



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, **mlanyi**
Sue Lenczewski, Youth Coordinator, **SMYLE**
Julio Montero, Maintenance Supervisor
Debra Schurko, Director of Religious Education,
dschurko

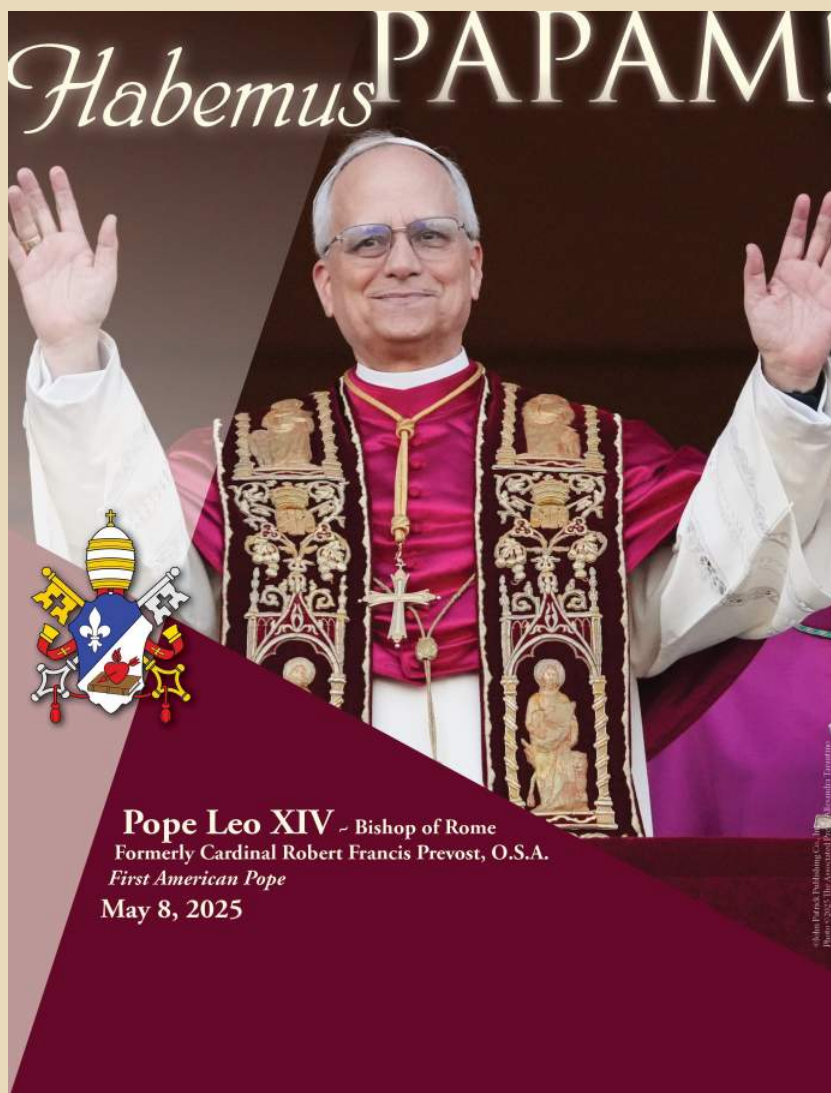
Vinnie Natale, Bookkeeper, **vnatale**
Silvia Nizama, Housekeeper
Deacon John Radvanski, **deaconjohn**
Joan Best Seamon, Pastoral Associate for
Music Ministry, **jseamon**

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

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS

SUNDAY, MAY 18, 2025

5th Sunday of Easter



Masses are also livestreamed on our YouTube channel: 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 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

Monday, May 19, 2025 **St. Celestine V, Pope & Founder**

8:00AM	Mass	Miraculous Medal Novena	Church
6:00PM	Eucharistic Adoration		Church
7:00PM	Cub Scout Pack 195 Mtg.		Cafeteria

Tuesday, May 20, 2025 **St. Bernardine of Siena Religious & Missionary**

8:00AM	Mass	Church
6:30PM	SAC Meeting	de Porres Rm.

