou Litakis	Robert Pietrowiak	Mike Zambri
Patricia Burke	Fr. Ben Gomez OMI	Aries Magali	Valerie Polci	Ginette Zamor
Karin Cabezas	Shelly Greene	Cynthia Magat	Kim Price	Anne Zando
Ben Campbell	Joan Harris	Kenneth & Kelly Magat	Joan Pritchard	Celia M. Zelinski
Tara Capatosto	Linda Hartong	Bobby Manansala	Frank Rispoli	
Rustico Castellano	Jeff Hentz	Susan, King & Tosh Manansala	Gabriel Rivera	<b>And for all who are ill, homebound, elderly, in nursing care, or living with chronic illness, we pray.</b>
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	<b>Nick Schurko</b>	
Patrick Dolphin	Rafael Jara		Maria Schwenzer	
Vivian Dong	Marilyn Jensen		Patricia Shea	

## Pray for those who have died...

— "His mercy endures forever." *Chronicles*

Domenica Fama

George Georgiana, Father of Dalton

Todd Peters



## Reflect



### Smile with Your Family



A priest settled into a chair in a lawyer's office. "Is it true," said the priest, "that your firm does not charge the members of the clergy?" "I am afraid you are misinformed," stated the lawyer. "People in your profession can look forward to a reward in the next world, but we lawyers have to take ours in this one." ☺

An elderly woman walked into the local country church. The friendly usher greeted her at the door and helped her up the flight of steps. "Where would you like to sit?" he asked politely. "The front row please," she answered. "You really don't want to do that," the usher said. "Unfortunately, the pastor is really boring." "Do you happen to know who I am? I'm the pastor's mother," she declared indignantly. "Do you know who I am?" the usher asked. "No." she said. And his answer to that was: "Good!" ☺

Our parish priest had a flair for the dramatic. He got the idea of having a pigeon released from the belfry on Pentecost just at the moment when, on the church steps in front of the procession of worshipers, he would say, "Come, Holy Spirit!" Pentecost came, and the sacristan put a pigeon in a bag, went upstairs to the belfry and waited. When the priest pronounced the words, nothing happened. A few seconds later, we heard a voice from the belfry, "It's stifled!" ☺

A man's prayer: "Lord, controlling my tongue is no problem; it's my face that needs deliverance!" ☺



### Parenting Tune-Up

Last Sunday was National Barefoot Week. Will you consider going barefoot with your child for an hour or a day. Feel the grass, dirt, stones, or pavement under your feet and delight in it together. Remember those who don't have shoes. Soles 4 Souls ([www.soles4souls.org](http://www.soles4souls.org)) can help you help others.

### Marriage Tune-Up

(Pentecost) "There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit." (1 Cor. 12:4) What is one of your beloved's strengths? OK, so we all have different sacred strengths, BUT do you have the "same Spirit"? Unite yourselves in the spirit of Forgiveness. Is there anything you find difficult to forgive?



### HOPE AND HEALING AT THE BOSTON MARATHON

*"Are not all these people who are speaking Galileans? Then how does each of us hear them in his native language?" Acts 2: 1-11*

Some years ago, an extraordinary event of hope and healing happened during the Boston Marathon. Among the many stories of generosity, courage and commitment that day was this one small moment, caught on video, that was particularly moving. The images were captured by Wes Lowery of The Washington Post.

A Massachusetts man was running in the middle of the pack, one of the thousands of runners who know they'll never win the race but run for the joy of the sport. About a third of a mile from the finish line - just past the 26-mile marker - the man started to struggle to stay on his feet. His legs started to vibrate rapidly, nearly giving out. A runner not far behind him saw what was happening. He caught up with the injured runner, wrapped the man's left arm around his shoulder and began to carry him. "We're gonna make it, we're gonna make it," he kept saying to the staggering runner, "but you're gonna have to help me get there." But the exhausted man had nothing left; he was slipping from the runner's grasp. Then another runner came along side and took the faltering runner's other arm. Two more runners, a young man and a young woman, also came to the rescue - and the four of them carried the exhausted man the last quarter-mile. They stopped just short of the finish line and the man was able to walk across on his own power. When all five crossed the line, they exchanged high fives. Nothing more was said. Then they went their own ways, satisfied that this year everyone finished Boston.

