



St. Matthias Parish Office:

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

Mass Schedule (in person):

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

St. Matthias School (SMS):

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

For all Parish emails, add @stmatthias.net

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

Deacon Ron Caimi, *Senior Deacon*
Kelly Counts, *Receptionist*, **kcounts**
Deacon Russell Demkovitz, **rdemkovitz**
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ngodet

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Sue Lenczewski, *Youth Coordinator*, **SMYLE**
Julio Montero, *Maintenance Supervisor*
Dolores R. Nann, *Pastoral Associate for*
Faith Formation, **dnann**
Vinnie Natale, *Bookkeeper*, **vnatale**
Silvia Nizama, *Housekeeper*
Deacon John Radvanski, **deaconjohn**
Joan Best Seamon, *Pastoral Associate for*
Music Ministry, **jseamon**
Sr. Marie Therese Sherwood, *OSF, Pastoral*
Assoc. for Social Concerns, **msherwood**

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

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS

SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2024

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord



Today's
Second
Collection
is for the
Retired Diocesan Clergy



**Knights of Columbus &
SMS Home School
Association
Blood Drive
Is Today.**



Holy Week Schedule

Thursday, March 28 –Holy Thursday

Start of Easter Break for SMS, & Parish Office Closed
7:30 PM Mass of the Lord's Supper
10:45 PM Night Prayer-Cafeteria

Friday, March 29 – Good Friday

Holy Land Collection
Parish Office Closed
8:30 AM NO MASS/ Morning Prayer Service
2:00 PM Outdoor Stations of the Cross- Parking Lot
7:30 PM Mass –Passion of the Lord

Saturday, March 30 –Holy Saturday

8:30 AM – Morning Prayer Service
12:00 PM Blessing of Food – Cafeteria
8:00 PM Easter Vigil Mass

Sunday, March 31 - Easter Sunday

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

Monday, Apr 1 – Parish office closed

No 8:00 AM Mass

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

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

Sunday, Mar 24, 2024 Palm Sunday

Live Lent Sessions End

Second Collection for the Retired Diocesan Clergy

8:00AM	Mass	Church
8:30AM	K of C & HSA Blood Drive	Cafeteria
10:00AM	Mass Sign language Interpreter	Church
12:00PM	Mass	Church

**Monday, Mar 25, 2024 The Annunciation of the Lord
Transferred to April 8, 2024**

8:00AM	Mass	Church
6:00PM	Eucharist Adoration	Church

Tuesday, Mar 26, 2024 St. Ludgar, Apostle of Saxony

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

**Wednesday, Mar 27, 2024 St. John of Egypt, Hermit
SMS dismissal at 12:15PM, No ASP**

8:00AM	Mass, St. Joseph Novena	Church
11:00AM	SMS Gr. 6- Living Stations	Church
7:30PM	Folk Group Rehearsal	Church

**Thursday, Mar 28, 2024 Holy Thursday
Parish Office closed, SMS Easter Break
SVDP Society Collection**

8:00AM	No Mass	
7:30PM	Mass of the Lord's Supper	Church
10:45PM	Night Prayer	Cafeteria

**Friday, Mar 29, 2024 Good Friday
Parish Office Closed
Holy Land Collection**

8:30AM	Morning Prayer	Church
2:00PM	Outdoor Stations of the Cross	Parking Lot
7:30PM	Passion of the Lord	Church

Saturday, Mar 30, 2024 Holy Saturday

8:30AM	Morning Prayer	Church
12:00PM	Blessing of the Food	Cafeteria
8:00PM	Easter Vigil Mass	Church

Sunday, Mar 31, 2024 Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

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

Bulletin Article Requests:

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

Dear Friends,

Palm Sunday may remind us that the Lenten season of sacrifice and self-denial is coming to an end, but this week is extremely important for all Christians. The greatest focus of the week is the Passion (suffering) and Resurrection of Jesus Christ and the events that led up to it. The "Chrism Mass" will be on Tuesday in the Cathedral where the Bishop, together with all the priests, will commemorate one important event of the Holy Thursday – the institution of the Priesthood. It is during this Mass that the Bishop will bless the sacred oils used for the Sacraments. Besides Fr. Lancelot and myself, Mike Lanyi, our dedicated Sacristan, and his wife Debbie, who also is very committed to ministering in our parish, will represent our parish. They will bring some of these blessed oils back to our parish.

