



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

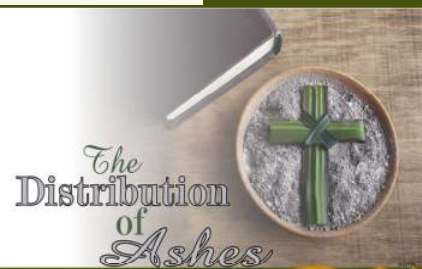
Vinnie Natale, *Bookkeeper*, **vnatale**
Silvia Nizama, *Housekeeper*
Deacon John Radvanski, **deaconjohn**
Joan Best Seamon, *Pastoral Associate for*
Music Ministry, **jseamon**

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

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS
SUNDAY, MARCH 2, 2025
Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

LISTENING
SESSIONS
FOR THE
WHOLE
PARISH
COMMUNITY
WILL BE
HELD ON
MONDAY,
MARCH 3RD
AT **1:00 PM**
AND
MONDAY,
MARCH 10TH
AT **7:00 PM**
IN THE
CHURCH.

**SEE PAGE 2
FOR MORE
DETAILS**

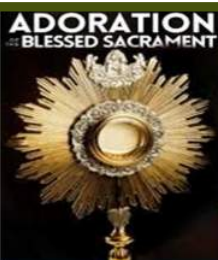


Ash Wednesday Distribution

8:00 AM Mass
12:10 PM Mass
7:30 PM Prayer Service
4:00 PM Drive Thru Ashes

**Volunteers Are Needed for
The Ash Wednesday Drive-Thru
To sign up visit:**

www.stmatthias.net/ashwednesday



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

**OUR NEXT ADORATION WILL BE
MARCH 3, 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 2, 2025

8:00AM	Mass	Church
10:00AM	Mass	Church
11:00AM	RCIA	de Porres Rm & Ruiz Rm
11:00AM	Rosary Altar Meeting	St. John XXII Rm
12:00PM	Mass	Church
1:30PM	GIFT	Church

Monday, March 3, 2025 **St. Katharine Drexel, Founder**

8:00AM	Mass	Church
5:30PM	Cursillo Meeting	de Porres Rm
6:00PM	Eucharistic Adoration	Church

Tuesday, March 4, 2025 **St. Casimir, Patron of Bachelors & Poland**

8:00AM	Mass	Church
--------	------	--------

Wednesday, March 5, 2025 **ASH Wednesday (Lent Begins)**

All day collection for Foodbank

8:00AM	Mass	Ash Distribution	Church
9:00AM	School Mass	Ash Distribution	Church
9:30 AM	Holy Spirit Prayer Ministry		de Porres Rm.
12:10 PM	Mass	Ash Distribution	Church
4:00PM	Drive Thru Ashes		Parking Lot
7:30PM	Prayer Service	Ash Distribution	Church
8:00PM	Folk Group Rehearsal		Church

Thursday, March 6, 2025 **St. Colette Of Corbie, Abbess & Founder**

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

Friday, March 7, 2025 **St. Perpetua & St. Felicity Martyrs**

Early School Dismissal/Faculty Meeting

8:00AM	Mass	Church
8:30AM	1st Friday Holy Hour/Benediction	Church
10:30AM	Mass at Spring Hills	
6:45PM	Boy Scout Troop 154	Cafeteria
7:00PM	Stations of the Cross	Church

Saturday, March 8, 2025 **St. John of God, Religious Founder**

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

Sunday, March 9, 2025

8:00AM	Mass	Church
10:00AM	Mass	Church
11:00AM	RCIA	de Porres Rm & Ruiz Rm
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 Parishioners of St. Matthias Parish,

Father Orapankal has informed you that he will be stepping down as your Pastor this summer. Bishop Checchio is grateful for Father's service here at St. Matthias for more than the past 6 years and also for the support you have given him.

Bishop Checchio and the Priest Personnel Board will now take up the matter of choosing a suitable priest to succeed Father Orapankal. Pastors are appointed by the bishop to lead local parish communities and to provide for their pastoral care. They share in the bishop's ministry of teaching, sanctifying, and governing. With the bishop's mandate, and with the assistance and support of other clergy and the lay faithful, the pastor has full responsibility for shepherding the local church community.

To facilitate this appointment, Bishop Checchio has initiated a consultation process to elicit input from your entire parish community, including the staff, ministry leaders, and all parishioners to determine what the people of St. Matthias hope for in its new Pastor. This consultation process includes meetings with both parish staff and interested parishioners.

The meetings for parishioners will be held on Monday, March 3rd, at 1:00 PM and Monday, March 10th at 7:00 PM in your parish church. These general meetings will be facilitated by Rev. Msgr. John Fell, Vicar for Clergy for the Diocese. They will welcome staff and ministry leaders of your parish community and all parishioners—everyone is invited and encouraged to participate.

