



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 - 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

St. Matthias School (SMS):

170 JFK Blvd., Somerset, NJ 08873
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 21, 2023-
Ascension of the Lord

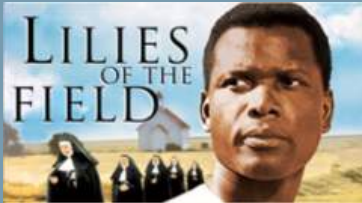
This Weekend is
 the Catholic
 Communications
 Campaign
 Collection.



**PLEASE STOP BY THE
 ST. MATTHIAS MINISTRY FAIR
 TODAY AFTER MASS**

St. Matthias is blessed with a
 host of ministries doing
 so much good for our
 community and beyond.
 Come learn more about our
 various ministries.

See page 8 for more information



**THE RACIAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE
 MOVIE NIGHT**

DATE: Saturday, May 27th
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
 by **Thursday, May 25th** so we can prepare accordingly.

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!



The Mercury is Rising!

We are getting closer to our goal.

See page 8 for a special message from the
 60th Anniversary Fundraising Committee.



This Week @ St. Matthias From Our Pastor

Masses are also livestreamed on our YouTube channel: [youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ](https://www.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 21, 2023 Catholic Communication Campaign Collection

ALL DAY MINISTRY FAIR—CAFETERIA

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

Monday, May 22, 2023 St. Rita of Cascia, Widow & Religious

8:00AM Mass /Miraculous Medal Novena Church

Tuesday, May 23, 2023 St. John Baptist De Rossi, Priest

8:00AM Mass Church

Wednesday, May 24, 2023 Our Lady Help of Christians

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 25, 2023 St. Bede the Venerable, Priest & Doctor

8:00AM Mass Church
9:00AM SMS: May Crowning Prayer Service Church
7:30PM Adult Choir Rehearsal Church

Friday, May 26, 2023 Memorial— St. Philip Neri, Founder

SMS Dismissal—12:15PM
8:00AM Mass Church

Saturday, May 27, 2023 St. Augustine, 1st Archbishop of Canterbury

3:30PM Reconciliation Church
4:00PM Racial Justice Initiative Movie/Dinner St. John XXII Rm
5:00PM Vigil Mass Church

Sunday, May 28, 2023 Pentecost Sunday

8:00AM Mass Church
10:00AM Mass, Pastoral Council Commissioning 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 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,

We know from the Bible that the Ascension of Jesus took place forty days after the Resurrection: “[Jesus] presented himself alive to them by many proofs after he had suffered, appearing to them during forty days.” Acts 1:3. The 40th day after Easter Sunday will always be Thursday, therefore the Church, from very early on, celebrated Christ’s Ascension on this day.

But with the declining number of attendance on a weekday, many US Ecclesiastical Provinces as well as some countries, decided to transfer the feast to Sunday. You may remember that last year, our bishops of New Jersey decided to permanently transfer the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord from Thursday of the Sixth Week of Easter to the following Sunday, the Seventh Sunday of Easter. Hence we keep the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord today.

Ascension does not mean that Jesus disappeared, because even as he ascended, his assurance was, “I will be with you always, even to the end of times” (Matthew 28:20). What is celebrated is Jesus’ exaltation and the end of his earthly existence as a prelude to the gift of the Spirit. Hence this feast is a celebration of Jesus’ final glorification after his suffering, death, and Resurrection – a glory in which we also hope to share.

And yet, humanly speaking, the concept of bodily Ascension is a mystery that we cannot fully understand. Pope Francis doesn’t shy away from explaining the mysteries of our faith. In his catechesis on Ascension, he says: “Jesus’ Ascension into Heaven thus allows us to know this reality that is so consoling on our journey: in Christ, true God, and true man, our humanity has been brought to God. He has opened the way. He is like the leader of a mountain climbing party that is roped together. He has reached the summit and pulls us to himself, leading us to God. If we entrust our lives to him, if we let ourselves be guided by him, we are certain of being in safe hands.”

