



THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS
SUNDAY, MAY 19, 2024
Pentecost Sunday

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,
 7:45 AM - 3:30 PM

For all Parish emails, add @stmatthias.net

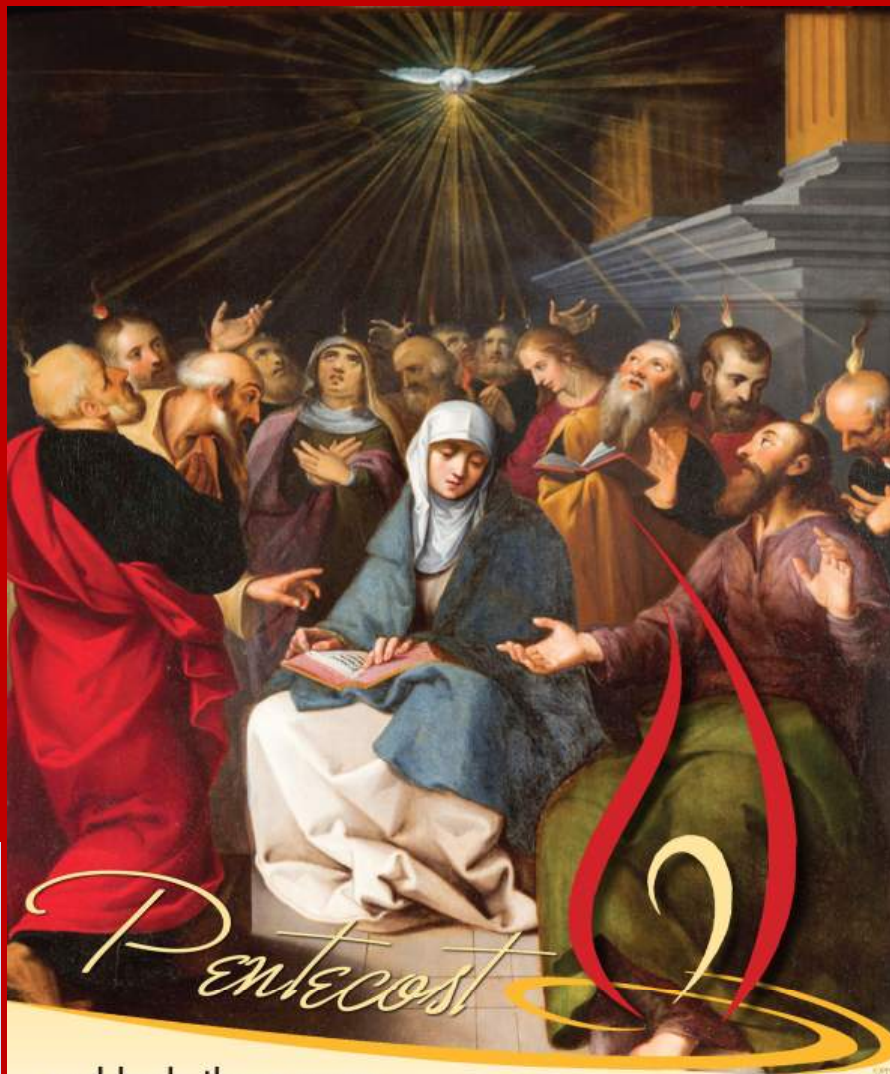
Pastor: Rev Abraham Orapankal, **Abraham**
 Fr. Lancelot McGrath, *Parochial Vicar* **lmcgrath**
 Mary Pat Burke-Grospin, *Business Administrator*
mpburke-grospin

Deacon Ron Caimi, *Senior Deacon*
 Kelly Counts, *Receptionist*, **kcounts**
 Deacon Russell Demkovitz, **rdemkovitz**
 Nathalie Godet, *Website & Bulletin Editor*,
ngodet

Leslie Guillen, *Bulletin Coordinator*, **lguillen**
 Amy Hanna, *Accountant/Databases*, **ahanna**
 Mike Lanyi, *Sacristan*
 Sue Lenczewski, *Youth Coordinator*, **SMYLE**
 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**

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



... suddenly there came
 from the sky a noise like a strong
 driving wind, and it filled the entire house... *Ciots 212*



Come Pray With Us



May being Mental Health Awareness month,
 all parishioners are invited to join the **SmyleWithBraces Next Level** team
 and **SMYLE Youth Ministry** to pray the rosary **TODAY** following the
 10:00 AM Mass.