During these guided listening sessions, information will be gathered from parishioners that will assist the Bishop and Priest Personnel Board to better understand the parish's current status and needs. Please understand that these sessions are information gathering only and that the data collected from parishioners at these meetings will be one factor among several which the Priest Personnel Board will consider in recommending candidates and the Bishop will consider in ultimately choosing your next pastor. This consultation is not to solicit the names of individual priests, and these will not be discussed.

For any parishioners who might be unable to attend in person, there is also an option to be heard by emailing Msgr. Fell at jfell@diometuchen.org by March 12. If you choose this option, please reflect on the following points:

- the nature and current status of St. Matthias Parish and its ministries, programs, facilities, etc.,
- the qualities you feel would be most needed by the new pastor,
- the most salient features of the parish that the new pastor should be aware of,
- what you are most proud of at your parish, and
- the most pressing needs that you think the new pastor must be able to address in the short term.

All parishioners are asked to join in prayer that the Holy Spirit may guide and illumine this process and are invited and encouraged to participate in person or by email to help the diocese more fully understand the status and needs of the entire St. Matthias Parish Family.

Thank you so much for your kind assistance in this important matter.

Rev. Msgr. John Fell

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 1	5:00 PM	Intention of Parishioners and Courtney Onwuz by Dad, Anthony Onwuz
Sun., March 2	8:00 AM	Anna Ritchick by St. Matthias Rosary Altar Society
	10:00 AM	Helen Bell by Nancy Inzano
	12:00 PM	Birthday Blessings for Menchie Ventura and Don Tibay by Alma Valdez
Mon., March 3	8:00 AM	Nancy Collins by Collins Family
Tues., March 4	8:00 AM	Alexander Mallare by The Capuno Family
Wed., March 5	8:00 AM	Deceased Members of The Natale & Tarantino Families by Vinnie
	12:10 PM	Healing for Ginette & Alix by The Godet Family
Thurs., March 6	8:00 AM	Joseph Dupont by Peggy & Bill Cszazari
Fri., March 7	8:00 AM	Stephen Vajtay Sr. by The Schunk & Rynn Families
Sat., March 8	5:00 PM	Joseph Moran by the Children
Sun., March 9	8:00 AM	Intention for Parishioners
	10:00 AM	Thomas Lewinski by Brian Scott
	12:00 PM	Nancy Gonzalez by Jarek Gawel

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	Derowitsch Family	Marilyn Jensen	Joan Mazzacco	Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF
Beth, Jim & Jay Adams	Hattie Evans	Jean Alix Jolly	Frank McCann	Timothy Siclari
Sue Alese	Adam Figueriedo	Marie Claude Jolly	Ann McElwee	Catherine Steele
Robert Baker	Margaret Ann Cichon	Donna Kahora	Jessica Marie Merrick	Richard Sury
Edgar Banaag	Ford	Patty Kerekes	Gail Miranda	Jacqueline Taylor
Carolyn Banghart	Sharon Gadomski	Betsy Kondrat	Catalina Moran	Anita Vance
Ghislaine Baron	Heinley Gaspard	Kim Krikorian	Sarah Braun Morini	Minda Villarica
Samantha Bellouny	Emma Gergely	Kathy Langenbacher	Robert Pellegrino	Eileen Weber
Carmen Bender	Gerard Giordano	Rose Larangeira	Robert Pierro	Nancy Whelan
Mary Bostrom	Claude Godet	Linda Leone	Robert Pietrowiak	Richard Zagurek
Robert Brisson	Marie Godet	Henrietta Lesiak	Randolff Pinard	Ginette Zamor
Patricia Burke	Fr. Ben Gomez OMI	John Litrakis	Valerie Polci	Anne Zando
Karin Cabezas	Shelly Greene	Mary Lou Litrakis	Kim Price	Celia M. Zelinski
Ben Campbell	Joan Harris	Aries Magali	Frank Rispoli	And for all who are ill, homebound, elderly, in nursing care, or living with chronic illness, we pray.
Tara Capatosto	Linda Hartong	Cynthia Magat	Gabriel Rivera	
Rustico Castellano	Jeff Hentz	Kenneth & Kelly Magat	Bob Rotz	
Pierre Celestin	Sloopy & JP Hoffman	Bobby Manansala	Marisa Ruppel	
Lisa DeFeo	Marilyn Horvath	Susan, King & Tosh Manansala	Gloria Santos	
Patrick Dolphin	Jerry & Donna Hucul	Colleen Maniscalco	Maria Schwenzer	
Vivian Dong	Nicole Cherill Hynes	Alexandra Marquez	Felix Sebastian	
Sanora Doyen	Nick Isele	Christine Matthews	Patricia Shea	
Andrea Dubuisson	Rafael Jara		Amy Shepp	

Pray for those who have died...