Wednesday, May 21, 2025

Saint Eugene de Mazenod, Bishop of Marseille

8:00AM	Mass, St. Joseph Novena	Church
9:30 AM	Holy Spirit Prayer Ministry	de Porres Rm
6:30PM	Girl Scout Troop 63202 Mtg. Pre-K Class Rm	
7:30PM	Folk Group Rehearsal	Church

Thursday, May 22, 2025 **St. Rita of Cascia, Religious**

8:00AM	Mass	Church
7:30PM	Adult Choir Rehearsal	Church

Friday, May 23 2025 **St. John Baptist De Rossi, Priest**

EARLY DISMISSAL/NO ASP

8:00AM	Mass	Church
6:45PM	Boy Scout Troop 154 Mtg.	Cafeteria

Saturday, May 24, 2025 **Our Lady Help of Christians**
CAR WASH - BOY SCOUTS & CUB SCOUTS

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

Sunday, May 25, 2025 **6th Sunday of Easter**

8:00AM	Mass	Church
10:00AM	Mass (with Interpreter)	Church
11:00AM	OCIA	de Porres Rm
12:00PM	Mass	Church

BULLETIN ARTICLE REQUESTS:

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

Dear Friends,

By now we have heard a lot about our new Pope – Leo XIV, formerly Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost. The excitement continues with the totally unexpected choice of an American pope by the Cardinals who attended the Conclave. Though the new Pope is American, now he belongs to the whole world. As one commentator said, one third of his life was in the US, one third in Rome and one third in Peru. His varied experience – missionary life in Peru, work in the Vatican Dicastry, and American upbringing – will have a bearing on his ability to steer the bark of Peter for years to come.



What is less known may be that he belongs to an order or religious congregation. As we know, Pope Francis was a Jesuit. Pope Leo XIV is an Augustinian, and the first member of the Order of St. Augustine to become a pope. The Augustinian Order, fundamentally based upon the teachings of Jesus Christ and later of St. Augustine, the Bishop of Hippo (354 - 430 A.D.), was founded to live and promote the spirit of community as lived by the first Christian communities (Acts of the Apostles 4, 32-35). It was founded in 1244, when Pope Innocent IV united various groups of hermits in service to the Universal Church as a community of Mendicant Friars. The Order, from its very beginning, has recognized Saint Augustine of Hippo as its father, teacher, and spiritual guide, not only because it has received the "Rule" and the name of the Order from him, but also because it has received from him its doctrine and spirituality.

In his very address to the world as he first appeared at the balcony of St. Peter's Vatican, Pope Leo said: *I am an Augustinian, a son of Saint Augustine, who once said, "With you I am a Christian, and for you I am a bishop."* In this sense, all of us can journey together toward the homeland that God has prepared for us." That brings so much hope and good feeling about the new papacy. In his first homily the next day of the election, the pope pledged to be a "faithful administrator" of the Catholic church and outlined that the church needs to continue its "missionary outreach."

These words resonated with me personally as I was a missionary back in India for many years. In our American context, we can easily relate to his exhortation to be a missionary church. "A lack of faith," Pope Leo underscored, "is often tragically accompanied by the loss of meaning in life, the neglect of mercy, appalling violations of human dignity, the crisis of the family and so many other wounds that afflict our society." Today, he observed, "there are many settings in which Jesus, although appreciated as a man, is reduced to a kind of charismatic leader or superman."

Acknowledging this happens "not only among non-believers but also among many baptized Christians," Pope Leo warned that, as such, they "end up living, at this level, in a state of practical atheism." With this in mind, Pope Leo reassured the congregation, "This is the world that has been entrusted to us, a world in which, as Pope Francis taught us so many times, we are called to bear witness to our joyful faith in Christ the Saviour." "Therefore," he continued, "it is essential that we too repeat, with Peter: 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.'"

We thank God for the gift of this pope, this son of our land, as the chief shepherd of the People of God for the whole world. May God continue to use him as the worthy successor of St. Peter.

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Orapankal

Readings for the Week

Monday Acts 14:5-18 Ps 115:1-2, 3-4, 15-16 Jn 14:21-26

Tuesday Acts 14:19-28 Ps 145:10-11, 12-13ab, 21 Jn 14:27-31a

Wednesday Acts 15:1-6 Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5 Jn 15:1-8

Thursday Acts 15:7-21 Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 10 Jn 15:9-11

Friday Acts 15:22-31 Ps 57:8-9, 10 and 12 Jn 15:12-17

Saturday Acts 16:1-10 Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 5 Jn 15:18-21

Sunday Acts 15:1-2, 22-29 Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 Rv 21:10-14, 22-23 Jn 14:23-29