"Easter Triduum" is a term we hear more frequently this week. It simply means "a three day festival" of prayer and worship, beginning on the evening of Holy Thursday and ending on Easter Sunday. A short note on each of these days is given on page 5 of this bulletin. My earnest request to you, dear brothers and sisters, is that you make every effort this week to attend these sacred events. Can we consider this week as a time of grace for all of us as a family and so make sure that we participate in these worship services even by making some sacrifice this week, by rescheduling other activities, by rearranging other plans and thus giving priority to this week? You will see the grace of God flowing into your lives and into your homes.

You heard me inviting you to attend the Easter Vigil Service, at 8 pm on Saturday, March 30, especially if you have not attended one. Some think it is way too long and so avoid it! Listen to a Catholic layperson who worked in a parish office and thought the same way but had a very different experience when attended it:

"For many years I avoided the Easter Vigil like you avoid people who have a stomach virus. At some point in my career as a parish staff and minister, I needed to attend. I was not really looking forward to it. I had heard it was very long, with many readings and a long homily. Nevertheless, duty called and so off I went. What an amazing experience it was to attend the Easter Vigil. Yes, it was a bit longer than a usual Mass but containing such beauty and richness that when it was over I thought truly heaven and earth had met that night."

Why miss such a wonderful opportunity? I must add that the music will be truly upbeat and uplifting. Joan Seamon and all our music ministers have been spending so much of their time and talent into helping us have a truly enriching experience through music for every Mass but in a very special way for the Easter Vigil. Our RCIA class will be receiving the Sacraments of Initiation at Easter Vigil. It will be a great opportunity for you to welcome them into our community as full-fledged members during the Easter Vigil, which is full of signs and symbols of our faith giving us an ethereal experience of sacred mysteries. Hence, I request you to come and experience the beautiful liturgies of the Holy Week, but in a special way the Easter Vigil that the Fathers of the Church termed "the mother of all vigils."

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Orapankal



Readings for the Week

Monday Is 42:1-7 Ps 27:1, 2, 3, 13-14
Jn 12:1-11

Tuesday Is 49:1-6 Ps 71:1-2, 3-4a, 5ab-6ab,
15 and 17 Jn 13:21-33, 36-38

Wednesday Is 50:4-9a Ps 69:8-10, 21-22, 31
and 33-34 Mt 26:14-25

Thursday Chrism Is 61:1-3a, 6a, 8b-9 Ps
89:21-22, 25 and 27 Rv 1:5-8 Lk 4:16-21

Thursday Night Ex 12:1-8, 11-14 Ps 116:12-
13, 15-16bc, 17-18. 1 Cor 11:23-26 Jn 13:1-15

Friday Is 52:13-53:12 Ps 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-16,
17, 25 Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9 Jn 18:1-19:42

Saturday Gn 1:1-2:2 or 1:1, 26-31a Ps 104:1-
2, 5-6, 10, 12, 13-14, 24, 35 Gn 22:1-18 or 22:1-
2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Ex 14:15-15:1; Is 54:5-14;
Is 55:1-11; Bar 3:9-15, 32-4:4; Ez 36:16-17a,
18-28; Rom 6:3-11; Mk 16:1-7

Sunday Acts 10:34a, 37-43 Ps 118:1-2, 16-17,
22-23 Col 3:1-4 Jn 20:1-9

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, Mar 23	5:00PM	Brian Burke, by The Folk Group
Sunday, Mar 24	8:00AM	Intention of Parishioners
	10:00AM	Karl Grentz, Jr., by The Lenczewski Family
	12:00PM	John & Sophie Howard, by Mary & Jim Woods
Monday, Mar 25	8:00AM	James Isola, by The Isola Family
Tuesday, Mar 26	8:00AM	All Deceased Members of the Edwin family, by Mercy Gabriel
Wednesday, Mar 27	8:00AM	Dr. Proceso Villarica, by Minda
Thursday, Mar 28	7:30PM	Mass of the Lord's Supper
Friday, Mar 29	7:30PM	Passion of the Lord
Saturday, Mar 30	8:00PM	Easter Vigil Mass - Intention of Parishioners
Sunday, Mar 31	8:00AM	Harry Forgash, by Anthony LaTorre
	10:00AM	Albert Larangeira, by Linda Piscadlo & Family
	12:00PM	Paulo Castro, by The Family

Pray for those who are sick...

