



**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 - 5PM, Sun - 8, 10 AM & 12 noon  
 M/T/W/Th/F at 8:00AM  
 And also on our YouTube channel  
[youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ](https://www.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, Mon-Fri 8AM to 3PM.

For all Parish emails, add @stmatthias.net

**Pastor:** Rev Abraham Orapankal, **abraham**  
**Senior Priest:** Msgr. Seamus Brennan, **sbrennan**  
 Mary Pat Burke-Grospin, Business Administrator  
**mpburke-grospin**  
 Deacon Ron Caimi, *Senior Deacon*  
 Kelly Counts, *Receptionist*, **kcounts**  
 Deacon Russell Demkovitz, **rdemkovitz**  
 Nathalie Godet, *Website Coordinator*, **ngodet**  
 Leslie Guillen, *Bulletin Editor*, **lguillen**  
 Amy Hanna, *Accountant/Databases*, **ahanna**  
 Mike Lanyi, *Sacristan*  
 Sue Lenczewski, *Youth Coordinator*, **SMYLE**  
 Mary Jo Loboda, *Parish Staff, Development*,  
**mjloboda**  
 Julio Montero, *Maintenance Supervisor*  
 Dolores R. Nann, *Pastoral Associate for Faith*  
*Formation*, **dnann**  
 Vinnie Natale, *Bookkeeper*, **vnatale**  
 Silvia Nizama, *Housekeeper*  
 Deacon John Radvanski, **deaconjohn**  
 Joan Best Seamon, *Pastoral Associate for Music*  
*Ministry*, **jseamon**  
 Sr. Marie Therese Sherwood, *OSF, Pastoral*  
*Assoc. for Social Concerns*, **msherwood**  
 Trish Stumper, *Parish Support Secretary*,  
**tstumper**  
**St. Matthias School (add @stmatthiasnj.org)**  
 Mary Lynch, *Principal*, **mlynch**  
 Joseph Gidaro, *Vice Principal*, **jgidaro**

**THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS**  
**SUNDAY, MAY 14, 2023-**  
**6th Sunday of Easter & Mother's Day**




**Next Weekend is the Catholic Communications Campaign Collection.**



**ST. MATTHIAS 60th ANNIVERSARY COMES TO A CLOSE**


We began the 60th Anniversary of our Church last year on the feast of St. Matthias. Thanks to the hard work of the 60th Anniversary Committee - we witnessed various celebrations during the year.

The Anniversary officially comes to a close today on the feast of St. Matthias, May 14, 2023.



**PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE ST. MATTHIAS MINISTRY FAIR**  
**MAY 20TH & 21ST**

**For complete details, see page 8.**



**iPads for SALE!**

Saint Matthias School is selling refurbished iPads Air 12.5.7.

The cost is \$30.00 for one and \$50.00 for two.

If you are interested, please contact the school office, 732-828-1402.

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

## MAY - Month of Mary

**Sunday, May 14, 2023 Mother's Day**

8:00AM	Mass	Church
10:00AM	Mass—Sign Language	Church
12:00PM	Mass	Church

**Monday, May 15, 2023 St. Isidore the Farmer**

8:00AM	Mass /Miraculous Medal Novena	Church
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**Tuesday, May 16, 2023 St. Simon Stock, Hermit**

8:00AM	Mass	Church
7:15PM	Handbell Rehearsal	Church
7:30PM	Pastoral Council Mtg. de Porres Rm & Zoom	

**Wednesday, May 17, 2023 St. Paschal Baylon, Franciscan Brother**

8:00AM	Mass—St. Joseph Novena	Church
9:30AM	Prayer Group 1 Holy Spirit	de Porres Rm
7:30PM	Folk Group Rehearsal	Church

**Thursday, May 18, 2023 St. John I, Pope & Martyr**

8:00AM	Mass	Church
9:00AM	SMS: HSA Induction & Student Council	Induction Church
7:00PM	Prayer Shawl Ministry	Neumann Rm
7:30PM	Adult Choir Rehearsal	Church