ADORATION
 - BLESSED SACRAMENT



**PLEASE COME JOIN THE MANY WHO SPEND SOME
 QUIET TIME WITH THE EUCHARISTIC LORD.
 OUR NEXT ADORATION WILL BE
 MONDAY EVENING, MAY 20, 2024
 FROM
 6 PM TO 8 PM.**

Masses are also livestreamed on our YouTube channel: youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ

The Church is open for individual prayer

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

Sunday, May 19, 2024 Pentecost Sunday

Catholic Communication Campaign Collection

8:00AM Mass Church
 10:00AM Mass Church
 11:00AM Family Matters Listening Session John XXIII Rm
 12:00PM Mass Church

Monday, May 20, 2024 Mary, Mother of the Church

8:00AM Mass Church
 6:00PM Eucharist Adoration Church

Tuesday, May 21, 2024 St. Christopher Magallanes, Priest & Companions— Martyrs

8:00AM Mass Church
 6:30PM SMS: SAC Mtg. de Porres Rm
 7:30PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal Church

Wednesday, May 22, 2024 St. Rita of Cascia, Widow & Religious

8:00AM Mass, St. Joseph Novena Church
 7:30PM Folk Group Rehearsal Church

Thursday, May 23, 2024 Jesus Christ, The Eternal & High Priest

8:00AM Mass Church
 9:00AM SMS -2nd Gr. May Crowning Prayer Svc Church
 7:30PM Sunday 10AM Choir Rehearsal Church

Friday, May 24, 2024 Our Lady Help of Christians

8:00AM Mass Church

Saturday, May 25, 2024 St. Bede the Venerable, Priest & Doctor of the Church

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

Sunday, May 26, 2024 The Most Holy Trinity

8:00AM Mass Church
 10:00AM Mass -Interpreter Church
 12:00PM Mass Church
 3:30PM SMYLE Youth Grp. Cafeteria



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,

Today we join the rest of the Christian world to celebrate the great feast of Pentecost. Most Christians - Catholic, Orthodox, Anglican, Pentecostal and Charismatic churches as well as most Protestant churches – view this as the watershed event in Christianity, the birthday of the Church in many ways. The Acts of the Apostles recounts the story of the original Pentecost when the Apostles and the Blessed Virgin Mary, who were gathered in the Upper Room, were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak in different tongues (Acts 2). Peter’s speech that day brought about three thousand people to the way of Jesus. (Acts 2:41). And the Church began to grow.

Pentecost is the New Testament celebration of unity that reverses the Old Testament divisions and animosity of the Tower of Babel in Genesis 11:1-9. If the people who wanted to build the Tower of Babel were divided by language and race because of pride and arrogance, people on the Pentecost Day were united despite the diversity of language and race. Thus Pentecost is a feast that invites us to live and promote unity in diversity. Our parish of St. Matthias is a living proof of this diversity while keeping our unity in faith and fellowship.

When 44 youth of our parish received the Sacrament of Confirmation two weeks ago, Bishop Checchio reminded everyone present that the Holy Spirit can transform us into bold witnesses of the gospel. For that to happen, he encouraged all, especially the Confirmandi, to attend the church on a regular basis. During his homily, he asked me a question: “Fr. Abraham, if I give you \$168 and ask you to return to me just \$1, will you accept my offer?” I said yes. And then he told the congregation that God has given us all 168 hours every week for our use and God is asking us to return to God just one hour out of those 168 hours. Spending that one hour in Church every Sunday will have great benefits for us both spiritually and mentally. (Btw, the Bishop still owes me that \$168 😊)

Today’s feast of Pentecost often falls in the month of May, which is the month of Our Lady. Pope Francis encourages us to be praying her special prayer – the Rosary – every day. Considering that May is also the Mental Health Awareness month, we should be expressing with particular zeal our petitions for help and our confidence in the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary so that we can experience more peace of mind. Our own young people are inviting all to join the SmyleWithBraces Next Level team and SMYLE Youth Ministry to pray the rosary following the 10:00 Mass this Sunday.

May we all be open to the Holy Spirit who Jesus sends to be our Helper, Comforter and Guide (John 14:16) Let us call upon this Spirit: “Come Holy Spirit, come into my heart and fill me with your grace and power.” Repeat it like a mantra and see what happens to you!

Happy Pentecost!

