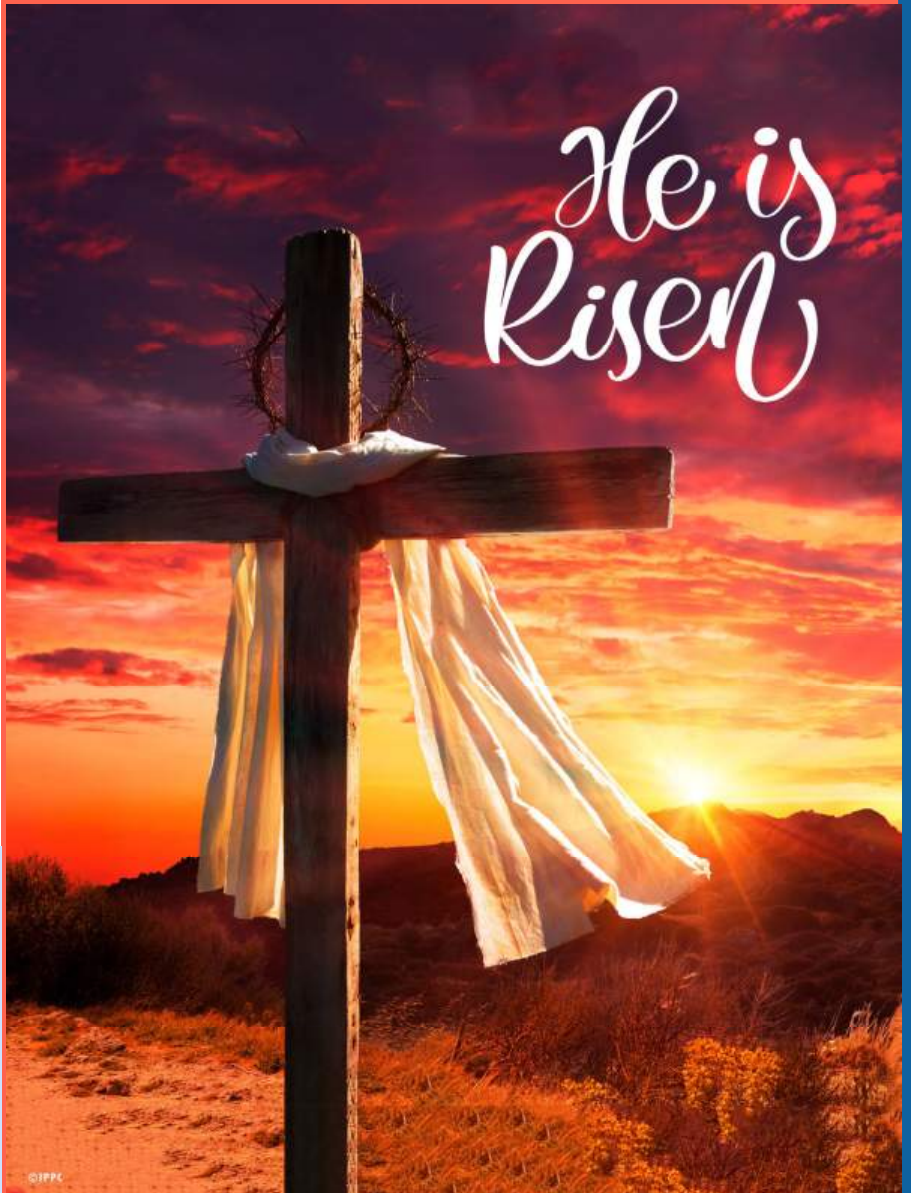




THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS
SUNDAY, MARCH 31, 2024
Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord



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**
 Nathalie Godet, *Website & Bulletin Coordinator*,
ngodet

Leslie Guillen, *Bulletin Editor*, **lguillen**
 Amy Hanna, *Accountant/Databases*, **ahanna**
 Mike Lanyi, *Sacristan*

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**



Divine Mercy Sunday
is next Sunday.