If you or a family member are sick, please call the Parish Office or **email Kelly Counts** at kcunts@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.

Beth & Jay Adams	Andrea Dubuisson	Nick Isele	Jessica Marie Merrick	Sr. Bernadine Marie
Rosario Anglo	Dennis Enright	Renée Jolly	Gail Miranda	Stemnock
Kristin Baio	Hattie Evans	Donna Kahora	Menchie Molano-	Catherine Steele
Olga Marie Bando	Heinley Gaspard	Betsy Kondrat	Sotelo	Anita Vance
Carolyn Banghart	Claudia Gemgnani	Kathy Langenbacher	Danny Ongchango	Eileen Weber
Brandon Barbarite	Emma Gergely	Armando D. Liban	Robert Pellegrino	Nancy Whelan
Ghislaine Baron	Claude Godet	Mary Lou Litakis	Robert Pietrowiak	Theresa Sau-Ling Yung
Helen Bell	Marie Godet	John Litakis	Randolff Pinard	GINETTE ZAMOR
Samantha Bellouny	Shelly Greene	Denis Loboda	Valerie Polci	Anne Zando
Carmen Bender	Linda Hartong	Aries Magali	Kim Price	
Mary Bostrom	Jeff Hentz	Kenneth & Kelly Magat	Denise Pultro	And for all who are ill, homebound, elderly, in nursing care, or living with chronic illness, we pray.
Tara Capatosto	Sloopy & PJ Hoffman	Al Maglio	Gabriel Rivera	
Elizabeth Card	Gene Horan	Susan, King & Tosh	Arina Robinson	
Kyle Davidson	Marilyn Horvath	Manansala	Bob Rotz	
Lisa DeFeo	Jerry & Donna Hucul	Alexandra Marquez	Maria Schwenzer	
Zenon DeGuzman	Amanda Isele	Christine Matthews	Amy Shepp	
Vivian Dong	Baby Elaine Isele	Ann McElwee	Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF	

Pray for those who have died...

— "His mercy endures forever." Chronicles

Luzviminda Talag

Reflect



Smile with Your Family



☺ The six-year-old came home from Palm Sunday services proudly carrying his palm. Mom and Dad quizzed him on his Sunday school lesson for the day. He responded enthusiastically, "Jesus came to Jerusalem on a donkey. And the happy people waved their palm branches and sang, "O Susanna..." ☺☺

Some excuses people gave for not attending church:

"My wife cooked bacon for breakfast, and our entire family smelled like bacon."

"The pastor stays in the Bible too much."

"I couldn't get the lid off the peanut butter."

"We got burned out at church and have been taking a

break the past seven years."

"The church is too close to drive, and too far to walk." It's my only day to sleep in.

I connect with God better on the golf course, ...

"The worship leader pulls up his pants too often. It's distracting."

"My kids take naps during that time."

"Someone called me 'brother' instead of using my name."

I feel like I need to get right with God before I can come to church ☺



Parenting Tune-Up

As your child matures, it's often hard to know when to help or give advice and when to hold your tongue.

Ask yourself: Will this action empower my child to become more independent, or will it foster continuing dependence on me?

Marriage Tune-Up



Palm Sunday is such a baffling feast. Everybody is rejoicing in the glory of Jesus' arrival. But, we know the end of the story. We know that a lot of pain quickly follows any happy event. Presumably your wedding was joyous. Presumably some dark days have followed. Contemplate the ups and downs of your relationship and remember that Good Friday is not the end.

Are fast and abstinence required on Good Friday?

Yes. Good Friday is a day of penance to be observed as of obligation in the whole Church, and indeed through abstinence and fasting. The obligation to fast applies only to Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59. To fast in the Catholic tradition means to limit oneself to one full meal during the day to experience hunger. The obligation of abstinence affects all Catholics who have reached the age of 14. Abstinence in the Catholic tradition means to abstain from meat.