**Friday, May 19, 2023 St. Celestine V, Pope**

8:00AM	Mass	Church
4:00PM	Confirmation— Abbot Jonathan Licari, OSB	Church
7:00PM	SMS: HSA Movie Night	Café, Parking Lot

**Saturday, May 20, 2023 St. Bernardine of Siena, Priest**

### ALL DAY MINISTRY FAIR—CAFETERIA

9:30AM	Secular Franciscans	de Porres Rm
10:00AM	Caregivers Mtg.	Zoom
3:30PM	Reconciliation	Church
5:00PM	Vigil Mass	Church

**Sunday, May 21, 2023 Catholic Communication Campaign Collection**

### ALL DAY MINISTRY FAIR—CAFETERIA

8:00AM	Mass	Church
10:00AM	Mass	Church
12:00PM	Mass	Church

#### Bulletin Article Requests:

If you would like to send information to be included in our bulletin, please email it to [bulletin@stmatthias.net](mailto:bulletin@stmatthias.net) by 8 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,

How nice that we have many important celebrations today!

### FIRST, Mother's Day! A very happy Mother's Day to all

**mothers!** It is said that every mother is like Moses. She does not enter the Promised Land. She prepares others to enter a world she will not see. Today we thank our mothers, pray for them and honor them by celebrating Mother's Day and by offering our mothers on the altar of God. Please read the reflections, anecdotes and stories in this bulletin that is dedicated to all Mothers.



**Let us keep in mind that Mary is the Mother par excellence.** We are in May, the month of Mary. Our School children will be doing the traditional May Crowning of Mary this month - a reminder that she is a mother to all of us. Through Mary, the work of Motherhood is glorified and sanctified. On this Mother's Day, presenting all mothers on the altar, let us sing the beautiful song we sing on the Feast of the Presentation, "Gentle woman, peaceful dove, teach us wisdom, teach us love."

**SECOND, Feast of St. Matthias, our parish patron.** The very first chapter of the Acts of the Apostles describes the first thing that the apostles did after the Ascension of Jesus: finding a replacement for Judas. One hundred and twenty people were gathered for prayer and reflection in the upper room, and Peter proposed two conditions to make the choice: "... one of the men who have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus was living among us, ... and a witness with us of his resurrection." (Acts 1:21-22) There were two nominations. They cast lots and the lot fell for Matthias. As our patron, St. Matthias invites us to live as he lived with Jesus and to witness to the Resurrection. Happy Feast to all of us!

**THIRD, Conclusion of our 60th Anniversary Year.** We inaugurated it last year on the feast of St. Matthias. Anne Marie Francis and Jeff Hentz as co-chairs led the 60th Anniversary Committee, with the help of Dee Christmas, Pat Cullen, Joanne Diana, Gondee Tibay, Mary Frances Chavez, Emily Chavez, Sue Lenczewski, and Msgr. Seamus Brennan. We saw a number of memorable activities and events: Anniversary Mass with Bishop and past Ministers, parish picnic, Music Ministry Concert, Parish Cookbook, Honoring the pioneers, and a concrete plan to renovate our church building. All these made our Anniversary year very colorful and memorable.

All these celebrations remind us that we are a jubilant people moving forward on the path of holiness, bringing about the Kingdom of peace, justice, equality, and fellowship as Jesus envisaged. We are His ministers for this purpose. **We have an amazingly large number of ministries to further the mission of Jesus. Next weekend you will find a number of these ministries at our Ministry Fair.** May more of our parishioners be inspired to join these ministries and fulfill the dream God has for us as the wonderful community of St. Matthias.