— “His mercy endures forever.” Chronicles

Francis Sebastian D’Souza

Reflect



Smile with Your Family



Customer is always right? Read these and you be the judge 😊

The customer's complaint to the refrigerator company: "The new refrigerator I ordered was delivered today but it wasn't pre-cooled. So I sent it back. I didn't spend \$1460 for a warm box. I told your delivery driver that I want my fridge to be cold when it arrives. He looked at me like I'm the bad guy. What happened to the customer is always right?" 😊

One time I had a customer that kept complaining that his milkshake was too thin. We ended up having to put just milk with flavoring and he was happy: "Finally! Why couldn't you make it like this in the first place!" 😊

Customer: do you do lemonade? Me: Do we do...lemonade?

Customer: Yes, I was told you do that here. Me: I'm sorry, this is a graphics and print shop.

Customer: I know that I'm not an idiot. Me: I'm sorry, I didn't mean to

Customer: Look, if you can't lemonade these papers for me, I will go somewhere else.

Me: Do you mean... laminate?

Customer: Yes that's what I was telling you. 😊

I work at a Mexican restaurant. Today a customer got mad at me because we don't have spaghetti on the kids menu. 😊

December, January, & February Baptisms



The Catholic Community of St. Matthias welcomes the following children who were baptized in December, January, & February Baptisms.

We support them with prayers and ask their parents to nurture them so they can grow to be faith-filled people of God and our parish community.

Mateo James Karakowski-Flores

Krystyna Everly Bruno Czuba

Raymond Craig Douglas

Cameron Bialza Joseph

Scarlett Lynn Gregory

Cooper Salvador Hoang



JUBILEE 2025: PILGRIMS OF HOPE

10 THINGS TO KNOW - #8

Major Renovations and Welcoming Environment. During this Jubilee year, expect Rome to sparkle and shine. Many famous sites and artworks in Rome and at the Vatican have been cleaned or restored for the jubilee, much to the chagrin of many tourists in 2024, who found major monuments obscured by fencing, scaffolding and tarps. Many of those projects are completed with a fresh-face reveal for the jubilee. Last October, St. Peter's Basilica revealed its newly restored baldacchino, designed by Gian Lorenzo Bernini in the 1600s, after 10 months of work. Also receiving cleaning or restoration are Michelangelo's Pietà, Bernini's Fountain of the Four Rivers in Piazza Navona, and Bernini's angels on the Ponte Sant'Angelo.

Reflection: The first place to prepare for the Jubilee is in each one's heart. Renovation begins there. Keep your heart clean and tidy. Pope Francis invites us to turn to Scripture for this renovation of the heart: "In our journey towards the Jubilee, let us return to Scripture and realize that it speaks to us in these words: "May we who have taken refuge in him be strongly encouraged to seize the hope set before us. We have this hope, a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters the inner shrine behind the curtain, where Jesus, a forerunner on our behalf, has entered" (Heb 6:18-20). Those words are a forceful encouragement for us never to lose the hope we have been given, to hold fast to that hope and to find in God our refuge and our strength." #25, Spes Non Confundit, Bull of Indiction of the Jubilee Year 6469

Reflect

POWER OF ENCOURAGEMENT

In the late 1800s, a boy was working 14 hours a day in a shop in London, England. After two years of this, he told his mother one day that he would kill himself if he had to go on any longer. After his talk with his mother, the boy wrote to a former teacher, explaining how miserable he felt. The teacher wrote back, praising him as a person and assuring him that he was very gifted. This encouragement changed the boy's life and he went on to become one of England's most gifted authors. His name was H.G. Wells.

Today's gospel is an occasion for us to reflect on how we approach others. Do we rescue them from their misery by affirming and encouraging them? Or do we drive them into a deeper despair by nagging and criticizing? It is a question of how much, after all, we care for them. But this Gospel probes even deeper - into what is really in our hearts. For that is what comes most easily to our lips. Whether we affirm or criticize ultimately depends upon how we perceive ourselves. It is a question then of how much, after all, we care about ourselves. The gospel, then, encourages all of us, assuring us of our giftedness, stating, in no uncertain terms, that we must love ourselves as much as we love others. (Jerome Herauf, Halifax NS, Canada)



LENT IS AT THE DOOR! ARE YOU READY?

