



THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS
 SUNDAY, MARCH 16, 2025
 Second Sunday of Lent



St. Matthias Parish Office

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

Mass Schedule (in person):

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

St. Matthias School (SMS):

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

For all Parish emails, add @stmatthias.net

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

Anthony Baio, *Maintenance* **abaio**
 Deacon Ron Caimi, *Senior Deacon*
 Maria Cornier, *Parish Secretary* **mcornier**
 Kelly Counts, *Receptionist*, **kcounts**
 Deacon Russell Demkovitz, **rdemkovitz**
 Nathalie Godet, *Website & Bulletin Editor*,
ngodet

Amy Hanna, *Accountant/Databases*, **ahanna**
 Mike Lanyi, *Sacristan*
 Sue Lenczewski, *Youth Coordinator*, **SMYLE**
 Julio Montero, *Maintenance Supervisor*
 Debra Schurko, *Director of Religious Education*,
dschurko

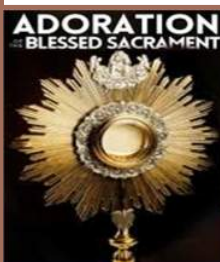
Vinnie Natale, *Bookkeeper*, **vnatale**
 Silvia Nizama, *Housekeeper*
 Deacon John Radvanski, **deaconjohn**
 Joan Best Seamon, *Pastoral Associate for*
Music Ministry, **jseamon**

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



JOIN US FOR
THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
PANCAKE BREAKFAST
TODAY
 from 8:00am - 12:00 noon
 in the cafeteria.

JOIN US NEXT SATURDAY, MARCH 22ND AT 11 AM
 FOR THE MASS OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK



PLEASE COME JOIN THE MANY WHO SPEND
 SOME QUIET TIME WITH THE EUCHARISTIC LORD.
 OUR NEXT ADORATION WILL BE
MARCH 17, 2025 FROM 6 PM TO 8 PM.
 WHEN THE DEACON IS AVAILABLE, WE CONCLUDE
 ADORATION WITH A BENEDICTION.

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, March 16, 2025 **2nd Sunday of Lent**

7:00AM Knights of Columbus Breakfast Cafeteria
 8:00AM Mass Church
 10:00AM Mass Church
 11:00AM RCIA de Porres Room
 12:00PM Mass Church

Monday, March 17, 2025 **St. Patrick, Bishop & Apostle of Ireland**

8:00AM Mass Church
 6:00PM EUCHARISTIC ADORATION Church
 7:00PM Cub Scout Pack 195 Meeting Cafeteria

Tuesday, March 18 2025 **St. Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop & Doctor of Church**

8:00AM Mass Church
 6:30PM SAC Mtg. Martin de Porres Rm
 7:00PM Baptism Preparation Session Virtual

Wednesday, March 19, 2025 **St. Joseph, Spouse of Blessed Virgin Mary**

8:00AM Mass St. Joseph Novena Church
 9:30 AM Holy Spirit Prayer Ministry de Porres Room
 6:45 PM Confirmation 8 #3 John XXIII Church
 7:30PM Folk Group Rehearsal Church

Thursday, March 20 2025 **St. Cuthbert, Bishop**

8:00AM Mass Church
 3:30 PM Children's Choir Grades 3 & Church
 4:00 PM Children's Choir Grades 5-8 Church
 7:30PM Adult Choir Rehearsal Church

Friday, March 21, 2025 **St. Nicholas of Flue, Patron of Switzerland**

8:00AM Mass Church
 6:00PM SMYLE Retreat Cafeteria/Church & St. John XXIII Rm
 6:00PM Pinewood Derby Registration Cafeteria
 6:45PM Boy Scout Troop 154 Cafeteria
 7:00PM Stations of the Cross Church

Saturday, March 22, 2025 **St. Maria Josefa, Nun & Foundress**

11:00AM Mass of the Anointing Church
 3:30PM Reconciliation Church
 5:00PM Sunday Virgil Mass

Sunday, March 23, 2025 **3rd Sunday of Lent**

8:00AM Mass Church
 10:00AM Mass Church
 11:00AM RCIA de Porres Room
 12:00PM Mass Church



Dear Friends,

There are three major feasts that are not part of Lent but they occur almost always in Lent: St. Patrick on March 17 that is tomorrow, St. Joseph on March 19 and The Annunciation on March 25. Do we celebrate these feasts or stick to the austerity of lent? As one writer put it, "Although I know so many people talk about corned beef, Shepherd's pie, bangers and mash, Irish stew as indispensable Irish comfort foods, I have found there are many meatless dishes that are just as Irish and traditional." Similar points of view can be made of celebrating the feast of St. Joseph. Instead of getting into any controversy, it is good for us to know that the Church instruction is one of understanding and accommodation so that we can celebrate these feasts without losing the spirit of Lent. What is more important for us is that these feasts give us an opportunity to learn lessons that will help us live Lent better.