Next Sunday is the great Feast of Pentecost. We are who we are because of the power of the Holy Spirit whose indwelling is within each one of us. Remember, what happened to the Apostles and the Blessed Mother after the Ascension? They gathered in the Upper Room and began to prepare themselves for the next nine days for the coming of the Holy Spirit just as Jesus told them (Acts 1:4; Lk 24:49). They were anointed by the Holy Spirit and were totally changed. They became as new persons with a new life that even the citizens around them could see it so clearly.

As a parish community, we can be proud that we are becoming a spirit-filled people not only when we gather to worship in church, but also as we volunteer to serve the community through the various ministries we have. At our Ministry Fair this weekend in the cafeteria, we have an opportunity to become familiar with many of those ministries. As you move from table to table, and hear more about each of those ministries, the Holy Spirit will prompt you. Listen to the Spirit and see if you are called to join any of those ministries. Do pray about it these days that the gift of the Holy Spirit will be "fanned into a flame", "rekindled", and "kept alive." May the Spirit bless us as we prepare for the Feast of 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 20:17-27; Ps 68:10-11, 20-21; Jn 17:1-11a

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

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, May 20	5:00PM	Intention of Parishioners
Sunday, May 21	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
Monday, May 22	8:00AM	Spiritual Intentions for Maura Claire By Carol Ann Loftus
Tuesday, May 23	8:00AM	Health & Blessings for Kate & Kaosi Nwanonyiri, by Nwanonyiri Family
Wednesday, May 24	8:00AM	Melecio Panaligan, by wife, Lily Panaligan
Thursday, May 25	8:00AM	Silvana Puleo, by Abraham Orapankal
Friday, May 26	8:00AM	Mabel Arinzeh, by Anne Marie Francis
Saturday, May 27	5:00PM	Mary Ellen Delaney, by Mom & Dad
Sunday, May 28	8:00AM	Intention of Parishioners
	10:00AM	Marie Speak, by The Stuewe Family
	12:00PM	Helen & Al Jago, by Lynne Finan & 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 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	Josephine Geenty	Carol Millemann	Sr. Bernadine Marie
Tammy Baskaran	Claudia Gemgnani	Kathlyn Moore	Stemnock
Arthur & Regina Berlowitz	Helen Geraghty	Eleanor Nagy	Jeff Sullivan
John Blum	Emma Gergely	Danny Ongchango	Tom Szabo
Bishop Paul Bootkowski	Marilyn Horvath	Robert Pellegrino	Nancy Whelan
Barbara Butler	Robert Kashinsky	Jim Pettit	Mark Worthington
Bianca Canlas	Kathleen Langenbacher	Randolff Pinard	Carl Wyopen
Tara Capatosto	Henrietta Lesiak	Valerie Polci	Angie Yetyet
Ellen Catalina	Mary Lou Littrakis	Kim Price	
Kyle Davidson	John Littrakis	Doris Regan	
Lisa DeFeo	Joseph Lubrano	Gabriel Rivera	
Ann Devlin	Jude Raymond Maceren	Jaxon Rivera	
Michael DiMaggio	Aries Magali	Arina Robinson	
William Dolphin	Al Maglio	Arthur Robinson	
Vivian Dong	Anne McElwee	Maria Schwenzler	
Hattie Evans	Margaret Menendez	Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF	

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

Frances Frankenberger, Todd Furbee, Paul Paetow, and Bernadette Petit

Reflect



Smile with Your Family



After attending a convention led by Billy Graham a woman wrote to him. "Dear Sir, I feel that God is calling me to preach the gospel. But the trouble is that I have twelve children. What shall I do?" The televangelist replied: "Dear Madam, I am delighted to hear that God has called you to preach the Gospel. I am even more delighted to hear that He has already provided you with a congregation in your own home." 😊

The newlywed wife said to her husband when he returned from work, "I have great news for you. Pretty soon, we're going to be three in this house instead of two." Her husband ran to her with a smile on his face and delight in his eyes. He was glowing of happiness and kissing his wife when she said, "I'm glad that you feel this way since tomorrow morning, my mother moves in with us." 😊

"Is your mother home?" the salesman asked the small boy. "Yeah, she's home," the boy said, scooting over to let him

past. The salesman rang the doorbell, got no response, knocked once, then again. Still no one came to the door. Turning to the boy, the fellow said, "I thought you said your mother was home!?" The kid replied, "She is; but this isn't where I live." 😊