The obligation of fast and abstinence, as a whole, is a serious obligation. While failure to observe any penitential day in itself may not be considered serious, the failure to observe any penitential days at all, or a substantial number of them without good cause, would be considered a grave matter. Those unable to abstain for a valid reason on any given Friday of Lent are asked to perform some other penitential act, or to abstain on another day.

Why is the other side empty?

Have you ever noticed that in Leonardo da Vinci's painting of the Last Supper everybody is on one side of the table? The other side is empty. "Why's that?" someone asked the great artist. His answer was simple. "So that there may be plenty of room for us to join them." Want to let Jesus do his thing on earth through you? Then pull up a chair and receive him into your heart. Let us imitate the Self-giving model of Jesus Who shares with us His own Body and Blood and enriches us with His Real Presence in the Holy Eucharist. It is by sharing our blessings – our talents, time, health and wealth - with others that we become true disciples of Christ and obey His new commandment: **"Love one another as I have loved you."**



What is Easter Triduum?

"Triduum" is a Latin word referring to a three-day period of prayer, usually in preparation for an important feast or in celebration of that feast. Easter Triduum is the liturgical name for the last three days of Holy Week: Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday with Easter Vigil whereby we enter the joy of Easter Sunday. Here's a preview of how we celebrated it:

Holy Thursday: Our Sacred Triduum starts with the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday. If you have not attended a Holy Thursday Mass, you should try to be there. It is the time when the Oils of Chrism are presented to the Priest and Congregation after our representative has attended the Chrism Mass at the Cathedral in Metuchen and brings them to St. Matthias. During this Mass the priest performs the washing of the feet, a very humbling experience. At the conclusion of the Mass, the Blessed Sacrament is taken to the beautifully flower-decorated Cafeteria where parishioners come in turns to "watch and pray" with Our Lord.

Good Friday: 1) Stations of the Cross: At 2 pm in the afternoon, we gather in our Parking Lot to pray the Stations of the Cross. This presentation is quite moving as different ministries of our parish are represented at each station as we follow the path of Jesus on the road to His death on the cross.

2) Passion of the Lord: At night, there is a solemn service in the church. The atmosphere is somber with low lighting and music. We hear readings from the Old Testament and the Gospel (the Passion Narrative), and there is time for reflection during the intercessions. After the intercessions, we each venerate the cross with a bow or a kiss. This service is not a Mass because there is no consecration of hosts, but communion is received with the extra Eucharist from the Mass on Holy Thursday. At the end of the service, we depart the church in prayerful silence.

Holy Saturday: This is the day of prayer and waiting. The Easter Vigil begins at 8 pm when it is still dark. The congregation moves outside to the Easter Fire. We then process into the Church with the Paschal Candle lit. We use candles lit from the Paschal Candle and as the vigil progresses, the Church is flooded with light representing new life. It is at the Easter Vigil that the Catechumen and the Elect receive the sacraments of initiation as full members of the Catholic Church. It is a spiritually uplifting experience, especially with our music ministers preparing to give us a truly divine experience. The sung readings are an amazing musical extravaganza bringing us to experience especially what the Israelites experienced. Consider being a part of this most holy and inspirational night at St. Matthias.

Christ the Clown!

- * .. [Christ Jesus] emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness. *Philippians 2: 6-11.*
- * When the centurion who stood facing him saw how he breathed his last he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!" *Mark 14: 1 - 15: 47*

When he was in his early thirties, the French painter Georges Rouault was walking through town when he passed a circus caravan. An old clown sitting in a corner of the caravan mending his sparkling and gaudy costume caught his attention. Watching the clown, Rouault began to think about the contrast between the clown's eye-catching costume and props, all designed to amuse, and the clown's own marginal place in society: the man underneath the silly, gaudy costume was a poor, itinerant wayfarer.

