



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**

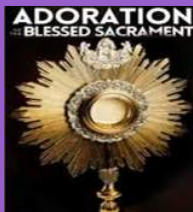
THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS
SUNDAY, MARCH 9, 2025
 First Sunday of Lent

LISTENING
 SESSION
 FOR THE
 WHOLE PARISH
 COMMUNITY
 WILL BE HELD
TOMMOROW,
MONDAY,
MARCH 10TH
AT 7:00 PM
 IN THE
 CHURCH.



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

Join Us for
Our Parish Retreat
HOPE RENEWED:
A LENTEN PATH TO
NEW LIFE
WITH
Sr. Terry Rickard, OP, PhD
Next Saturday,
March 15th at 9AM
ALL ARE WELCOME
 Details on page 7



THERE WILL BE NO ADORATION ON
MARCH 10, 2025
OUR NEXT ADORATION WILL BE
MARCH 17, 2025 FROM 6 PM TO 8 PM.

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 9, 2025

**Daylight Saving Time Starts
 No Baptisms - Lent**

8:00AM	Mass	Church
10:00AM	Mass - Interpreter	Church
11:00AM	RCIA	de Porres Rm & Ruiz Rm
12:00PM	Mass	Church

Monday, March 10, 2025 **Forty Martyrs of Armenia**

8:00AM	Mass	Church
6:00PM	NO EUCHARISTIC ADORATION TODAY	
7:00PM	Cub Scout Pack 195 Meeting	Cafeteria
7:00PM	Listening Session	Church

Tuesday, March 11, 2025 **St. Eulogius of Cordova, Priest and Martyr**

8:00AM	Mass	Church
7:00PM	HSA Spring Meeting	Cafeteria
7:30PM	Handbell Rehearsal	Church

Wednesday, March 12, 2025 **St. Fina, Virgin**

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

Thursday, March 13 2025 **St. Euphrasia of Constantinople, Virgin**

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

Friday, March 14, 2025 **St. Matilda, German Queen**

8:00AM	Mass	Church
5:30PM	Pre-K/Kindergarten Bingo	Cafeteria
6:45PM	Boy Scout Troop 154	Cafeteria
7:00PM	Stations of the Cross	Church

Saturday, March 15, 2025 **St. Louise de Marillac, Co-founder of the 'Daughters of Charity'**

8:30AM	Parish Retreat	Cafeteria
9:30AM	Secular Franciscan Mtg.	de Porres Room
3:30PM	Reconciliation	Church
5:00PM	Sunday Virgil Mass	

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



Dear Friends,

The first Listening session in preparation for transition of leadership of St. Matthias to a new Pastor, according to the Rev. Msgr. John Fell (Vicar for Clergy) and Very Reverend Jonathan Toborowsky (Vicar General), was pretty well attended. The second Listening session is tomorrow (Monday, March 10) at 7 PM in the Church. All are invited.

In the midst of the steps for leadership change, we focus on our Lenten journey we began on Ash Wednesday. **“Giving up” some food item for Lent is something many do.** That is a good and admirable sacrifice that brings us discipline and self-control. While doing that, can we also consider giving up certain unhealthy habits in order bring about better relationship with others?

GIVE UP grumbling! Instead, "In everything give thanks." Constructive criticism is OK, but "moaning, groaning, and complaining" are not Christian disciplines.

GIVE UP 10 to 15 minutes in bed! Instead, use that time in prayer, Bible study and personal devotion.

GIVE UP looking at other people's worst points. Instead concentrate on their best points. We all have faults. It is a lot easier to have people overlook our shortcomings when we overlook theirs first.

GIVE UP your worries and anxieties! Instead, trust God with them. Anxiety is spending emotional energy on something we can do nothing about: like tomorrow! Live today and let God's grace be sufficient.

GIVE UP TV one evening a week! Instead, visit some lonely or sick person. There are those who are isolated by illness or age. Why isolate yourself in front of the "tube?" Give someone a precious gift: your time!

GIVE UP buying anything but essentials for yourself! Instead, give the money to God. The money you would spend on the luxuries could help someone meet basic needs. We are called to be stewards of God's riches, not consumers.