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Orapankal

## Readings for the Week

**Monday:** Acts 16:11-15; Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a, 9b; Jn 15:26 — 16:4a

**Tuesday:** Acts 16:22-34; Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8; Jn 16:5-11

**Wednesday:** Acts 17:15, 22 — 18:1; Ps 148:1-2, 11-12, 13, 14; Jn 16:12-15

**Thursday:** Acts 1:1-11; Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9; Eph 1:17-23; Mt 28:16-20 (for Ascension); or Acts 18:1-8; Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; Jn 16:16-20

**Friday:** Acts 18:9-18; Ps 47:2-3, 4-5, 6-7; Jn 16:20-23

**Saturday:** Acts 18:23-28; Ps 47:2-3, 8-9, 10; Jn 16:23b-28

**Sunday Ascension:** Acts 1:1-11; Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9; Eph 1:17-23; Mt 28:16-20

## Mass Intentions for the Week

<b>Saturday, May 13</b>	5:00PM	Marie De Feo, by Daughter, Lisa
<b>Sunday, May 14</b>	8:00AM	Mary Eads, by The Family
	10:00AM	All Mothers Living & Deceased
	12:00PM	Intention of Parishioners
<b>Monday, May 15</b>	8:00AM	Santina C. Spinella, by The Family
<b>Tuesday, May 16</b>	8:00AM	Florence Arile, by the Collins Family
<b>Wednesday, May 17</b>	8:00AM	Health & Blessings for Nathalie & Claudette, By The Godet Family
<b>Thursday, May 18</b>	8:00AM	Salvatore & Eileen Catalano, by The Acevedo Family
<b>Friday, May 19</b>	8:00AM	Bert Maglio, by Mom, Dad, Pete & Sue
<b>Saturday, May 20</b>	5:00PM	Intention of Parishioners
<b>Sunday, May 21</b>	8:00AM	Violet Engravalle, by St. Matthias Folk Group
	10:00AM	Sadie Callender, by Joan Pritchard & John Mulholland
	12:00PM	Nancy Moley, by Lenczewski Family

## Pray for those who are sick...

If you or a family member are sick, please call the Parish Office or **email Kelly Counts** at [kcunts@stmatthias.net](mailto:kcunts@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.](#)

Carolyn Banghart	Claudia Gemgnani	Kathlyn Moore	Sr. Bernadine Marie
Arthur & Regina Berlowitz	Helen Geraghty	Eleanor Nagy	Stemnock
John Blum	Emma Gergely	Danny Ongchango	Jeff Sullivan
Bishop Paul Bootkowski	Marilyn Horvath	Paul & Doris Paetow	Tom Szabo
Barbara Butler	Robert Kashinsky	Robert Pellegrino	Nancy Whelan
Bianca Canlas	Kathleen Langenbacher	Jim Pettit	Mark Worthington
Tara Capatosto	Henrietta Lesiak	<a href="#">Randolff Pinard</a>	Carl Wyopen
Ellen Catalina	Mary Lou Littrakis	Valerie Polci	Angie Yetyet
Kyle Davidson	John Littrakis	Kim Price	
Lisa DeFeo	Joseph Lubrano	Doris Regan	
Ann Devlin	Jude Raymond Maceren	Gabriel Rivera	
Michael DiMaggio	Aries Magali	Jaxon Rivera	<b>And for all who are ill, homebound, elderly, in nursing care, or living with chronic illness, we pray.</b>
William Dolphin	Al Maglio	Arina Robinson	
Vivian Dong	Anne McElwee	Arthur Robinson	
Hattie Evans	Margaret Menendez	Maria Schwenzler	
Josephine Geenty	Carol Millemann	Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF	

## Pray for those who have died...

— “His mercy endures forever.” Chronicles

Frances Frankenberger

# Reflect



## Smile with Your Family



Cute answers from kids: -**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 her 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." 😊

*A mother's confidence: "I can handle any crisis .... I have children."* 😊

I called my mother up when they announced the Nobel Prize. She said, "That's nice — and when are you coming to see me next?" 😊 - Steven Chu, Nobel Prize Winner

Sometimes, when I look at my children, I say to myself, 'Lillian, you should have remained a virgin.' 😊 - Lillian Carter (mother of Jimmy Carter)

Everybody wants to save the earth; nobody wants to help Mom do the dishes. 😊 - P. J. O'Rourke

A police recruit was asked during the exam, 'What would you do if you had to arrest your own mother?' He answered, 'Call for backup.' 😊



## Parenting Tune-Up

Want real healthy families? Make sure children have communities of real people who truly care about them. Who are the caring community of people who surround your child? What child needs **your** family to care?

