



#### 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](http://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](https://youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ)

#### St. Matthias School (SMS):

170 JFK Blvd., Somerset, NJ 08873  
[www.stmatthias.info](http://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**, **mlanyi**  
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**

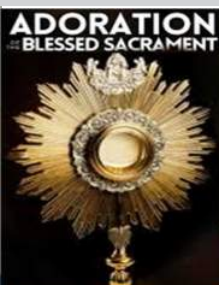
THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS  
SUNDAY, MAY 11, 2025  
4th Sunday of Easter

## GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY AND WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS



*Happy*  
MOTHER'S *Day*

*The loveliest masterpiece of the heart of God  
is the heart of a mother. ~ St. Therese of Lisieux*



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

**OUR NEXT ADORATION WILL BE  
MAY 12, 2025 FROM 6 PM TO 8 PM.**

**WHEN THE DEACON IS AVAILABLE, WE CONCLUDE  
ADORATION WITH A BENEDICTION.**

## This Week @ St. Matthias

## A Message From The Pastor

**Masses** are also livestreamed on our YouTube channel: [youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ](https://youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ)

The Church is open for individual prayer

Mon-Fri: 7:00 am to 7:00 pm, Sat: 9 am to 6pm, and Sun: 7:30 am to 1 pm, unless another service is taking place.

### May is the Month of Mary

**Sunday, May 11, 2025** **4th Sunday of Easter**  
**MOTHER'S DAY**

#### WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

8:00AM	Mass	Church
10:00am	Mass (Interpreter)	Church
12:00PM	Mass	Church

**Monday, May 12, 2025** **St. Nereus, Achilleus and St. Pancras, Martyrs**

8:00AM	Mass	Church
<b>INTERNATIONAL NURSES DAY</b>		
6:00PM	Eucharistic Adoration	Church
7:00PM	Cub Scout Pack 195 Mtg.	Cafeteria

**Tuesday, May 13, 2025** **Our Lady of Fatima**

8:00AM	Mass	Church
5:30PM	Celebration of the Arts	Church
7:30PM	Handbell Rehearsal	Church

**Wednesday, May 14, 2025**  
**FEAST OF ST. MATTHIAS**

8:00AM	Mass, St. Joseph Novena	Church
9:00pm	Feast of St. Matthias School Mass	Church
9:30 AM	Holy Spirit Prayer Ministry	de Porres Rm
6:30PM	Search Committee Mtg.	de Porres Rm
7:30PM	Folk Group Rehearsal	Church

**Thursday, May 15, 2025** **St. Isidore, The Farmer**  
**SCHOOL MINI CARNIVAL**

8:00AM	Mass	Church
1:00PM	Prayer Shawl	de Porres Rm
7:30PM	Adult Choir Rehearsal	Church

**Friday, May 16, 2025** **St. Simon Stock, Hermit**

8:00AM	Mass	Church
6:45PM	Boy Scout Troop 154 Mtg.	Cafeteria
7:30PM	Student Council Movie Night	Parking Lot

**Saturday, May 17, 2025** **St. Pascual, Franciscan, Religious Brother**

9:30AM	Secular Franciscan Mtg.	de Porres Rm
11:30AM	First Holy Communion	Church
3:30PM	Reconciliation	Church
5:00PM	Sunday Vigil Mass	Church

**Sunday, May 18, 2025** **5th Sunday of Easter**  
**DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE COLLECTION**

8:00am	Mass	Church
10:00AM	Mass	Church
11:00AM	OCIA	de Porres Rm
12:00PM	Mass	Church
1:30PM	Baptisms	Church

### BULLETIN ARTICLE REQUESTS:

If you would like to send information to be included in our bulletin, please email it to [bulletin@stmatthias.net](mailto:bulletin@stmatthias.net) by **9 AM, MONDAY, 5 business days before the needed bulletin date** (earlier for holiday weekends). Approved content is published on a space-available basis.