If we treat Lent no different than any normal day, Easter will just be just eggs and chocolate bunnies! Lent is a time of preparation, a time to evaluate our priorities. We can do the simple task of getting ashes on Ash Wednesday. But then what? For Lent to rejuvenate us and bring us to true Easter joy we need to consider what our goal is this Lenten season.

Lent is what we make of it, and that needs a plan. Just giving up desserts, can help you lose weight, but unless money saved on the desserts is given to others in need, what is the true value of our effort? What is the point of giving up something unless it results in a benefit?

Giving up TV or Internet may provide more time to clean, take a nap or talk on the phone, but wouldn't the time be better used to pray, meditate, or focus on encouraging a spiritual habit? Its 10am, have I talked to God today? A daily focus to be more in touch with God during the forty days of Lent would result in true joy at Easter. **What do I want out of Lent? What am I doing for Lent? Do I have a plan?**

DID JESUS PROHIBIT US FROM CRITICIZING OTHERS?

We live in a very critical age. Everybody criticizes everybody else, notices everybody else's flaws, but seldom really recognize their own. As an overreaction to this, some people, presuming to try to speak for Jesus, say: "Don't criticize anyone else. We're no better than anyone else. Just live and let live. We've all got our problems. Don't be judgmental of anybody else or their actions." What does Jesus really have to say?

Jesus does not say "Don't criticize anyone else who does something wrong." That would be inconsistent with loving someone else. If someone were a terrible alcoholic and could no longer control his drinking, we wouldn't love that person or be his friend if we didn't try to tell him to do something about his drinking. Jesus says that first, however, we need to take out the plank out of our own eye before we try to take out the speck in another. He who created us knows us so very well. He knows that most of the time, the reason why we start criticizing others, the reason why we start noticing all of their flaws, is because we don't have the guts to look in the mirror to see our own. The reason we criticize others is so that we can make ourselves look good in comparison with their flaws. In the seminary we used to have a saying that when someone came to you and started to complain about someone else or some decision that was made, always ask the question, "so what's wrong inside of you?", because more often than not, the person's critical attitude derived from the fact that the person was not at peace with himself. I recognize this in myself. When I start to become overly critical, the first thing I try to do is to examine my own conscience to see whether everything is right at home. This is what Jesus calls us to. He says first examine yourself, straighten out your problems with me, with yourself and with others first, and then go constructively criticize others, because then you'll see clearly. He wants us to help them take the speck out of their eye, but only after we can see clearly, see with his eyes, his pure sinless vision. If we're ever going to presume to guide anyone toward better behavior, we first have to make sure our eyes are free of any planks that might keep us from seeing and following Christ himself. (Fr. Roger Landry)



DID YOU SIGN UP TO JOIN ONE OF OUR SMALL GROUPS?

For most of history, group life was a given. But in today's fast-paced global society, this culture is very different. Community scholars concur in describing contemporary society as alienated, rootless, lonely, and lacking a sense of belonging. This is heightened because most of us will never get back to the extended family, the parish, and the village of earlier life. That's why there is such a proliferation of support groups in our country for all kinds of causes – a positive development that speaks of the human need to be in community. Sociological studies and scholarly opinions support this. Let me cite just one. Pastoral psychologist Robert Leslie says:

God is not found in objective law, in sterile formulas, in impersonal rules. God is found in participation, in involvement, in celebration. God is found in relationships, in encounters, in the joys and sorrows of human experience, in the give and take of dialogue. In the miracle of relatedness we discover that we are no longer strangers, but members together in a household, bound together in our common loyalty to God.

CURIOUS? WHAT HAPPENS IN SMALL GROUPS?

In many church small groups the participants share their ideas and experiences about their efforts in trying to understand and live the Word of God. They experience an openness to talk about the more important things in their lives - to listen and care, to provide support and strength. Group members experience sufficient freedom to be themselves, without judgment from others. • From such openness and acceptance, including prayer for one another, they experience a powerful kind of bonding or warmth that brings growth and change – a feeling of being rejuvenated.

2025 Lenten Obligations

1. The days of both fast **and** abstinence are Ash Wednesday (March 5) and Good Friday (April 18).
2. The other Fridays of Lent (Mar. 7, 14, 21, 28; April 4, and 11) are days of abstinence.
3. Fasting in the Roman Catholic tradition means to limit oneself to one full meal with two smaller meals, which together do not equal the size of your full meal. The obligation of fasting applies only to Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59.
4. Abstinence in the Roman Catholic tradition means to abstain from eating meat (beef, chicken, pork, turkey, etc.). The obligation of abstinence applies to all Catholics who have reached the age of 14.

JESUS SPEAKS IN APHORISMS

The readings for today are full of aphorisms. An aphorism is an adage, or a tersely phrased statement of the truth. Let's look at two of the aphorisms found in the Gospel of Luke.