"I saw quite clearly that the 'Clown' was me, was us, nearly all of us," wrote Rouault in a letter to a friend. "This rich and glittering costume, it is given to us by life itself; we are all more or less clowns, we all wear a glittering costume." Rouault began to paint clowns - yellow clowns, wounded clowns, a clown with a drum, young clowns and old clowns. Rouault's contemporaries noticed resonances between his paintings of clowns and his paintings of Jesus; Rouault's depictions of costumed harlequins and of the Savior of the world began to resemble each other.

Rouault was taking up a long-standing, if quiet, tradition in the church: the idea of Jesus as clown. Arguably, the tradition goes back all the way back to Paul, who reminded the Corinthians that the world deemed "foolish" the things of Christ and that disciples were to indeed be fools for Christ. Rouault's "clowning" Christs expressed two dimensions of the life of the Gospel Jesus: Jesus is the marginal wayfarer, and Jesus specializes, as clowns do, in interruptions, in behavior that violates etiquette and social norms, in impropriety, surprises, and mockery of conventions. In his crucifixion, Christ the clown is unmasked; he is the object of humiliation and mockery. But humankind is revealed to be the fools.

The events of Holy Week reveal as much about us as about Jesus. In the sacrifice of Jesus the "clown," we realize the foolishness of our own selfishness, the absurdity of our greed, the senselessness of the injustice and hurt we countenanced to maintain the illusion of our "circuses." May we see in the cross of Holy Week the very worst we fail to see in ourselves: that part of us we deftly justify in order to rationalize the crucifixions we execute. As we journey with Jesus this Holy Week, may we seek to wipe away the deceptive "greasepaint" from our faces and take off the fakery of our "glittery costumes" to put on the spirit of humble servanthood of the Christ of compassion and mercy.

The Scar on Harry Potter's Forehead!

There is a villain in the Harry Potter series of magic novels, an evil wizard named Lord Voldemort. At the end of the first book, Harry Potter learns that Voldemort murdered both Harry's parents when Harry was only a baby. He first murdered Harry's father and then tried to murder Harry, to be sure that Harry, as his father's heir, would not be a threat to Voldemort as he grew to maturity. However, of course, he did not succeed in murdering Harry. When he tried to do so, Harry's mother threw herself in the way, taking the blow and dying in Harry's place. When Voldemort then tried to kill Harry, he could not. In fact, the curse that he hurled at Harry rebounded onto Voldemort and drained him of his powers. All he could do was leave a lightning-bolt scar across Harry's forehead. Because of his mother's sacrificial love, Harry lived and Voldemort's powers were greatly diminished. Throughout the Harry Potter novels, others immediately recognize young Harry because of his scar. Throughout the series, Voldemort makes repeated attempts to capture and kill Harry Potter, but each time he fails. At last Harry asks the wise Headmaster of his school, Dumbledore, why Voldemort could not kill him. This is what Dumbledore tells him: "Your mother died to save you. If there is one thing Voldemort cannot understand, it is love. He didn't realize that love as powerful as your mother has for you, leaves its own mark . . . To have been loved so deeply, even though the person who loved us is gone, will give us some protection forever. It is in your very skin . . . [Voldemort] could not touch you for this reason. It was agony to touch a person marked by something so good." [J. K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* (Scholastic: 5332), p. 650.]

The reason Harry could not be killed was his mother's sacrificial love for him. The reason you and I can be victorious over sin and death is Christ's sacrificial love for us. That is the reason Palm Sunday is so important to us. That is the reason Holy Week is so important to us. It is not a scar on our forehead but the cross on our altar that tells us that Someone died on our behalf. We are the recipients of an everlasting love.

The Beloved Captain

Donald Hankey's *The Beloved Captain* tells how the Captain cared for his men's feet. After long marches, he went into the barracks to inspect the feet of his soldiers. He would get down on his hands and knees to take a good look at the worst cases. If a blister needed lancing, he would frequently lance it himself. "There was no affectation about this," says Donald Hankey. "It seemed to have a touch of Christ about it, and we loved and honored him the more" for it.

– Is there a 'touch of Christ' about our concern for our brothers and sisters? "Jesus, my feet are dirty.... Pour water into Your basin and come and wash my feet. I know that I am overbold in asking this, but I dread Your warning, when You said, 'If I do not wash your feet, you can have no companionship with Me.' Wash my feet, then, because I do want Your companionship."