Dear Friends,

### Today is Happy Mother's Day! And the World Day of prayer for Vocations!

These two occasions converging this year on the fourth Sunday of Easter has a special significance. Today's gospel is about Jesus the good shepherd and so today is known as Good Shepherd Sunday. Every year on this fourth Sunday of Easter, the gospel gives insight into Jesus Christ our Good Shepherd who said about his sheep: *"I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish. No one can take them out of my hand.."* (John 10:27-28).

**How appropriate that the shepherding qualities are lived by the mothers.** A shepherding mother guides, nurtures, and protects her children, providing love, support, and wise counsel. She is a source of strength and guidance, helping them navigate life's challenges to grow in maturity. Shepherding mothers offer encouragement and counsel, and love them unconditionally. We have so many such mothers and grandmothers in our lives and in our community. We salute them today for their vocation to motherhood. We want them to know how much we appreciate their selfless dedication to nurturing their children - young and not so young. We cannot forget many other women who may not have children of their own and yet do a lot of shepherding: mothers who have adopted, step-mothers, teachers, counselors, catechists, godmothers, etc. We remember all of them and ask for God's continued blessings upon them. We also pray this day for those who struggled to be a mother, those who because of circumstances could not be mother, and for those who have experienced miscarriages, stillbirths, crib deaths, or death of a child because of illness, accident, or violence.

**Today the church all over the world prays for vocations.** As Catholics, we firmly believe that God has a plan for our lives! He calls some to marriage, some to the priesthood, and others to religious life or to live as generous single people. In one of the homilies by St. John Paul II said: *"Jesus has a specific task in life for each and every one of us. Each one of us is hand-picked, called by name by Jesus! There is no one among us who does not have a divine vocation! Some are called audibly by God, but the usual kind of call is internal, through the inner working of the Spirit."* Fully living our own vocations—and teaching young people how to discern God's call—is a serious duty, but also a joyful one. During this week, please encourage the young people in your life—children, grandchildren, students, and friends—to be open if God calls them to priesthood or religious life.

**The feast of St. Matthias, our Parish Patron, is on May 14.** Though it falls on a weekday, we need to be reminded of the importance of this saint who was chosen to replace Judas. Even a week ago, some people asked me about confusing St. Matthias with St. Matthew. I explained. The Acts of the Apostles 1:12-26 narrates beautifully why the 11 Apostles felt that they had to have a 12th one. St. Peter said that they had to *"choose one of the men who have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus was living among us, beginning from John's baptism to the time when Jesus was taken up from us. For one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection."* There were two candidates who met these two conditions. Therefore *"they cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the eleven apostles."* (Acts 1:26) and Matthias was chosen by lot. Our Patron saint invites us to imitate him by being with Jesus and being a witness of the resurrection of Jesus.

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Orapankal



## Readings for the Week

**Monday** Acts 11:1-18 Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4  
Jn 10:1-10

**Tuesday** Acts 11:19-26 Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7 Jn 10:22-30

**Wednesday** Acts 1:15-17, 20-26 Ps 113:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 Jn 15:9-1

**Thursday** Acts 13:13-25 Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25 and 27 Jn 13:16-20

**Friday** Acts 13:26-33 Ps 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11ab Jn 14:1-6

**Saturday** Acts 13:44-52 Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 Jn 14:7-14

**Sunday** Acts 14:21-27 Ps 145:8-9, 10-11, 12-13  
Rv 21:1-5a Jn 13:31-33a, 34-35



## Mass Intentions for the Week

<b>Sat., May 10</b>	5:00 PM	Stella and Joseph Michaski by Russell and Monica Demkovitz
<b>Sun., May 11</b>	8:00 AM	Mary Eads by The Cook & Eads Families
	10:00 AM	All Mothers - Living & Deceased
	12:00 PM	Intention for Parishioners
<b>Mon., May 12</b>	8:00 AM	Muriel Aussem and Sister Mary Thomas Aussem by Thomas Aussem
<b>Tues., May 13</b>	8:00 AM	Mary Sullivan by Dee Nann
<b>Wed., May 14</b>	8:00 AM	Gary Paul Franklin by Heidi Hanson
<b>Thurs., May 15</b>	8:00 AM	Santina C. Spinella by Family
<b>Fri., May 16</b>	8:00 AM	Gary Paul Franklin by David Hanson
<b>Sat., May 17</b>	5:00 PM	Eleanor and Phillip Hiller by Litrakis Family
<b>Sun., May 18</b>	8:00 AM	Nancy Moley by The Family
	10:00 AM	Intention of Parishioners
	12:00 PM	Health & Blessings for Nathalie and Claudette by The Godet Family