Mass Intentions for the Week

Sat., May 17	5:00 PM	Eleanor and Phillip Hiller by Littrakis Family
Sun., May 18	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
Mon., May 19	8:00 AM	Bert Maglio by Maglio Family
Tues., May 20	8:00 AM	Francisco Nese by Sister, Rose
Wed., May 21	8:00 AM	Jozef Wyka by Kostik Family
Thurs., May 22	8:00 AM	Mary Sullivan by JoAnn Piagentini
Fri., May 23	8:00 AM	Birthday Blessings Helen Sunga-Ali by Flora Sunga
Sat., May 24	5:00 PM	Intentions of Parishioners
Sun., May 25	8:00 AM	Deceased Members of Sunga and Munar by Flora Sunga
	10:00 AM	Vincent Dinicola by Rita Dinicola
	12:00 PM	50th Anniversary for Mauro DeFeo by Lisa DeFeo

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

And for all who are ill, homebound, elderly, in nursing care, or living with chronic illness, we pray.

Pray for those who have died...

— “His mercy endures forever.” *Chronicles*

Reflect



Smile with Your Family



A pastor went to place an order at the pet store: "I need at least 50 mice, 2000 ants and as many of those little silverfish you can get." The clerk replies, "We can probably do that, but it might take some time. Mind if I ask why you are placing such an unusual order?" The pastor replied, "I've accepted a call to another church and this Church's Board of Trustees told me to leave the parsonage the way I found it." ☺

Good news/bad news jokes aimed at pastors!

GOOD NEWS: You baptized seven people today in the river.

BAD NEWS: You lost two of them in the swift current. ☺

GOOD NEWS: The Women's Missionary Society voted to send you a get-well card.

BAD NEWS: The vote passed by 31-30. ☺

GOOD NEWS: Church attendance rose dramatically the last three weeks.

BAD NEWS: You were on vacation. ☺

GOOD NEWS: Your biggest critic just left your church.

BAD NEWS: He has been appointed the Head Bishop of your denomination. ☺

It's been said that every pastor ought to have six weeks of vacation each year, because if he is a really good shepherd, he deserves it; and if he is not a very good shepherd, his congregation deserves it. ☺



Parenting Tune-Up

What does love really mean? Talk to your kids that another word for love is sacrifice. Ask the children to list expressions of sacrificial love they see in others – parents, grandparents, elders, teachers, etc. Discuss how willing they are to sacrifice their conveniences out of love.

Marriage Tune-Up

After the last child leaves home, Mom and Dad may wake up and wonder who they are looking at. Somewhere over the years, they've gotten so involved in their children's lives that they forgot about each other. Prepare for an empty nest by paying attention to your honey today. Plan a date for this week.



"GRANDMA, PLEASE..."

In Chicago, there is a unique telephone service called "Grandma, Please" that is geared to latchkey kids. "Grandma, Please" provides a free number kids can call if they are home alone and need someone to talk to. Senior citizens volunteer their time to answer telephones and talk to kids who are lonely or scared and need a little adult company. The "Grandma, Please" switchboard gets about 800 calls per month. Many of the children want to share the news of their school day with someone. Some will call because they heard a noise outside and got scared. Most call simply for the chance to connect with another human being. They are so lonely. One volunteer reports that her phone calls often end with the child saying, "I love you, Grandma. What is your name?"

Let us learn to love ourselves so that we may learn to love each other. The old commandment (Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18), says: "Love your neighbor as yourself." How do we learn to cherish others and care for them if we have never learned to do the same for ourselves? We live in a culture that devalues life and worships death—a culture in which people drug themselves into oblivion. Women and girls are willing to starve themselves to fit some unrealistic media image of beauty and worth. People and relationships are sacrificed on the altar of "workaholism." How are we to love ourselves when we are told over and over again that we are unlovable? How do we reclaim our basic worth? We can become whole and holy only when we learn to love ourselves properly, acknowledging the presence of the Triune God in our souls, making our bodies the "temple of the Holy Spirit." Only those persons who are fully convinced that they are themselves lovable because God has loved them and so brought them into being can reach out comfortably and unconditionally to love those who themselves cannot love but can only hurt and hate and destroy. It is through constant love-centered interaction with God and each other that the "new earth, the new Heaven, and the new Jerusalem" can begin to come into existence.

"TENDRILS ALONG THE SIDEWALK OF LOSS . . ."

"I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another. This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13: 31-33a, 34-35

In her memoir **Some Assembly Required: A Journal of My Son's First Son**, Anne Lamott includes this entry: "The only son of some people [my son] Sam and I know from town has died. "How on earth can the parents survive that? How can the grandparents?" Same old inadequate answer: They will survive with enormous sadness and devastation. I don't see how this is possible. But looking back over the years, I see that people do go on against absolutely all odds, and truly savage loss.