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Abraham Orapankal

Readings for the Week

Monday Acts 19:1-8 Ps 68:2-3ab, 4-5acd, 6-7ab Jn 16:29-33

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

Wednesday Acts 20:28-38 Ps 68:29-30, 33-35a, 35bc-36ab Jn 17:11b-19

Thursday Acts 22:30; 23:6-11 Ps 16:1-2a, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11 Jn 17:20-26

Friday Acts 25:13b-21 Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20ab Jn 21:15-19

Saturday Acts 28:16-20, 30-31 Ps 11:4, 5, 7 Jn 21:20-25

Sunday Vigil Gn 11:1-9 or Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b or Ez 37:1-14 or Jl 3:1-5 Ps 104:1-2, 24, 35, 27-28, 29, 30 Rom 8:22-27 Jn 7:37-39

Sunday Day Acts 2:1-11 Ps 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13 Jn 20:19-23 or Jn 15:26-27; 16:12-15

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, May 18	5:00PM	Joan & Raymond Felton, by Claire
	5:00PM	Health & Blessings for Nathalie & Claudette, by The Godet Family
	5:00PM	Manula Cadena, by The Family
Sunday, May 19	8:00AM	Intention of Parishioners
	10:00AM	Bert Maglio, by Mom, Dad, Pete & Sue
	12:00PM	Nancy Moley, by The Lenczewski & Moley Family
Monday, May 20	8:00AM	Fidela Limayo, by Aaron & Armand Limayo
Tuesday, May 21	8:00AM	???
Wednesday, May 22	8:00AM	Dr. Brian Burke, by John & Kellianne
Thursday, May 23	8:00AM	Vincent DiNicola, by Rita
Friday, May 24	8:00AM	Aresio & Erminia Toscana, by The Family
Saturday, May 25	5:00PM	Intention of Parishioners
	5:00PM	Vincent DiNicola, by Rita
Sunday, May 26	8:00AM	Ferdinand Viaud, by Mary Ann Viaud
	10:00AM	Aresio & Erminia Toscana, by The Family
	12:00PM	Intention of Parishioners

Pray for those who are sick...

If you or a family member are sick, please call the Parish Office or **email Kelly Counts** at kccounts@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.

Kristin Baio	Andrea Dubuisson	Donna Kahora	Gail Miranda	Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF
Olga Marie Bando	Hattie Evans	Betsy Kondrat	Menchie Molano-Sotelo	Sr. Bernadine Marie Stemnock
Carolyn Banghart	Heinley Gaspard	Kathy Langenbacher	Danny Ongchango	Catherine Steele
Brandon Barbarite	Claudia Gemgnani	Rose Larangeira	Robert Pellegrino	Anita Vance
Ghislaine Baron	Emma Gergely	Armando D. Liban	Robert Pietrowiak	Eileen Weber
Helen Bell	Claude Godet	Mary Lou Litrakis	Randolff Pinard	Nancy Whelan
Samantha Bellouny	Marie Godet	John Litrakis	Valerie Polci	Theresa Sau-Ling Yung
Carmen Bender	Shelly Greene	Denis Loboda	Prasek/Scarpa Family	Ginette Zamor
Mary Bostrom	Linda Hartong	Aries Magali	Kim Price	Anne Zando
Robert Brisson	Jeff Hentz	Kenneth & Kelly Magat	Denise Pultro	
Tara Capatosto	Gene Horan	Al Maglio	Nina Ripley	
Elizabeth Card	Jerry & Donna Hucul	Susan, King & Tosh Manansala	Gabriel Rivera	
Rustico Castellano, Jr.	Amanda Isele	Alexandra Marquez	Arina Robinson	
Lisa DeFeo	Baby Elaine Isele	Christine Matthews	Bob Rotz	
Zenon DeGuzman	Nick Isele	Ann McElwee	Maria Schwenzer	
Vivian Dong	Jean Alix Jolly	Jessica Marie Merrick	Amy Shepp	
Sanora Doyen	Renée Jolly			

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

Dennis Enright, father of Georgeann Crowell, Dyron Ferguson

Reflect



Smile with Your Family



MEMORY LOSS JOKES:

I always have trouble remembering three things: faces, names, and – I can't remember what the third thing is. 😊

When I told the doctor about my loss of memory, he made me pay in advance. 😊

Two elderly ladies were enjoying the sunshine on a park bench in Miami. They had been meeting at that park every sunny day for over a dozen years. One day, the younger of the two ladies turns to the other and says, "Please don't be angry with me, but after all these years, what is your name? I am trying to remember, but I just can't." The older friend stares at her and then says, "How soon do you have to know?" 😊