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

## Pray for those who have died...

— “His mercy endures forever.” *Chronicles*

## Reflect



### Smile with Your Family



#### Cute answers from kids:

- Motherhood is a fairytale in reverse. You start in a beautiful gown end up cleaning everyone's messes.
- Being a mom to a teenager will make you understand why some animals eat their young.
- It's sad when you sit around waiting for mom to make dinner and then you realize you are the mom.
- There's nothing quite like being told I'm wrong by someone who depends on me for food, clothing, and shelter.
- "A police recruit was asked during the exam, 'What would you do if you had to arrest your own mother?' He said, 'Call for backup.' "
- "Silence is golden. Unless you have kids. Then silence is suspicious."
- "Why was the house so neat on Mother's Day? Because Mom spent all day Saturday cleaning it."

**Who's the boss at your house?** Mom. You can tell by room inspection. She sees the stuff under the bed.

**What would it take to make your Mom perfect?** On the inside she's already perfect. Outside, I think some kind of plastic surgery.

**If you could change one thing about your Mom, what would it be?** She has this weird thing about me keeping my room clean. I'd get rid of that. And I would like for her to get rid of those invisible eyes on the back of her head.

**Why did your Mom marry your dad?** She got too old to do anything else with him. But my grandma says that Mom didn't have her thinking cap on.

*When a frazzled mother sent her little boy to bed, she heard him grumbling to himself, "Every time she gets tired, I'm the one who ends up having to take a nap."*



### Parenting Tune-Up

The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone." (1 Peter 2:7) Do you or your child ever feel rejected? Sooner or later everyone has this experience. It doesn't feel good but it's not the end of the world. When appropriate, share with your child a time that you felt rejected and how you grew from it.

### Marriage Tune-Up

Mother's Day "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends." (Jn 15: 13) In addition to Jesus, who has given their life for you? Perhaps it is your mother, or someone who has been like a mother to you. As a spouse, be mindful of laying down your life each day for your beloved.



## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

The church is badly in need of good shepherds. Hence today is a special day to pray for vocations. But the term vocation simply means calling. We all are called to a particular way of life according to the plan of God. Hence we pray for vocations not only to the priesthood, diaconate and the consecrated life, but also for the different lay vocations to the married life, to single life of consecration, to missionary calling, etc., so that we may have more holy and Spirit-filled shepherds to lead, feed and protect the Catholic community. Christian thinking on vocation has been summarized in one profound saying: "All are priests, some are priests, but only one is the Priest." Christ Jesus is the Priest in the full sense because he is the one mediator between God and humanity who offered Himself as a unique sacrifice on the cross. The universal priesthood of all believers, the sharing of all the baptized in the priesthood of Christ, has received special emphasis since Vatican II. Those who are called to make a lifelong commitment to serve as ordained ministers share the ministerial priesthood of Jesus. On this World Day of Prayer for Vocations we are asked to encourage and pray for our young men to respond to God's call to serve His Church in the ministerial priesthood.

### Prayer through the Intercession of St. Matthias

Dear Saint Matthias, patron of our parish,

You heard Jesus calling you to follow Him from the very beginning of His public ministry. You responded with generosity, fulfilling the humble role of a disciple and missionary. When you were chosen as one of the Twelve and ordained a bishop, you fulfilled your shepherding duty of spreading the Gospel to the ends of the earth. Please pray for us, parishioners of this community founded in your name, that we will listen to the voice of God and respond to His call generously all the days of our life as you did. Amen.

Saint Matthias, pray for us.

Jesus, I trust in You.