Thanks to the Irish for bringing the legacy of St. Patrick to places they have settled, especially to the USA. The St. Patrick's Day celebration is a wonderful way to connect with the motherland and to unite all the Irish worldwide. But the way it is celebrated only as a cultural festivity equating it with all things Irish and green, is to miss out on the religious and spiritual dimension of the life of this great saint. **Hence, the church invites us to focus on the missionary nature of the life of St. Patrick who converted the Irish population to Catholicism in his 33 years of apostolate there.** He taught the oneness of God from whom all of creation comes forth and that faith in the true God can transform people. He was so convinced of this truth that he was willing to take any risk to share this goodness with others. He boldly discussed faith with everyone he met, and he didn't compromise his convictions even others put intense pressure upon him to change.

Another quality that endeared me to St. Patrick is his sense of extraordinary forgiveness. Remember he was kidnapped from his home at the tender age of 16 and was forced to work as a slave in Ireland. We know from his writings that after six years, he escaped from slavery in Ireland, by walking some 200 miles to a port and persuading a ship captain to take him back home. He not only forgave his captors but also decided to become a priest and a missionary so he could return to Ireland to share the gospel with the very people who hurt him and destroyed his young life. Instead of looking at his tormenters as people to be avoided because they brought such darkness in his life, he saw them as brothers and sisters in Christ who needed to hear the good news of Jesus. What an inspiration for us who need to give forgiveness to those who have hurt or offended us!

This Wednesday, on March 19, we have the solemn Feast of St. Joseph. Being a high ranking feast in the Liturgical calendar of the Church, the Mass celebrated very much like a Sunday Mass with Gloria, and all the readings. The solemnity in the church is certainly followed by the solemnity at the dinner table too! St. Joseph's silence in the gospels is an indication of his interior disposition of openness to listening to God – something we all can benefit from especially in this Lenten season. Every Wednesday we have a short novena prayer for the intercession of St. Joseph. Happy Feast of St. Patrick! Happy Feast of St. Joseph!

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Orapankal

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.

Readings for the Week

Monday Sir 17:20-24 Ps 32:1-2, 5, 6, 7
Mk 10:17-27

Tuesday Sir 35:1-12 Ps 50:5-6, 7-8, 14, 23
Mk 10:28-31

Wednesday Jl 2:12-18 Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13,
14 and 17 2 Cor 5:20-6:2 Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday Dt 30:15-20 Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6
Lk 9:22-25

Friday Is 58:1-9a Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 18-19
Mt 9:14-15

Saturday Is 58:9b-14 Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6
Lk 5:27-32