A six-year-old boy called his mother from his friend Charlie's house and confessed he had broken a lamp when he threw a football in their living room. "But, Mom," he said, brightening, "you don't have to worry about buying another one. Charlie's mother said it was irreplaceable." 😊

A little boy was in a cemetery with his mother "Mommy" the boy asked, "do they ever bury two people in the same grave?" "Of course not, dear," replied the mother. "Why would you think that?" "The tombstone back there said, here lies a lawyer and an honest man." 😊

The Teacher as Student

***"Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations . . . teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you."* Matthew 28: 16-20**

Many school districts around the country are desperate for qualified teachers. Some districts have begun recruiting qualified teachers from overseas. The Philippines has become a favorite market for American teacher recruitment campaigns: "Teach the World's Best in America." In the Philippines, teaching is a highly competitive profession, with an average of 14 applicants for each open position. Teachers are constantly evaluated and ranked against their peers. Most Filipino teachers have master's degrees or doctorates.

Rose Obreque was a beloved and highly ranked teacher at her school in the Philippines. Her seventh-grade students were the children of fishermen and sugarcane farmers. They called her "ma'am." They wrote thank-you notes at the end of each week. They aspired to become engineers or doctors or

teachers like her, and they volunteered to stay after school for extra lessons rather than returning home to work in the sugarcane fields. Rose and her husband decided that the \$30,000-raise in salary she would make was worth the hardship of living apart so she could teach in the United States. Rose accepted a position teaching seventh-grade English at a school in Arizona. Her first day of classes in America was not what she expected. Her 24 students — half the size of her typical class in the Philippines — had backpacks and proper school supplies. Her classroom was equipped with state-of-the-art technology and air-conditioning.

But her students were disengaged, uninterested and rude. They made jokes and ridiculed Rose's instructions. They paid no attention to her directions. The school's PE teacher came in twice to establish discipline. "Enough!" Rose shouted in a voice louder than she ever used in seven years of teaching in the Philippines. When the bell sounded to end the period, Rose was alone in her

classroom, still trying to make sense of what happened. She wanted to quit. But a veteran Filipino teacher took Rose aside and told her of her own difficult transition four years earlier and gave her this advice: "You have to prove that you really care about them" and explained how she spent hours learning about American youth culture and getting to know her students' parents and families.

So Rose gradually moved beyond her expectations of Filipino formality. She began asking her students about their lives and they introduced her to a version of America much different from what she first expected: broken families, homelessness, surging drug overdose deaths, alcohol addiction, suicide and poverty every bit as bad as anything she experienced in the Philippines.

"In a lot of ways, they were broken and hurting," Rose says. She's come to admire her colleagues for their dedication and to appreciate her students for their resilience,

Continued on the next page

The Teacher as Student (continued)

irreverence, bravado, candor, and, most of all, their vulnerability.

[The Washington Post, October 2, 2022.]

In today's Gospel, Jesus leaves his followers to return to the Father with the commission to "teach . . . all that I have commanded you." Jesus' Gospel of compassion and justice remains constant — but to effectively "teach" that unchanging Gospel often means changing ourselves and our expectations; to proclaim that Gospel requires us to refocus our vision, recalibrate our attitude, learn the language of humility and understanding. Rose Obreque and her colleagues become beloved teachers in America when they discover new ways of engaging and caring about their students. On this Solemnity of the Lord's Ascension, assured of his continued presence in our midst, may the Ascended Lord's presence change our hearts and minds enabling us to be effective teachers of his Gospel in our generosity and kindness to one another.