## MOTHER TERESA'S GOOD SHEPHERD PRAYER



During her visit to the United Nations several years ago, Mother Teresa was approached by a diplomat who said, "I am not a Catholic, Mother. But I want to know: how should I pray." The frail little nun took his burly hands in hers and spread out five of his fingers on one hand. "When you pray," she said, "Think about the many blessings you have received; then, at the end of the day, count out on each finger the words spoken to you by Jesus: You.. did.. this.. for.. me." The diplomat left holding up his hand as though it were a trophy and saying: "You did this for me."

***In this simple prayer, Mother Theresa made the Resurrection seem real. What she meant was that the love and peace of the Good Shepherd is present to us in the many moments of compassion that bless our lives: in kind words, in the listening ear, in generous actions. Jesus is also present in the blessings we extend to others. The Good Shepherd of today's Gospel guides us every day in our journey to eternal life. As Mother Teresa became a good shepherd to that diplomat, we too are called to be good shepherds to others. Everyone who is entrusted with the care of others is a shepherd. Hence, pastors, parents, teachers, doctors, nurses, government officials, etc. are all shepherds. We become good shepherds by loving those entrusted to us, praying for them, spending our time and talents for their welfare, and guarding them from physical and spiritual dangers. Parents must be especially careful of their duties, thus giving their children good example through the way they live their Christian lives.***

## MOM, THE GOOD SHEPHERD

My mom is my shepherd; I shall not want. She makes me lie down under cool, downy comforters. She watches me play beside still waters. She restores my soul. She leads me in paths of respect, responsibility, and goodness, for I am her namesake!

Yea, even though I walk past monsters in the dark, I will not be scared, because my mom is always near me. Her hands and her voice, they comfort me. Mama sets the table and cheerfully calls me to dinner even in front of big, mean bullies. She anoints my skinned knees and broken heart with kisses. She smiles and throws me a towel when my cup runneth over. Surely God's peace, power, and mercy shall uphold me all the days of my life, for my Mother taught me to dwell in the house of God forever. Source: Christian Education 101: A Child Learns to Trust by Laurie Hays Coffman.

## "I LIKE TO PRESERVE MY INTEGRITY AND CREDIBILITY!"

Some years ago, Mark Cuban, owner of the NBA's Dallas Mavericks, offered WGN Chicago Radio sports-talk host David Kaplan \$50,000 to change his name legally to "Dallas Maverick." When Kaplan politely declined, Cuban sweetened the offer. Cuban would pay Kaplan \$100,000 and donate \$100,000 to Kaplan's favorite charity if he took the name for one year. After some soul searching, and being bombarded by e-mails from listeners who said he was crazy to turn down the money, Kaplan held firm and told Cuban no. Kaplan explained: "I'd be saying I'd do anything for money, and that bothers me. My name is my birthright. I'd like to preserve my integrity and credibility." [Skip Bayless, Chicago Tribune (1/10/01), Leadership Summer 2001]

The name "Christian" is our birthright. From the moment of our Baptism and our birth into the Kingdom of God, we are the sheep of the Good Shepherd who promises to lead us to green pastures and beside the still waters. The Voice of the Shepherd protects us. How do we listen to the voice of our Good Shepherd? Of course our primary source is the Bible, the Word of God, as interpreted by the authority of God's Church. Then we all belong to our local parishes, our sheepfold, and our pastors are our shepherds. Jesus is the High Priest, the bishops are the successors of the apostles, the pastors are their helpers and the parishioners are the sheep. Hence, as the good sheep of the parish, parishioners are expected to a) hear and follow the voice of their shepherds through their homilies, Bible classes, counseling and advice; b) receive the spiritual food our pastors provide by regular participation in the Holy Mass, by frequenting the Sacraments and by attending prayer services, renewal programs and missions; c) cooperate with the pastors by giving them positive suggestions for the welfare of the parish, by encouraging them in their duties, by lovingly offering them constructive criticism when they are found misbehaving or failing in their duties and by praying for them; and d) cooperate with our fellow-parishioners in the activities of various councils, ministries and parish associations.