GIVE UP judging by appearances and by the standard of the world! Instead, learn to give up yourself to God. There is only one who has the right to judge, Jesus Christ. ("What to Give up for Lent" by Craig Gates, Jackson, MS)

The Parish Retreat next Saturday 9 AM to 12 PM (March 15) is something that will make Lent special. Our presenter is Sr. Terry Rickard OP, PhD, who is a conference speaker, retreat leader, preacher, and author. She holds a Doctor of Ministry in Preaching from Aquinas Institute of Theology in St. Louis, Missouri. The theme is: “Hope Renewed: A Lenten Path to New Life.” Come and renew your hope in the midst of chaos and suffering in our world. This retreat will explore hope grounded in resurrection faith. Come as you are, but leave feeling refreshed, spiritually uplifted, and ready to continue the Lenten journey from the cross to the resurrection with a heart full of hope.

Let us all make this a meaningful and fruitful Lent!

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

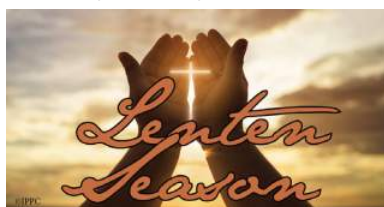
Wednesday Jl 2:12-18 Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14 and 17 2 Cor 5:20-6:2 Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

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 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
Mon., March 10	8:00 AM	Cameron Ray by the Schunk Family
Tues., March 11	8:00 AM	Lilia Arcega by Enriquez Family
Wed., March 12	8:00 AM	Pregnancy Aide Center Volunteers by Fran Johnson
Thurs., March 13	8:00 AM	Mildred Lemanski by Collins Family
Fri., March 14	8:00 AM	Brazil Vidal by Kathleen Referente
Sat., March 15	5:00 PM	Dr. Theodore Hiller by Littrakis 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

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	Rafael Jara	Christine Matthews	Amy Shepp
Beth, Jim & Jay Adams	Derowitsch Family	Marilyn Jensen	Joan Mazzacco	Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF
Suzanne 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 Littrakis	Valerie Polci	Anne Zando
Karin Cabezas	Shelly Greene	Mary Lou Littrakis	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		Patricia Shea	

Pray for those who have died...

— “His mercy endures forever.” Chronicles

Maria R. LaRosa

Jim Pettit

Reflect



Smile with Your Family



Getting Ready for Lent?

If you can start the day without caffeine or pills,

If you can understand when loved ones are too busy to give you time,

If you can take criticism and blame without resentment,

If you can face the world without lies and deceit, If you can relax without liquor,

If you can sleep without the aid of drugs ... If you can do all these things, then you are probably the family dog 😊

Meaning of Dust?

A little boy came home from Ash Wednesday Service and went into his room to change his clothes. When he emerged he asked his mother, "Is it true we come from dust?" "Yes dear," replied mother. "Is it true that when we die we go back to the dust?" "Yes dear, that's right." The little boy ran into his room and came out all excited, "Mom, I just looked under my bed and there's someone either coming or going!" 😊

Opportunity only knocks once, but temptation leans on the doorbell. 😊

Last Sunday I found a wallet packed with money down by the church." Did you give it back?"

"Not yet. I'm still trying to decide if it's a temptation from the devil or the answer to a prayer." 😊



JUBILEE 2025: PILGRIMS OF HOPE

10 THINGS TO KNOW - #9

Jubilee Year Calendar for our Diocese of Metuchen:

If you click at this link: <https://diometuchen.org/jubilee-2025> that will take you to our diocesan website, you will find a monthly list of events that will be happening both in Rome and in our own Diocese of Metuchen. I wish to point out two important events from that calendar.

One is taking place this weekend in Rome: The Jubilee of the World of Volunteering. What this is that Volunteers from all associations, members of non-profit organizations, NGO workers and social workers are especially invited to celebrate the ministry of volunteering. In our Catholic parishes, Volunteering has allowed the lay faithful to step forward into the universal call to holiness in service to the Church and society.

The other one took place in Rome very recently on February 21-23: Jubilee of Deacons. This was a global celebration held in Rome, recognizing the vital role of deacons in the Catholic Church. 4,000 Deacons, together with 2,000 others (wives and family members), gathered in Rome for a Jubilee pilgrimage from over a hundred countries, including the United States, France, Brazil, India, Cameroon and Australia. During the celebrations at the Vatican, 23 men from eight countries, including three from the United States, were ordained deacons in St. Peter's Basilica. Since Pope Francis was in hospital, Archbishop Rino Fisichella, pro-prefect of the Dicastery for Evangelization, celebrated the Mass with 2,500 deacons and delivered the homily prepared by Pope Francis.