## Marriage Tune-Up



"If you love me..." (John 14:15) If you love me, you'll clean the bathroom, watch the kids, make enough money to support us...The list can be endless - and so is love. What would your beloved love you to do for them today? It's OK to ask. Mind reading not required.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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."

*Source: Christian Education 101: A Child Learns to Trust: by Laurie Hays Coffman*

## 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.**

### "I can't believe what you just did."

There is a story about a woman, Dorothy Pryse, who was listening to a Christian radio station as she drove to the grocery store one morning. The radio preacher was talking about kindness. He said, "I wonder how many of you are listening to me on your car radio and thinking of how you can be kind while driving?" Dorothy began thinking about what he was saying. A few blocks away, she saw a woman waiting in her car to come out of her driveway. Traffic was heavy, and Dorothy knew this woman would have a hard time getting out, so she slowed down and let her back out. The woman smiled and waved. When she got to the grocery store, Dorothy saw a parking space. As she started pulling in, another car on the opposite side began to pull in to the same spot. Once again, Dorothy backed out and found another parking spot. As they both got out of their cars, the driver of the other car said, "I can't believe what you just did. Anyone else would have made me back out." Dorothy explained what she had heard on the radio about showing love. The two women began talking. Dorothy discovered the woman had just moved into the area, didn't know anyone, and was looking for a Church. "I invited her to come to our Church," Dorothy says, "and a strong friendship has blossomed from our chance meeting and a small act of kindness."

**This story illustrates that one can experience the**

**indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit and act according to His promptings -- just as Dorothy and the apostle Philip did.**

## 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*].

## The Winners

Up until 1987, only eleven horses had won the coveted Triple Crown in Thoroughbred racing. What is it that makes some horses winning thoroughbreds? Why is it that some horses have more speed, strength and stamina than other horses? Essentially, of course, these traits have to come from within the horses themselves: from their own inner capacity and from their inherited gene structure. Still, it seems that they also need help from outside. To become champions, they need the help of expert trainers and skillful

## The Winners (continued.)

jockeys to activate and develop their inner powers. It is the same with us. Born human, we have within us capacities to love, learn, choose, work and so on. But we need the help of parents, teachers and friends to activate and develop these capacities so that we can reach our full human potential. That is why we need the Holy Spirit and why Jesus promised to send Him to us: "I will ask the Father and He will give you another Paraclete – to be with you always; to remain with you and be within you."

***We need to be open to the Holy Spirit, our Paraclete. The purpose of the indwelling Holy Spirit is to help us grow towards maturity and wholeness. We all have faults that prevent our growth: blocks of sin and imperfection, blocks due to childhood conflicts, blocks due to deeply ingrained personality traits and habits, blocks caused by addictions, and blocks resulting from bad choices we have made. We all have these blocks within us and they keep us from becoming what God wants us to be. They prevent us from growing into maturity and wholeness. God, the Holy Spirit, helps us to see the truth about ourselves, to discern the blocks that inhibit our growth and to allow Him to transform us. Like the good counselor He is, the Spirit enables us to become stronger. The Holy Spirit comes to our aid and gives us the strength to make difficult and painful decisions. God's Spirit actually lives in us, and we hear the voice of the Spirit, counseling and guiding us in the way of truth. Let us open our minds to hear Him and to obey His promptings.***

## A multimillion dollar airplane, running out of fuel

In 1991 an Air Canada flight ran into big trouble. Passengers were enjoying an in-flight movie on the Boeing 767 when the jumbo jet's massive engines abruptly stopped. At first only those without earphones noticed anything. However, soon it was apparent the jet was in trouble. The pilot came on the speaker system and announced that Flight 143 would be making an emergency landing in a nearby aerodrome. The 69 people on board were trapped in an agonizingly slow but inescapable descent to earth. For several minutes a desperate silence hung over the cabin. Then fear gave way to screams of anxiety as the landing neared. All the latest technology could not keep the jumbo jet in the air. What had happened was this. The electronic digital fuel gauge was out of order. So the flight crew had depended on the figures given them by the refueling crew before takeoff. But someone on the refueling crew had confused pounds with kilograms. Therefore, eight hundred miles short of its destination, that mighty jet simply ran out of fuel and was forced to make an emergency landing. Fortunately no one was injured.