## THANK YOU GOD FOR OUR MOTHERS

Thank you, dear Lord, for our mothers: who were brave enough to give us birth, who loved us through many growing-up years, who taught us about God and love and being good, who often got no thanks, whose ears could hear the slightest cry, whose eyes didn't miss much either, whose hands held and bathed and picked up, whose hearts were often broken, who always forgave and forgot, who encouraged us when things went badly, who always had time to listen to us, who worked so hard to make things go, who make the world so much better, who deserve our love on Mother's Day and every day even for eternity. Amen.

### HOW GOD CREATED THE FIRST MOM!

By the time the Lord made the woman, he was into his sixth day of creation and working overtime. An angel approached and said, "Why are you spending so much time on this creature?" And the Lord answered and said, "I am making a woman who is to become the mother of all mankind. So she should have some special features: 1) Six pairs of hands, five of them invisible. 2) Three pairs of eyes, one visible pair in the front, the second and the third invisible pairs at the back and at the sides of her head. 3) A large and elastic heart. 4) A lap that can hold three children at one time and that disappears when she stands up. The angel said, "I can guess why a mom should have six pairs of hands and a large heart, but why three pairs of eyes? God said, "One pair of invisible x-ray eyes at the sides to see through closed doors when she knocks at the door asks, 'What are you kids doing?' And she already knows what is going on inside. The second invisible pair at the back of her head is to see what she is not supposed to see, but has to see as a responsible mother. And of course, the third pair of normal eyes in the front is to look at a child when he makes a mistake and say without uttering a word, "Dear, I understand you, I love you." "Any other specifications?" the angel asked. God said, "She should be able to run on black coffee and leftovers. She should have a kiss that can cure anything from a bruised leg to a broken heart from a disappointing love affair. She should be able to heal herself when she is sick. She should feed a family of six on one pound of hamburger, and finally she should have eyes that shed tears of joy and pride, tears of sadness, tears of disappointment, and tears of old age aches, and loneliness." The Angel was impressed. "You are a genius, Lord! This woman is amazing." Is this not the picture of your mom? [Adapted from Erma Bombeck's essay entitled, *When God Created Women*].

### MOM IS SELFLESS

A teacher asked a boy this question: "Suppose your mother baked a pie and there were seven of you your parents and five children. What part of the pie would you get?" "A sixth," replied the boy. "I'm afraid you don't know your fractions," said the teacher. "Remember, there are seven of you." "Yes, teacher," said the boy, "but you don't know my mother. Mother would say she didn't want any pie."

***Mothers should be saluted 1) for their tenacious and sacrificial love for their children 2) for the tremendous impact they have on their children and 3) for their intimate relationship with us from birth to death. On this Mother's Day, let us gratefully admit the fact that we can not return, in the same measure, all the love that our mothers have given us. Hence, let us thank our mothers today by lavishing our love on them if they are alive and by offering our prayers for them if they have gone for their eternal reward.***

### IN HER FOOTSTEPS

It was a busy day in Costa Mesa, a California home. But then, with ten children and one on the way, every day was a bit hectic for Davida Dalton. On this particular day, however, she was having trouble doing even the routine chores-all because of one little boy. Len, who was three at that time, was on her heels no matter where she went. Whenever she stopped to do something and turned back around, she would trip over him. Several times, she patiently suggested fun activities to keep him occupied "Wouldn't you like to play on the swing set?" she asked him. But he simply smiled an innocent smile and said, "Oh, that's all right, Mommy. I'd rather be in here with you." Then he continued to bounce happily along behind her. After stepping on his toes for the fifth time, she began to lose her patience and insisted that he go outside and play with the other children. When she angrily asked him why he was acting this way, he looked up at her with sweet green eyes and said, "**Well, Mummy, in Sunday school my teacher told me to walk in Jesus' footsteps. But I can't see him, so I'm walking in yours.**" She gathered him in her arms and held him close. Tears of love and humility spilled over from the prayer that grew in her heart, a prayer of thanks for the simple, yet beautiful perspective of a three-year-old boy.





## THE GIVING TABLE

*WHERE EVERY MEAL MAKES A DIFFERENCE*

JOIN THE GIVING TABLE, A COMMUNITY-WIDE INITIATIVE DEDICATED TO SUPPORTING THE FRANKLIN FOOD BANK.