"Some of us have a raggedy faith. You cry for a long time, and then after that are defeated and flattened for a long time. Then somehow life starts up again. Other people set up foundations so other kids don't die the way theirs did, and so their kids didn't die in vain, or they do political work for the common good. Your friends surround you like white blood cells . . .

"Life is a very powerful force, despite the constant discouragement. So if you are a person with connections to life, a few tendrils eventually break through the sidewalk of loss, and you notice them, maybe space out studying for them for a few moments, or maybe they tickle you into movement and response, if only because you have to scratch your nose."

If we look carefully, with persevering trust, we will realize the love of God breaking through like flowers through the cracks in the sidewalk of our brokenness and pain. Such compassion and care is ours to give and receive in our "raggedy" attempts to follow Jesus' "new" commandment: to love one another as he has loved us. In times of loss, may we realize reasons to carry on in meaningful hope - and, when others suffer times of trauma and pain, may we possess the grace of God be a "tendrill" of God's love for them.

QUEST FOR FIRE

In the early 1980s, an unusual film was playing in movie theatres across the nation. It was called Quest for Fire. Its French producer said it fulfilled a lifelong dream. He'd always dreamed of celebrating, in film, the discovery of fire. For it was the discovery of fire 80,000 years ago that saved people on the planet Earth from total extinction. It was the discovery of fire that made it possible for them to make tools for survival and to protect themselves against the cold. Today, people on planet earth are beginning to worry again that we are teetering on the brink of global disaster. This time the danger comes not from something basic like the lack of fire but from something even more basic – the lack of human love, the kind of love Jesus preached. This makes us wonder. It makes us ask ourselves a question, a frightening question: 'Do we love? Have we learned to love?'

THIS IS AN ARAB BUS! DO NOT THROW STONES!

The Reverend Timothy J. Kennedy tells of traveling by bus throughout Israel one summer. On one part of the journey, the bus driver placed a big white sign by the passenger side windshield. Since it was in Arabic, Kennedy asked their guide to translate. The sign said, "This is an Arab bus, owned and operated by Arabs. Please do not throw stones." When they got close to Tel Aviv, the driver pulled another sign from behind his seat, and replaced the first sign in the windshield. Since it was in Hebrew, Kennedy asked their guide to translate again. The new sign said, "This is a Jewish bus, owned and operated by Israelis. Please do not throw stones." How do you tell the difference between an Arab bus and a Jewish bus? A big plastic sign in the windshield. But back to our primary question, how do you identify a Christian? I guess we could wear plastic signs. But would that really do the trick?

Let us love others in our daily lives: We are asked to love as Jesus loved, in the ordinary course of our lives. This means that we should love others by allowing ourselves to be moved with pity for them. We love others by responding to their everyday needs. We can show love by materially sharing with those who have less. We love others by comforting and protecting those who have experienced loss. We love others by serving others in every possible way no matter how small. We love others by forgiving rather than condemning, by challenging rather than condoning. We love others by responding to the call of God in our lives and by walking in the footsteps of Jesus. We love others by making sacrifices for them. This is how the world will know that we are the Disciples of Christ.

A COACH WHO PRACTICED CHRISTIAN LOVE

Author James Moore tells about K.C. Jones, the former coach of the Boston Celtics basketball team. Jones became famous for his unique ability to give his players some unforgettable words of encouragement when they needed it most. If a player scored 50 points or made the game-winning basket, Jones would not say much more than, "Nice game!" But when a player was down and really struggling, Coach Jones would be there to comfort and help and inspire. All-star forward Kevin McHale asked Coach Jones about this one day, and K.C. Jones answered: "Kevin, after you've made the winning basket, you've got 15,000 people cheering for you, TV commentators come rushing toward you, and everybody is giving you high fives. You don't need me then. When you need a friend most is when nobody is cheering."

MOTHER TERESA'S LOVE



One day, as Blessed Mother Teresa and her Missionaries of Charity were tending to the poorest of the poor on the streets of Calcutta, they happened across a man lying in the gutter, very near death. He was filthy, dressed in little more than a rag and flies swarmed around his body. Immediately, Mother Teresa lovingly lifted him up, cleaned his body, spoke to him softly and laid him comfortably in her ambulance. A passerby was repulsed by the sight of the man and exclaimed to Mother Teresa, "I wouldn't do that for a million dollars." Her response was immediate, "Neither would I!" She demonstrated the type of love that Jesus wants from Christians.