Sunday Dt 26:4-10 Ps 91:1-2, 10-11, 12-13, 14-
15 Rom 10:8-13 Lk 4:1-13



Mass Intentions for the Week

Sat., March 15	5:00 PM	Dr. Theodore Hiller by Litrakis Family
Sun., March 16	8:00 AM	Emmanuel Latorre by Edna Yumang
	10:00 AM	Intention for Parishioners
	12:00 PM	Stephen Vajtay Sr. by Members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society
Mon., March 17	8:00 AM	Birthday Alma Valdez by Alma Valdez
Tues., March 18	8:00 AM	Roberto Amparo by JAS65
Wed., March 19	8:00 AM	James Rochford by Carole
Thurs., March 20	8:00 AM	Collins & Lynch Families by Collins Family
Fri., March 21	8:00 AM	Health & Blessings for Claude Godet by Nathalie & Ysabel
Sat., March 22	5:00 PM	Helen Bell by Shafranski Family
Sun., March 23	8:00 AM	Aloyzas Liaukus by Nijole Klimik
	10:00 AM	Leonarda Borysewicz by Granddaughter Irene
	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	Andrea Dubuisson	Marilyn Jensen	Joan Mazzacco	Amy Shepp
Beth, Jim & Jay Adams	Derowitsch Family	Jean Alix Jolly	Frank McCann	Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF
Suzanne Adams	Hattie Evans	Marie Claude Jolly	Ann McElwee	Catherine Steele
Sue Alese	Adam Figueriedo	Donna Kahora	Jessica Marie Merrick	Richard Sury
Robert Baker	Margaret Ann Cichon	Patty Kerekes	Gail Miranda	Jacqueline Taylor
Edgar Banaag	Ford	Betsy Kondrat	Catalina Moran	Anita Vance
Carolyn Banghart	Sharon Gadomski	Kim Krikorian	Sarah Braun Morini	Minda Villarica
Ghislaine Baron	Heinley Gaspard	Kathy Langenbacher	Dr. Jean Patrick	Eileen Weber
Samantha Bellouny	Gerard Giordano	Rose Larangeira	Robert Pellegrino	Nancy Whelan
Carmen Bender	Claude Godet	Linda Leone	Robert Pierro	Richard Zagurek
Mary Bostrom	Marie Godet	Henrietta Lesiak	Robert Pietrowiak	Ginette Zamor
Robert Brisson	Fr. Ben Gomez OMI	John Litrakis	Randolff Pinard	Anne Zando
Patricia Burke	Shelly Greene	Mary Lou Litrakis	Valerie Polci	Celia M. Zelinski
Karin Cabezas	Joan Harris	Aries Magali	Kim Price	And for all who are ill, homebound, elderly, in nursing care, or living with chronic illness, we pray.
Ben Campbell	Linda Hartong	Cynthia Magat	Frank Rispoli	
Tara Capatosto	Jeff Hentz	Kenneth & Kelly Magat	Gabriel Rivera	
Rustico Castellano	Sloopy & JP Hoffman	Bobby Manansala	Bob Rotz	
Pierre Celestin	Marilyn Horvath	Susan, King & Tosh	Marisa Ruppel	
Lisa DeFeo	Jerry & Donna Hucul	Manansala	Gloria Santos	
Patrick Dolphin	Nicole Cherill Hynes	Colleen Maniscalco	Maria Schwenzer	
Vivian Dong	Nick Isele	Alexandra Marquez	Felix Sebastian	
Sanora Doyen	Rafael Jara	Christine Matthews	Patricia Shea	

Pray for those who have died...

— “His mercy endures forever.” Chronicles

Maria R. LaRosa

Jim Pettit

Reflect



Smile with Your Family



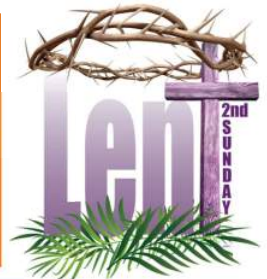
10 things you never hear in church

1. Hey! It's my turn to sit in the front pew!
2. I was so enthralled; I never noticed your sermon went 25 minutes over time.
3. Personally I find witnessing much more enjoyable than golf.
4. I've decided to give our church the \$500 a month I used to send to TV evangelists.
5. I volunteer to be the permanent teacher for the Sunday School Bible class.
6. Forget the denominational minimum salary. Let's pay our pastor so he can live like we do.
7. I love it when we sing hymns I've never heard before!
8. Since we're all here, let's start the service early.
9. Pastor, we'd like to send you to this Bible seminar in the Bahamas
10. Nothing inspires me and strengthens my commitment like our annual stewardship campaign!

The temporary Sunday School teacher was struggling to open a combination lock on the supply cabinet. She had been told the combination, but couldn't remember it. So, she went to the pastor's study and asked for help. The pastor came into the room and began to turn the dial. After the first two numbers, he paused and stared blankly for a moment. Finally, he looked serenely heavenward and his lips moved silently. Then he looked back at the lock, and quickly opened the lock. The teacher was amazed. "I'm so very impressed by your faith, pastor," she said. "It's really nothing," he answered. "The number is on a piece of tape on the ceiling." ☺



Stations of the Cross
Every Friday During Lent
at 7:00 PM in the Church



JUBILEE 2025: PILGRIMS OF HOPE

10 THINGS TO KNOW - #10

Jubilee Year is a call to action:

Pope Francis called for “signs of hope” in the Jubilee Year, including the desire for peace in the world, openness to life and responsible parenthood, and closeness to prisoners, the poor, the sick, the young, the elderly, migrants and people “in difficult situations.” Pope Francis has called on affluent countries to forgive the debts of countries that would never be able to repay them, and address “ecological debt,” which he described as “connected to commercial imbalances with effects on the environment and the disproportionate use of natural resources by certain countries over long periods of time.”