Reflection on the Diaconate: The insights of the Pope to the Deacons are addressed not only to the Deacons but to all of us. Diakonia means service. In his homily, Pope Francis reflected on three essential dimensions of the diaconate: forgiveness, service and communion. "Forgiveness means preparing a welcoming and safe future for us and our communities," the pope wrote. "The deacon, invested in a ministry that leads him toward the world's peripheries, must see -- and teach others to see -- in everyone, even those who cause suffering, a brother or sister wounded in spirit and in need of reconciliation, guidance and help." He asked that deacons make selfless service "an essential dimension of your very being" and encouraged them to serve with humility, quoting the Gospel of Luke: "Do good and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your greatest liturgy will be charity, and your most humble service will be your greatest act of worship."

FASTING WISDOM

The devil said to Jesus, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread." Jesus answered him, "It is written, One does not live on bread alone." Luke 4: 1-13

Giving up something for Lent is an admirable notion, a practice from our childhood that may have lost something of its hold on many of us now that we are overextended and under-appreciated adults. But Mallory McDuff, a mom and a college professor, has rediscovered grace in the practice of self-denial. She writes in The Huffington Post [April 1, 2014]:

"As a Christian, I give up something for Lent because Jesus went into the wilderness to fast for forty days. I yearn to be part of something larger than myself, to sacrifice something small, recognizing that our world needs less consumption and more contemplation. "As a mother, I give up something for Lent because I want my daughters to know that I can survive six weeks without drinking a beer after work. And I want to remind myself that I can. "As a teacher, I give up something for Lent because I am weary of the dopamine hits from checking e-mail and Facebook and the headlines, as if I'm checking the pulse of a patient. For six weeks, I need to practice a pause. As a child of God, I give up something for Lent because I have experienced losses: a mother, a father, an unborn child, a marriage. "As a person of hope, I give up something for Lent because I want to prepare for a celebration."

Fasting is more than just about self-denial: it's about refocusing on what and who are most important in our lives; it's about re-claiming what we want our lives to be as we begin new chapters; it's about making time and space to "turn around" - the meaning of the word conversion - in order to find our way out of our winters of cynicism, our deserts of self-absorption, our wildernesses of despair and hopelessness. May this Lent be a time for discovering the sense of communion with God that we can experience through fasting - not only fasting from food, but fasting from media that is candy for the mind in order to experience words and images that nourish the soul; fasting from shopping for some new trinket in order to share our treasure with those for whom simple everyday survival is a constant struggle; fasting from an over-scheduled calendar in order to reconnect with family and friends; fasting from anger, impatience and our need to be in control in order to recognize our humbleness before God; fasting from whatever deters us from being centered fully in the great love of God that is especially present to us in this Lenten springtime.

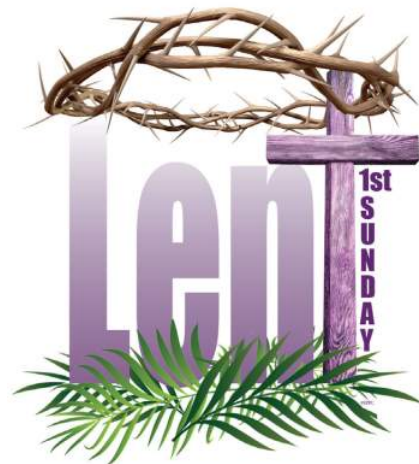
STORY FOR TODAY: DESERT TEMPTATIONS

Dakota Meyer didn't think he deserved the Medal of Honor. In spite of heroic actions measured by any standard, Meyer felt the medal memorialized the worst day of his life. He recounts the events of the battle of Ganjgal, Afghanistan in his book *Into the Fire: A Firsthand Account of the Most Extraordinary Battle in the Afghan War*.