The Novena has already begun.

See page 7 for details.

THE CHURCH AND PARISH OFFICE WILL BE
CLOSED ON EASTER MONDAY

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

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

Monday, Apr 1, 2024 **Easter Monday**
Parish Office Closed & SMS on Easter Break

8:00AM No Mass / No Adoration

Tuesday, Apr 2, 2024 **St. Francis of Paola, Hermit & Founder of the Order of Minims**

8:00AM Mass Church

Wednesday, Apr 3, 2024 **St. Richard of Chichester, Bishop**

8:00AM Mass, St. Joseph Novena Church

Thursday, Apr 4, 2024 **St. Isadore of Seville, Doctor & Bishop**

8:00AM Mass Church

Friday, Apr 5, 2024 **St. Vincent Ferrer, Priest**

8:00AM Mass Church
8:30AM 1st Friday Holy Hour w/benediction Church
10:30AM Spring Hills Mass Off site

Saturday, Apr 6, 2024 **St. Celestine I, Pope**

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

Sunday, Apr 7, 2024 **Divine Mercy Sunday**

8:00AM Mass Church
10:00AM Mass Church
11:00AM Divine Mercy Prayers Church
11:00AM Rosary Altar Society Mtg. John XXIII Rm
12:00PM Mass Church
2:00PM GIFT Church, classrooms, & John XXIII Rm



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,

Jesus Christ is Risen! He is truly risen! These are the traditional greetings of Eastern Rite Catholics on Easter Sunday, and I address you with these words of faith. May the blessings of the Risen Christ be with each of us as we joyfully celebrate the history-changing Resurrection of Jesus Christ, whose death on a cross for our sins preceded his resurrection and multiple appearances to the apostles after his resurrection.

Why is Resurrection so important? If Jesus Christ died, was buried and rose again three days later, then it changes everything. It is the only instance of a human being raising himself from the dead in human history. Why is Resurrection so important for us Christians? St. Paul gives the best answer: “If Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless, and so is our faith.” (1 Corinthians 15:14).

Yet, there have been skeptics who questioned the resurrection. There are many reasons to repudiate their doubts. You can read all about that elsewhere in this bulletin, under the heading: “Why we believe in the Resurrection.” But I loved what Wolfhart Pannenberg, the German philosopher, said: “*The evidence for Jesus’ resurrection is so strong that nobody would question it except for two things: First, it is a very unusual event. And second, if you believe it happened, then you have to change the way you live.*”

Belief in the Resurrection forces us to change the way we live. That’s what happened to Paul who changed from being the fiercest persecutor into the staunchest promoter of Christianity.

Easter will become meaningful to us when we realize that Jesus lives among us whenever we gather in His name. Not only for the Eucharist or for Lenten small groups, but also when we come together for every association or ministry meeting and whenever we organize any parish event – both of which are in abundance here at St. Matthias. He is present in our homes when we gather as a family not only for meals or prayer, but also for any family event. When we reach out to the less fortunate with help, we lift up the hand of Jesus. When we listen to one who is troubled, we make Jesus present to that person. In these and many other ways, we give witness to the mystery of Jesus living among us. Indeed, we become the Body of Christ for the world. Let us experience more of that Easter Joy!

Easter Blessings to you and to your dear ones!