Reflection on our call to action: There are many ways we can respond to this call to action – both as individuals and as a community. One very practical way suggested by Pope Francis is to become a messenger of hope in our very troubled times. His words: “*Signs of hope should be shown to the sick, at home or in hospital. Their sufferings can be allayed by the closeness and affection of those who visit them. Works of mercy are also works of hope that give rise to immense gratitude. Gratitude should likewise be shown to all those healthcare workers who, often in precarious conditions, carry out their mission with constant care and concern for the sick and for those who are most vulnerable. Inclusive attention should also be given to all those in particularly difficult situations, who experience their own weaknesses and limitations, especially those affected by illnesses or disabilities that severely restrict their personal independence and freedom. Care given to them is a hymn to human dignity, a song of hope that calls for the choral participation of society as a whole.*” (#11, the Bull of Indiction for Jubilee by Pope Francis)

TRANSFIGURED BY A SMILE

Who doesn't dread seeing flashing lights in the rearview mirror and hearing a siren signaling you are the one being pulled over? And who does not harbor at least a bit of resentment at the traffic cop who caught you? It's enough to make you call in a complaint. No such complaints have been filed, however, for Deputy Elton Simmons of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. A motorcycle patrolman for the last twenty years, Simmons has made approximately twenty-five thousand traffic stops and not once has a citizen complaint been issued against him.

Steven Hartman of CBS News followed Simmons for a day to find out why. It starts with Simmons style, which is civil but never soft, possessing the "pitch-perfect mix of authority and diplomacy." Hartman told viewers he saw Simmons melt away "a polar ice cap of preconceptions" in a matter of moments with his easygoing manner.

His overall attitude is transformative. *Los Angeles Times* reporter Robert Faturechi wrote that Simmons learned his casual manner from a pastor uncle in Louisiana who told him, "do good, be good, treat people good." "One thing I hate," Simmons said, "is to be looked down on. I can't stand it so I'm not going to look down at you." He actually seems to commiserate with the people he stops. They both know a law has been broken so he tries to make the inevitable as painless as possible.

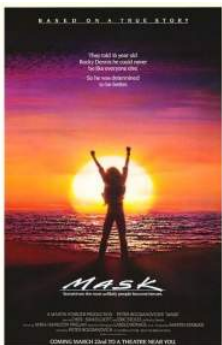
"Just treat people right," Simmons says, "Give a smile." One driver interviewed said he didn't mind the ticket. "You know what it is, it's his smile. He's got a great smile. He's a nice guy. How could you be mad at that guy?" Transformative smiles may be a way of carrying out the Gospel message. No need to erect tents to memorialize the moments—just keep smiling while making stops along the way.

Dr. Constance M. Popp

MOUNTAIN TOP EXPERIENCE

Fred Craddock tells a wonderful story about a young minister, newly graduated from seminary, serving his very first church. He gets a call telling him that a church member, elderly woman who has just given her life to the church, is in the hospital. She's so weak she can't even get up out of bed, and the doctors don't hold much hope for her recovery. Would he go up and visit? Well, of course he will and he does. All the way to the hospital he's thinking about what he will say to this Christian lady, what words of comfort he can give her to prepare her for her eminent death. He arrives at the hospital, goes up to her room for the visit. He sits and talks with her a few minutes, just small talk really, nothing earth shattering. When he makes ready to leave, he asks if she would like him to have prayer with her. She answers, "Yes, of course. That's why I wanted you to come." He then asks politely, "And what exactly would you like me to pray for?" "Why, I want you to pray that God will heal me," she answers in a surprised tone of voice. Haltingly, fumbling over the words, he prays just as she wanted, that God will heal her, even though he's not really sure that can happen. When he says the "Amen" at the end of the prayer, the woman says, "You know, I think it worked! I think I'm healed!" And she gets out of the bed and begins to run up and down the hallway of the hospital, shouting, "Praise God! I'm healed! Praise God! I'm healed!" Meanwhile, the young minister, in a stupor, stumbles to the stairwell, walks down five flights of stairs, makes his way to the parking lot and somehow manages to find his car. As he fumbles to get his keys out of his pocket, he looks Heavenward and says, "Don't You ever do that to me again!" He had a mountain-top moment, but he didn't know what to do with it! Life is like that. Profound moments just fall in our lap and we're not prepared; we are caught off guard and unsure what to do with them. (Johnny Dean, Sermon on Matthew 17:1-9: Reality Check)

SEEING HIM DIFFERENTLY!



