



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 30, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Lent



All Are Welcome to
Our First
40 Hour Adoration
That Begins TODAY
March 30th

More details on age 7

This Week @ St. Matthias

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 30, 2025 **4th Sunday of Lent**
 8:00AM Mass Church
 10:00AM Mass Church
 11:00AM RCIA de Porres Rm
 12:00PM Mass Church
 1:00PM **40 Hour Adoration (Day 1/3)** Church

Monday, March 31, 2025 **St. Daniel of Murano, Camaldolese Hermit**
ALL DAY-40 Hour Adoration (Day 2/3)
 8:00AM Mass Church
 6:00PM EUCHARISTIC ADORATION Church
 7:00PM Cub Scout Pack 195 Meeting Cafeteria

Tuesday, April 1, 2025 **St. Hugh, Bishop of Grenoble**
40 Hour Adoration until 7:30AM (Day 3/3)
 8:00AM Mass Church
 7:30PM SVDP Society Mtg. de Porres Rm

Wednesday, April 2, 2025 **St. Francis of Paola, Commemoration**
 8:00AM Mass St. Joseph Novena Church
 9:30 AM Holy Spirit Prayer Ministry de Porres Rm
 7:30PM Folk Group Rehearsal Church

Thursday, April 3, 2025 **St. Richard of Chichester, Bishop of Chichester**
 8:00AM Mass Church
 3:30 PM Children's Choir Grades 3 & 4 Church
 4:00 PM Children's Choir Grades 5-8 Church
 7:00PM Knights of Columbus Mtg. Cafeteria
 7:30PM Adult Choir Rehearsal Church

Friday, April 4, 2025 **St. Isidore of Seville, Bishop & Doctor**
 8:00AM Mass Church
 8:30AM First Friday Holy Hour with Benediction
 6:00PM Father Daughter Dance Cafeteria
 6:45PM Boy Scout Troop 154 St. John XXIII
 7:00PM Stations of the Cross Church

Saturday, April 5, 2025 **St. Vincent Ferrer, Priest**
 10:00AM Care Givers Meeting de Porres Rm
 3:30PM Reconciliation Church
 5:00PM Sunday Virgil Mass Church

Sunday, April 6, 2025 **5th Sunday of Lent**
 8:00AM Mass Church
 10:00AM Mass Church
 11:00AM RCIA de Porres Rm
 11:00 AM First Sunday Rosary Church
 12:00PM Mass Church
 1:00PM GIFT Church/St. John XXIII/Classrooms

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.

A Message From The Pastor

Dear Friends,

Is it right that the austerity of Lent is reduced or lessened halfway through Lent? That is what we are doing on this fourth Sunday of Lent, popularly known as “Laetare” Sunday or “Rejoice” Sunday. It may seem strange that the church has chosen to have a joyful celebration today, half way through this penitential season. But why? The Church wants us to remember that a Christian’s joy of living, as promised by Jesus, is not to be lost even in the midst of penance and austerity. In fact, the entrance antiphon of today’s liturgy, “Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her...” is meant to affirm that there is much to rejoice about, no matter what our situation is.

A similar doubt can arise when we listen to the gospel of today about the way Jesus treated the woman caught in adultery in John 8:1-11. Was Jesus too “soft” on sin? Bible scholars have some interesting take as to why this passage is omitted by many ancient manuscripts of the gospel. This powerful narrative of Jesus and the accused woman is not found in the earliest and best manuscripts of John and appears in other important manuscripts after Lk. 21:38. Still, early Church authors, such as Papias (ca. A.D. 120) and the author of the Syriac “Teaching of the Twelve Apostles” (3rd cent.), knew of such an incident, and Jerome included it in his translation. For these reasons the story is judged canonical by Catholics.