The Ascension

Each Sunday we profess through the Creed, "He ascended into heaven." Christ's Ascension was the culmination of God's divine plan for Christ Jesus, by his return to his Father with "Mission Accomplished." Ascension is the grand finale of all his words and - works done for us and for our salvation. It was a culmination, but not the conclusion. As he is now with God in glory, he is now with us

in Spirit: "Lo, I am with you always." The feast of the Ascension celebrates one aspect of the resurrection, namely Jesus' exaltation. He did not wait 40 days to be glorified at God's right hand. That already happened at his resurrection. The focus of this feast is the heavenly reign of Christ, not the scientific details of the ascension itself. The Ascension of Jesus does not mean that he literally began to float up into space. Other incidents of the Bible, such as the ascension of Elijah suggested to Luke the spatial imagery he used to tell of our Lord's departure. The Lord would be 'seated at God's right hand', meaning He alone would be in control of the continuing plan of salvation through the Spirit, unrestricted by time, space or culture. Thus the Paschal Mystery of Jesus' passion, death, resurrection, ascension and the sending of the Holy Spirit forms one unbroken reality which is to be understood by faith. Ascension simply means that Jesus is with his Father in glory.

Solar Power



One of the national coordinators of Sun Day held early in May every year is Denis Hayes. He worked as researcher at a Washington D.C. 'think-tank' and has written a book on solar energy entitled *Rays of Hope: The Transition to a Post-Petroleum World*. Hayes claims that we are at the crossroads of making a critical choice for mankind – the choice between going solar or going nuclear for a power source. Hayes opts for the sun because it is "the world's only inexhaustible, predictable, egalitarian, non-polluting, safe, terrorist-resistant and free energy source." We've already learned to use the power of the sun to grow food, make wine and operate greenhouses. All we need to do is develop better technology to harness solar energy to heat houses, drive our cars and run our industry. People like Hayes are looking at the sky with its sun as the main source of our future energy supply. Today we turn our attention to the sky for another reason – to commemorate our Lord's Ascension into heaven. In the first reading, from Acts, Jesus makes a promise: "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes down on you." That Spirit is the power source that can give all the energy we need to live our lives to the full.

Passing the Baton

The critical moment in a relay race is the passing of the baton from one runner to another. More relays are won or lost at that moment than at any other. The feast of the Ascension might be compared to the passing of the baton in a relay race. On this day over 2,000 years ago, Jesus passed the baton of responsibility for the Kingdom of God to his followers. Jesus commissioned them to complete the work he had begun. Practically, what does this mean? How do you and I, in the 21st century, carry out Jesus' commission to be his witnesses to the world and his teachers to the nations? There are as many ways to do this as there are Christians. We can do what two 25-year-old university graduates did recently. After completing their degrees, one from Georgetown and the other from Marquette, they entered the Seminary. We can do what Albert Schweitzer did. At the age of 30 he abandoned his music career in Europe to study medicine and became a missionary doctor in Africa. We can do what the baseball coach of Spring Hill College, Alabama, did a few years back. At the age of 35 he resigned his position and began his studies for the priesthood. We can do what a Visitation nun Mother Angelica did. In her 50s she began a Catholic religious television channel, EWTN.



Three-step Baptism

In one of the great cathedrals of Europe there is a baptistery that tells the story. The water flows through it reminding us that Jesus says he is the living water. To be baptized, a person walks down three steps, each one marked by a word: the world, the flesh, and the devil.

Descending the steps the convert is plunged beneath the water to die to sin and then raised from the depths to newness of life in Christ. To leave the baptistery now he must climb three steps, each one marked by a word: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. So it is that a new creature is born, a new breed of man, a citizen of a new kingdom, a breed apart. Dead to sin, he is alive to God and sent forth to grow and love and give light to a lost and dying world. He doesn't do it alone. He does it in the Church, in little communities. In these, people demonstrate, in their way of being together, God's eternal kingdom come upon them. It took Michelangelo over ten years to paint the Sistine Chapel.

Our missionary commission lasts until the job gets done, until life is over, "until the close of the age." Jesus taught us lessons of faith, hope, forgiveness, mercy, redemption and love. We cannot put these lessons on a shelf and ignore them. They stand before us in the person of Jesus. Although no longer visibly present in the world, He is present in his words. We must make his words real in our lives and in the lives of others. Christianity was meant to be a faith in which Jesus' followers would help and care for others, just as Jesus had done. But the spreading of the Good News to all nations is not a goal that can be attained by human might and craft. This is why Jesus promises to empower his messengers with His abiding presence and that of the Holy Spirit. The challenge of sharing the Good News with all mankind should, therefore, begin with our admission that we have often been arrogant and overbearing. We must learn to be humble and let the Holy Spirit lead the way.