I keep telling myself I need to get my memory checked, but I always forget to make the appointment. 😊

My memory's so bad; I can't even remember what I forgot. 😊

My memory's so bad, I once tried to reheat my coffee in the refrigerator. 😊

I keep telling myself I need to get my memory checked, but I always forget to make the appointment. 😊

God grant me the Senility to forget the people I never liked anyway, the good fortune to run into the ones I do, and the eyesight to tell the difference. 😊



Parenting Tune-Up

Today is Pentecost, which refers to 50 days after Easter. It reminds us of fear, community, and bravery. The apostles were afraid after Jesus left them. They gathered together. The Spirit filled them with courage to speak out. Ask your family what helps them be brave? Can anyone identify a recent courageous act?

Marriage Tune-Up

Pentecost is a feast of courage and community. Have you ever feared for the safety of your beloved? When? What helps you keep your marriage vows? Have you ever needed to defend your spouse to others? Stand up for each other's goodness. Gently and privately correct if necessary?



It's us against a Particle of Death...

"Are not all these people who are speaking Galileans? Then how does each of us hear them in his native language . . . ? We hear them speaking in our own tongues of the mighty acts of God." Acts 2: 1-11

Will and Maggie have a secret language. It's a language that has evolved over time. It's a language that transcends the couple's everyday squabbles, distractions and differences in personality and perspective. It's a language grown out of desperation and love. Maggie explains how this "language" works:

"We were on a bus recently with our three children. It was late, it was snowing, everyone was tired and the bus was crowded. I was squeezed on one seat with my two youngest children. Will and our eldest were strap-hanging in the aisle. From behind us came a noise: a crackling, rustling, splitting, then a specific crunch-crunch-crunch. My head spun around my neck, as did Will's. We took in our fellow passenger and his snack for a split second before I shot from my seat, hustling my daughters ahead of me, locking eyes with Will. "And so began our wordless conversation.

"He tilted his head, meaning, *Is that person eating nuts in the same airspace as our daughter?* "I narrowed my eyes, which meant, *Yes, I'm afraid so.* "He frowned, to say, *Don't let her breathe in until we get off the bus.* "I shrugged, implying, *Don't worry, I won't.* "We ushered our baffled, uncomprehending children off the bus and into the snow, miles from home.

"I realize this sounds like a deranged thing to do, so let me explain. When our middle daughter was quite young, we learned that she had an immune disorder . . . Just the inhalation of a single particle of nut dust could kill her within 10 minutes. Life, for her, is a series of dangers, strung together, one after another, like beads on a thread . . .

"Will and I must constantly be thinking about how best to protect her - as well as trying to minimize the impact of her condition on her siblings . . . There is a sense of solidarity between us on this one issue. We never argue about how best to take care of our daughter, not because we always agree - far from it - but because we know we need to channel every atom of energy into protecting her and her siblings. When it counts - when it's a situation of life or death - all that stuff and strife is forgotten. The secret code kicks in, and I know one thing: He and I will stand, teeth bared, between death and our daughter, unquestionably united, saying, *Get back, get away. You're not having her. Not today. Not tomorrow. Not any time soon.*"

continued

It's us against a Particle of Death... (continued)

Maggie and Will "speak" the language of the Spirit of God, the "language" that collapses disagreements and dissolves self-interests for the sake of a loved one. In their fierce protection of the daughter, God's Spirit enables them to "speak" to one another in the "language" of compassion and care for the good of their children. As the Spirit overcomes the barriers of language and perception to open up the hearts and minds of Peter's listeners on that first Pentecost, that same Spirit "blows" through our own homes and families enabling us to speak and hear God's language of mercy and forgiveness in our love and care for one another. The gift of Pentecost faith enables us to hear the voice of God speaking in the midst of the clamor and busyness, the pain and despair of our everyday lives, inviting us to embrace the life and love of God in our homes and hearts.

We Need to Observe Pentecost Every day!