It might have been omitted in some early rigorist traditions because the early Church, in its struggle to maintain strict penitential discipline, perhaps could not deal with the ease with which Jesus forgave the woman. In this episode Jesus seemed too “soft” on sin. Perhaps for this reason, the story was temporarily set aside by the early Church and was only later granted canonical approval. This precisely is the reason why we need to emphasize this forgiving nature of God all the more. During these Lenten Sundays, we have been reflecting on this merciful love and unconditional acceptance of the sinner as the very nature of God. Pope Francis says:

“Jesus’ attitude is striking: we do not hear the words of scorn, we do not hear words of condemnation, but only words of love, of mercy, which are an invitation to conversion. “Neither do I condemn you; go, and do not sin again.” Ah! Brothers and Sisters, God’s face is the face of a merciful father who is always patient. Have you thought about God’s patience, the patience He has with each one of us? That is His mercy. He always has patience, patience with us, He understands us, He waits for us, He does not tire of forgiving us if we are able to return to Him with a contrite heart. “Great is God’s mercy,” says the Psalm.”

We experience this in a very special way in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, or ‘Confession’ – the name that we are more used to. As already announced, Fr. Lance and I have begun to be available for Confession on Saturdays. This will continue for the remainder of Lent and **our parish Penance/Reconciliation Service will be on Monday, April 7, at 6:30 PM.** Both of us have been noticing our parishioners utilizing these opportunities for “housekeeping for the soul” and to feel a sense of inner freedom to experience better relationship with God, self and one another. It is this inner freedom from the Lord that enables us to celebrate Laetare/Rejoice Sunday today, halfway through Lent.

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Orapankal



Readings for the Week

Monday 2 Kgs 5:1-15b Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4 Lk 4:24-30

Tuesday Is 7:10-14; 8:10 Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 11 Heb 10:4-10 Lk 1:26-38

Wednesday Dt 4:1, 5-9 Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20 Mt 5:17-19

Thursday Jer 7:23-28 Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 Lk 11:14-23

Friday Hos 14:2-10 Ps 81:6c-8a, 8bc-9, 10-11ab, 14 and 17 Mk 12:28-34

Saturday Hos 6:1-6 Ps 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab Lk 18:9-14

Sunday Jos 5:9a, 10-12 Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7. 2



Mass Intentions for the Week

Sat., March 29	5:00 PM	Intention for the Parishioners
Sun., March 30	8:00 AM	Birthday Blessings for Gondee Tibay by Alma Valdez
	10:00 AM	Na Hian Nie by Busono Family
	12:00 PM	Bill Frank by Frank Family
Mon., March 31	8:00 AM	Virginia Trovato by Fazio Family
Tues., April 1	8:00 AM	Alejandra Sunga by Flora Sunga
Wed., April 2	8:00 AM	Januario Referente by Menchie Ventura
Thurs., April 3	8:00 AM	Deceased Members of the Gatarz & Kohler Families by Claire Gatarz
Fri., April 4	8:00 AM	Rasathy Edwin by Merci Gabriel
Sat., April 5	8:00 AM	Ruby DeLeon by Meya Corral
Sun., April 6	8:00 AM	Intention for the Parishioners
	10:00 AM	Albert Larangeira by Linda Piscadillo & Family
	12:00 PM	Gary Johnson by Dorothy Zelus

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

Pray for those who have died...

— “His mercy endures forever.” *Chronicles*

Francis (Frank) McCann

Juanita Lasiter

Reflect



Smile with Your Family



A pastor asked, "How many of you are willing to forgive your enemies?" Everyone raised their hand except for one woman who had just celebrated her 100th birthday. "Why aren't you willing to forgive your enemies?" the pastor asked. The woman smiled and said, "I don't have any. I've outlived them all!" 😊

A man complained to his friend, "Whenever my wife and I have an argument, she gets historical." "You mean hysterical?" the friend asked. "No," the man said, "I mean historical—she remembers and reminds me everything I ever did wrong!" 😊

A little boy asked his mom, "When we get to heaven, will God forgive us for everything?" The mother said, "Of course He will." The boy thought for a moment and replied, "Well, He's going to be really busy when we get there!" 😊