In the Footsteps of Jesus – The Donkey- Rider

There is a biography of a man who was one of the most learned people of his generation. He had two PhDs – one in philosophy, another in theology. Further, he was a world-class musician, and concert halls around the world were sold out when he went on tour. Then, to the surprise of everyone, he decided he wanted to go to a medical college to earn yet another doctoral degree in medicine. As soon as he had his medical degree, he left the comfortable surroundings of Western Europe and went into the jungles of Africa. There he cleared away part of the jungle and began building a clinic and a hospital. Once these were built, he started providing medical care to the young and old of Africa. Many years later, Dr. Albert Schweitzer won the Nobel Peace Prize for his ministry of healing in the jungles of Africa. When he accepted the Nobel Peace Prize, he shared with that distinguished crowd in Stockholm the reason he had built a hospital in Africa. The reason was summed up, he stated in the first words he always said to his native patients as they awakened from an operation. He would say: "The reason that you have no more pain is because the Lord Jesus told the good doctor and his wife to come to the banks of Ogooue River and help you. If you owe thanks to anyone, you owe it to the Lord Jesus."

Schweitzer accepted the challenge to be a humble servant of Jesus Christ. And this is our challenge - this is your challenge - this is my challenge in this Holy Week! Look beyond your needs to the needs of others, and you will be on the road to being a humble servant of Jesus Christ. Can we face these questions on Palm Sunday? Are we willing to follow Jesus, not just to Church but also in our daily life? Are we willing to entrust ourselves to Him even when the future is frightening or confusing, believing God has a plan? Are we willing to serve Him until that day when His plan for us on earth is fulfilled? These are the questions of Palm Sunday. Let us take a fresh look at this familiar event. We might be surprised at what we see. It could change us forever.

Pray



Divine Mercy Novena and Chaplet of Divine Mercy

Beginning March 29 on Good Friday and ends on April 7, 2024 Divine Mercy Sunday

You are invited to join us as we pray the Divine Mercy Novena and Chaplet beginning March 29, 2024, Good Friday, in the church. These are the 9 days before the feast of Divine Mercy on April 7th.

Day 1... after the outdoor Stations of the Cross

Day 2... after the Saturday morning prayer service

Day 3 ... Easter Sunday... pray on your own

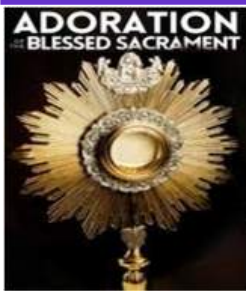
Day 4-8... after daily Mass

We will end the novena after the 10 am Mass on **Sunday, April 7th**, followed by the recitation of the Rosary in the church. Remember to bring your rosary beads. Hope to see you there!

If you are unfamiliar with the novena and chaplet, please visit:

www.thedivinemercy.org/message/devotions/pray-the-chaplet

www.thedivinemercy.org/message/devotions/novena



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

**OUR NEXT ADORATION WILL BE
MONDAY EVENING, MARCH 26, 2024 FROM 6 PM TO 8 PM.**

Serve

Pastoral Council Seeks New Members

The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) is the primary advisory body for the Pastor. As we continue to recruit new members, we would like to invite everyone in our parish to help make this leadership body more representative of our entire parish community.

What does this mean for you? Do you know a fellow parishioner who you think would be great to have on the Pastoral Council? Speak with that person and ask them to contact the Council's Co-Chairs:

Marilyn Wegg, mcw-wam@comcast.net or Frank Rees, Frees814@gmail.com. And if you yourself have been considering joining this ministry, don't be shy. Contact the co-chairs. Everyone who is prayerfully considering this ministry is invited to observe a Pastoral Council meeting. The next Pastoral Council meeting will be on **Tuesday, April 16, at 7 pm.**

FR. ABRAHAM IS CALLING ALL MEN OF OUR PARISH!

"In today's world, Catholic men are attacked from all sides. The world entices them to live only for themselves. It tells them to abdicate their God-given call to be leaders of the Church and their families. Too many Catholic men have given in and become caught up in vice and addiction. They feel empty, alone, unworthy and even unlovable. They're hungering for more, but don't know where to turn."