"It will always be Pentecost in the Church," affirmed Blessed Oscar Romero, Archbishop of El Salvador, on Pentecost Sunday 1978, "provided the Church lets the beauty of the Holy Spirit shine forth from her countenance. When the Church ceases to let her strength rest on the Power from above which Christ promised her and which he gave her on that day; and when the Church leans rather on the weak forces of the power or wealth of this earth, then the Church ceases to be newsworthy. The Church will be fair to see, perennially young, attractive in every age, as long as she is faithful to the Spirit that floods her and she reflects that Spirit through her communities, through her pastors, through her very life" [*The Violence of Love*, (Farmington, PA: The Plough Pub. Co., 1998).] [Pope Francis beatified Archbishop Oscar Romero May 23, 2015.] Archbishop Romero's declaration reminds us -- as does today's Gospel -- that Pentecost is not just one day, but every day. Without breath, there is no life. Without the Spirit, the Church is a field of dry, dead bones. The Venerable Fulton J. Sheen once said about the Church, "Even though we are God's *chosen people*, we often behave more like God's *frozen people*-- frozen in our prayer life, frozen in the way we relate with one another, frozen in the way we celebrate our Faith." [Pope Benedict XVI declared Bishop Fulton J. Sheen Venerable in June 2012.] Today is a great day to ask the Holy Spirit to rekindle in us the spirit of new life and enthusiasm, the fire of God's love.

Let us repeat Blessed John Henry Cardinal Newman's favorite little prayer:

"Come Holy Spirit, Make our ears to hear your love; Make our eyes to see your love; Make our mouths to speak your love; Make our hearts to seek your love; Make our hands to reach out and touch the world with your love. AMEN."

The Christian Pentecost

Pentecost marks the end and the goal of the Easter season. For Christians, it is a memorial of the day the Holy Spirit descended on the apostles and the Virgin Mary in the form of fiery tongues; an event that took place fifty days after the Resurrection of Jesus. The Paschal mystery -- the Passion, the Death, the Resurrection, and the Ascension of Jesus -- culminates in the sending of the Holy Spirit by the Father (at the request of His Son), on Jesus' disciples. The feast also commemorates the official inauguration of the Christian Church by the apostolic preaching of St. Peter, which resulted in the conversion of 3000 Jews to the Christian Faith. Pentecost is, thus, the official birthday of the Church. However, years ago, *This Rock Magazine* reported that there were 78,444 Protestant denominations, which means that, on the average, more than sixty-nine new denominations had sprung up every year since the Reformation began in 1517. So whose birthday is it anyway? You could say, Pentecost is the birthday of the Church Jesus established nearly 2,000 years ago. Today's Scripture readings remind us that Pentecost is an event of both the past and the present. The main theme of today's readings is that the gift of the Holy Spirit is something to be shared with others. In other words, the readings remind us that the gift of the Holy Spirit moves its recipients to action and inspires them to share this gift with others.

The Jewish Pentecost

Both the Jews and the Christians now celebrate Pentecost. Along with the Feast of the Passover and the Feast of Tabernacles, Pentecost was one of the major feasts of the Jews. During these three great Jewish festivals, every male Jew living within twenty miles of Jerusalem was legally bound to go to Jerusalem to participate in the feast. The word Pentecost is Greek for *pentecostes*, which means "fiftieth." The feast received this name because it is celebrated fifty days after the Feast of the Passover. Another name for the Jewish Pentecost is *Shebuot* or "The Feast of Weeks" (the "week" of seven Sabbaths between Passover and Pentecost). It was originally a day of thanksgiving for the completion of the harvest. During Passover, the first *omer* (a Hebrew measure of about a bushel), of barley was offered to God. At Pentecost, two loaves of bread were offered in gratitude for the harvest. Later, the Jews added to the Feast of Pentecost the element of Yahweh's Covenant with Noah, which took place fifty days after the great deluge. Still later, they made this feast an occasion to thank God for His Sinaitic Covenant with Moses, which occurred fifty days after the beginning of the Exodus from Egypt.

Marian Devotions - 3

The Litany of the Blessed Virgin – also called the Litany of Loreto - is one of the many Marian litanies, or praises of Mary, composed during the Middle Ages. The place of honor it now holds in the life of the Church is due to its faithful use at the shrine of the Holy House at Loreto. Pope Sixtus V definitively approved it in 1587, and all other Marian litanies were suppressed, at least for public use. Through the centuries, at least 7 new invocations to Mary were added. Saint Pope John Paul II added “Mother of the Church” in 1980, and “Queen of families” in 1995. Pope Francis has added three more: “Mater misericordiae”, the Latin for “Mother of mercy”; “Mater spei”, or “Mother of hope”; and “Solacium migrantium”, or “Solace of migrants” are the new invocations to the Blessed Virgin Mary in the Litany of Loreto, which is often recited at the end of the Rosary.