***A multimillion dollar airplane, headed in the right direction, but running out of fuel – that's what's happening to a lot of people today. They have everything in life going for them -- a new car, a wonderful home, a good education, and a good job -- and one day they wake up out of fuel. At the center of their lives there is emptiness. They don't know why they are living. There is nothing outside of themselves to live for. Don't let that happen to you. Jesus tells us that the power for successful living comes from God. It is the promised gift that Jesus offers us. "Peace be with you," he says. "My peace I give to you, not as the world gives you. Let not your hearts be troubled, believe in God, believe also in me."***

## Elizabeth Barrett Browning

One of the most famous of all the 19<sup>th</sup> century English poets was a woman by the name of Elizabeth Barrett. An invalid for many years, her illness was so severe that in the end, she was so weak that she could not even raise her head from her pillow. One day, she was visited by a man by the name of Robert Browning, who had come to meet the author of the poetry that had inspired him so. After his first visit, an amazing thing happened. He left Elizabeth with such joy and happiness that she was able to lift her head. On his second visit, she sat up in bed. And on their third, they eloped and were married. Today she is known as Elizabeth Barrett Browning, one of the great 19<sup>th</sup> century English love poets. Such is the power of love. Love has the power to heal. It has the power to make well. It has the power to lift drooping heads and fill empty hearts. No wonder people were healed just by coming into the presence of Jesus. Did you ever wonder about that - those stories in the New Testament that tell of someone who came to Jesus and with just a touch or with just a word was made well? There's no secret to that. If we believe that Jesus was God's love incarnate, God's love in the flesh, why shouldn't people be healed by just coming into contact with him? For love has the power to do that. Love has the power to heal, and that's what Christ can do. But we must come into his presence through prayer, through Bible, through the Eucharist.

## "No ticket please, he's my friend!"

Here is the true story of a pastor. One day I was stopped for speeding. I knew I was wrong. I was late for the Mass in a remote mission church. I was driving on a brand new four lane highway with almost no traffic. When I saw those flashing blue and yellow lights behind me, I knew that I was going to be even later for the Holy Mass. After the patrolman got my license, he went back to his car. I waited for him to return with the judgment against my mistake. As I waited, another police car pulled up behind the first. The man with my license went back to the second car. My anxiety level was rising. He left the second car and came

## Reflect

**“No ticket please,** (continued)

back to my car. He handed me my license and said, "The sergeant says that you're a friend of his. Keep your speed down and drive carefully." He returned to his car and drove off. So did I.

***I was guilty. I had broken the law. I deserved the ticket. I deserved to pay the fine, but because of a friendship, my mistake was forgiven and forgotten. There was no penalty to pay. This is how Divine Grace works. We are saved because Jesus considers us his friends, as stated in today's Gospel.***

## From the Pastoral Staff

This weekend we celebrate, with gratitude, Mother's Day, and the Feast of St. Matthias during our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. Like our patron Saint Matthias, we are called up to step in - to fill a gap and to make a difference in someone's life for a greater purpose.

We're grateful at St. Matthias for the many parishioners throughout the years who have stepped into the call to ministry. I'm privileged to work with our youth who have formed an intentional ministry to fill the gap in the lack of attention given to Mental Health.