"Can a blind man act as a guide to a blind man. Will they not both fall into a ditch?"

People cannot teach until they have learned. This is true in every aspect of life, but particularly in the Church. In the Catholic Church we are blessed with a teaching authority. This authority is often given the Latin word for teacher and called the magisterium. The magisterium consists in the Pope, the Bishops, theologians and consultants. The duty of the magisterium is to set the course for us to relate our faith and morals to the evolving times. We take this for granted because most of us have always been Catholic and have always had the body of our faith presented in a rather neat package. But dogmatic statements didn't just happen. They evolved over many centuries as the Church continues to grow in its understanding of itself.

The magisterium does not just exist among the hierarchy. It also exists in the home among the confirmed. Those who have received the sacrament of confirmation have received the gift of the Holy Spirit to grow in their understanding of the faith. When, as all human beings, we have times of doubt, or times that we have difficulty understanding what we believe or why we believe, we have to go to books and knowledgeable people in the area. We also have to go to our knees and pray to Holy Spirit to help us grow in faith. The blind cannot lead the blind. That is why we have been gifted with the Holy Spirit. That is why we have the magisterium.

The second aphorism of Jesus in today's gospel is: "Why look at the speck in your brother's eye ...? when you miss the plank in your own?" Psychologist might restate this in these terms: we tend to transfer our irritation over our own failings to others. So we decry another person's faults as a way of hiding our own. The Lord was quite a psychologist when he said, "First deal with your own faults." When we go through those negative days when everything other people do irritates us, we have to take a step back and consider what we are doing that upsets others, and, even more, what we are doing that upsets ourselves.



Pray



COME PRAY THE ROSARY WITH US

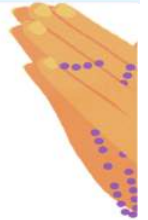
The Rosary Altar Society meets every first Sunday of each month after the 10 am Mass to pray the rosary.

ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN.



SAVE THE DATES

**March 15th for Parish Retreat &
March 22nd for Anointing of the Sick**



Serve



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

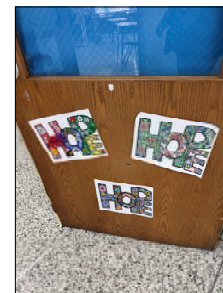
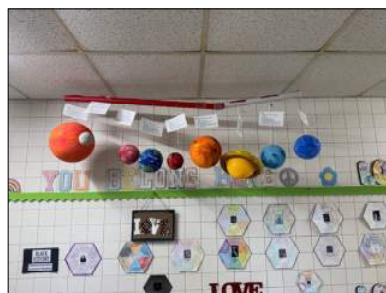
The Parish Finance Council is seeking additional members to join. The main role of the Finance Council is to advise and consult with the Pastor in matters of financial administration. For this reason, we are looking for parishioners who have had experience in the areas of business, finance and accounting.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

Learn



SMS HAPPENINGS!

We have so much happening at the St. Matthias School this time of year. After finishing an incredible Catholic Schools Week, filled with tours, fun events and our Athletic Bowl, we crushed MAP Testing. We also got the news that our Catholic Schools are out performing public schools in New Jersey and across the nation. In the weeks ahead we have our classes preparing for the Read-a-Thon by starting with our door decorating contest! Our 4th and 5th grades are bringing science to life with their solar system projects! Lastly, Mrs. Taylor is gearing up for our spring production of Mary Poppins! We truly have so many incredible things happening daily at St. Matthias!



Connect



7th Annual Art & Restaurant Showcase

SUNDAY, MARCH 9, 2025

1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

DOUBLE TREE HOTEL, SOMERSET, NJ



Empty Bowls - Franklin is back, and our Parish, the Members of the St Vincent de Paul Society at St. Matthias, and individual members of our Parish each have again signed up as sponsors of this worthy cause that serves so many people of the township. Come try delicious dishes from local chefs & restaurants, shop talented artists & potters, all while supporting Franklin Food Bank. The event will be held at the DoubleTree Hotel and Conference Center at 200 Atrium Drive in Somerset on March 9, from 1pm-4 pm. Tickets, sponsorships, and donations can be purchased online by visiting:

<https://franklinfoodbank.org/emptybowls/>

All proceeds benefit the Franklin Food Bank. We hope to see you there!



ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP MEETS ON ZOOM, ON MARCH 12TH AT 2 PM

The Alzheimer's Association and Saint Matthias Catholic Church are co-hosting a monthly Support Group for individuals living with Alzheimer's or Dementia, their care partners, and others dealing with the disease. Our next meeting will be **Wednesday, March 12th, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Zoom.**

To register, call 800-272-3900 and mention the St. Matthias group.