**Four strangers, in the midst of completing their own races, are able to stop and help another runner finish his. Such a vision of compassion and generosity is the Spirit of God in our midst. Those marathon photographs are images of Pentecost: the unseen, immeasurable presence of God in our lives and in our Church - God's *ruah* ("breath") that animates us to do the work of the Gospel of the Risen One, the *ruah* that makes God's will our will, the *ruah* of God transforming us so that we might bring his life and love into our broken world.**

## "DID YOU EVER GET INTO ANY FIGHT?"

A little girl asked her grandfather, "Did you and grandma ever get into any fights?" The grandfather replied: "We don't talk about it very often, but there was a time when we were not getting along very well. We seemed to be picking on each a lot and finding all kinds of things to argue about and really getting on one another's nerves. Well, one day I came in from the garden and I heard a voice upstairs. I went to the stairs and heard your grandmother telling God what she could not bring herself to tell me." "Well, what did you do?" asked the grand-daughter. "I quietly walked up the stairs," he replied, "and knelt down beside her and told God my side of the story. And from that day to this, we have never had a problem which we couldn't resolve by talking it over with each other and with God. † Do you think the Holy Spirit was active in that couples' marriage? There can be no doubt. Conflict will always remain part of every relationship. The fruits of the Spirit – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control – will always remain critical for happy relationships with others."

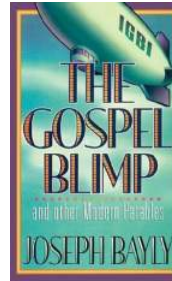
## OBSERVE PENTECOST EVERY DAY!



"It will always be Pentecost in the church," affirmed Oscar Romero, Archbishop of El Salvador, on Pentecost Sunday 1978, "provided the Church lets the beauty of the Holy Spirit shine forth from her countenance. When the Church ceases to let her strength rest on the Power from above which Christ promised her and which he gave her on that day, and when the Church leans rather on the weak

forces of the power or wealth of this earth, then the Church ceases to be newsworthy. The Church will be fair to see, perennially young, attractive in every age, as long as she is faithful to the Spirit that floods her and she reflects that Spirit through her communities, through her pastors, through her very life" (The Violence of Love, The Plough Pub. Co., Farmington, PA: 1998). **Archbishop Romero's declaration reminds us -- as does today's Gospel -- that Pentecost is not just one day, but every day. Without breath, there is no life. Without the Spirit, the Church is a field of dry, dead bones. Fulton J. Sheen once said about the Church, "Even though we are God's chosen people, we often behave more like God's frozen people--frozen in our prayer life, frozen in the way we relate with one another, frozen in the way we celebrate our faith." Today is a great day to ask the Holy Spirit to rekindle in us the spirit of new life and enthusiasm, the fire of God's love. Let us repeat Cardinal Newman's favorite little prayer, "Come Holy Spirit:"**

## PENTECOST: GOSPEL BOMBS!



Some time ago now, Joseph Bayly wrote a book called the Gospel Blimp. It's about the attempt of Christian neighbors reaching out to the community for Christ. The family purchased a hot air balloon to broadcast the Gospel to the community and dropped "bombs" on the town (These "bombs" were tracts wrapped in colored cellophane). In spite of the trouble and expense of this attempt at witnessing to Jesus, it failed miserably. *The point the writer was making is that there is no substitute for loving care and personal witness, even though this is slow, time-consuming, likely to cause anxiety and even likely to create some hostility. You have probably heard these sayings, "I'd rather see a sermon than hear one", and "Actions speak louder than words." There is truth in these sayings, but there are still those times when words are necessary, and we must speak. The Gospel, by its very nature, needs to be shared. It isn't something we keep to ourselves, but, by our words and deeds of love, the Gospel speaks to the lives of people about God's love for them and His willingness to reach out and embrace everyone in his time of need. When was the last time you talked with someone outside of your circle of Christian friends about Jesus? When was it that you last attempted to share your Faith with someone or at least invited someone to your Church on a Sunday? Are you aware of the Presence of the Holy Spirit.*

## DO YOU BELONG TO A PENTECOSTAL CHURCH?

During the Italian occupation of Ethiopia in the days of Mussolini, Christian believers suffered considerable persecution. In his book, *Fire on the Mountains*, Raymond Davis tells of the love demonstrated by believers for each other during this period of affliction, which in turn made a major impression on unbelievers. For example, no provision was made to feed the prisoners in jail by the invading army. This was the responsibility of relatives and friends. Christians in the prisons had no problem, though. They were well cared for by friends and family. In fact, so much food was brought them by fellow believers and church groups that enough remained to feed the unbelieving prisoners also. This observable love, vibrant though nonverbal, brought many to seek the Lord. Such love was previously unheard of. As a result the word spread far and wide. Non-believers sought out believers to learn more about the Christian faith. When prisoners who had come to know Christ while in jail were released, they went back home and attended the nearest church. [Leslie B. Flynn, *You Don't Have To Go It Alone*, (Denver, Colorado: Accent Books, 1981).] It is only right, then, that we should pray that we might be a "Pentecostal Church," if we understand what that means.