ON **TUESDAY, MAY 13TH**, TWENTY/20 TAPHOUSE WILL **DONATE 20%** OF TOTAL REVENUE TO HELP THOSE IN NEED. LET'S GIVE BACK AND MAKE A **LASTING IMPACT IN FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP!**

*COME FOR A MEAL  
STAY FOR THE CAUSE!*



**FRANKLIN FOOD BANK** Celebrating 50 years est. 1975 **TWENTY/20** TAPHOUSE  
*Neighbors Helping Neighbors*

## HOMESCHOOLING MOMS RETREAT JUNE 14<sup>TH</sup>



The Office of Homeschool Ministry and the Office of Discipleship Formation for Children are hosting a retreat for Homeschooling Moms on **Saturday, June 14th** at the

St. John Neumann Pastoral Center, located at 146 Metlars Lane in Piscataway. The retreat will feature veteran Catholic Homeschooling Mom Jenny Bales, founder of Heart of a Mother, a Catholic homeschool consulting company. The \$20 fee for the event includes a continental breakfast. The retreat begins with 9am Mass in the Pastoral Center chapel celebrated by Fr. Gilbert Starcher and will conclude by 12:30 pm.

**For More Information Contact:**

Jill Kerekes, [jkerekes@diometuchen.org](mailto:jkerekes@diometuchen.org)

**To register:**

[www.diometuchen.org/homeschool-ministry-1](http://www.diometuchen.org/homeschool-ministry-1)

PRE-RELEASE SCREENING

## TRIUMPH of the HEART

The untold story of St. Maximilian Kolbe's passion

**MAY 17, 2025 7:00 P.M.**

Immaculata High School Theater  
240 Mountain Ave, Somerville, NJ 08876

Doors Open at 6:30 P.M.

Scan the QR Code for more details  
and to Purchase Tickets

Questions? Contact the host, Pete Knob  
[PETEKNOBTOH@GMAIL.COM](mailto:PETEKNOBTOH@GMAIL.COM)

[BIT.LY/TOTH-DIOCESE-NJ](http://BIT.LY/TOTH-DIOCESE-NJ)



## SCREENING OF A MOVIE

You are invited to attend an advance screening of  
**"Triumph of the Heart,"**  
[www.triumphoftheheart.com](http://www.triumphoftheheart.com),  
a new movie about St. Maximilian Kolbe.

The advance screening will be held at **Immaculata High School Theater** on **Saturday, May 17 at 7 pm**. Seating is limited, so you are encouraged to purchase tickets. Please scan the QR code.

Deacon Steven Greydanus of Decent Films, [www.decentfilms.com](http://www.decentfilms.com), will be conducting a Q&A with Anthony D'Ambrosio, the writer and director of the film, immediately following the screening.

## Pray



***Come pray with us on Our Lady of Fatima's Feast Day on May 13, 2025 at 7pm!***

There will be a Healing Mass with Rev. John Campoli, I.V. Dei at Our Lady of Peace Church in North Brunswick. All are welcome to attend this celebration of God's Healing Love & Mercy.

The Mass is sponsored by the Parish Columbiettes.

For more information please see: [www.frjohncampoli.com](http://www.frjohncampoli.com)

**Our Lady of Peace Church - 1730 US Hwy 130, North Brunswick, NJ 08902**

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Where Jesus Christ is Lord

**EDISON CHAPTER**

**13<sup>TH</sup> THANKSGIVING ANNIVERSARY**

"When he comes, the Spirit of truth, He will guide you to all truth"

June 14, 2025 Saturday 9:00 – 4:00 pm  
Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church Auditorium  
285 Hamilton St. Somerset NJ 08873

Rev. Fr. Robert Lamirez  
Mass Celebrant  
St Ann Catholic Church  
Spiritual Adviser Edison Chapter

Bro. Alvin Marcelino  
Healing Message  
Disciple Preacher, Chicago Chapter

*Faith, Love Unity*

**EL SHADDAI**

**June 14, 2025**

**Saturday, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm**

**St. Peter & St. Paul Catholic Church Auditorium**

**285 Hamilton Street, Somerset, NJ 08873**



**BROTHERHOOD of HOPE**  
PRIMUM DEUS • DEUS SOLUM

### ***Anchored in Hope***

A men's night led by the Brotherhood of Hope  
In partnership with our diocese & St James men's ministry

Join us for a night of good food, wine, teaching, music, and faith sharing.