Gospel Bombs

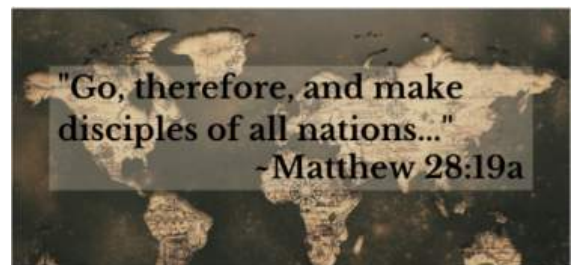
Some time ago now, Joseph Bailey wrote a book called the *Gospel Blimp*. It's about the attempt of Christian neighbors reaching out to the community for Christ. The family purchased a hot air balloon to broadcast the Gospel to the community and dropped "bombs" on the town (These "bombs" were tracts wrapped in colored cellophane). In spite of the trouble and expense of this attempt at witnessing to Jesus, it failed miserably. The point the writer was making is that there is no substitute for loving care and personal witness, even though this is slow, time-consuming, likely to cause anxiety and even likely to create some hostility. You have probably heard these sayings, "I'd rather see a sermon than hear one", and "Actions speak louder than words." There is truth in these sayings, but

there are still those times when words are necessary, and we must speak. The Gospel, by its very nature, needs to be shared.

We need to be proclaimers and evangelizers: In today's gospel, Jesus gives his mission to all the believers: "Go out to the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature." This mission is not given to a select few but to all believers. To be a Christian is to be a proclaimer and an evangelizer. There is a difference between preaching and proclaiming. "We preach with words but we proclaim with our lives." As we celebrate the Lord's return to His Father in heaven – His Ascension -- we are being commissioned to go forth and proclaim the Gospel of life and love, of hope and peace, by the witness of our lives. On this day of hope, encouragement and commissioning, let us renew our commitment to be true disciples everywhere we go, beginning with our family and our parish, "living in a manner worthy of the call [we] have received." When was the last time you talked with someone outside of your circle of Christian friends about Jesus? When was it that you last attempted to share your Faith with someone or at least invited someone to your Church on a Sunday?

Great Commissions

Actually there have been many persons given exciting commissions in their lifetimes. There was Michelangelo's commission to paint the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, Sir Christopher Wren's commission to build St. Paul's Cathedral in London, Walter Reed's assignment to stop yellow fever at the "Big Ditch" in Panama, Chamberlain's orders to stop the Confederates at Little Roundtop in Gettysburg and most recently the mission of the U.S. Navy Seals to get the terrorist master-mind, Bin Laden, dead or alive. But I tell you, in my life and yours, there is an even greater commission. It is found here in Matthew 28:18-20 where Jesus Christ turns to his disciples and says, "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you."



From the Pastoral Staff



First Communions 2023



Please join with all of us at St. Matthias in congratulating and praying for all the children who received Our Lord in the **Sacrament of the Eucharist** for the first time on **May 6 and May 13**.

Our families began each Sunday of the preparation period by celebrating Mass together before the children's and the adult learning sessions.

Thank you to our First Reconciliation and First Eucharist catechists, **Sr. Maria Derecola, OSF** and **Mrs. Johanne Rateau** for their faithfulness and dedication. A special thank you to **Mrs. Patricia Cullen** for her work on the beautiful **2023 First Communion Quilt** hanging in our worship space. The squares on the quilt were made by the children and their families.

Dee Nann , Pastoral Associate, Faith Formation

May 6

- ◆ Angelina Aiello
- ◆ Matthew Burian
- ◆ Scarlett Decker
- ◆ Maximilian Deleon
- ◆ Olivia Dickerson
- ◆ Alexa D'Souza
- ◆ Allison D'Souza
- ◆ Isabel Sarabia Firoz
- ◆ Grace Gachohi
- ◆ Oona Helt
- ◆ Logan Holt
- ◆ Samara Kilonzo
- ◆ Ibongo Kirugi