They have recently launched an Instagram @smylewithbraces. I'll share here the first post: ***“What is SMYLE with B.R.A.C.E.S? Bringing and Raising Awareness to Combat Existing Stigmas. SMYLE with B.R.A.C.E.S is a collaborative effort between the St. Matthias Youth group, SMYLE, with the St. Matthias NeXt Level team working towards addressing the stigmas around Mental Health and Mental Illnesses. Our mission is to create a safe space while also educating the youth and adults of our parish about all aspects of mental health in order to provide a more accepting and comfortable environment within our parish. SMYLE with Braces will take your SMYLE to the NeXt Level!”***



During Lent our teen leaders have led the Mental Health Stations of the Cross. They have also developed and presented engaging Mental Health events for our SMYLE Junior High and High School youth group. Topics regarding “Winter Blues”, “Coping Skills”, and “Face-2-Face Communication in a Screen-2-Screen World” - all have been worthwhile and well received. I am also very proud of all our teens who have either planned other events, or bravely showed up by themselves, to make more friends, and have actively participated! Go Team - Yay God!

Next weekend during the Parish Ministry Fair SMYLE & NeXt Level be available to answer any questions you have. We'll invite you to learn more about Youth Ministry and opportunities for you to share your time and talents with our youth. We're looking for more adults to help develop this vital parish ministry – to, with, by, and for our youth.

For now please enjoy a thought provoking article written by Emily Chavez who is a junior at Franklin High School.

### SMYLE with B.R.A.C.E.S

“Social media has transformed the way we communicate, share information, and connect with others. From Facebook to Instagram, Twitter to TikTok, social media platforms has become an integral part of our daily lives, with millions of people around the world using them to stay connected with friends and family, share their experiences, and consume news and entertainment. Social media has not only revolutionized how we interact with each other but has also transformed the way businesses and organizations market their products and services. However, social media use and its effects on an individual's mental health can be controversial with many mixed ideas and perspectives. The idea of social media's contribution to feelings of loneliness, depression, and anxiety has sparked a growing interest in understanding the relationship between social media use and mental health, with researchers and mental health

experts seeking to explore both the positive and negative effects that social media can have on our well-being. Though stigmas and impressions on social media are often negative from a mental standpoint, there are actually mental health benefits that receive much less recognition than the negatives. The National Library of Medicine and JMIR Pediatrics found that youth are engaged in a wide range of activities on social media from connecting with family and friends to participating in global movements, which serve as avenues for building positive mental health. Based on participants' narratives, their analysis suggested that positive mental health among youth could be influenced by 3 features of social media consumption; connection with friends and their global community, engagement with social media content, and the value of social media as an outlet for expression. Through these, pathways leading to the

Continued on next page

## SMYLE with B.R.A.C.E.S, Continued

following 4 positive mental health components were identified:

1. **Positive relationships and social capital-** it has been made evident that one of the primary platforms used by youth in terms of communication is social media. Varying from Instagram to WhatsApp to Discord, social media provides instant communication regardless of location on the globe, therefore making it easier to build up positive relationships with friends and family and an area of common interest for one to express themselves.
2. **Self-Concept-** social media can impact how people see themselves and their self-concept. It can lead to social comparison and feelings of low personal quality, as well as body image issues and low self-esteem.
3. **Coping-** Social media can help individuals cope with stress by providing emotional support and resources.
4. **Happiness-** Social media has a complex relationship with happiness. On one hand, it can provide opportunities for social connection, positive self-expression, and inspiration, contributing to increased happiness. On the other hand, it can also lead to social comparison, FOMO, and nega-

tive self-talk, which can decrease happiness. The relationship between social media and happiness is complex and requires intentional use to maximize its potential positive effects.

Based on the evidence provided by the sources, it is safe to assume that the emotional impact that social media has on an individual's mental health is purely situational and varies per person and situation. However, they can be broadened to the following components: the time spent on social media versus real life, the content being absorbed in that time, and the people you surround yourself with on the platform. With a positive balance of these components, social media can be a positive influence on someone's mental health rather than a negative one.