Hearing that fellow US Marines were pinned down, Meyer took it upon himself to blast into battle in an armored vehicle, and on foot, five times, finally locating the four lost soldiers, all dead and stripped of their gear. Having taken to heart the mandate to "leave no man behind" he and a fellow soldier retrieved the dead men. One year after the September 8, 2009 battle, Meyer attempted suicide, finding his struggles to lead a "normal" life unbearable. Grabbing a Glock gun from the glove compartment of his truck, he shot, but the gun did not fire. Someone had removed the bullets; he still does not know who. At this, the lowest point of his life, Meyer sought treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Receiving the Medal of Honor on September 15, 2011, nearly two years after the battle, Meyer is the first living US Marine in thirty-eight years to receive the honor. His temptation to be thrilled with the medal is to pretend that he acted totally on his own or that mistakes were not made.

The temptations of Jesus have never disappeared and are indicative of temptations faced by many. For Dakota Meyer, his temptations occurred in the desert as well, first the Afghanistan desert and then the desert of his own mental suffering. Meyer believes one thing that brought him to attempt suicide was his aloneness. He retreated from society. Instead of talking to others he kept everything inside. Desert temptations abound and, although often faced alone, the help of One who also faced temptations is consistently present and ready to be found.



Reflect

FROM EVE TO BUDDHA & DR. FAUSTUS

*In the Garden of Eden, Satan tempted Eve to eat the fruit of the forbidden tree to become like God. The devil (Mara) came to the Buddha as he sat in contemplation under the Bodhi tree, tempting him to renounce the spiritual enrichment he sought by bombarding his mind with sensual pleasures of this world. Literature and films abound with stories of people who have sold their souls to Satan for temporary earthly pleasures. The classical example is Faustus, treated by Christopher Marlowe in *The Tragic History of Dr. Faustus* (1588) and Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe in *Faust* (Published: Part One, 1808, Part 2, 1833).*

Today's Gospel passage describes Jesus' temptations.

What are the offensive and the defensive techniques Jesus employed in his victory over Satan? The temptations to turn stones into bread, to worship Satan and to leap from the pinnacle of the Temple demonstrate three aspects of self-control: material, civil and spiritual. Likewise, they correspond with three levels of human blessings: 1) material goods, 2) political power and 3) spiritual powers. These, in turn, correspond to three human seductions: 1) If you will worship me, I will make you rich; 2) If you will worship me, I will give you political power; 3) If you will worship me, I will endow you with magical power. Jesus dismisses the temptations by references to Deuteronomy. "One does not live by bread alone" (8:3); "Worship the Lord your God" (6:13), and "Do not put the Lord your God to the test" (6:16). **Jesus used two powerful weapons against the temptations: the Holy Spirit and Holy Scripture.** First, Jesus was "full of the Holy Spirit," and the Spirit helped him to survive his temptations (Lk 4:1, 4:14, 4:18). Second, Jesus quoted Holy Scripture in response to all three temptations.



SPIRITUAL TRAINING CAMP FOR LENT

Jesus prepared himself for his ministry by a period of fasting, praying, and strengthening himself against temptation. How will we use the time of Lent for our spiritual training camp? Lent is a time to practice the use of God's word as our defensive weapon against temptation. What spiritual training plans will we put into practice during Lent? Prayer, fasting and almsgiving are traditional. **Today's passage from the Gospel might suggest that we spend a few minutes each day in reading Scripture. Are we trying to live by "bread alone?" We might write a plan for each week of Lent. Here are some suggestions to get us started:**

First Week I will . . . spend some time reading the Gospels or the Psalms.

Second Week I will . . . fast from foods, unhealthy for body and soul.

Third Week I will . . . volunteer at a soup kitchen, thrift shop, or day care center.

Fourth Week I will . . . learn a few lines of Scripture by heart.

Fifth Week I will . . . give clothes, money, or possessions to the poor.

Sixth Week I will . . . participate in Holy Week liturgies.

"ALWAYS LOOK UP TO THE MASTER'S FACE"

Leslie Dunkin once told about a dog he had when he was a boy. This was an unusually obedient dog. Periodically his father would test the dog's obedience. He would place a tempting piece of meat on the floor. Then he would turn toward the dog and give the command, "No!" The dog, which must have had a strong urge to go for the meat, was placed in a most difficult situation to obey or disobey his master's command. Dunkin said, "The dog never looked at the meat. He seemed to feel that if he did, the temptation to disobey would be too great. So he looked steadily at my father's face." Dunkin then made this spiritual application: "There is a lesson for us all. Always look up to the Master's face."