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Orapankal

Readings for the Week

Monday Acts 2:14, 22-33 Ps 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11 Mt 28:8-15

Tuesday Acts 2:36-41 Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20 and 22 Jn 20:11-18

Wednesday Acts 3:1-10 Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9 Lk 24:13-35

Thursday Acts 3:11-26 Ps 8:2ab and 5, 6-7, 8-9 Lk 24:35-48

Friday Acts 4:1-12 Ps 118:1-2 and 4, 22-24, 25-27a Jn 21:1-14

Saturday Acts 4:13-21 Ps 118:1 and 14-15ab, 16-18, 19-21 Mk 16:9-15

Sunday Acts 4:32-35 Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 1 Jn 5:1-6 Jn 20:19-31



Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, March 30	8:00PM	Easter Vigil Mass - Intention of Parishioners
Sunday, March 31	8:00AM	Harry Forgash, by Anthony LaTorre
	10:00AM	Albert Larangeira, by Linda Piscadlo & Family
	12:00PM	Paulo Castro, by The Family
Monday, April 1	8:00AM	No Mass
Tuesday, April 2	8:00AM	Alejandra Sunga, by Flora Sunga
Wednesday, April 3	8:00AM	Timothy Dougherty, by Michelle Krempaski-Sidwell
Thursday, April 4	8:00AM	Rasathy Edwin, by Mercy Gabriel
Friday, April 5	8:00AM	Alice & Charles Meden, by Kathy Meden Deangelis
Saturday, April 6	5:00PM	Christopher St. Amand, by Vincent & Nancy Inzano
Sunday, April 7	8:00AM	Soledad Lazaro, by Marcy Tolentino
	10:00AM	Intention of Parishioners
	12:00PM	Michele Siebenlist, by Eileen Siebenlist

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

Pray for those who have died...

— "His mercy endures forever." Chronicles

Reflect



Smile with Your Family



Rented for a weekend: Joseph of Arimathea was a very wealthy Pharisee, a member of the council, and a secret follower of Jesus. It was Joseph who went to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body after the crucifixion. And it was Joseph who supplied the tomb for Jesus' burial. Someone asked Joseph: "That was such a beautiful, costly, hand-hewn tomb you made for yourself. Why on earth did you give it to someone else to be buried in?" "Why not?" Joseph answered, "He needed it just for the weekend." 😊

Resurrection in election: Former Presidential candidate Mike Huckabee was once asked if he believed in

resurrection. "Of course I do," said Huckabee. "Dead people vote in every election we have in Arkansas. Resurrection is very real to us." 😊

How many Easter eggs can you fit in an empty basket? Only one. After that, it's not empty anymore! 😊

Why was the Easter Bunny hired for the job? He had the most eggs-perience! 😊

Q: Why is it forbidden to tell a joke to your Easter eggs?

A: You don't want to crack them up. 😊



Parenting Tune-Up

Do your kids get stuck more with Easter bunny and the basket of candy than with the Risen Christ? We need to impress upon them that the giant bunny is a fictional character while Jesus is a historical figure who died and rose from the dead and so Jesus is alive and is with us.

Marriage Tune-Up



Lent is over, it's Easter, Alleluia! Yes, you can go back to eating sweets if that's what you gave up, BUT, don't go back to taking your "sweetie" for granted. Can you each treat the other to some favor today? Looking for the opportunity is half of the favor.

Unlocking the Music!

"You seek Jesus of Nazareth, the crucified. He has been raised; he is not here." Mark 16: 1-7

He was a software engineer by profession - but music was his passion. An accomplished pianist, he composed marvelous pieces. He wrote his first song to impress a girl in his class. Moreover, she was impressed. They were 15. They married five years later and have been together 46 years. Then one day he sat down at the piano to play. He started a song, but stopped. How did it go? He couldn't remember. It happened repeatedly. It was the first sign that he had Alzheimer's disease. All those years, he never wrote or recorded any of his songs. Every note and phrase and chord progression were in his head. Soon it would be lost forever. Another piece of this husband and dad would be lost.

One day, his daughter confided to her best friend what was happening to her father. Her friend was an extraordinary musician and pianist: she possessed the rare gift of being able to hear a piece of music once and play it. She offered to work with her friend's father to reconstruct his music. After much prodding, the father agreed. Each time they met, he would play whatever notes he could remember and she would play them back; she would suggest various paths and would begin reconstructing the piece. She immediately understood his music - she found hints of themes, counter

themes, harmonies and rhythms. She found his music beautiful - and worth saving.