- ◆ Gianna Krauss
- ◆ Addison Lattanzio
- ◆ Kimberly Edith Medina
- ◆ Chigorziri Nzemechi
- ◆ Dylan Peralta
- ◆ Fionn Regan
- ◆ Jordan Ritterson
- ◆ Sebastian Spinella
- ◆ Justin Staub
- ◆ Luca Swanson-Rowe
- ◆ Madeline Trynosky
- ◆ Alexander Valderrama
- ◆ Dylan Vergara

May 13

- ◆ Lilenna Alexis
- ◆ Kyrie Antes
- ◆ Amy Anton
- ◆ Chase Bigos
- ◆ Amyliana Carmona
- ◆ Margo Chavez
- ◆ Isabella Solano Genao
- ◆ Ezra Gille
- ◆ John Koob
- ◆ Olivia Rebecca Leyno
- ◆ Logan Maglasang
- ◆ Santiago Morales
- ◆ Gabriel Morel

- ◆ Camila Mosquera
- ◆ Declan Reavey
- ◆ Angeliz Reyes
- ◆ Johana Naomi Romero-Palada
- ◆ William Alfredo Romero-Palada
- ◆ Morgan Villanueva



Pray



April Baptisms

The Catholic Community of St. Matthias welcomes the following children who were Baptized in April. We support them with prayers and as their parents to nurture them so they can grow to be faith-filled people of God and our parish community.

Maya Kathleen Holler

Nina Anne Incantalupo

Monroe Callahan Johnson

Margaret Faye Marino

Matteo Jordan Caudiano-Itoh

Nicholas Anthony Ramos



Spring Bake-Less Bake Sale

The St. Matthias Rosary Altar Society is holding its Spring Bake-Less Bake Sale to be used for our annual scholarship fund for 2 St. Matthias Graduates.

If you would like to contribute, please send a check to the:

St. Matthias Rosary Altar Society c/o St. Matthias , 168 JFK Boulevard, Somerset, NJ 08873



Pray

EUCCHARISTIC REVIVAL COMMITTEE:

Thanks to those who have volunteered to join the Eucharistic Revival Committee. If anyone else feels called to this ministry, please contact: Fr. Abraham or Msgr. Brennan.

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 you will be inspired to join one of the ministries. Here are the details:

The date/venue: This weekend, 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 are invited to come after each Mass to the cafeteria.


Manning the Table: each ministry has one or more ministry team members that will be present at the table after each of the Masses, to answer any questions you may have about their ministry.

Food: Coffee, drinks and snacks are being offered.

Contact person (PPC): Rose Peng rosepeng@optonline.net, (Phone: 908-285-5921) is the contact . Kindly email her for any questions you have on this matter.

Connect


NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PASTORAL MUSICIANS
METUCHEN, NJ CHAPTER



The Liturgy of Life
Experiencing God in Everyday Life
with
Fr. Ricky Manalo, CSP

Saturday, June 24, 8:30 am – 12:30 pm
St Elizabeth Ann Seton 105 Summer Rd, Three Bridges, NJ

**Liturgical Ministers
Religious Educators
Musicians
Parish Leaders
ALL People of God**





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Rev. Ricky Manalo, CSP, Ph.D. is a Priest, theologian, and liturgical composer.
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Special Bonus: Fr. Ricky will sing some of his Eucharistic Compositions

FEE \$45
Includes light breakfast
Information and registration at
NPMMetuchen.org


From the 60th Anniversary Fundraising Committee

Dear Fellow Parishioners and Friends.

We are more than halfway to reaching our fundraising goal of \$200,000. Our sincere thanks to all who have already donated to this fundraiser. Your generosity has helped us reach this point. We are excited to start the bathroom construction and other renovation projects this summer. The opportunity to donate to this fundraiser continues.

A donation progress thermometer is on display in the church vestibule along with fundraiser information letters and envelopes. Additional letters and donation envelopes are available at all church exits and in the parish office. Be well and be blessed.

~ 60th Anniversary Fundraising Committee

If you have any questions, please call
Mary Jo Loboda
at the parish office at 732-828-1400.