A movie called *Mask* is based on the true story of a 16-year-old boy named Rocky Dennis. He has a rare disease that causes his skull and the bones in his face to grow larger than they should. As a result, Rocky's face is terribly misshapen and disfigured. His grotesque appearance causes some people to shy away from him, and others to snicker and laugh at him. Through it all, Rocky never pities himself. Nor does he give way to anger. He feels bad about his appearance, but he accepts it as a part of life. One day Rocky and some of his friends visit an amusement park. They go into a "House of Mirrors" and begin to laugh at how distorted their bodies and faces look. Suddenly Rocky sees something that startles him. One mirror distorts his misshapen face in such a way that it appears normal – even strikingly handsome. For the first time, Rocky's friends see him in a whole new way. They see from the outside what he is on the inside: a truly beautiful person.

Something like this happens to Jesus in today's Gospel. During his Transfiguration, Jesus' disciples saw him in a whole new way. For the first time they saw from the outside what he is on the inside: the glorious, beautiful Son of God. We need "mountain-top experiences" in our lives: We share the mountain-top experience of Peter, James and John when we spend extra time in prayer during Lent. Fasting for one day can help the body to store up spiritual energy. This spiritual energy can help us have thoughts that are far higher and nobler than our usual mundane thinking. The hunger we experience can put us more closely in touch with God and make us more willing to help the hungry. The crosses of our daily lives also can lead us to the glory of transfiguration and resurrection.

DO YOU KNOW THESE ABOUT LENT?

Is Lent actually forty days long? Technically, no. According to the *General Norms*, "Lent runs from Ash Wednesday until the Mass of the Lord's Supper, exclusive" (*General Norms* 28). This means Lent ends at the beginning of the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday. Count it as you will, that's more than forty days. Therefore, the number forty in traditional hymns such as "Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days" is only an approximation.

Are Sundays excluded from Lent? No. The definition of what days are included in Lent is given above, in *General Norms* 28. No exception is made for Sundays. Indeed, the *General Norms* go on to specifically name the Sundays of the period as belonging to the season: "The Sundays of this season are called the First, Second, Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent. The Sixth Sunday, which marks the beginning of Holy Week, is called Passion Sunday (Palm Sunday)" (*General Norms* 30).

Some people customarily allow themselves on Sunday to have things they have voluntarily given up for Lent, but since these forms of self-denial were voluntarily assumed anyway, a person is not under an obligation to practice them on Sunday (or any other specific day of the week).

Why is the season called Lent? *Lent* is the Old English word for *spring*. In almost all other languages, Lent's name is a derivative of the Latin term *quadragesima* or "the forty days."

Why is Lent approximately forty days long?

In the Bible, forty days is a traditional number of discipline, devotion, and preparation. Moses stayed on the mountain of God forty days (Ex. 24:18, 34:28). The spies were in the land forty days (Num. 13:25). Elijah traveled forty days before he reached the cave where he had his vision (1 Kgs. 19:8). Nineveh was given forty days to repent (Jonah 3:4). And, most significantly for our Lenten observance, Jesus spent forty days in wilderness praying and fasting prior to undertaking his ministry (Matt. 4:2). Thus it is fitting for Christians to imitate him with a forty-day period of prayer and fasting to prepare to celebrate the climax of Christ's ministry, Good Friday (the day of the crucifixion) and Easter Sunday (the day of the Resurrection).

MERCY QUOTE FROM POPE FRANCIS:

God's patience has to call forth in us the courage to return to Him, however many mistakes and sins there may be in our life. ... It is there, in the wounds of Jesus, that we are truly secure; there we encounter the boundless love of His heart. Thomas understood this. Saint Bernard goes on to ask: But what can I count on? My own merits? No, "My merit is God's mercy. I am by no means lacking merits as long as He is rich in mercy. If the mercies of the Lord are manifold, I too will abound in merits." This is important: the courage to trust in Jesus' mercy, to trust in His patience, to seek refuge always in the wounds of His love.