A pastor got pulled over for speeding. The officer said, "Pastor, I thought you believed in forgiveness?" The pastor replied, "I do, officer, but I was hoping for mercy this time!" 😊

"To Err is human, to forgive is not our company policy."
- A Corporate Manager

"Always forgive your enemies – nothing annoys them so much."
- Oscar Wilde

"Forgive, O Lord, my little jokes on you And I'll forgive your great big one on me."
- Robert Frost

A good wife always forgives her husband when she's wrong!
-Milton Berle



An Onion's apology: "I'm sorry I made you cry; some of my layers are not very a-peeling"



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

ST. MATTHIAS HOMEBOUND MINISTRY

Sharing # 1: Doreen Panick



Doreen recently brought Holy Communion to Kathy Coury-Maixner, and Chris Maixner, (pictured with Tammy Rivera, the Home Health Aide)

Back in 2004, my mom became too ill to attend mass which broke her heart. I learned about the Homebound Ministry through the bulletin and called the parish office to see if someone could bring Eucharist to her at our home. I will always remember that first visit, my mom cried with the realization that she couldn't attend mass in person and the EM that visited us spent time with her praying and reading the Gospel for that day. That meant the world to my mom and I and I will never forget the kindness shown. My mom passed away in 2006 and I decided to join this special Ministry in her honor. I wanted to make sure that others who cannot attend mass are still able to receive the Eucharist.

I have been an active participant in this Ministry and have visited many parishioners for nearly 20 years and it has been one of the most Spiritually rewarding groups that I have ever participated in. This year for the first time, I visited several homes on Ash Wednesday. They were so happy for my visit, chatting, praying, reading the Gospel and of course, receiving their ashes. One family was so grateful to receive their ashes, they snapped a picture to share with family and friends.

If you are interested in joining this wonderful ministry, please contact:

Doreen Panick, our Coordinator, at dsp999@aol.com.

NEED A CAREGIVER?

If you (or someone you know) are in need of a weekday caregiver, you may call our parishioner for a trustworthy caregiver at 732-207-6395.

THE FIRST STEP

The parable of the prodigal son: "... we must celebrate and rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come to life again Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32

Why would you apologize to the man who murdered your sister? Jeanne Bishop found herself in that position. Twenty-five years ago, David Biro, then a high school student, murdered Jeanne's sister, Nancy, her husband, Richard, and their unborn child, in their home; the teenager later bragged to a friend about the killings, which led to his arrest and conviction. David received a mandatory life sentence - but changes to sentencing procedures mandated by the Supreme Court meant David could be eligible for a resentencing hearing. After a long struggle, Jeanne had forgiven David, said his name, even prayed for him. But Jeanne, a lawyer, had no idea if she could support David's release. "He's still remorseless," Jeanne told a friend. "How do you know that?" he responded. "You don't know that. You've never even spoken to him." Jeanne was stunned. He was right. Jeanne writes in her book **Change of Heart: Justice, Mercy and Making Peace with My Sister's Killer:**

"I had spoken about the murders and forgiveness all over the world . . . I had written articles about forgiving David Biro, given speeches at churches and schools and conferences. But one person I had not told: him. Never once had I communicated my forgiveness to David Biro. I had waited all these years for him to apologize to me. I saw it now with startling clarity: I had to apologize to him, for never telling him that I had forgiven him. I had to go first." And so Jeanne did. In a letter to David Biro, she wrote about how she spoke and wrote publicly about "how I have forgiven you for killing my family members. I never conveyed that forgiveness to you directly; I am sorry for that . . . It was wrong to tell other people and not the most important person of all: you . . . "

David wrote back. Jeanne was so nervous that she asked a friend to read the letter first. "It's good," he said, and read the 15-page letter to Jeanne. "I know that for a long time you and your family have been looking for me to confess to the murders I committed years ago," David began. "Of course, as you know in the past, I have always maintained my 'innocence.' Well, for a lot of reasons which I'll get into in a little bit, I think the time has come for me to drop the charade and finally be honest. You're right, I am guilty of killing your sister Nancy, and her husband Richard. I also want to take this opportunity to express my deepest condolences and apologize to you." They were words that Jeanne never thought she would hear. "It was beyond anything, I could have asked for - and I knew, even as I heard his apology, that it would not have come if I had not gone first. The time I spent waiting for that apology! That was the price I paid for my coldness toward Biro, for holding myself aloof.