**Thursday, May 22**

5:45 - Evening Prayer      Stone House at  
6:00 - Wine      Stirling Ridge (the Lodge)  
6:30 - Dinner and Program      50 Stirling Rd., Warren

Free will offering at the event. RSVP to [terryconley@me.com](mailto:terryconley@me.com) if you're coming

### **Anchored in Hope - A Formation Event for Men**

The Diocese of Metuchen is partnering with the Brotherhood of Hope, as well as the Men of St. James (Basking Ridge), to host Anchored in Hope, a night of good food, wine, teaching, music, and faith sharing. This free event (a free will offering will be collected at the event) is open to all men and will be held at the Stone House at Sterling Ridge on Thursday, May 22.

For questions, or to RSVP, please email:

Terry Conley at [terryconley@me.com](mailto:terryconley@me.com).

## Learn



### **CAMP INVENTION AT ST. MATTHIAS SCHOOL!**

**JUNE 23-27, 2025 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM**

Thanks to rave reviews from campers, parents, and teachers, we're bringing **Camp Invention** back for its 8th year at St. Matthias School!

Even better, our 2025 program is full of all-new, hands-on STEM fun! Don't miss out — register students going into grades Kindergarten through 6th grade at [invent.org/camp](http://invent.org/camp) until camp starts.

**Register by May 15<sup>th</sup> using FUN15 to save \$15!**

If you have multiple children use **SIBLOVE30** to save \$30 for 2 siblings and **SIBLOVE40** to save \$40 for 3 or more siblings!

**Contact Camp Director, Christine Taylor at [ctaylor@stmatthiasnj.org](mailto:ctaylor@stmatthiasnj.org) for any questions.**

For students 7th grade to 9th grade, you can register as Leaders-in-Training to help support the teachers at a discounted registration fee and for students 10th grade and up you can get 40 volunteer hours by registering and helping that week!



**Camp Invention®**



### **GIFT REGISTRATION OPEN FOR 2025-2026**

Religious Education includes the **G.I.F.T. (Growing in Faith Together)** program, which is for families with children in grades K-Grade 8 or for anyone who wishes to grow in faith. GIFT is an intergenerational faith formation process that recognizes that faith formation is life-long. All public school children in grades K-8 must be registered in this program to be eligible to enter immediate sacramental preparation programs.

To register for 2025-2026 please visit: [www.stmatthias.net/faith-formation](http://www.stmatthias.net/faith-formation)



## 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 44 - May 4, 2025	\$13,700.00	\$14,136.50	<b>\$27,836.50</b>	\$27,521.50
Week 45 - May 11, 2025				\$33,448.00
Week 46 - May 18, 2025				\$21,443.65
Week 47 - May 26, 2025				\$22,094.60
			Month-to-date Total	May Total Last Year
			<b>\$27,836.50</b>	\$104,507.75
			Current Year-to-date Total	Year-to-date as of May 31, 2024
			<b>\$1,161,065.35</b>	\$1,163,455.70

### 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 May 11, 2025 4th Sunday of Easter

**“The disciples were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit.”  
(Acts 13:52)**

The disciples heard Our Lord’s call and were able to spread the Gospel message with strength and vitality. We, too, can experience that same joy if we make room for the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts. When we use our gifts in the way that God intends, He fills us with supernatural joy. A joy that others notice and are attracted to!

#### Reflexiónese – 11 de Mayo de 2025 Domingo 4° de Pascua

**“Y los discípulos quedaron llenos de alegría y del Espíritu Santo.” (Hechos 13:52)**

Los discípulos escucharon el llamado de Nuestro Señor y fueron capaces de esparcir el mensaje del Evangelio con fortaleza y vitalidad. Nosotros también podemos experimentar la misma alegría si hacemos espacio para que el Espíritu Santo llene nuestros corazones. Cuando utilizamos nuestros dones de la manera que el Señor quiere. Él nos llena de alegría sobrenatural. ¡Una alegría que los demás notan y que los atrae!