VISION OF TRANSFORMATION

There is a mysterious story in II Kings that can help us understand what is happening in the Transfiguration. Israel is at war with Aram, and Elisha, the man of God, is using his prophetic powers to reveal to the Israelites the strategic plans of the Aramean army. At first the King of Aram thinks that one of his officers is playing the spy. But when he learns the truth, he dispatches troops to go and capture Elisha who is residing in Dothan. The Aramean troops move in under cover of darkness and surround the city. In the morning Elisha's servant is the first to discover that they are trapped and he fears for his master's safety. He runs to Elisha and says, "**Oh, my lord, what shall we do?**" The prophet answers "**Don't be afraid. Those who are with us are more than those who are with them.**" But who would believe that when the surrounding mountain-side is covered with advancing enemy troops? So Elisha prays, "**O Lord, open his eyes so he may see.**" Then the Lord opens the servant's eyes, and he looks and sees the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha (2 Kings 6:8-23). This vision was all that Elisha's disciple needed to reassure him. At the end of the story, not only was the prophet of God safe but the invading army was totally humiliated.

The Transfiguration scene described in today's Gospel was intended to have a similar effect on Peter and the other apostles who were really afraid for their master's safety in the context of the growing hatred against and opposition to Jesus.

CINDERELLA THEN AND NOW

We all know the story of Cinderella. Cinderella is a girl who finds herself in horrible circumstances, unloved and abused by the people who should care for her the most. With the help of some friends, Cinderella overcomes all the hurdles and finds her Prince Charming. At the end of the story we see Cinderella living happily ever after. She is on top of the mountain, reveling in the glory of her new and transformed life. Disney made a sequel to their version of this age-old story called, *Dreams Come True*. In this story, Cinderella finds out what it is like to live in the everyday moments of running a castle. She has to be a hostess to all the visitors, acting royal as was expected by the people in her new world. Unfortunately, she could be not be her usual warm and welcoming self and be hostess in the traditional ways. So, she had difficulty living up to everyone's expectations. She could not be herself - she had to act like something different. By the end of the movie, Cinderella discovers that she must be herself to succeed.

We are told that Jesus came down from the mountain of Transfiguration and continued his preaching and healing ministry as if nothing happened on the mountain. Each time we receive one of the Sacraments, we are transformed: For example, Baptism transforms us into sons and daughters of God and heirs of heaven. Confirmation makes us temples of the Holy Spirit and warriors of God. By the Sacrament of Reconciliation, God brings back the sinner to the path of holiness.



A SACRED PRIVILEGE (40 HOUR ADORATION)

During this final year of the Eucharistic Revival we at Saint Matthias have a sacred opportunity to worship and adore the Blessed Sacrament during a 40 Hour Devotion this Lent. The 40 Hour devotion has been observed in the Catholic Church for many years, 40 is a number that is significantly connected with our Lord: the days He fasted, the hours he suffered, the hours He prayed, the days he wandered in the desert!

We have planned our 40 Hour Adoration beginning Sunday, March 30th and ending on Tuesday, April 1st in the main Church.

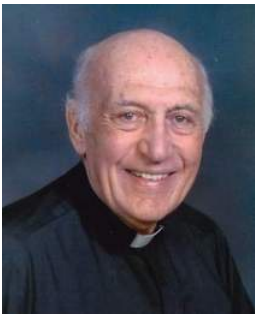
WILL YOU CONSIDER SPENDING ONE HOUR WITH JESUS AS AN Eucharistic Guardian ?

We will have sign-up sheets in the back of the church and also the parish website, you can choose an hour that best suits your schedule, of course we will especially need people who are “night owls”. There will be two people scheduled for each hour, of course parishioners can visit the blessed sacrament also during the day.

This effort will be a special spiritual moment for our parish, we learned during this Eucharistic Revival that “Nothing is more important than Holy Mass and Eucharistic Adoration”

Please consider adding this effort for Jesus as part of your personal Lenten Journey,

God Bless You!



Accompaniment Project update & Memorial Mass for Fr. Leo V. Gariazzo - Saturday, March 29th 1pm

Many thanks to the many respondents to our Accompaniment Survey. A common theme is the importance of being in mutually beneficial relationships with teens who are being mentored by adults sharing a common interest. The Accompaniment Team is now exploring options to create small groups to facilitate these interactions. Stay tuned for more to come! Meanwhile, I suggest we all make time to allow ourselves to be accompanied by Jesus and others, and/or accompany someone during their Lenten journey.

As I personally reflect upon my own special Accompaniment role models in my life, I will also cherish the many ways my dear friend Fr. Leo V. Gariazzo had accompanied me since my teenage years - for the past 47 years. On December 2nd, 2024 he went home to the Lord after almost 60 years of service as a priest. Candidly if it wasn't for Fr. Leo, I wouldn't be here today! He's been a constant spiritual guide, mentor, and dear friend during all the significant high and low moments of my life - from finding a reason to live in high school; to introducing me to my wife, Regina; officiating at our Wedding; to baptizing our three daughters; to family vacations and parties; to vesting me for my Ordination to the Diaconate; to being by my side during some very traumatic life events. Throughout my 26 years as a deacon many parishioners have heard me share stories about Fr. Leo. I firmly believe he's still with me in spirit. I pray every day that somehow, hopefully in at least some small way, I'm reflecting - who he's been in my life - into the many lives I'm blessed to serve as your Deacon.