For two years, they worked together every other week. With the help of some of her musician friends, they recorded a CD of his music. She also convinced him to compose one last song. With her help, he composed a piece called "Melancholy Flower." The Oregon Repertory Singers included it in their 2016 Christmas concert. For the first time, one of his songs would be performed in public. Despite all that Alzheimer's had taken from him, the music of his soul would live on.

The compassion and dedication of a young musician helps preserve the music locked in the brain of its composer suffering from Alzheimer's. Her work is the work of Easter: to open tombs; to restore life to the lost, the despairing, and the forgotten; to free the dead from the shackles of hopelessness. The empty tomb of Easter morning is God's vindication of his Son's life among us: that no tomb can contain the mercy and hope of God. May we be about the work of Easter: to unlock the music of God's peace in our lives that has for too long been entombed by fear, anger and hurt.



Why Believe in the Resurrection?

If someone challenges you to prove the resurrection of Jesus, here are TEN good answers:

- (1) Jesus himself testified to his Resurrection from the dead (Mark 8:31; Matthew 17:22; Luke 9:22).
- (2) The tomb was empty on Easter Sunday (Luke 24:3). Although the guards claimed (Matthew 28:13) that the disciples of Jesus had stolen the body, every sensible Jew knew that it was impossible for the terrified disciples of Jesus to steal the body of Jesus from a tomb guarded by an armed, 16-member Temple Guard detachment.
- (3) The initial disbelief of Jesus' own disciples in His Resurrection, in spite of His repeated apparitions, serves as a strong proof of His Resurrection. Their initial disbelief explains why the Apostles started preaching the Risen Christ only after receiving the anointing of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost.
- (4) The transformation of Jesus' disciples: Jesus' Resurrection and the anointing of the Holy Spirit transformed men who were hopeless and fearful after the crucifixion (Luke 24:21, John 20:19), into men who now were confident and bold witnesses to the Resurrection (Acts 2:24, 3:15, 4:2).
- (5) Neither the Jews nor the Romans could disprove Jesus' Resurrection by presenting the dead body of Jesus.
- (6) The Apostles and early Christians would not have faced martyrdom if they were not absolutely sure of Jesus' Resurrection.
- (7) The Apostle Paul's conversion from a persecutor of Christians to a zealous preacher of Jesus supports the truth of Jesus' Resurrection (Galatians 1:11-17, Acts 9:1, Acts 9:24-25, Acts 26:15-18).
- (8) The sheer existence of a thriving, empire-conquering early Christian Church, bravely facing and surviving three centuries of persecution, supports the truth of the Resurrection claim.
- (9) The New Testament witnesses do not bear the stamp of dupes or deceivers. The Apostles and the early Christians were absolutely sure about the Resurrection of Jesus.
- (10) If Jesus had not been raised bodily from the dead, Christianity would never have survived as a Messianic movement on a lie!

Cape of Good Hope!

You may remember a geography lesson from elementary school in which you learned that the southernmost point of Africa is a point, which for centuries has experienced tremendous storms. For many years, no one knew what lay beyond that cape, for no ship attempting to round that point had ever returned to tell the tale. Among the ancients, it was known as the "Cape of Storms," and for good reason. But then a Portuguese explorer in the sixteenth century, Vasco De Gama, successfully sailed East around that very point and found beyond the wild raging storms, a great calm sea, and beyond that, the shores of India. The name of that cape was changed from the Cape of Storms to the Cape of Good Hope. Until Jesus Christ rose from the dead, death had been the "cape of storms" on which all hopes of life beyond had been wrecked. No one knew what lay beyond that point until, on Easter morning, Jesus arose. The ancient visions of Isaiah became the victory of Jesus over our last great enemy. Like those sixteenth century explorers, we can see beyond human death to the hope of Heaven and eternal life with the Father. More than that, we dare to believe that we shall experience in our own human lives exactly what the Son of God experienced in His, for the Risen Christ says to us, "Because I live, you shall live also."