The nature of Christian love: Jesus speaks of agápe, a love that requires total commitment and trust. It is the kind of love with which God loves us, a love that should be the model of the love we have for others. This love should be more than just a warm feeling toward others; it should be a compassionate gift of ourselves to meet the spiritual and bodily needs of our brothers and sisters. Agápe implies a reaching out to others in a caring attitude for their wellbeing without expecting any favor in return. It is strong, positive, difficult, determined action. Jesus repeats the command to love one another three times, first explaining what it is ("a new commandment"), how it is to be applied ("as I have loved you"), and finally noting that this love would stand as the trademark of his disciples. Not only is this a new commandment, but also, Jesus teaches, it is the greatest. To love, in fact, is to know God—"Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love" (1 John 4:7-8). The early Christians practiced this love literally. That is why Tertullian stated that the heathens held the Christian congregations in high regard: "See, how these Christians love one another."

The fact is that Jesus' death and Resurrection served, not just as an example of how to love, but as the agent that actually freed us from our selfish love through His indwelling presence. It was this new kind of love which was manifested by the first disciples of Jesus in Jerusalem (Acts 2:44-45), and in the Churches in Macedonia (2 Cor 8:1-5). It was a love that was attentive to the poor and the needy. During his life on earth, Jesus Himself was lovingly present to those who were not at all lovable. He allowed himself to be moved with pity and compassion when he encountered those in need, and he was moved to tears in the midst of sadness. He openly shed tears at the tomb of Lazarus. He shed tears also over the city of Jerusalem. Even the anger that Jesus displayed in the Temple was rooted in love -- the love for His Father and for His Father's house. Jesus loved by serving others, by helping them and by healing others. His was a love that healed and built up, that challenged and inspired people. It was a deeply forgiving and sacrificial love. "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends" (15: 13).

CHRISTIAN LOVE IN ACTION

Comedian Jerry Clower tells a story about Christian love in action. Two Christian businessmen were having lunch in a downtown restaurant. The waitress serving their table dumped a bowl of hot soup right over one of these businessmen. Everybody gasped and stared. As Clower tells it, "They just couldn't wait for the manager to run out and fire this lady. They just couldn't wait for this man, standing there, dripping, with his suit ruined, to cuss this waitress out, but the fellow looked at that waitress and said, 'Young lady, I am so sorry this happened to you. I know it embarrasses you.' How would you have handled that situation? Can you love as the Master would have us love? Can any of us do that? How?

Let us demonstrate our love for others: When we are assembled and have guests, we have an opportunity to demonstrate our love for another. They must see Christians as people who are glad to see one another, who are willing to take the time to visit with each other and who know each other's names. Our assemblies may be the only time some guests have the opportunity to see Christians interact with love and concern for one another, an interaction that reveals the strong love and appreciation for one another which the members have. Christians will often sin against one another and offend one another. But others should see in us a quickness to forgive, even as Christ has forgiven us.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO THE NATIONAL SHRINE IN WASHINGTON D.C.



As announced, the Diocesan Pilgrimage to the National Shrine in Washington D.C. is on **September 20, 2025.**

If there are many parishioners planning to join, we could hire a bus for us. A sign up genius has been set up on our parish website for those interested to sign up.

www.stmatthias.net/jubilee-pilgrimage

Learn



CAMP INVENTION AT ST. MATTHIAS SCHOOL!

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



Camp Invention®

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 until camp starts.

Register by May 15th 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 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!



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

POSTER CONTEST: 2 WINNERS FROM ST. MATTHIAS!

This year's theme of the Respect Life Poster Context was: "The Blessing of Old Age". Students were asked to draw a picture of how a grandparent or older person in their life has impacted their life in a positive way. 16 Catholic Schools participated and 13 Religious Education Programs participated with a total of 144 entries submitted. We are very proud that two of our students were chosen as winners. Congratulations to:

Third Grade: 2nd Place KEVIN PERALTA

Fifth Grade: 2nd Place NICOLE NOWAK

Connect



HOMESCHOOLING MOMS RETREAT

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

To register: www.diometuchen.org/homeschool-ministry-1



GRANDPARENTS AND SENIORS DAY

A Morning for Grandparents and Seniors (55+) The Diocese of Metuchen is pleased to host a Celebrate Life Event - A Morning for Grandparents and Seniors on **Thursday, July 24, 2025** from 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM at the St. John Neumann Pastoral Center, Piscataway, NJ. The morning will include breakfast and fellowship, a presentation on

"The Spiritual Gifts of Aging: Wisdom, Patience & Grace" by guest speaker Keaton Douglas, followed by Eucharistic Adoration and Holy Mass. This event is an outreach to our aging Catholic community and promises to be an upbeat day! There is no fee to attend, but registration is required.