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

If you have any questions, please contact:

cdaverso@diometuchen.org or 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 45 - May 7, 2023	\$10,205.91	\$23,631.75	\$33,837.66	\$32,720.75
Week 46 - May 14, 2023	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$25,629.25
Week 47 - May 21, 2023	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$19,720.25
Week 48 - May 28, 2023	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$19,260.42
			Month-to-date Total	May Total Last Year
			\$33,837.66	\$97,330.67
			Current Year-to-date	Year-to-date as of May 31,
			\$1,234,553.98	\$1,257,013.06

Stewardship Reflection May 21, 2023 The Ascension of the Lord

"I am praying for them..." (John 17:9)

Prayer is the foundation of our Faith and the foundation of Stewardship. Pray in good times and in bad. Prayer is always the first best option in any situation, not just the last resort. Pray for friends and family and for those that don't treat you very well. Pray to give praise, to thank, and to ask God for help. Pray to see what God wants you to do with the gifts He has given you.

Reflexiónese 21 de mayo de 2023 Ascensión del Señor

"Estoy orando por ellos ..." (JUAN 17:9)

La oración es el fundamento de nuestra fe y el fundamento de la administración. Ora en los buenos y en los malos momentos. La oración es siempre la primera mejor opción en cualquier situación, no solo el último recurso. Ora por amigos y familiares y por aquellos que no te tratan muy bien. Ora para alabar, agradecer y pedirle ayuda a Dios. Ora para ver qué quiere Dios que hagas con los dones que te ha dado.

Parish News/Updates



Part-Time General Maintenance Person

St. Matthias is looking for a **part-time general maintenance person**. This employee will be responsible for maintaining the safety and cleanliness of the church/school.

Please contact **Mary Pat Burke-Grospin** at:
mpburke-grospin@stmatthias.net or
Call (732) 828-1400 ext.121.

Parish Updates

If you are now solely using a cell phone, have changed your phone number or address, please call the parish office, so we can update your records. We would also like to update our parish data base with e-mail addresses.

Email Kelly at: kcounts@stmatthias.net to have your email address included or to update an email address. Thank you!
If you are moving, please notify the Parish Office so we can keep our parishioner records current. Thank you!

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. We look forward to getting to know you and talking about your interest in studying theology.



Pilgrimage Tour Aug. 28 thru Sept. 10

Eucharistic Miracles, Marian Apparitions & Shrines of Saints. Amsterdam, Belgium, France with Lourdes, Bruges, Brussels and Paris \$4,999* from Newark Single Room Supplement - \$899

For additional information & bookings www.AdriaticPilgrimages.com.



**Tuesday, May 23, 2023
from 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM**

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 from 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM.

Also on June 20, July 25, August 22 at the House of Prayer and on Zoom.

Freewill Offering

**For more information call
Jerry McKenna at 908-472-3969**



161 James St., Morristown, NJ 07960

06/16 – 06/18 Women's Weekend Retreat

Theme: Healing: Body ~ Mind ~ Spirit

Retreat Leader: Anna Graziano

Traditionally sponsored by: Our Lady of the Rosary, Women's Praying Hands

Through prayer, scripture, contemplation, music, and simple body movements. We will explore opportunities to be grounded and focused in all areas of our lives.

St. Irenaeus could express the essence of Christianity with the concise statement:

"The glory of God is a human being fully alive!"

Bishop Robert Barron

Parish Leadership

Parish Pastoral Council:

Co-Chairs:

Rose Peng, rosepeng@optonline.net

John Taylor, jptaylor1068@yahoo.com

Co-Secretaries:

Frank Rees
Marilyn Wegg

Stephan Busono
Anne Marie Francis
Bill Isele
Maria Tapia-Burch

Msgr. Seamus Brennen,
Ex-Officio
Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio

Trustees:

Pearl Scott
Marge Richards

Parish Finance Council:

Kester Hector, Chair

Finance Council
@stmatthias.net

Carmen Driz-Melilli
Barry Dusault
Gwen Orłowski

Audrey Francis
Joe Porter
Joan Pritchard
Mary Pat Burke-Grospin,
Ex-Officio
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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event dates

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October 2022

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Tuesday, 10/11

Tuesday, 10/18

Tuesday, 10/25

November 2022

Tuesday, 11/01

Tuesday, 11/08

Tuesday, 11/15

Tuesday, 11/29

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