I understood for the first time what Jesus was saying to us about apologies: You go first. Don't wait.

Forgiveness and reconciliation are the cutting edge of the Gospel. In the parable of the prodigal son, Jesus holds up the boy's father as a model of such forgiveness. The father runs - runs! - to greet his son and embraces him before the boy can get out one word of his carefully-rehearsed speech; the father welcomes his son home with no recriminations, no conditions, no rancor. The father has never lost hope in his son's return; his love has survived the hurt and anguish of his son's walking out. Despite the hurt his irresponsible son has caused, the father takes the first step in the long road to reconciliation that they - including the older brother - will walk together. Only in breaking down the walls of estrangement we erect, only in healing what divides us, only in crossing the chasms that separate us from one another can we dare to call ourselves disciples of Christ.

STORY FOR TODAY: LOVE TO THE LIMIT

When Heidi Solomon saw Daniel's picture in an adoption magazine, she knew, "This is the one." Five months later, she and husband Rick flew to Romania to adopt a seven-year-old son. The initial love-fest lasted about six months, when Daniel developed a powerful hatred for his adoptive parents, blaming them for leaving him in the horribly utilitarian orphanage for so long. He flew into fits of rage, pounding over a thousand holes in his bedroom walls. When he put a knife to Heidi's throat she decided to stop his education and quit working in order to engage in therapy that demanded spending months by Daniel's side, no farther than three feet apart, recreating the bond that never occurred between mother and child.

Daniel needed to learn Heidi would provide everything for him just as she would for a baby. Diagnosed with attachment disorder, Daniel felt no connection to others. Without empathy, his potential to harm without guilt was great. Heidi's response, broadcast on NPR's This American Life, "You have to love him or else there's no way out of it." Daniel hated the therapy, rejecting it at every turn, but punishment for noncooperation was further holding by Heidi for half-an-hour at a time. Around the third week, Daniel changed. "Before she would tell me not to do this, so then...I would hate her because she told me not to do this. Well, there wasn't a time where I could just go somewhere else and hate her."

After five years of holding therapies, they were surprisingly notified that Daniel would receive an award for being valedictorian of his confirmation class. In an emotional acceptance speech, words catching in his throat, he told his parents he loved them very much for never abandoning him. **Creating love is not for the soft and sentimental. Love is a tough business. Could this have been the message of the prodigal son parable all along?**

Dr. Constance M. Popp

Reflect

"FORGIVE AND BE FORGIVEN"

Some time ago a woman wrote a letter to Ann Landers describing the terrible relationship that once existed between her and her brother. It took the death of their father to get her to forgive him and to treat him as a brother again. Sometime after their reconciliation, her brother had a heart attack and died in her arms. She ends her letter with this moving paragraph. "I am grateful for the years we had together, but I could scream when I think of all the years we missed because we were too bull-headed and short sighted to try to get along. Now he is gone and I am heartsick."

Today's readings are an invitation to review the relationships in our lives and to bring them into line with Jesus' teachings. We need to accept the fact that we are all prodigal children who have squandered our Father's inheritance. There is a spiritual famine even in countries with a booming economy. Because of this spiritual famine, we resemble the younger son who lived with pigs. Examples of this spiritual famine can be seen in drug and alcohol abuse, fraud and theft in the workplace, murders, abortions and violence, premarital sex, marital infidelity and priestly infidelity, as well as in hostility between people. Sometimes this "spiritual famine" exists in our own families. That is why we condemn some of our family members to "survival-level" existence, and even contribute to the death of some of them, by refusing to associate with them. Let us accept the fact that we have been squandering God's abundant blessings not only in our country and in our families, but also in our personal lives.