Regardless of whether it is in person or online, the St. Matthias NeXt Level team wants to create a safe, positive environment for all. So, if you want constant content on mental health and positivity to get you through your week, feel free to follow the St. Matthias NeXt Level Instagram, @smylewithbraces" – Emily Chavez - FHS - 24

## Serve

### Invitation to join the Parish Pastoral Council

The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) is a consultative body comprised of a representative group of parishioners who work with the Pastor, other Clergy and Parish Staff to foster pastoral activity. Each year one-third of our PPC members retire and new members are commissioned. If you think God is calling you to this ministry, please contact one of the present PPC Co-Chairs:

Rose Peng: [rosepeng@optonline.net](mailto:rosepeng@optonline.net) or John Taylor: [jptaylor1068@yahoo.com](mailto:jptaylor1068@yahoo.com)

## Connect



### ST. MATTHIAS MINISTRY FAIR

St. Matthias is blessed with a host of ministries doing so much good for our community and beyond. Our Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) has initiated a "Ministry Fair" to let our parish community know more about our various wonderful ministries. It is our hope that many will be inspired to join one of the ministries. **Here are the details:**

**The date/venue:** the weekend of May 20 & 21, in the Cafeteria

**Format:** Each ministry will have a table in the cafeteria to put up displays. You can prepare your own charts, giveaways like flyers about the ministry, objects or other attractions.

**Invitation:** Parishioners will be invited to come after each Mass to the cafeteria.

**Manning the Table:** each ministry will have to make sure that one or more of your ministry team will be present at the table after each of the Masses, to speak about your ministry to our parishioners who come.


**Food:** Coffee, drinks and snacks will be provided.

**Contact person (PPC):** Rose Peng [rosepeng@optonline.net](mailto:rosepeng@optonline.net), (Phone: 908-285-5921) will be the contact person to coordinate this. Kindly email her for any questions you have on this matter.



# Connect


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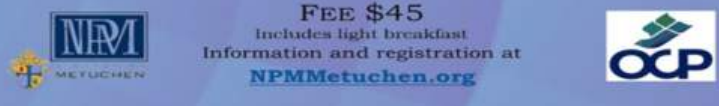


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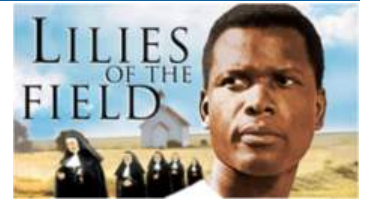
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Catholic Community of St. Matthias

## RACIAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE



### MOVIE NIGHT

**DATE:** Saturday, May 27<sup>th</sup>  
**TIME:** 6:00 pm Dinner / 6:30 pm Movie  
**WHERE:** St. John XXIII Room

Please join us for a special Easter season movie night! We will be watching *Lilies of the Field*, starring Sidney Poitier. There will be sandwiches, beverages, cookies, and lots of fellowship. There will be a free will offering for dinner and ALL are encouraged to attend!

Please RSVP to [matthiasracialjustice@gmail.com](mailto:matthiasracialjustice@gmail.com) by **Thursday, May 25<sup>th</sup>** so we can prepare accordingly.

**HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!**

# Connect



## Life-Giving Wounds Retreat for Adult Children of Divorce or Separation June 3, 2023

The Life-Giving Wounds retreat is a unique opportunity for young adults (18+) and adults with divorced or separated parents to reflect intentionally on the wounds caused by their family's breakdown, together with others who know this pain and are knowledgeable, compassionate retreat leaders.