This is the heart of our Faith.

He is Risen Indeed!

You probably do not remember the name Nikolai Ivanovich Bukharin. Many years ago, he was one of the most powerful men on earth. A Russian Communist leader, he took part in the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917. He was the editor of the Soviet newspaper Pravda and was a full member of the Politburo. His works on economics and political science are still read today. There is a story told about a journey he took from Moscow to Kiev in 1930 to address a huge assembly of Communists. The subject was atheism. Addressing the crowd, he attacked Christianity, hurling insults and arguments against it. When he had finished, he looked out at the audience. "Are there any questions?" he demanded. Deafening silence filled the auditorium. Then one man stood up, approached the platform and mounted the lectern. After surveying the crowd, he shouted the ancient greeting of the Russian Orthodox Church: "CHRIST IS RISEN!" The crowd stood up and shouted in a thundering voice: "HE IS RISEN INDEED!" Amazed and dejected, Bukharin left the stage in silence. Finally, he had learned the lesson that Faith in Christ's Resurrection was deeply rooted in his Russian Orthodox Communist followers!

Reflect



The Godfather of Fitness!

You may recall years ago when fitness legend Jack LaLanne celebrated his seventieth birthday by towing 70 boats containing 70 people for a mile across Long Beach Harbor. Amazing! But wait.

He did it by holding the rope in his teeth. Why? Well, he was handcuffed and wearing leg shackles! Unbelievable! LaLanne was still going strong in his nineties. However, friends, this "The Godfather of Fitness" died on Jan 24, 2011, proving that this world is not our final destination. It is but a prelude to a grander production. This world is a preparatory school. Without the Resurrection, it is simply impossible to explain a world in which people suffer and die. However, the Resurrection is real. Christ rose from the dead. Christ is still alive and He is available in our world today.

We are to be a Resurrection people. Easter, the feast of the Resurrection, gives us the joyful message that we are a "Resurrection people." This means that we are not supposed to lie buried in the tomb of our sins, evil habits and dangerous addictions. It gives us the Good News that no tomb can hold us down anymore - not the tomb of despair, discouragement or doubt, nor that of death. Instead, we are expected to live a joyful and peaceful life, constantly experiencing the real presence of the Risen Lord in all the events of our lives. "This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad" (Psalm 118:24).



JESUS IS UNIQUE!

E.P. Sanders (Jewish NT scholar, professor at Duke):

"On a spring morning in about the year 30 C.E., three men were executed by the Roman authorities in Judea. Two were 'brigands'... the third was executed as another type of political criminal. He had not robbed, pillaged, murdered, or even stored arms. He was convicted, however, of having claimed to be 'king of the Jews'—a political title. Those who looked on... doubtless thought that... the world would little note what happened that spring morning... it turned out, of course, that the third man, Jesus of Nazareth, would become one of the most important figures in human history." [The Historical Figure of Jesus (Penguin Books, 1995) 1.]

We are to be bearers of the Good News of Resurrection power. Resurrection is Good News, but at the same time, it's sometimes painful because it involves death. Before the power of the Resurrection can take hold in our own lives, we're called to die to sin, to die to self. We may even have to die to our own dreams, so that God can do what He wants to do with our lives. Resurrection is about seeing our world in a new way. Early that Easter morning, Mary did not find what

she was looking for, the dead body of Jesus. But she found something better than she could have imagined: the Risen Jesus. Sometimes, the things we think we want most are not granted to us. What we get instead is an experience of God's new ways of working in the world. That's the power of the Resurrection. When those moments come, we must spread the news--just as Mary did: We have seen the Lord!



One Solitary Life

He was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another village, where He worked in a carpenter shop until He was thirty. Then for three years He was an itinerant preacher. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never had a family or owned a home. He did not go to college. He never visited a big city. He never traveled two hundred miles from the place where he was born. He did none of the things that usually accompany greatness. He had no credentials but Himself.