I'd like to invite you to share in this spirit of Accompaniment by attending a Memorial Mass for Fr. Leo on **Saturday, March 29th at 1pm in the church**, followed by a repast in the School. I want to thank our Pastor, Fr. Abraham, for graciously offering St. Matthias as the host site to gather many of Fr. Leo's family, friends, and former students who also were blessed by Fr. Leo. I thank Joan Best Seamon and the choir members who have offered to enhance our celebration of his life.

I truly believe the memories to be shared that day about this amazing human being will offer you some insights and inspirations about how you too, at any age, can embrace and live a life of Accompaniment. You're also most welcome to attend the repast.

If you choose, please either email DeaconJohn@stmatthias.net, or visit: <https://forms.gle/nD1ypDKMygXtPckf6>

Happy Lent!

Deacon John

Learn



ST. MATTHIAS SCHOOL DRAMA CLUB PRESENTS...

Help support the St. Matthias School Drama Students by purchasing items for the show, then come see them on stage!



BUY TICKETS FOR THE SHOW!
April 10th, 11th, and 12th at 7:00 PM
at Immaculata High School,



For detailed information visit: www.stmatthias.net/marypoppinsjr

Serve



MORNING OF SERVICE

The next Morning of Service will be held on **Saturday, March 22nd**. If you are interested in volunteering that morning, please email **John and Coleen Zdziarski** at jzdzarski@comcast.net. Please note that those under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult. **The sites are:**

1. **Franklin Food Bank** - 224 Churchill Avenue in Somerset - sorting canned goods, etc. Minimum age is 14. Limited to six people (8:00 AM - 12:30 PM).
2. **Pregnancy Aid Center** - 59 Thompson Street in Raritan - sorting children's clothing. Limited to eight people (9:30 AM - 12:00 noon).



CALLED TO PRAY AND WORK TO HELP THOSE IN NEED?

The St Vincent de Paul ministry is intended to immerse its members in a Vincentian spirituality – seeing the face of Christ in those we serve, while being His to those we serve. We aim to help residents of Franklin Township in need, regardless of religious affiliation.

In 2024, we assisted 200 households with housing expenses and utilities. We also have contributed to the Los Angeles SVDP after the devastating wildfires, and we continued supporting a school in Haiti.

We accomplished this due to a parish culture of stewardship. We in the SVDP give of our:

- Time spent in prayer for our benefactors and clients. Time spent interviewing neighbors. Time researching resources to help.
- Talent shared – key to problem-solving and planning to assist our neighbors.
- Treasure – from special collections, regular donations from committed individuals, and the poor boxes.

The economy erased wage increases made over past years. Landlords are intolerant of even a day's delay in rent payments, resulting, in late and legal fees and beginning court-ordered evictions.

Our member numbers have decreased for a variety of reasons. The work is sometimes hard but is extremely rewarding. We ask that you discern whether you are called to pray and work with us in our ministry.

For further information, please visit our website: SVDPatSM.org and www.stmatthias.net/svdp

Bob Cherill, President

WE'RE LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS

Pastoral Council Seeks New Members

The Parish Pastoral Council is currently seeking new members. The Council advises the Pastor on all matters concerning the good health of the parish. Terms are for 3 years. If you are interested, or if you have any questions, please email **Stephen Busono** at sbusono@gmail.com or **Bill Isele** at t33sm@aol.com

Finance Council Seeks New Members

The Parish Finance Council is seeking additional members to join. The main role of the Finance Council is to advise and consult with the Pastor in matters of financial administration. For this reason, we are looking for parishioners who have had experience in the areas of business, finance and accounting. If you are interested in being considered for this ministry, please contact **Kester Hector** at FinanceCouncil@stmatthias.net