**When:** June 3, 2023 from 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

**Where:** The Shrine of St. Joseph  
1050 Long Hill Road, Stirling, NJ

**General Admission** is \$75.00

**Student Admission** is \$25.00

To register visit: [www.diometuchen.org/familylife](http://www.diometuchen.org/familylife)

If you have any questions, please contact:

[cdaverso@diometuchen.org](mailto:cdaverso@diometuchen.org) or [amarshall@diometuchen.org](mailto:amarshall@diometuchen.org)

# Give ( and Receive!)

Stewardship Totals for Fiscal Year July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023				Last Year's Total
Current Month	In-Pew/Mail	Parish Giving	Weekly Total	Weekly Total
Week 40 - Apr 2, 2023	\$10,650.50	\$10,353.71	<b>\$21,004.21</b>	\$26,704.25
Week 41 - Apr. 9, 2023	\$28,623.00	\$27,486.06	<b>\$56,109.06</b>	\$45,751.27
Week 42 - Apr. 16, 2023	\$8,721.00	\$13,838.25	<b>\$22,559.25</b>	\$38,662.25
Week 43 - Apr. 23, 2023	\$7,958.00	\$12,961.61	<b>\$20,919.61</b>	\$19,377.25
Week 44 - Apr. 30, 2023	\$9,875.00	\$9,540.40	<b>\$19,415.40</b>	\$20,650.30
			<b>Month-to-date Total</b>	<b>Apr Total Last Yr</b>
			<b>\$140,007.53</b>	\$151,145.32
<b>Catholic Relief Services Collection: \$2,117.00</b>			<b>Current Year-to-date</b>	<b>Year-to-date as</b>
			<b>\$1,200,716.32</b>	\$1,159,682.39

# Give ( and Receive!)

## Stewardship Reflection May 14, 2023 6th Sunday of Easter

**"For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that be God's will, than for doing evil." (1 Peter 3:17)**

The old line says "if you want to make God laugh, tell him your plans." Many of us are diligent in our planning and making sure things are progressing smoothly. Then disaster strikes, we don't get the result that was intended or an unforeseen problem arises. Many times we may respond negatively and ask, "Why me? I did everything right!" Here's the thing – adversity humbles us and reminds us of our dependence on God and not on our own self-reliance. Rest assured, God has a better plan in store for you.

## Reflexiónese 14 de mayo de 2023 6° domingo de Pascua

**"Porque es mejor sufrir por hacer el bien, si es la voluntad de Dios, que por hacer el mal". (1 PEDRO 3:17)**

Un viejo dicho dice así: "si quieres hacer reír a Dios, cuéntale tus planes". Muchos de nosotros somos diligentes en nuestra planificación y nos aseguramos de que las cosas progresen sin problemas. Luego ocurre un desastre, no obtenemos el resultado previsto o surge un problema imprevisto. Muchas veces podemos responder negativamente y preguntar: "¿Por qué a mí? ¡Hice todo bien! Aquí está la razón: la adversidad nos humilla y nos recuerda nuestra dependencia de Dios y no en nuestra autosuficiencia. Ten la seguridad de que Dios tiene un plan mejor para ti.

# Connect with Our Local Community

## Study Theology at Georgian Court University!

All programs can be completed remotely. Master of Arts or a Graduate Certificate in Theology, with concentrations in Pastoral Ministry or Mercy Spirituality. Not sure? Take one or two classes on a non-matriculating basis to see if our programs are right for you. Generous financial aid available. **New semester begins September 5, 2023.** There is still time to apply. Contact department chair Johann M. Vento for more information: [jvento@georgian.edu](mailto:jvento@georgian.edu). We look forward to getting to know you and talking about your interest in studying theology.

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# Parish Leadership

<b>Parish Pastoral Council:</b> <b>Co-Chairs:</b> Rose Peng, <a href="mailto:rosepeng@optonline.net">rosepeng@optonline.net</a> John Taylor, <a href="mailto:jptaylor1068@yahoo.com">jptaylor1068@yahoo.com</a>	<b>Co-Secretaries:</b> Frank Rees Marilyn Wegg Stephan Busono Anne Marie Francis Bill Isele Maria Tapia-Burch	Msgr. Seamus Brennen, Ex-Officio 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="http://@stmatthias.net">@stmatthias.net</a> Carmen Driz-Melilli Barry Dusault Gwen Orłowski	Audrey Francis Joe Porter 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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Tuesday, 10/11	Tuesday, 11/08
Tuesday, 10/18	Tuesday, 11/15
Tuesday, 10/25	Tuesday, 11/29

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