Hello gentlemen, do you find any truth in the above statement? If so, here's some good news: our Diocesan Office of Evangelization is organizing a "Leadership Summit for Men." It will be held in our neighborhood: at Mary, Mother of God parish in Hillsborough on Friday evening and Saturday morning, **April 26-27**. I wish to invite all the men of our parish to consider attending this event so you will be empowered to focus on the things that matter to you.

For more details, please email me at abraham@stmatthias.net

Learn



CAMP INVENTION AT ST. MATTHIAS SCHOOL!

June 17-21, 2024

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



Camp Invention®

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

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

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

Camp Week: June 17-21, 2024

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

2024 SMS Golf Classic

Tuesday May 21, 2024

Neshanic Valley Golf Course

Neshanic Station, NJ



Connect



FAMILY MATTERS

JOIN US AS WE EMPOWER CATHOLIC PARENTS TO LIVE OUT THE MISSION

Family Matters is a new initiative of the Center for FaithJustice in partnership with RENEW International. It is a process for nurturing discipleship among parents and caregivers as they enrich their own faith lives to more vibrantly pass on Catholic social tradition to their children.

St. Matthias will be piloting this program for families/children this year! Join us!



Parents and families will have access to:

- Online resources
- In-person gatherings at their parish
- Home based activities
- Mentorship from other Catholic parents in your parish
- Access to Spiritual Direction
- Retreats and Service opportunities with other families

Interested in joining? We will begin by hosting listening sessions for interested parents and families this spring!

Sign up for the listening session.

Email Dee Nann: dnann@stmatthias.net

With you on the journey!

Center for FaithJustice, RENEW International

Give (and Receive!)

Stewardship Totals for Fiscal Year July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024				Last Year's Total
Current Month	In-Pew/Mail	Parish Giving	Weekly Total	Weekly Total
Week 36 - March 3, 2024	\$13,968.00	\$14,230.50	\$28,198.50	\$36,094.75
Week 37 - March 10, 2024	\$9,463.20	\$24,878.00	\$34,341.20	\$30,521.25
Week 38 - March 17, 2024	\$10,126.00	\$11,864.52	\$21,990.52	\$24,352.25
Week 39 - March 24, 2024			\$0.00	\$20,592.25
Week 40 - March 31, 2024			\$0.00	
			Month-to-date Total	Mar Total Last Yr
			\$84,530.22	\$111,560.50
			Current Year-to-date Total	Year-to-date as of March 31, 2023
			\$2,355,415.43	\$1,052,103.02

Stewardship Reflection March 24, 2024 Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

"Pilate again said to them, 'then what shall I do with the man whom you call the King of the Jews?' And they cried out again, 'Crucify him.'" – MARK 15:12-13

Jesus told us "whatever you do for the least of my brothers, you do for me." Every day we are presented opportunities to help someone. Every day we have the opportunity to see the face of Jesus in others and be the face of Jesus to others. Every day we pass by someone in need. Pray for the strength and courage to be the answer to someone's prayer.

Reflexiónese 24de marzo de 2024 Domingo de Ramos

- "Pilato les preguntó de nuevo: ¿Y qué queréis que haga con el que llamáis Rey de los Judíos? Ellos gritaron otra vez, ¡Crucifícalo!" - Marcos 15:12-13

Jesús nos dijo "lo que hagas por el más pequeño de mis hermanos, lo harás por mí". Cada día tenemos la oportunidad de ayudar a alguien. Cada día tenemos la oportunidad de ver el rostro de Jesús en otros y ser el rostro de Jesús para los demás. Cada día nos encontramos con alguien necesitado. Ore por la fortaleza y el coraje de ser la respuesta a las oraciones de alguien.