For more information, visit alz.org/NJ.



THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS PANCAKE BREAKFAST

March 16th from 8:00am - 12:00 noon

in the school cafeteria.

Proceeds from the breakfast will benefit the St. Matthias School Tuition Angels.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Give (and Receive!)

Stewardship Totals for Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025				Last Year's Total
	In-Pew/Mail	Parish Giving	Weekly Total	Weekly Total
Week 31 - Feb. 2, 2025	\$11,179.50	\$9,145.50	\$20,325.00	\$23,533.25
Week 32 - Feb. 9, 2025	\$6,480.00	\$27,424.00	\$33,904.00	\$53,109.73
Week 33 - Feb. 16, 2025	\$8,000.00	\$13,992.50	\$21,992.50	\$20,568.93
Week 34 - Feb. 23, 2025	\$8,615.40	\$11,646.50	\$20,261.90	\$22,498.25
			Month-to-date Total	February Total Last Year
			\$96,483.40	\$119,710.16
			Current Year-to-date Total	Year-to-date as of February 29, 2024
			\$879,960.91	\$807,945.13

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 2, 2025 8th Sunday of Ordinary Time

“A good tree does not bear rotten fruit, nor does a rotten tree bear good fruit.” - LUKE 6:43

Are you using your gifts in the way God intended? Have you asked God how He would like you to use them? Do you compare yourself to others and complain about what you don't have instead of being thankful for what you do have? God gives each of us unique gifts and a unique plan. Listen to how God is calling you to use your gifts, to bear good fruit, for the glory of His name.

Reflexiónese – 2 de marzo de 2025 Domingo 8^o del Tiempo Ordinario

“Ningún árbol bueno da frutos malos, ni ningún árbol malo da frutos buenos.” - Lucas 6:43

¿Está utilizando sus dones en la forma que Dios quiere? ¿Le ha preguntado a Dios como quiere que usted los utilice? ¿Se compara a sí mismo a los demás y se queja acerca de lo que no tiene en lugar de agradecer por lo que tiene? Dios nos da un plan y dones únicos a cada uno de nosotros. Escuche como Dios lo llama a utilizar sus dones, para dar buenos frutos para la gloria de Su Nombre.

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.factsmgmt.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 Lenten Journey... Reconciliation to Resurrection

Presenter: Mũmbi Kĩgũtha CPPS

March 8, 2025 • 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Our Lenten Retreat Day will focus on the movement and invitation to reconciling love with self, others and God. Mumbi Kigutha CPPS, will facilitate the day weaving prayer, input, contemplative time and sharing.

Mũmbi was born and raised in Kenya but currently resides in Silver Spring, MD. She has worked with diverse vulnerable populations in various parts of the world, including assignments with various U.N. agencies. She is a dynamic writer, speaker, facilitator and retreat leader. Currently, Mũmbi ministers full-time as President of Friends in Solidarity and offers retreats and days of reflection.

Ways to Register and Participate:

- In-person for the Day Donation—\$35 (includes lunch)
- Virtual via Zoom: Suggested Offering: \$15-\$20
- Overnight Friday and attending the Retreat Saturday—Donation: \$85
- Register now via email **S. Joannie Cassidy** at:

jcassidy@ssjphila.org



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)

Share In: Mass, Stations of the Cross, Keynote Speakers, Adoration Benediction, Confession

Please Register:

<https://annual-lenten-encounter-with-christ.cheddarup.com>

Breakfast Delights, No Admission Fee/Free Will Offering

Make a friend, be a friend, bring a friend to Christ



Parish Leadership

Parish Pastoral Council: Co-Chairs: Stephen Busono sbusono@gmail.com Bill Isele t33sm@aol.com	Secretary: Sheila Tartaglia Members: Teresa Yannotta Joe Percoco Miles London	Fr. Lancelot McGrath Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio Trustees: Pearl Scott Marge Richards	Parish Finance Council: Kester Hector, Chair Finance Council @stmatthias.net Carmen Driz-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.

ARE THESE YOUR SIZE?




MIDDLEBUSH VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT.
21 OLCOTT STREET
FIRE FIGHTERS NEEDED WE WILL TRAIN!



MIDDLEBUSH VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT
To Join Email...station44@middlebushfire.com



Complete Kitchen & Bathroom Remodeling
Porcelain Marble
Granite Countertops
Heated Floors
Backsplashes
Shower Doors
732-514-1500
Lic # 13VH00782600
(Parishioner)

ROOFING • CHIMNEYS • MASONRY • GUTTERS
We Find and Fix Leaks!