There are forty-nine titles. A few more have been added in some versions: with "Mother of the Church" and "Mother of Mercy" and being the 'official' 'newcomers' in recent times. All these are included on the Vatican website version:

https://www.vatican.va/special/rosary/documents/litanie-lauretane_en.html. These invocations set before us Mary's exalted privileges, her holiness of life, her amiability and power, her motherly spirit and queenly majesty. Reflection on the titles of the litany, therefore, will unfold before us a magnificent picture of our heavenly Mother, even though we know little about her life. This Litany with all these beautiful invocations is beloved by people throughout the world.

This Litany with all these beautiful invocations is beloved by people throughout the world.



The Holy Spirit is a Spirit of Communication

There have been numerous books written on the difficulty that men and women have in communicating. It has been estimated that women say something like 6,000 – 8,000 words a day and that men utter 2,000 – 4,000 words a day. At the end of the day the man has spoken his 4,000 words and doesn't want to communicate any more. He simply wants to sit quietly, watch TV and go to bed. A woman most likely won't have spoken her 8,000 words for the day yet. She may have 2-3,000 words to go and uses them to share every event of the day. This conversation may sound familiar. Wife: Hi darling ... it's good to see you home. How was your day? Husband: Good. Wife: I heard that you were going to finalize that big deal today. How did it go? Husband: Fine. Wife: That's good. Do you think the boss will give you a raise? Husband: Maybe. Wife: Hey! Today I found out that I'm pregnant. Husband: That's good. *and so on...* and then she goes on to tell everything in detail that happened in her day. The Holy Spirit communicates with men and women equally through the Holy Bible and inspires them and guides them in their communication with God. May God's Spirit guide and help us as we go out from here today and give us the courage and power to speak his Word to others.

Some Pentecostal Traditions

Some parishes have begun the tradition of encouraging people to wear red clothing on Pentecost, since red is the liturgical color of the day. This reflects the old custom of decorating homes and churches with colorful flowers on this day. In Poland, for example, and among the Ukrainians, Pentecost is sometimes called the “Green Holiday,” and in Germany the “Flower Feast.” In some Latin countries there is the term “Pascha Rosatum,” Latin words that mean “Feast of Roses.” In addition, in Italy there is “Pasqua Rossa,” meaning “Red Pasch,” inspired by the red vestments worn on Pentecost. Medieval Christians liked to dramatize the Pentecost symbols of the dove and flames of fire.

Historical accounts tell us, for example, that in France, when the priest intoned the words “Come, Holy Ghost,” trumpets would blow, signifying the violent wind of which the scriptures speak. In other countries choirboys would hiss, hum, make odd noises with wind instruments, and rattle their benches. Then from a hole in the wall above, called “The Holy Ghost Hole,” a great swinging disk with a beautiful image of a dove would descend, and remain suspended above the middle of the church. From the same opening in the wall would follow a shower of flowers, representing the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and water symbolizing baptism. In the thirteenth century, French cathedrals would release white pigeons inside the buildings, and drop roses from the Holy Ghost Hole. Some towns in central Europe even dropped pieces of burning straw, representing the flaming tongues of Pentecost. This custom eventually found disfavor, as more and more churches and worshipers caught fire, spiritually and literally.

Pray



THE HOLY SPIRIT'S POWER IN US

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, My name is Denik Abraham and I am a Eucharistic Minister and a facilitator of a Small Faith Sharing group. When I shared my experience of a miraculous healing with our small group, I was encouraged to share it with the parish.

Last year, I went through a life-threatening illness when my kidneys failed, and I was on dialysis. The medical opinion was scary. It was a long and trying time for me and my family. However, through praying in tongues to the Holy Spirit and the intercession of Mother Mary, I was miraculously and completely healed. When I tell this testimony to people, they acknowledge Mother Mary but ignore what I said about the Holy Spirit.

I wondered if it was because the Power and Gifts of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 12) are assumed to be a Protestant belief? The Catholic church was and is guided by the Holy Spirit. However we, as people of God, talk about the Holy Spirit only on special occasions like Baptism, Confirmation and Pentecost. This doctrine of the Holy Spirit is taught by the early Catholic church and is reconfirmed every Sunday in the Nicene Creed. The gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit are power and authority given to us always to do the things Jesus did when he was on earth.