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

Most of our contributing parishioners have signed up with our online Parish Giving Program. That has been a big help to the parish in so many ways. If you are one of the few who have not, here's why it is helpful to you and important for St. Matthias: Parish Giving offers secure flexible online giving for our parishioners who would like

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

2024 Bishop's Annual Appeal

STAY WITH US, LORD: Renew our Hearts and Send Us on Mission



By now you have received a letter from Bishop Checchio inviting your participation in the 2024 Bishop's Annual Appeal. The diocesan ministries supported by the Appeal directly impact many of the parishioners here in [insert name of parish]. Your gift provides formation opportunities for our catechists, youth and young adults. In the coming days, you will be receiving a letter from our pastor, [insert pastor's name], encouraging your participation. If you have yet to make your gift, please prayerfully consider doing so today by either returning your pledge card in the mail or going to the secure website:

<https://diometuchen.org>

Connecting to Our Local Community



Free Tax Preparation Offered through United Way of Northern New Jersey

The United Way of Northern NJ & its partners are offering FREE tax preparation services for low and moderate income households. **At no cost to you**, IRS tax-law certified preparers will help you claim all the credits you are eligible for and get what you are owed. Tax Filing began on 2/1/2024.

Visit uwnnj.org/freetaxprep

For information about scheduling appointments, access free self-filing software, and get answers to question.

For additional information, call 973-993-1160, ext. 5. Email– UnitedWayTaxPrep@UnitedWayNNJ.org



Mount St. Mary House of Prayer

Thursday, March 28 SACRED TIME, SACRED SPACE

A personal, quiet day to enjoy God's presence. Day begins with communal prayer.

Bring bag lunch. **9:30am-3pm at the House of Prayer \$20-\$30 as you are able.**

Information and Registration for all Mount Saint Mary House of Prayer offerings can be found on our website: www.msmhope.org. Call us at 908-753-2091 or email us at msmhope@msmhope.org.

Friday, April 12 SPIRITUAL AWAKENINGS VIDEO CLUB

There are many great spiritual masters of our time. Richard Rohr, OFM and others have works that have touched millions of God-seekers. Join this monthly video club and share your insights and prayerful responses to the works of Fr. Rohr and others.

2nd Friday of the month (1st Fri. in March) Mar. 1, Apr. 12, May 10, June 14

10-11:30am at the House of Prayer and Zoom \$20-\$30 as you are able.

WOMEN OF FAITH

Spend a day of spiritual reflection and renewal with the Sisters and women on the journey.

April 20, 2024, 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM

With Rev. Msgr. George Hundt, Pastor, St. Gerard Majella, Paterson, New Jersey.

The day includes:

- Mass
- Conference
- Reconciliation
- Rosary and /or Stations of the Cross

Eucharistic Adoration Registration Fee: \$15.00

For more information, contact: Sr. Alice Ivanyo, MPF sralicei@gmail.com or 732-238-9222

Parish Leadership

Parish Pastoral Council:	Co-Secretaries:	<i>Sheila Tartaglia</i>	Parish Finance Council:	<i>Cory Panlilio</i>
Co-Chairs:	Stephen Busono	Fr. Lancelot McGrath,	Kester Hector, Chair	Mary Pat Burke-Grospin,
Frank Rees	sbusono@gmail.com	Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio	Finance Council	Ex-Officio
Frees814@gmail.com	Bill Isele	Trustees:	@stmatthias.net	Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio
Marilyn Wegg	t33sm@aol.com	Pearl Scott	Carmen Driz-Melilli	
mcw-wam@comcast.net	Al Drabnis	Marge Richards	Barry Dusault	
	Didi Molano		Joan Pritchard	

About St. Matthias (please contact the staff members on the cover for up-to-date information)

Parish Registration — Welcome to St. Matthias! Please register on our website. www.stmatthias.net/join-us, or visit the Parish Office.

Marriage — Registered parishioners should contact the parish office a year before the desired wedding date.

Baptism — Baptismal Preparation Sessions are held four times a year for registered parishioners. Please contact the parish office before the baby is born. The sacrament of Baptism is celebrated on the second and fourth Sunday of each month, except during Lent.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) - If you are interested in becoming a Catholic or completing the Sacraments of Initiation-- Baptism/Confirmation/Eucharist, please call the Parish Office.



St. Matthias School is a PreK3 through 8th grade school rooted in faith, inspired by love, and dedicated to academic excellence. Before and After School Care Programs are available. Come visit! Contact 732-828-1402 to schedule a tour.

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