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 35 - March 2, 2025	\$15,309.14	\$9,175.50	\$24,484.64	\$28,198.50
Week 36 - March 9, 2025	\$8,613.00	\$27,829.00	\$36,442.00	\$34,341.20
Week 37 - March 16, 2025				\$21,990.52
Week 38 - March 23, 2025				\$23,903.00
Week 39 - March 30, 2025				\$41,055.00
			Month-to-date Total	March Total Last Year
Ash Wednesday - \$3,835.00			\$60,926.64	\$149,488.22
			Current Year-to-date Total	Year-to-date as of March 31, 2024
			\$940,887.55	\$957,433.35

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 March 16, 2025 2nd Sunday of Lent

“I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land as a possession.” - Genesis 15:7

Just as the Lord gave Abraham, Moses, and the Israelites a land to possess, He has also given each of us a home. Whether your home is grand or humble, it is a gift from God. Abraham prepared a great sacrifice to the Lord in gratitude for the home God gave him. How do you show your gratitude to God for the home He has given you? Do you make a sacrifice of any kind? Do you return any of your finances to God, investing in your eternal home just as you invest in your earthly home?

Reflexiónese – 16 de marzo de 2025 Domingo 2º de Cuaresma

“Yo soy el Señor; yo te saqué de Ur de los caldeos para darte esta tierra como herencia.” - Genesis 15:7

Así como el Señor les dio a Abraham, Moisés y los Israelitas una tierra para poseerla, también nos ha dado un hogar. Su casa, sea grande o humilde, es un don de Dios. Abraham preparó un gran sacrificio al Señor para agradecer el hogar que Dios le dio. ¿Cómo le muestra su gratitud a Dios por el hogar que Dios le ha dado? ¿Hace algún tipo de sacrificio? ¿Le da algo de sus finanzas de vuelta a Dios, y así invierte en su hogar eterno tal como invierte en su hogar terrenal?

CATHOLIC SCHOOL 2025-2026 TUITION ASSISTANCE ONLINE APPLICATION PROCESS OPENED January 1st



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.factsmtg.com/aid>. Online applications must be completed (including all required documentation) **by no later than March 31, 2025**. A signed Parish Verification Form is also required by the Diocese, and should be signed by your Pastor, and submitted to the school or schools your children attend. Eligibility requirements, instructions and forms can be found at: www.diometuchen.org/tuition-assistance. 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.

Connecting to Our Local Community



FREE TAX PREPARATION

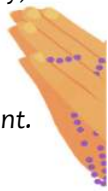
There are AARP Foundation Tax-Aide volunteers providing free tax returns to Somerset County residents.

These volunteers go through intensive training and testing to prepare to be IRS-certified tax preparers. Several of our parishioners have had their taxes prepared by them. If anyone wishes to make use of their assistance, know that their phone lines open **after February 1st**. It is completely free.

For an appointment, call 908-541-5710



The Consolata Missionaries is having a Mass of celebration on the recent canonization of **St. Giuseppe Allamano**, the founder of their Society, on **Saturday, March 22, 2025 at 11AM** at St. Augustine of Canterbury Church, Henderson Road, Kendall Park. Bishop James Checchio will be the principal celebrant. There will be refreshments after the Mass in the Church cafeteria.
ALL ARE WELCOME!



THE IMMACULATA HIGH SCHOOL HALL OF FAME

Thursday, April 10, 2025

6:00-7:00 pm Cocktail Hour
7:00-10:00 pm Awards Dinner

The Palace at Somerset Park
333 Davidson Avenue
Somerset, NJ 08873

For more details visit:

www.immaculatahighschool.org/advancement/hall_of_fame



METUCHEN CURSILLO MOVEMENT

Annual Lenten Encounter with Christ

Saturday, April 5, 2025 - 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Mary, Mother of God Church, 157 S. Triangle Road Hillsborough, NJ

The Mission will continue...

Very Rev. Timothy Christy (St. Francis Cathedral, Metuchen)

Dcn. Sal Bonfiglio, OFS (Mary, Mother of God Church, Hillsborough)

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Parish Leadership

Parish Pastoral Council:

Co-Chairs:

Stephen Busono
sbusono@gmail.com
Bill Isele
t33sm@aol.com

Secretary:

Sheila Tartaglia

Members:

Teresa Yannotta
Joe Percoco
Miles London

Fr. Lancelot McGrath

Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio

Trustees:

Pearl Scott
Marge Richards

Parish Finance Council:

Kester Hector, Chair
FinanceCouncil
[@stmatthias.net](https://www.facebook.com/stmatthias.net)

Carmen Driz-Mellini
Barry Dusault
Joan Pritchard

Mary Pat Burke-Grospin,
Ex-Officio

Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio

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

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

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

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

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



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

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