"HOW CAN I BE LOST IF I'M WITH YOU?"

Grandpa and his granddaughter were out for a walk one day when Grandpa realized they had walked a whole lot farther than their normal walks. He asked his granddaughter, "Do you know where we are?" The girl said, "No!" "Do you know how to get home?" Again, the girl said, "No!" Then Grandpa asked, "If you don't know where you are or how to get home, does that mean you're lost?" The girl said, "No, Grandpa! How can I be lost if I'm with you?"

"NO SIR! I SPECIALIZE IN MISDEMEANORS!"

While working as a court-appointed attorney, Emory Potter was assigned a client who had been accused of criminal trespass. Mr. Potter probed his client with some general questions of background. He asked if he had any previous arrests or convictions. The man ashamedly said, "Yes, sir. I've got quite a few." The thorough attorney then asked, "Any felonies?" The man indignantly replied, "No sir! I specialize in misdemeanors!" (*Readers-Digest*, December 1992, p. 18. Cited in *In Other Words*).

That sounds like many of us. We know in our minds that we are sinners, but we "specialize in misdemeanors not in felonies," in small sins not in large ones. In our minds, ours are excusable sins. We are like the Pharisee who thanked God he wasn't like the tax collector. His sins fell within a range of acceptability.

"WHY NOT FORGIVE HIM, OFFICER?"

The story is told about a soldier during combat. He was drinking heavily and was a constant menace to his comrades. His commanding officer had had him on the carpet several times. But on this occasion he was ready to throw the book at him. Said the colonel to his lieutenant, "I have given him every break." The officer responded, "Sir, you have punished him and it hasn't worked. Why not forgive him?" The colonel accepted the advice. To the soldier he said, "I have punished you many times. Punishment has not worked. This time I am going to forgive you. Your many offences will be removed from your personnel folder." The soldier, who had expected a court martial, broke down and wept. More to the point, he never drank again.

What a comforting result! Today's gospel speaks of the good news of the young prodigal's "coming home" and rediscovery of his father's forgiving and gratuitous love. It is also the story of a loving and forgiving father who celebrates the return of his prodigal son by throwing a big party in his honor, a banquet celebrating the reconciliation of the son with his father, his family, his community and his God. It is really the Parable of the Forgiving Father, the story of Divine love and mercy for us sinners, a love that is almost beyond belief. The common theme of joy resulting from reconciliation with God and other human beings is announced to all of us present in this church – an assembly of sinful people, ready to receive God's forgiveness and His Personal Presence as a forgiving God in the Holy Eucharist.



Pray



COME PRAY THE ROSARY WITH US

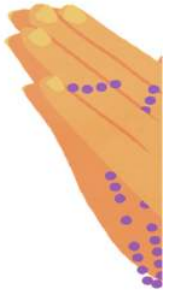
The Rosary Altar Society meets every
first Sunday of each month
after the 10 am Mass to pray the rosary.
ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN.



WHY CHURCH PROMOTES “CONFESSION”

During this Jubilee Year 2025, we will hear a lot about the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Here’s what a blogger has written about this Sacrament so beautifully:

Penance, aka confession, is the sacrament of the forgiveness of sin. You can’t beat it for convenience. It’s available practically whenever. Tell a priest you want to go to confession and you’ll get his attention. One bishop I know was cornered on an airplane. Another passenger figured out what was going on and asked if he could confess too. It must have been an interesting game of musical seats. An interesting question for priests might be: Where was the strangest place you ever administered the sacrament of penance? The answers I’ve gathered include “in a sports bar, at a graduation party” and “on the golf course, walking up the fairway.”