## THE LENS OF THE SPIRIT

Every Sunday, the villagers on a small Pacific island gather for prayer. On Sundays when the priest could not come for Mass, prayer leaders prepare for their day's services, readers are sought, and everyone sings. Unfortunately, impaired eyesight is a common problem due to the islanders' limited diets and the intense glare of the sun. The lack of electrical lighting in the simple church does not help either.

One Sunday a woman named Marguerite was the prayer leader. Her husband, Anjua, was one the readers. When Anjua stood to read, he reached over to Marguerite to borrow her glasses. When he finished, his brother Airmail, who was to read next, borrowed the glasses from Anjua. Then Airmail returned the glasses to Marguerite for the remainder of the service. The pair of glasses, shared among the community, spoke as powerfully of God's love in their midst as the words of their prayer.

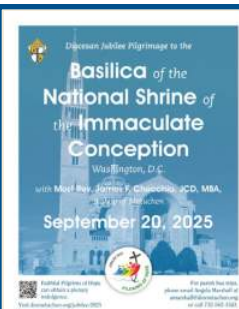
**Like that pair of glasses shared by a family and community, the Spirit of God is a lens in which we recognize the presence of God's love in the midst of our homes and hearths, our communities and villages. The presence of that Spirit which we celebrate today enables us to recognize what is good, what is right, what is ethical, what is of true and of lasting worth that guides us on our lives' journeys to God. The Spirit of God calls us to recognize and celebrate our connectedness to God and to one another; it gives voice to the things we believe but hesitate to articulate; it gives us the courage and grace to work for the dreams we are sometimes too cynical or fearful to hope for. May the Spirit of God, the creative "breath" of the Holy One, always blow within our hearts to enliven us with his love, transforming us in constant hope and illuminating for us the possibilities of bringing the promise of Jesus' resurrection into our homes and hearts.**

## THE JEWISH PENTECOST

Both the Jews and the Christians now celebrate Pentecost. Along with the Feast of the Passover and the Feast of Tabernacles, Pentecost was one of the major feasts of the Jews. During these three great Jewish festivals, every male Jew living within twenty miles of Jerusalem was legally bound to go to Jerusalem to participate in the feast. The word Pentecost is Greek for *pentecostes* which means "fiftieth." The feast received this name because it was celebrated fifty days after the Feast of the Passover. Another name for the Jewish Pentecost is *Shebuot* or "The Feast of Weeks" (the "week" of seven Sabbaths between Passover and Pentecost). It was originally a day of thanksgiving for the completion of the harvest. During Passover, the first *omer* (a Hebrew measure of about a bushel), of barley was offered to God. At Pentecost, two loaves of bread were offered in gratitude for the harvest. Later, the Jews added to the Feast of Pentecost the element of Yahweh's Covenant with Noah, which took place fifty days after the great deluge. Still later, they made this feast an occasion to thank God for His Sinaitic Covenant with Moses, which occurred fifty days after the beginning of the Exodus from Egypt.

## THE CHRISTIAN PENTECOST

Pentecost marks the end and the goal of the Easter season. For Christians, it is a memorial of the day the Holy Spirit descended on the apostles and the Virgin Mary in the form of fiery tongues, an event that took place fifty days after the Resurrection of Jesus. The Paschal mystery -- the Passion, the Death, the Resurrection, and the Ascension of Jesus -- culminates in the sending of the Holy Spirit by the Father (at the request of His Son), on Jesus' disciples. The feast also commemorates the official inauguration of the Christian Church by the apostolic preaching of St. Peter, which resulted in the conversion of 3000 Jews to the Christian Faith. Pentecost is, thus, the official birthday of the Church. But years ago, This Rock Magazine reported that there were 34,000 Protestant denominations which means that, on the average, more than sixty-nine new denominations had sprung up every year since the Reformation began in 1517. So whose birthday is it anyway? You could say, Pentecost is the birthday of the Church Jesus established nearly 2,000 years ago. Today's Scripture readings remind us that Pentecost is an event of both the past and the present. The main theme of today's readings is that the gift of the Holy Spirit is something to be shared with others. In other words, the readings remind us that the gift of the Holy Spirit moves its recipients to action and inspires them to share this gift with others.



## 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](http://www.stmatthias.net/jubilee-pilgrimage)



## Learn



### ST. MATTHIAS SCHOOL HAS A NEW PRINCIPAL

Dear Friends,

I had expressed my gratitude to Mrs. Mary Lynch, the outgoing Principal of our St. Matthias School, in my column last Sunday, and today I have the pleasure to announce Mr. Eric Harper as our new Principal.