\$1100 OFF
ANY NEW ROOF REPLACEMENT

20% OFF
ANY ROOF, CHIMNEY, GUTTER
MASONRY REPAIR & SENIORS

Family Owned & Operated - Lic. #13VH11097900
Bonded & Insured - 20 Years | Serving All of New Jersey

732-520-9554 | WWW.EXPERTCHIMNEYROOFING.COM

Morgan
basement waterproofing

In Our 4th Decade of Quality Service

French Drains • Foundation Repair • Mold Remediation
All Work Guaranteed

732-777-7888
www.morganbasementwaterproofing.com

PROTECTIVE PAVING



**DRIVEWAYS
PARKING LOTS**
FULLY INSURED
FREE ESTIMATES
732-828-4177
SOMERSET, NJ



Mallory's Army Foundation
United Together In The Fight Against Bullying...
Don't Just Teach Kindness... BE KINDNESS!

www.MallorysArmy.com • (973) 440-8657 • info@mallorysarmy.org
It's easy to join our mailing list! Just send your email address by text message:
Text MALLORYSARMY to 22828 to get started. Message and data rates may apply.

ROOFING • CHIMNEY • MASONRY • DECKING
20+ Years in Business

WE FIND & FIX LEAKS



\$1,000 OFF ANY NEW PROJECTS

15% OFF ANY REPAIRS

FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED • LIC.# 13VH12761400
862-222-1016
SERVING ALL OF NEW JERSEY



RE-IMAGINE SENIOR LIVING

An Assisted Living and Memory Care Community in your neighborhood.

SCHEDULE A TOUR TODAY!

732.873.4800
473 Demott Lane
Somerset, NJ 08873
www.springhills.com



catholicmatch®
New Jersey



CatholicMatch.com/dateNJ



Edison Ophthalmology Associates, L.L.C.

732-565-1500
49 VERONICA AVE. SUITE #204
SOMERSET, NJ 08873

**Comprehensive
Cataract/Cornea
Glaucoma/Retina
Soft & Specialty
Contact Lens Fitting**




Roopinder K. Grewal, M.D. Francesca K. Lee, O.D.
www.edisonophthalmology.com

ASK **#WHATS MYNAME**



BEFORE YOU GET IN A RIDE SHARE

In remembrance of *Samantha Josephson*

SAMI STOP | ASK
MATCH | INFORM

Ryan Mahalsky
Church Bulletin Representative
I'm here to help your business be noticed!



rmahalsky@jppc.net
908-392-4240
www.jppcadvertising.com



JOHN PATRICK
publishing company, inc.




Advertise your business in the Church Bulletin

- In print, online and interactive app
- Reaches parish families and visitors each week
- Constant presence keeps a strong link between you and customers
- Well-read publication - a trusted source
- Affordable Advertising - local, targeted to community

Waterstone

WEALTH ADVISORS, LLC

John C. Moynihan, CFP®
Certified Financial Planner™, practitioner
 Somerset, NJ
732.873.0433 • www.wwallc.net
Practical Solutions for Managing Wealth

Steve's
Pizza & Restaurant
 900 Easton Ave. Somerset Village
732-247-0400
\$1.50 Off Large 18" Pie

JOHN'S PAINTING
 Local Resident &
 Diocesan Member
(908) 604-8759
www.johnspaint.com

Quantum Light
 WELLNESS CENTER
 Featuring cutting-edge
 quantum technology
 using light & frequency to
 holistically improve
 healing & wellness
908-328-2112
QuantumLightWellness.com
 Hillsborough, NJ
 Jay Vince-Cruz & Dom Campbell

SOLD
BARROOD
*Selling, Buying or Renting
 Houses - Call us for help!*
 700 EASTON AVE., SOMERSET
732-846-1661
Good people, great service, since 1940
 PARISHIONER

Event Space Rental
 Green Brook NJ 08812
908-532-3141
 Birthday, Baby Shower, Meetings
grandcentraljerseyevents.com

National Public Adjustment
Arnold Espiritu | (732) 850-4142
 Private/Public Insurance Claims Adjuster
Parishioner Owned
 Wind, Rain, Fire, Water, Plumbing,
 Vandalism, Snow, Ice, Mold, etc.