Confession has benefits. Here are ten:

1. Confidentiality guaranteed. There’s nothing like confessing your sins to someone guaranteed not to tell anyone else. Sometimes you need to talk in absolute confidence. Even under subpoena, a priest can’t tell anyone what’s said to him in confession. He can’t even hint at it. Now that’s confidentiality.
2. Housekeeping for the soul. It feels good to be able to start a clean life all over again. Like going into a sparkling living room in your home, it’s nice when clutter is removed – even if it’s your own.

Like to read the rest? Look for it in the next issue of our bulletin

A SACRED PRIVILEGE (40 HOUR ADORATION)



During this final year of the Eucharistic Revival we at St. 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 **TODAY 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, 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!



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

ST. MATTHIAS GOLF OUTING

Friday, May 2nd Rutgers Golf Course

Scan code to register or

www.https://events.golfstatus.com/event/SMS2025



Email
smsgolfclub@gmail.com
with any questions

- Lunch & After Party at Stage House, Somerset
- Foursome \$950 Golf & After Party
- Foursome Golf Only \$550
- Single Golfer \$250 Golf & After Party
- Single Golfer \$150 Golf Only
- After Party Only \$100

Connect



ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP MEETS ON ZOOM, ON APRIL 9TH 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, April 9th, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Zoom.**

To register and receive the link, call 800-272-3900 and mention the St. Matthias group. For more information, visit alz.org/NJ.

A VERY TREEFUL THANK YOU

Thank you to all who helped make this year's Spread The Light campaign a success. With the help of so many, we were able to bring joy to our parish and community, remember our dear loved ones and help our parish financially. The profit from this campaign exceeded \$35,000.

We will mount this campaign again starting with "Christmas in July" and we look forward to seeing continued support from our parishioners. In the meantime, a special thanks goes to the Boy Scouts for removing the poles from the field and, of course, our own Julio for all of the work he did to make this possible.

So, from us to you, THANK YOU,

Pat and Jo-Ann



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	\$8,166.00	\$14,742.50	\$22,908.50	\$21,990.52
Week 38 - March 23, 2025	\$7,169.50	\$12,266.50	\$19,436.00	\$23,903.00
Week 39 - March 30, 2025				\$41,055.00
			Month-to-date Total	March Total Last Year
Ash Wednesday - \$3,835.00			\$103,271.14	\$149,488.22
			Current Year-to-date Total	Year-to-date as of March 31, 2024
			\$983,232.05	\$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 30, 2025 4th Sunday of Lent

“No longer was there manna for the Israelites, who that year ate of the yield of the land of Canaan.” - Joshua 5:12

Over the forty years that the Israelites journeyed through the desert, God provided them with manna to eat. As soon as they were able to enjoy the fruits of the Promised Land the manna ceased. Likewise, God’s blessings to us may change over the years but it is important to trust that God will always provide us with all that we need.

Reflexiónese – 30 de marzo de 2025 Domingo 4° de Cuaresma

“Los hijos de Israel no tuvieron más maná, sino que comieron del producto de la tierra de Canaán.” - Josué 5:12

Durante los cuarenta años que los Israelitas viajaron por el desierto, Dios les proporcionó maná para que se alimentaran. Tan pronto como fueron capaces de disfrutar de los frutos de la Tierra Prometida cesó el maná. De la misma manera las bendiciones que Dios nos ha dado pueden cambiar en el transcurso de los años, pero es importante confiar en que Dios siempre proveerá para todas nuestras necesidades.

LAST CHANCE!

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.factsmgt.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 IMMACULATA HIGH SCHOOL HALL OF FAME

Thursday, April 10, 2025

TWO ST. MATTHIAS ALUMS WILL BE INDUCTED IN MEMORIAM



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



**The Palace at Somerset Park
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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)

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

Please Register:

www.metucursillo.org/

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



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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-Melilli
Barry Dusault
Joan Pritchard

Mary Pat Burke-Grospin,
Ex-Officio

Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio

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

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