For questions or concerns, please email amarshall@diometuchen.org or call 732-562-1543.

Pray

April Baptisms

The Catholic Community of St. Matthias welcomes the following children who were baptized in April.

We congratulate those who have received the Easter Sacraments.

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

Mallory Marie Holler

Laurence Patrick Murphy

Brooklyn Michelle Mitchell

Leonardo Walter Rosselli

Armando Luis Tejada



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 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



Peregrinación
HISPANA
el SANTUARIO NACIONAL BLUE ARMY

Pilgrimage to the National Blue Army Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima.

'Hispanic Families, Pilgrims of Hope'.

Join us on **June 14, 2025** from 9:30 am to 3:00 pm, at the Blue Army National Shrine, where we will be able to receive the jubilee indulgence. All are invited to participate in the adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, confessions, prayer of the Rosary and Angelus, and closing Mass. The event is free and prior registration is not required. Please bring your lunch.

More information? please visit diometuchen.org/peregrinacion-hispana or contact us 732-243-4573 or at Lescobar@diometuchen.org

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EDISON CHAPTER

13TH THANKSGIVING ANNIVERSARY

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

John 16:13

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



LIVE YOUR FAITH
JOIN THE FAASM REVIVAL
(Filipino-American
Association of St. Matthias)

Come join us celebrate our Philippine Independence on **Sunday, June 15th** from **4 pm - 7 pm** at **St. Matthias Church**.
Fr. Larrydom Magdasoc, Parochial Vicar of St. Bernard Clairvaux, will be the celebrant.
Fellowship will follow in the cafeteria.

For more information contact:

Lorna JaoJaco at 732.619.9896
or
Pam Yanogacio at 609.858.1342

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	\$27,836.50	\$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
*Due to the accelerated schedule of the bulletin publishers, the stewardship information will be updated in the next bulletin.			Month-to-date Total	May Total Last Year
			\$27,836.50	\$104,507.75
			Current Year-to-date Total	Year-to-date as of May 31, 2024
			\$1,161,065.35	\$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 18, 2025 5th Sunday of Easter

“I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another.” (John 13:34)

“As I have loved you,” this is the hard part – Jesus’ love is unconditional; our love usually comes with strings attached. It is easy to love someone when they love you back. But it takes mercy and compassion to love someone when you feel unappreciated, feel used or feel like your opinion doesn’t matter. It takes courage and the grace of God to “love my neighbor” when they may be someone you don’t like, someone you don’t know, or someone that doesn’t look like you.

Reflexiónese – 18 de Mayo de 2025 Domingo 5° de Pascua

“Un mandamiento nuevo les doy: ‘que se amen los unos a los otros’; que como Yo los he amado, así también se amen los unos a los otros.” (Juan 13:34)

“Que como yo los he amado”, esa es la parte difícil. El amor de Jesús es incondicional; nuestro amor usualmente viene con condiciones. Es fácil amar a alguien cuando esa persona nos ama. Sin embargo, se necesita misericordia y compasión amar a alguien cuando sentimos que no somos apreciados, nos sentimos utilizados o sentimos que nuestra opinión no importa. Se necesita valentía y la gracia de Dios para “amar al prójimo” cuando es alguien que no nos gusta, alguien que no conocemos, o alguien que no es como nosotros.



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 **\$165,126.97 (94.36%)** 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



Grab your most stylish hat and bring a friend.

Baby Drive. We
will be collecting
diapers & wipes for
Catholic Charities

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

DIOCESE OF METUCHEN
PRESENTS:

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plan for your ultimate
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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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REGISTER, VISIT:
[HTTPS://DIOMETUCHEN.ORG/HUMANLIFE
ANDDIGNITY](https://diometuchen.org/humanlifeanddignity)




SACRED TIME, SACRED SPACE Wednesday, May 20 from 9:30am-3pm

A personal, quiet day to meet God in silence and rest in God's love. The day begins with communal prayer and then you are free to pray and reflect within the House of Prayer and the grounds. Linger for as long as you like until 3pm.

Bring back lunch. In Person Program. \$20-\$30 as you are able.

Parish Leadership

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