He was only thirty-three when the tide of public opinion turned against Him. His friends ran away. One of them denied Him. He was turned over to His enemies and went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed to a cross between two thieves.

While He was dying, His executioners gambled for His garments, the only property he had on earth. When He was dead, He was laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend. Nineteen centuries have come and gone, and today He is the central figure of the human race.

All the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever sailed, all the parliaments that ever sat, all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man on this earth as much as that one solitary life. (Some have attributed this to Philips Brooks, the author of "O Little Town of Bethlehem." (Attributed to Philip Brooks, the author of "O Little Town of Bethlehem")

EASTER GIVES US HOPE AND ENCOURAGEMENT

In this world of pain, sorrows and tears, Easter reminds us that life is worth living. It is our belief in the Real Presence of the Risen Jesus in our souls, in His Church, in the Blessed Sacrament and in Heaven that gives meaning to our personal, as well as to our common, prayers. Our trust in the all-pervading presence of the Risen Lord gives us strength to fight against temptations and freedom from unnecessary worries and fears.

The prayer of St. Patrick, the Apostle of Ireland, reads:

"Christ before me, Christ beside me, Christ within me, never to part."

Pray

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



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

Connect

AN INVITATION TO ALL PHOTOGRAPHERS, WRITERS, GRAPHIC DESIGNERS, AND ARTISTS

The Diocese of Metuchen extends an invitation to all photographers, writers, and graphic artists residing within the Diocese of Metuchen to participate in the upcoming showcase celebrating World Communications Day 2024.

This year's theme, inspired by the Holy Father, Pope Francis, revolves around "Artificial Intelligence and Wisdom of the Heart: For a Fully Human Communication." Application deadline is April 30, 2024. Application and submission guidelines are available at www.diometuchen.org/wcdshowcase



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



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

CATHOLIC SCHOOL 2024-2025 TUITION ASSISTANCE ONLINE APPLICATION PROCESS OPEN

Families interested in applying for tuition assistance to attend an eligible Diocese of Metuchen elementary or high school may apply online now through FACTS Grant & Aid Assessment at <https://online.factsmgt.com/aid>. Online applications must be completed (including all required documentation) by no later than **March 31, 2024**. Applications are available in English and Spanish. Families that need assistance completing the online application or need access to a computer to apply should contact their school.

ESCUELA CATÓLICA 2024 -2025 ASISTENCIA DE MATRÍCULA PROCESO DE APLICACIÓN EN LÍNEA ABIERTO

Las familias interesadas en solicitar asistencia con la matrícula para acudir a una escuela primaria o secundaria elegible de la Diócesis de Metuchen, pueden presentar su solicitud en línea ahora a través FACTS Grant & Aid Assessment en la dirección electrónica <https://online.factsmgt.com/aid>. Las solicitudes en línea deben completarse (incluida toda la documentación requerida) antes del **31 de Marzo de 2024**. Las solicitudes están disponibles en inglés y en español.

Las familias que necesiten ayuda para completar la solicitud en línea o necesiten acceso a una computadora para postularse deben comunicarse directamente con su escuela.

DIOCESAN YOUTH DAY

St. Thomas Aquinas High School, Edison April 20th, 2024 Check-In Begins at 10:30am. The day will run from 11am-5pm.

The Diocese of Metuchen's Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry will run our Diocesan Youth Day at St. Thomas Aquinas High School in Edison, NJ on Saturday, April 20th, 2024. Throughout the course of this day, 8th-12th grade teens will come together to enter into the sacrament of the Mass, have fun with one another, hear talks from Chika Anyanwu, have the opportunity for Adoration and Confession, enjoy live music, good food, and more!