Mr. Harper has been the Principal of Our Lady of Grace Catholic School in Penndel, PA, for the past four years. During his term there, he had initiated a strategic plan and increased enrollment. He holds a Bachelor's degree in political science, with minors in history and Latin, from the University of Tulsa, and a Master's in education from Notre Dame. He was a participant in the Alliance for Catholic Education program, which sustains and strengthens

Catholic schools through leadership formation, research, and professional service. Hearty welcome to Mr. Harper to St. Matthias Community.

*I wish to take this chance to thank the Search Committee - Pat Chorazak, Sr. Maria Derecola, Peter Kostik, Fr. Lancelot McGrath, Santina Spinella, Sheila Tartaglia, and Aureen Williamson - for their hard work by giving so much of their time and talent so graciously to do the interviews and recommend to me the best candidates to choose from.*

God bless.

Fr. Abraham



### CAMP INVENTION AT ST. MATTHIAS SCHOOL!

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

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](https://invent.org/camp) until camp starts.

**Register by May 15<sup>th</sup>** 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](mailto: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!



Camp Invention®



### 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](http://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](http://alz.org/NJ).



## Pray



### 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](mailto:mlanyi@stmatthias.net). Thank you.

### 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.

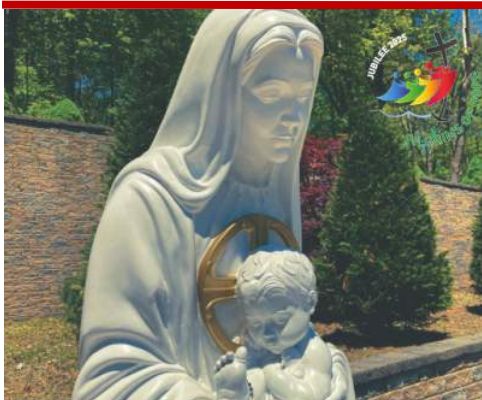
No verbal participation required.

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](mailto: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](https://diometuchen.org/peregrinacion-hispana) or contact us 732-243-4573 or at [Lescobar@diometuchen.org](mailto:Lescobar@diometuchen.org)

  
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**EDISON CHAPTER**

**13<sup>TH</sup> 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

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**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 25, 2025	\$9,100.00	\$10,769.50	\$19,869.50	\$22,094.60
Development of People Collection: \$3,117.05			Month-to-date Total	May Total Last Year
<i>*Due to the accelerated schedule of the bulletin publishers, the stewardship information will be updated in the next bulletin.</i>			\$113,904.70	\$104,507.75
			Current Year-to-date Total	Year-to-date as of May 31, 2024
			\$1,247,133.55	\$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 8, 2025 Pentecost Sunday

*"The Advocate, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you." (John 14:26)*

The materialism of our society lures us to concentrate more on what we want than on what God wants for us. The relativism of our world tells us that we should be tolerant of all things, that there is no absolute truth. Pray to the Holy Spirit to transform our lives and to guide our thoughts, words and actions. What you put in your mind, heart, and soul affects your actions. Put good things in and good things will come out.

#### Reflexiónese – 8 de Junio de 2025 La Ascensión del Señor

*"Pero el Consolador, el Espíritu Santo, a quien el Padre enviará en Mi nombre, Él les enseñará todas las cosas, y les recordará todo lo que les he dicho." (Juan 14:26)*

El materialismo de nuestra sociedad nos atrae a concentrarnos más en lo que queremos que en lo que Dios quiere para nosotros. El relativismo de nuestro mundo nos dice que debemos ser tolerantes con todas las cosas, que no hay una verdad absoluta. Ore al Espíritu Santo para que transforme nuestras vidas y guie nuestros pensamientos, palabras y obras. Lo que pone en su mente, su corazón y su alma afecta sus acciones. Ponga cosas buenas dentro y saldrán cosas buenas.

### 2025 BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

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



DIOCESE OF  
METUCHEN

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

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Magician – Saturday 2-4:00pm

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[www.saintsharbelnj.org](http://www.saintsharbelnj.org)

### 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.

### SILENT DIRECTED WEEK LONG RETREAT

Friday-Friday, June 20-27

Come away to an atmosphere of prayerful quiet. An experience of personal prayer based on scripture with daily spiritual direction. Both the House of Prayer and the grounds are available as you journey in and with God. Begins with light supper on Friday evening at 6pm and ends by 11AM on Friday. Proof of COVID vaccination is required at time of registration.

In Person Program.

Begins 6pm--\$700, \$100 deposit



## Parish Leadership

#### Parish Pastoral Council:

##### Co-Chairs:

Stephen Busono  
[sbusono@gmail.com](mailto:sbusono@gmail.com)

Bill Isele  
[t33sm@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto:@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](http://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 8<sup>th</sup> 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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