DIOCESE OF  
METUCHEN

### 2025 BISHOP’S ANNUAL APPEAL

**Theme: PILGRIMS OF HOPE: JOURNEYING TOGETHER IN FAITH, HOPE AND CHARITY**

All our parishioners must have received a letter about the Annual Bishop’s Annual Appeal. Parishes throughout the Diocese of Metuchen are given a specific amount to raise. The 2025 BAA goal for St. Matthias is \$175,000. Our parish has already pledged **\$160,226.97 (91.56%)** of this goal - thanks to the good will and generosity of our parishioners. The goal is for every family to participate. Every gift, no matter the size, is important and greatly appreciated. Together, we are keeping Christ’s presence alive in the world today. Thank you for actively participating in this mission by your financial support.

## Connecting to Our Local Community



**The Women's Ministry of St. Cecilia**  
**"Women Rooted in Faith"**  
 invite you to join us for our Annual

# Ladies Tea Event

Our theme this year is: **"Putting on the Armor of God"**  
 Esther 4:14 "Perhaps I was made for such a time as this."

Special Guest Speaker: Laura Phelps  
 from "Walking With Purpose"  
 Laura is a Catholic Author (Our Sunday Visitor) &  
 National Speaker

**SATURDAY | MAY 31 | 11AM - 2PM**  
 St. Cecilia Parish Hall  
 10 Kingston Lane  
 Monmouth Junction, NJ  
 Fee: \$25

register here  
 by 5/20/25



Baby Drive. We  
 will be collecting  
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Grab your most stylish hat and bring a friend.

Arrive by 10:30 am for fellowship. Program starts @ 11am  
 For more information contact Monica Rosado  
 732-799-8932 or womensministrystcecilia@gmail.com

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 PRESENTS:

# FEMININE GENIUS BRUNCH

## JUBILEE CELEBRATION OF WOMEN


Come discover God's  
 plan for your ultimate  
 flourishing!

**EVENT HIGHLIGHTS:**

- Fellowship & Music
- Hot Brunch
- Prayer & Reflection


**MAIN SPEAKER:**  
 LISA COTTER  
 "REVEAL THE GIFT"

**OCTOBER 11, 2025**  
 9:30 AM TO 12:30 PM  
 ST. JOHN NEUMANN PASTORAL CENTER  
 146 METLAIR LANE - PISCATAWAY, NJ



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 FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO  
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 ANDDIGNITY](https://diometuchen.org/humanlifeanddignity)




### GENTLE YOGA AND COMPASSION PRACTICES TO RESTORE MIND, BODY, AND SPIRIT

presented by Christina Reed and Donna McCabe

**Wednesday, May 14 from 7-9pm**

After some gentle stretching and breath prayer to create space and ground yourself, you'll drift into a deep sense of stillness and find peace through guided self-compassion and body scan meditations to reset and restore mind, body, and spirit. To close, each participant will create a remembrance to use at home as a reminder of their intentions. All levels accommodated — yoga can be done on a mat or in a chair. Please wear comfortable clothes and bring a yoga mat if you have one. Hybrid. \$20-\$30 as you are able

## Parish Leadership

<b>Parish Pastoral Council:</b> <b>Co-Chairs:</b> Stephen Busono <a href="mailto:sbusono@gmail.com">sbusono@gmail.com</a> Bill Isele <a href="mailto:t33sm@aol.com">t33sm@aol.com</a>	<b>Secretary:</b> Sheila Tartaglia <b>Members:</b> Teresa Yannotta Joe Percoco Miles London	Fr. Lancelot McGrath Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio <b>Trustees:</b> Pearl Scott Marge Richards	<b>Parish Finance Council:</b> Kester Hector, Chair <b>Finance Council</b> <a href="mailto:@stmatthias.net">@stmatthias.net</a> Carmen Driz-Melilli 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](http://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 8<sup>th</sup> 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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