To register please visit: <https://www.diometuchen.org/diocesan-youth-day>

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 - Mar 3, 2024	\$13,968.00	\$14,230.50	\$28,198.50	\$36,094.75
Week 37 - Mar. 10, 2024	\$9,463.20	\$24,878.00	\$34,341.20	\$30,521.25
Week 38 - Mar. 17, 2024	\$10,126.00	\$11,864.52	\$21,990.52	\$24,352.25
Week 39 - Mar. 24, 2024			\$0.00	\$20,592.25
Week 40 - Mar. 31, 2024			\$0.00	
			Month-to-date Total	Mar Total Last Yr
			\$84,530.22	\$111,560.50
			Current Year-to-date	Year-to-date as of
			\$2,355,415.43	\$1,052,103.02

Due to publishing schedule for the Easter holiday, updated figures will appear in the April 7, 2024 bulletin.

Stewardship Reflection March 31, 2024 Easter Sunday

*“Think of what is above, not of what is on earth.”-
COLOSSIANS 3:2*

On this day, we thank God for His Son, Jesus, who died, rose and opened the gates of heaven for us. We celebrate and sing “Alleluia.” Let us try to keep the joy of this Easter season in our hearts throughout the year! Pray daily and listen for how God is calling each of us to use our gifts joyfully to fulfill His salvation plan.

Reflexiónese 31 de marzo de 2024 Domingo de Pascua

*“Piense en lo que está en el cielo, no en lo que está en la tierra”. -
Colosenses 3:2*

En este día agradezcamos a Dios por Su Hijo, Jesús, que murió, resucitó y abrió las puertas del cielo para nosotros. Celebremos y cantemos “Aleluya”. ;Tratemos de mantener la alegría de esta temporada de Pascua en nuestros corazones durante todo el año! Ore diariamente y escuche como Dios nos llama a cada uno de nosotros a utilizar con alegría nuestros dones y cumplir Su plan de salvación.



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>.



National Eucharistic Congress

This is a very unique event, to be held in Indianapolis in July. Details and registration for the event can be found at <https://diometuchen.org/nec2024>.



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.

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



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MULTICULTURAL MASS & FAIR

April 20, 2024

St. Francis of Assisi Cathedral, Metuchen

Details to follow

To contact the Office of Multicultural Ministries:

Sr. Miriam Perez, Coordinator for Multicultural Ministries

732-529-7933 or mperez@diometuchen.org

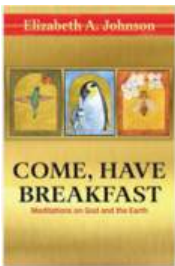


Come, Have Breakfast: Meditations on God and Earth

A Virtual Evening with Elizabeth Johnson, CSJ

Sister of St. Joseph Center for Spirituality, 21 Main Ave., Ocean Grove, NJ 07756

Tuesday, April 23, 2024 • 6:30 - 8:00 PM



In a series of 30 meditations, Elizabeth Johnson's newest book views planet Earth, its beauty and threatened state, in relation to God. Each meditation offers a snapshot of the holy mystery who creates, indwells, redeems, vivifies, and sanctifies the whole world. Together, they offer a panoramic view of the living God who loves the Earth, accompanies all its inhabitants in their living and their dying, and inspires us to care for our uncommon common home. Come join us via zoom for prayer, meditation, and dialogue with Elizabeth Johnson.

Ways to Register and Participate:

- Virtual Participation Donation: \$20

To register for the **Come, Have Breakfast: Meditations on God and Earth**

Zoom please email S. Joannie Cassidy at jlc.cassidy@gmail.com or call (732) 898-9981.

Parish Leadership

Parish Pastoral Council: Co-Chairs: Frank Rees Frees814@gmail.com Marilyn Wegg mcw-wam@comcast.net	Co-Secretaries: Stephen Busono sbusono@gmail.com Bill Isele t33sm@aol.com Al Drabnis Didi Molano	Sheila Tartaglia 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	Cory Panlilio 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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