BRIGHT VIEW
POWERWASHING
& PAINTING
 Greg Dente, Owner/Operator
 Somerset & surrounding areas
Friendly & Reliable Services
 Free estimates • Guaranteed work
 We keep our promises • No job too small
POWERWASHING
& SMALL PAINTING WORK
908.812.2061

GLEASON FUNERAL HOME
 AT NEED CARE • PRE-NEED • MONUMENTS
 PARISHIONER OWNED
 William K. Gleason, Mgr., N.J. Lic. No. 4489
 1360 HAMILTON STREET • SOMERSET, NJ
732-545-0700
WWW.GLEASONFUNERALHOME.COM

Kitchen & Bath Remodeling
Dolan *since 1949*
 Plumbing, Heating, Cooling, Electric
732-247-2763
 696 Franklin Blvd., Somerset, NJ 08873
www.jackdolanandsons.com info@jackdolanandsons.com

SENIOR
HOME AIDE
 Trustworthy and
 reliable home aide
 available to assist in
 taking care of your home.
 Call or text
(908) 544-6152
 for details and
 to schedule help.

WE'RE HIRING!
 Substitute Teachers & Support Staff throughout New Jersey
Apply today at SOURCE4TEACHERS.com

BRUNSWICK FURNITURE OUTLET, LLC
 330 Townsend St., New Brunswick, NJ
Rafael Se Habla Español
732-354-4420

April Tarantino
 Broker Associate
 Direct: (732) 735-3511
 apriltarantino@hotmail.com
 www.apriltarantino.com
31 Years Experience - Somerset Specialist

Home Helpers®
 Making Like Easier™
(732) 873-9063
www.HomeHelpersHomeCare.com/Somerset

AJS PAINTING
 TONY SCHINELLA, PARISHIONER
 Friendly, Courteous Service
 Owner Operated, Free Proposals
 Meticulous, Guaranteed Work
 Highest Quality, Affordable Price
 No Job Too Small • Since 2001
732-873-8477

RAIKE'S
Home Improvement LLC
732-249-7113
 Fully Insured Lic. 13VH06498900 www.raikeshomeimprovement.com
We Install & Construct
 • Windows • Finished Basements • Siding
 • Doors • Kitchens • Roofing
 • Decks • Baths • Custom Interior Woodwork
Power Washing
 Homes • Decks • Sidewalks • Driveways • Stoops • Etc.
No Job Too Small! Cabinet Refacing Parishioner

JP
 For Advertising Information Contact
Ryan Mahalsky
908-392-4240
rmahalsky@jppc.net
 JOHN PATRICK
 publishing company, inc.

D'Angiolillo
Chiropractic Center
*Find out more about us
 and how we can help you!*
 Visit Our Website @
www.DrJoeD.com
(732) 873-2222

*Put Your Home
 in My Hands*
KATHLEEN FARAH SPERO
 Realtor®, Broker, SRS, SRES
C 908.331.0859 • O 908.879.4900
 Kathleen.Spero@CBRealty.com
SperoSellsNJ.com
 Owned by a subsidiary of Anywhere Advisors LLC

star22home
 www.star22home.com
 KITCHENS • BATHROOMS
 22 Plainfield Ave.,
 Piscataway, NJ
**Angie's List Award
 Winner 2015-2023**
*Showroom & Design Center
 by Appointment*
**\$10,000 Complete
 Bathroom Remodel.
 Labor /Materials**
5 DAY BATH
 www.my5DB.com
 O: 732-369-6387
 M: 732-343-5450

PROFESSIONAL CENTER
 AT SOMERSET
 11 Clyde Road, Suite 103
 Somerset, NJ 08873
*Serving Our Community
 Since 1985*

FARAH
 LANDSCAPE DESIGN
TURF
MANAGEMENT
 Fertilizer • Weed Control
 Seeding & Grading
908-809-8366
 www.farahlandscapedesign.com

DALTON
QUALITY
PROFESSIONAL SERVICE
Serving Central NJ Since 1986
RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL
SALES/SERVICE
 All Major Credit Cards Accepted
 P. Lic. #12425 • E. Lic. #9526
 NJ Reg #13VH02047500 • HVAC Lic. 1510
ELECTRIC, PLUMBING
HEATING & COOLING
NOW HIRING QUALIFIED TEAM MEMBERS
 1186 LIVINGSTON AVENUE, NORTH BRUNSWICK, NJ
732-247-7390 • www.DaltonElectricCo.com

FIND YOUR NEW BEST FRIEND.
 \$60 adoption fee | animals are spayed/neutered, micro-chipped & up-to-date on shots
Franklin Township Animal Shelter
 475 DeMott Lane, Somerset, NJ 08873
 732.873.2500 x6255 | Tue-Fri 12-3 & Sat 12-6
 Ad sponsored by
 Second Chance For Animals

BOYLAN
Funeral Home
 188 Easton Avenue
 New Brunswick, NJ 08901
732-545-4040

Robert Fox, Manager
 N.J. License No. 4371
www.BoylanFH.com
Family owned and operated since 1958
 10 Wooding Avenue
 Edison, NJ 08817
732-572-0076