As Catholics, we are very good in following various devotions but most of the time, we fail to pray to the Holy Spirit. I believe, if we pray to the Holy Spirit our church will become more alive and powerful just as in the time of the first Pentecost. (Acts 2). Three thousand people joined the church in one day. That is the power of the Holy Spirit. If we ever believe that we are a powerless Church, we will also struggle to keep our people in Church. Why do we see such a poor percentage of Catholics believing in the presence of our Lord in the Eucharist?

On this feast of Pentecost, we, as a Church, need to awaken the Holy Spirit who dwells in each one of us and then our Church will be on fire. Let's build a personal relationship with the Holy Spirit. In (John 16:13-15) Jesus refers to the Holy Spirit as a helper. He gave his Spirit to us, to guide us (the Church) and live a powerful Christian life.



NATIONAL
**Eucharistic
Pilgrimage**

National Eucharistic Pilgrimage

The National Eucharistic Pilgrimage will be travelling through our diocese this May 27-28.

If you would like to learn more about the NEC, you may visit

<https://www.eucharisticpilgrimage.org/> which, among other things, contains an interactive map that allows you to explore each of the four unique routes across the United States. If you would like to learn more about what we are doing to welcome the "perpetual pilgrims" to the Diocese of Metuchen, you can check out our website at <https://diometuchen.org/nep2024>. The pilgrims will be visiting the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi (Metuchen) on Monday, May 27, as well as St. Peter the Apostle (New Brunswick) and St. Augustine of Canterbury (Kendall Park) on Tuesday, May 28.

We have a number of events scheduled, including Praise and Worship at the Cathedral Monday evening, followed by an All Night Vigil, Mass at St. Peter's Tuesday afternoon, and a presentation on Eucharistic Miracles by Fr. Roger Landry at St. Augustine's Tuesday evening. The pilgrims will also be walking from the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi, Metuchen, to St. Peter the Apostle, New Brunswick, Tuesday afternoon, and from St. Peter's to St. Augustine of Canterbury, Kendall Park, Tuesday afternoon/evening. All are encouraged to register for as many of these events as they are able to attend. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to email Adam in the Diocesan Office at acarlisle@diometuchen.org.

Connect

Pastoral Council Seeks New Members

The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) is the primary advisory body for the Pastor. As we continue to recruit new members, we would like to invite everyone in our parish to help make this leadership body more representative of our entire parish community. What does this mean for you? Do you know a fellow parishioner who you think would be great to have on the Pastoral Council? Speak with that person and ask them to contact the Council's Co-Chairs:

Marilyn Wegg, mcw-wam@comcast.net or Frank Rees, Frees814@gmail.com. If you have been considering joining this ministry, don't be shy. Contact the co-chairs. Everyone is invited to observe a Pastoral Council meeting.



CAMP INVENTION AT ST. MATTHIAS SCHOOL!

June 17-21, 2024

Thanks to rave reviews from campers, parents, and teachers, we're bringing **Camp Invention** back for its 7th year at St. Matthias School!



Camp Invention®

Even better, our 2024 program is full of all-new, hands-on STEM fun!

Don't miss out—register students going into grades Kindergarten - 6th grade at invent.org/mylocalcamp until camp starts. Register by **March 27th** using **FUN25** to **save \$25** or by **May 16th** 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.

Camp Week: June 17-21, 2024

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!



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WINNER WILL BE DRAWN MONDAY, MAY 20TH



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Cub Scout Pack 195 / Boy Scout Troop 154

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All proceeds from the event will help fund Pack 195 and Troop 154 Scout Activity Program

THANK YOU



SATURDAY JUNE 8th, 2024
10AM-3PM

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168 JFK BLVD, SOMERSET



Suggested Donation (cash or check):
Car - \$10, Minivan/SUV - \$15
More info: www.scoutpack195nj.com



2024 SMS Golf Classic

Tuesday May 21, 2024
Neshanic Valley Golf Course
Neshanic Station, NJ




Give (and Receive!)