Bible scholars interpret the graphic temptations of Jesus described by Matthew and Luke as a pictorial and dramatic representation of the inner struggle against a temptation that Jesus experienced throughout his public life. The devil was not trying to lure Jesus into some particular sin -- rather, he was trying to entice Jesus away from the accomplishment of his mission, mainly through a temptation to become the political Messiah of Jewish expectations and to use his Divine power to avoid suffering and death. The opposition, hostility and rejection which Jesus experienced were constant temptations for him to use His power as God's Son to overcome evil. The temptation story depicts Jesus as obedient to his Father's will, refusing to be seduced into using his Divine power or authority wrongly. Each of the three temptations, according to the Fathers of the Church, represents an area in which humans regularly fail: the lust of the flesh (stones to bread), the lust of the eye and the heart (ruling over all kingdoms), and the pride of life (a spectacular leap from the Temple). Note that Jesus overcame these temptations through the knowledge of his identity, his purpose, and God's plan for human salvation. As the hymn puts it, "Turn your eyes upon Jesus, / look full in his wonderful face; / then the things of earth will grow / strangely dim in the light of his glory and grace."

JOIN US ON MARCH 22ND AT 11 AM
FOR THE MASS OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK



ST. MATTHIAS PARISH RETREAT

March 15, 2025 - 8:30 am - Noon, in the School Cafeteria

HOPE RENEWED: A LENTEN PATH TO NEW LIFE

Sr. Terry Rickard, OP, PhD

Come and renew your hope in the midst of chaos and suffering in our world. This retreat will explore hope grounded in resurrection faith. Come as you are, but leave feeling refreshed, spiritually uplifted, and ready to continue the Lenten journey from the cross to the resurrection with a heart full of hope.

Sr. Terry currently serves on the Leadership Team of her Religious Congregation, the Dominican Sisters of Blauvelt, New York. She is the former President of RENEW International, an organization committed to parish renewal, where she served for almost twenty years. Sr. Terry is a conference speaker, retreat leader, preacher, and author. She holds a Doctor of Ministry degree in Preaching from Aquinas Institute of Theology in St. Louis, Missouri.

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!

Connect



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

Next Sunday, 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!



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

668

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				\$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
			\$24,484.64	\$149,488.22
			Current Year-to-date	Year-to-date as of March 31, 2024
			\$904,445.55	\$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 9, 2025 1st Sunday of Lent

“I have now brought you the first fruits of the products of the soil which you, O Lord, have given to me.”

- Deuteronomy 26:10

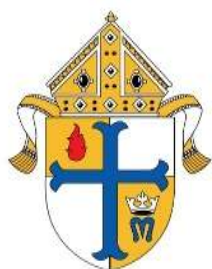
This line from the Old Testament offers two challenges. First, do you give to God from your “first fruits” - the first and best that you have to offer? Or do you give from what you have leftover? Second, do you realize that everything you have and that everything you are has been given to you by God? We aren’t owners of anything, we are merely stewards of God’s gifts. Pray for a grateful and generous heart, every day, in all circumstances.

Reflexiónese – 9 de marzo de 2025 Domingo 10 de Cuaresma

“Por eso traigo ahora los primeros frutos de la tierra que el Señor me ha dado.” - Deuteronomio 26:10

Esta línea del Antiguo Testamento nos ofrece dos desafíos. El primero, ¿le da a Dios sus “primeros frutos” - los primeros y mejores que usted tiene que ofrecerle? ¿O le da lo que le sobra? El segundo, ¿se da cuenta que todo lo que tiene y todo lo que ha recibido viene de Dios? No somos dueños de nada, somos simples administradores de los dones de Dios. Ore por un corazón agradecido y generoso, cada día, en cualquier circunstancia.

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

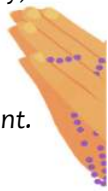
There are AARP Foundation Tax-Aide volunteers providing free tax returns to Somerset County residents.

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



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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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www.metkursillo.org/

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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 Carmen Driz-Mellini Barry Dusault Joan Pritchard	Mary Pat Burke-Grospin, Ex-Officio Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio
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About St. Matthias (please contact the staff members on the cover for up-to-date information)

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

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

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

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



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



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