Stewardship Totals for Fiscal Year July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024				Last Year's Total
Current Month	In-Pew/Mail	Parish Giving	Weekly Total	Weekly Total
Week 45 - May 5, 2024	\$9,672.50	\$17,849.00	\$27,521.50	\$32,720.75
Week 46 - May 12, 2024	\$9,859.00	\$23,589.00	\$33,448.00	\$25,629.25
Week 47 - May 19, 2024			\$0.00	\$19,720.25
Week 48 - May 26, 2024			\$0.00	\$19,260.42
			Month-to-date Total	May Total Last Year
Development of People Collection: \$2,556.00			\$60,969.50	\$97,330.67
			Current Year-to-date	Year-to-date as of May 31, 2023
			\$1,225,222.80	\$1,279,928.71

Stewardship Reflection May 19, 2024 Pentecost Sunday

“There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone.” 1 Corinthians 12:4-6

All of us are blessed, regardless of our own individual circumstances. God has given each of us many gifts. How we use those gifts is our gift back to God. For God’s plan to work, each must do what we are called to do. Guess what? We are not all called to do the same thing! For God’s plan to work you have to do what God is calling you to do and I have to do what God is calling me to do.

Reflexiónese - 19 de mayo de 2024 Domingo de Pentecostés

“Hay muchas clases de dones espirituales, pero el Espíritu Santo es la única fuente de esos dones. Hay diferentes maneras de servir a Dios, pero siempre es a un mismo Señor. Hay muchas maneras en las que Dios actúa, pero siempre es un mismo Dios el que realiza todas las cosas en nosotros.” 1 Corintios 12: 4-6

Independientemente de nuestras circunstancias individuales todos somos bendecidos. Dios nos da a cada uno muchos dones. La manera en la que utilizamos esos dones es nuestro don de vuelta a Dios. Para que el plan de Dios funcione, cada uno debe hacer la tarea para la cual ha sido llamado. Adivine qué. ¡No todos somos llamados a hacer la misma cosa! Para que el plan de Dios funcione usted tiene que hacer lo que Dios lo ha llamado a hacer, y yo tengo que hacer lo que Dios me ha llamado a hacer a mí.



IF YOU HAVE NOT SIGNED UP WITH PARISH GIVING...

Parish Giving offers secure flexible online giving for our parishioners who would like to make their donations online using a credit card or bank transfer. You never have to bring cash or checks to church. Giving electronically also helps the church save money and plan the budget.

If you want to simplify your life, go to our website, www.stmatthias.net and click on the Parish Giving Link under ‘Give’. Parish Giving offers you complete control over your account to change your giving as needed. You have the benefit to generate a giving report and easily choose the specific collections you wish to support. We thank you for your support which enables St. Matthias to minister to the community.

Why more parishes switch to Online Giving?

For years, the traditional check or cash in a weekly offertory envelope has been the preferred method of giving in parishes across the country. However, most recently, we’ve witnessed a significant increase in online giving. There are many advantages. Here’s just one one: **It saves your parish staff and counting volunteers loads of time and resources.**

Online giving offers a much welcome relief by reducing the time spent each week counting offertories, manually entering contributions into the church management software, and managing secure bank deposits. Instead, with online payment processing, you can bypass the time-consuming work while reaping all the benefits as funds flow straight into your account. Thanks to many of you who have already switched to online giving.

Connecting to Our Local Community



Information and Registration for all Mount Saint Mary House of Prayer offerings can be found on our website: www.msmhope.org. Call us at 908-753-2091 or email us at msmhope@msmhope.org.

Registration for all offerings is required 10 days in advance to avoid the program being cancelled.

Tuesday, May 28 MAN TO MAN

Men have unique roles in life... husbands, fathers, grandfathers, the single life and religious life... We're pushed and pulled in a thousand directions by responsibilities, stress, loss and by joys. Where can we find time to reflect on the loss and gain of our lives? For all men—young, old and in between. Join our group over coffee or tea for life affirming discussions and prayer to find God in our lives and to make a difference in our own worlds.

4th Tuesday of the Month

June 18, July 23, Aug. 27 from 7-8:30 both at the House of Prayer and on Zoom Freewill offering

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RL: RA2024-03 ID:412-01-454
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Parish Leadership

Parish Pastoral Council:	Co-Secretaries:	Sheila Tartaglia	Parish Finance Council:	Cory Panlilio
Co-Chairs: Frank Rees Frees814@gmail.com	Stephen Busono sbusono@gmail.com	Fr. Lancelot McGrath, Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio	Kester Hector, Chair Finance Council @stmatthias.net	Mary Pat Burke-Grospin, Ex-Officio
Marilyn Wegg mcw-wam@comcast.net	Bill Isele t33sm@aol.com	Trustees: Pearl Scott Marge Richards	Carmen Driz-Melilli Barry Dusault Joan Pritchard	Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio

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

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

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

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

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



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



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